



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLYMPIC SPIRIT: CANADA'S SPORTS HEROES EXHIBIT at the FERNIE MUSEUM

November 28 2014 to March 28, 2015

FERNIE, BC (November 17, 2014) – The Fernie Museum is please to announce *Olympic Spirit: Canada's Sport Heroes* as our Winter 2015 exhibition. The exhibit will open to the public Saturday, November 29, 2014 at 1:30 pm with a talk by the artist, Gordon Milne. A Members' Preview will be held on Friday, November 28 at 7:00 pm for members of the Fernie and District Historical Society.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

A select group of Canadian athletes have changed the face of sport in Canada forever. Olympic medalists, world champions, fierce competitors – they have competed for our country, won with pride and lost with dignity. Through their efforts, they have proven that sport can capture the imagination of an entire country – and often the entire world. They deserve to be remembered.

In 2002, Alberta artist Gordon Milne was commissioned by the Canadian Sport Centre Calgary to paint a series of large-scale portraits to celebrate our Olympic sports heroes. On exhibit at the Fernie Museum are twelve portraits from this series, including Alex Baumann, Silken Laumann, Beckie Scott, Ian Millar, Mark Tewksbury, Diane Jones Konihowski, Nancy Greene, Kurt Browning, Gaetan Boucher, Kevin Martin, Cassie Campbell and Catriona Le May Doan. Accompanying the portraits are artifacts from the collections of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame showcasing the athletes' achievements and contribution to Canadian sports. Fernie's connection to Canadian Olympics and Olympians is also highlighted.

This collection of portraits has been achieved with the generous support of the Canadian Sport Centre Calgary, ARC Energy Trust, BMO Financial and Alberta Culture and will ensure a lasting tribute to our Canadian sport heroes. The exhibition is on loan from Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in Calgary, Alberta and is made possible with the support of Canadian Heritage and Canadian Tire.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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ABOUT THE ARTIST | GORDON MILNE

A Canadian artist, Gordon Milne was born in Hamilton, Ontario in 1953. He attended McMaster University where he studied printmaking and sculpture.

Early in his career Milne worked as a printmaker – producing original etchings, woodcuts, linocuts and mixed media drawings. In 1982, at the start of a promising career, a gallery flood ravaged most of Gordon's artwork, leaving little to show from the '70s. Although difficult at the time, it proved to be the event that altered Milne's focus from printmaking to painting – specifically portraiture.

Along with the **Canadian Sport Heroes Collection**, Milne has created the **Sport Legacy Collection**, a visual tribute to Olympic sport, a series of six smaller paintings which was also commissioned by the Canadian Sport Centre Calgary and is installed at the Calgary International Airport.

Gordon has also enjoyed a long-term relationship with the Alberta Ballet where he regularly attends classes to draw this group of dedicated dancers. Milne has completed major portraits of several renowned Canadian dancers which mark the inception of a new collection of work called **Art & Dance**.

In addition to these ongoing projects Gordon has completed a number of private commissions.