



FERNIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

2018 IN
REVIEW

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dave O'Haire
President

Welcome, and thank you for attending the Fernie & District Historical Society 2019 Annual General Meeting.

Another history making, event packed year at the Fernie Museum has come to a close. Once again our public support and appreciation has been outstanding, be it our interactive main floor history exhibit, the highly successful second floor gallery exhibits and associated outreach programs, or the community partnership events. A big thanks for the ongoing and generous support of our community partners, patrons, volunteers and hard-working staff. I especially want to thank the Ktunaxa Nation, for their partnership with the Society and our Museum and Heritage Fernie programs.

It remains a great pleasure for me to work with such a dynamic group of people creating a lasting impact on our community. I look forward to the coming year and to working with the new board.

Dave O'Haire, President

PATRON'S REPORT

GORDON SOMBROWSKI
Chair, Patron's Council



The partnership between the I.G.S. Group and the Fernie and District Historical Society is a wonderful opportunity for an alignment of interests and mutual benefit! We are very pleased to continue to be a supporter of the fund and friend-raising initiatives of the Museum!

One of the most important aspects of our partnership is the ongoing work being undertaken regarding the preservation of our heritage. We are continually learning how to support the ongoing efforts to save Fernie heritage. We have been partners in the creation of The Fernie Heritage Strategy and the work led by Ron Ulrich and Elana Zysblat and her team from Ance Building Services. The process of creating a Heritage Strategy has been one of learning for all the partners in the community and we have been very pleased by the depth and excellence of the work that is being done. We look forward to seeing the results in the coming years. Certainly, we are all learning about the surprising challenges that arise when it comes to trying to save a particular heritage building in Fernie. Creating a formal community structure whereby our built heritage can, on a case by case basis, be preserved as a living part of the community is the aim. In the meantime, we have to be able to find a way to save buildings under immediate threat.

As always, we are incredibly pleased that our partnership is helping the museum to sate the demand from people of all ages for more knowledge about Fernie's history, heritage and culture. Join us in partnering with the museum to ensure that this valuable work continues!

Gordon Sombrowski, Chair, Patons' Council | IGS Group

THE FERNIE MUSEUM IS A VIBRANT, COMMUNITY-BASED CULTURAL INSTITUTION WHICH INTEGRATES HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE TO UNDERSTAND, COMMUNICATE AND PRESERVE WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY AND REGION.

Our work drives four strategic outcomes:

Building Community

Fostering a sense of community by engaging residents and visitors and creating meaningful cultural and social experiences.

Building Place

Fostering a positive sense of place and pride for residents and visitors alike.

Building Memory

Developing and providing access to the museum's diverse collections and sharing community stories.

Building Sustainability

Adopting long-term financially, operationally and environmentally sustainable practices.

2016 TO 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2016, the Board of the Fernie & District Historical Society adopted a 5-year strategic plan that creates a solid foundation on which the Museum can grow in the future with an equal focus on the following:

- The core functions of museum work: collections, research, exhibits and community engagement
- Facility restoration and rehabilitation: stabilizing the building envelope and additional tenant improvements
- Capacity building created by sustained financial growth
- Ensuring the protection and conservation of Fernie's built heritage in partnership with the City of Fernie.

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

Total visitation was **20,155**.

The Fernie Museum and Visitor Centre was enjoyed by **10,772** walk-in visitors in 2018.

8,947 Fernie residents and visitors participated in community programming.

436 Fernie students participated in school programs.

\$21,515.66 in community donations.





REVIEW

2018

2018 IN REVIEW

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

- The Fernie Museum has begun a massive collections management project, in which the Museum's collection of nearly 10,000 objects are being researched, evaluated, catalogued, cleaned and rehoused.
- The Treasures and Curiosities exhibit was an opportunity to present the methods by which the Fernie Museum was going to manage its collections, and to highlight some of the key collections the museum holds. The exhibit also presented some of the challenges the Museum faces over the next four years.



- A community-based Collections Committee has been struck and works with the Museum's curatorial staff on evaluating objects which have been researched.
- The Fernie Museum has secured a new storage space within the Holy Family Catholic Church that has been built to our specifications.

2018 IN REVIEW

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- Curated, designed and installed 3 new exhibits in the Gallery: *Treasures and Curiosities From the Fernie Museum Collections*, *Backroads BC* (Michael Hepher), and *Perfect Line* (Gordon Milne).
- The Museum worked with the Bent On Art Festival to host a pop-up exhibit to highlight queer artists and their work as part of the Elk Valley Pride Festival.
- Our core exhibit, *This Is Our Fernie*, continues to be updated as new stories for the interactive stations become available.
- From 2018 to 2021, the focus of our gallery program will be on local/regional artists and exhibitions from lending galleries and museums until the collections management project is complete.



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Have begun work with the Ktunaxa Nation on revamping the Ktunaxa exhibit within our core exhibit. Hosted the Ktunaxa as part of the 2018 Chautauqua and Fall Fair.
- Hosted our *Lunch and Learn* series during spring and fall in partnership with the Fernie Seniors Centre.
- Hosted summer walking tours twice daily each Saturday and Sunday in July and August.
- Hosted a series of exhibit openings and exhibit-related programming such as artist talks and demonstrations and our *En Pointe! A Night at the Ballet* and *FUZE: Pride!* events.



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Coordinated the 2018 Fernie Chautauqua and Fall Fair in partnership with the Fernie Visual Arts Guild, the Fernie Heritage Library, Wildsight (Elk Valley chapter), the City of Fernie (Leisure Services department), the Fernie Seniors Centre, Grow Children's Boutique and the Fernie Ministerial Group.
- The four-day festival had a total budget of \$72,175 in 2018. An estimated 7,800 visitors participated in festival events.



2018 IN REVIEW

HERITAGE FERNIE

- Began work on the Fernie Heritage Strategy in partnership with the City of Fernie. Created a community-based steering committee to help oversee the initiative.
- The project has sought to engage the community in a variety of ways, including an online community survey, neighbour walking tours, and open houses.
- In 2018, a community context statement was crafted, Part 1 of a 3 part report that will be going to Fernie City Council in 2019.



2018

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Fernie & District Historical Society would like to extend thanks to our many funding partners, sponsors, community partners and volunteers, without whom the operation of the Fernie Museum and Heritage Fernie would not be possible.

FUNDING PARTNERS

- Government of Canada | Canadian Heritage
- Province of BC | BC Arts Council
- City of Fernie
- Columbia Basin Trust | CKCA, Heritage BC
- Regional District of East Kootenay

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

City of Fernie - Public Works and Leisure Services
Departments, Fernie Heritage Library, Fernie
Seniors Centre, Grow Children's Boutique,
Wildsight Elk Valley, Fernie Pride Society

TOURISM PARTNERS

Fernie Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Fernie,
Destination BC

SPONSORS

- Ann's Independent Grocer
- CTV Television
- Fernie Free Press
- Fernie Fix
- IGS Group
- Park Place Lodge
- Save-On-Foods, Fernie
- Scotiabank, Fernie
- Teck Resources

PATRONAGE

The Society wishes to thank the Sombrowski Family for their leadership gift in support of museum operations and programs.

VOLUNTEERS

The Board wishes to thank all those who have volunteered on the Board and have assisted with events and exhibits in 2017. 107 volunteers contributed 2,114 hours in 2018.