# FERNIE HERITAGE STRATEGY

Building on the Past, Informing Fernie's Future

January 2020

City of Fernie August 1960 Olympic Brochure making the case for Fernie to host the 1968 Winter Olympics. Fernie Museum

FERNIE HERITAGE STRATEGY

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The Fernie Heritage Strategy is proud to acknowledge the Ktunaxa and their homelands which include the Fernie district today, and pays respect to all Elders, past, present and emerging, as well as Elders from other communities who reside here today. They hold the memories, traditions, culture and hope of Indigenous people in Canada and are viewed as teachers and mentors for the safeguarding, conservation and passing on of everything inherited and valued.

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Executive Summary

The work before you represents an 18-month journey. It's a remarkable collaboration of voices and stewards of the Elk Valley, who have created an unprecedented co-authored document, collaboratively written between consultants, Ktunaxa knowledge holders, the community and the City of Fernie Planning

The project launched with Leanna Gravelle, a member of the nearby Tobacco Plains Indian Band and the Education & Outreach Coordinator for the Ktunaxa Nation, leading a workshop in April 2018 on Ktunaxa cultural awareness.

For those attending, learning the simplest words in Ktunaxa language, firsthand Ktunaxa stories and knowledge of this place, and the Ktunaxa perspective and experience of the relatively recent settlement of Fernie, set the tone for a fresh mind-set. This enabled both discomfort and courage in the discussion about Fernie's heritage values, which lead to an openness for a more inclusive, values-based approach, to future community planning.

After the completion of the first research phase, Janice Alpine and Elder Violet Birdstone joined the project task force. This provided Ktunaxa perception and perspective, and guided the development of the document, as Fernie was explored and relearned. Together, an attempt was made to re-articulate Fernie's story, using an approach and language that acknowledges the deep and ongoing Ktunaxa connection to the Fernie district.

The project process involved learning and reaffirming that heritage values, districts, buildings and resources are key to revitalization and community renewal and are a source for new ideas. In Fernie *"….there is some aspect of heritage in every part of our lives"* and positioning heritage as a touchstone for planning the future is the best way to ensure its conservation. The integration of the understanding of Fernie's heritage, into current planning initiatives and processes, will ensure a unique, diverse, vibrant and sustainable city. The commitment to retain and celebrate an ongoing, trusting, working relationship and open conversation with the Ktunaxa will be key to informing Fernie's conservation efforts.

The **Fernie Heritage Strategy** is presented in three parts.

First, a succinct contextual understanding of Fernie - **Fernie's Historical Context**; Second, an expert and citizens review of what is significant and valued about the City and its history - **Fernie's Heritage Resources**, which amongst other findings proposes to define Fernie's historic neighbourhoods as Character Areas. Third, a synthesis of all this information into concise policies and actions - **Sustaining a Sense of Place** - that fosters an appreciation of what makes Fernie unique, that positions heritage as informing civic planning on all levels, and which contributes to Fernie's resilience, growth and regeneration.

The recommendations presented here are based on international current thinking and best practices in heritage conservation - including a values-based approach. This ensures that a community first determines and understands what it holds as significant about its past and about its heritage identity, before deciding what or how it will conserve.

The Fernie Heritage Strategy outlines heritage goals, policies and actions for managing change and development in Fernie, while aligning with Fernie's Official Community Plan and concurrent City master plans and strategies, so that staff can easily integrate it into existing and future planning initiatives.

This work represents a model of values-based, implementable, heritage planning in British Columbia, which explores heritage conservation's role in all planning initiatives and is significant for being truly co-written with the community and the Ktunaxa, whose homelands Fernie sits within.

Forward – The Ktunaxa Creation Story

In ancestral times, referred to by the Ktunaxa as the animal world, there were references made many times by the Creator to when there will be ʔaqⱡsmakniⱪ (people).

At that time, there was some disturbance caused by a huge sea monster known as Yawuʔniⱪ, who killed many of the animals. A council was called by the Chief animal, Naⱡmuqⱷin. Naⱡmuqⱷin was huge. He was so tall that he had to crawl on his hands and knees, for if he stood up his head would hit the ceiling of the sky. It was decided that Yawuʔniⱪ had to be destroyed. A war party was formed. Yawuʔniⱪ plied the Kootenay and Columbia River System including Columbia Lake and Arrow Lakes.

Yawuʔniⱪ was sighted in the Columbia Lake near Yaqa·n Nuʔkiy and the chase was on. At that time, the Kootenay River and the Columbia Lake were joined. As the chase proceeded, Naⱡmuqⱷin gave names to many locations along the Kootenay River; Kootenay Lake, Arrow Lakes and the Columbia River.

Yawuʔniⱪ was pursued down the Kootenay River past the Wasa sloughs, now called Wasa, BC. The chase went by where the St. Marẏs River empties into the Kootenay River, ʔaq̇am, where the St. Marẏs Reserve is now located, then on down river to Kanⱪak (spring) where Mayuk (weasel) joined the war party. There were animals on both sides of the river as the chase continued. Leaving the land of the Eagle, ʔa·knuqⱡuⱡam̓ʔamaⱪis, and into the land of the woodtick, Ȼam̓na ʔAmakis, past Waldo then on past the now 49th Parrallel, past Kaxax (Turtle), now underwater, near Rexford, Montana. The chase went on by ʔa·kiʔyi (Jennings) and on by ʔaqswaq (Libby) then into Skinkuȼ ʔAmakis (the land of Coyote), past ʔaq̇anqmi (Bonners Ferry, Idaho), then northerly past the now international boundary into ʔaȼpu ʔamakis, the land of the Wolverine, past Yaqa·n Nuʔkiy (Creston, BC), then up the Kootenay Lake past ʔaq̇asqnuk, (Kuskannok, BC). The chase went on by ʔAkuqⱡi (Akokli Creek), past Ksanka Creek. The Yawuʔniⱪ chose to follow the Kootenay River past ʔaqyamⱡup (Nelson, BC). The chase was now in Miȼqaqas ʔamakis (the land of Chickadee). At Kiⱪsiⱡuk, (Castlegar, BC) Yawuʔniⱪ went north into the Arrow Lakes, past ʔakinⱪaʔnuk (Arrow Rock). The journey continued past Ȼaⱡnuʔniⱪ (Nakusp), then up past Ktunwakanmituk Miȼqaqas (Revelstoke, BC), where the Columbia River flows into the Arrow Lakes, then up and around The Big Bend, down past ʔaknuqⱡuk (Golden, BC), past Yaknusuʔki (Briscoe, BC), then on past Yakyuȼki. The chase carried on through Kwataq̇nuk (Athalmere), then past Kananuk (Windermere, BC), past ʔakiskq̇nuk (Windermere Lakes), then back into the Columbia Lake, at Yaqa·n Nukiy, (Canal Flats, BC). This completed the cycle of the chase.

Yawuʔniⱪ would once again escape into the Kootenay River and the chase would go on. The chase would go on and on. Every time the war party thought they had Yawuʔniⱪ cornered, Yawuʔniⱪ would escape again.

One day, sitting on the river bank observing the chase there was a wise old one named Kiⱪum. Kiⱪum told Naⱡmuqⱷin, "You are wasting your time and energy chasing the monster. Why not use your size and strength and with one sweep of your arm, block the river from flowing into the lake and the next time the monster enters the lake you will have him trapped." Naⱡmuqⱷin took the advice of Kiⱪum and did as he was told. The next time Yawuʔnik entered the lake, he was trapped. Having successfully corralled Yawuʔniⱪ, a decision had to be made as to whom the honour of killing Yawuʔnik would be bestowed upon. The honour was awarded to Yamakpaⱡ (Red-headed Woodpecker).

When Yawuʔniⱪ was killed, he was taken ashore and butchered and distributed among the animals. There remained only the innards and bones. The ribs were scattered throughout the region and now form the Hoodoos seen throughout the area. Naⱡmuqⱷin then took the white balloon-like organ, known as the swim bladder, crumbled it into small pieces and scattered it in all directions saying, "These will be the white race of people." He then took the black ingredient from the inner side of the backbone, the kidney, and broke it into small pieces and scattered them in all directions declaring, "These will be the black race of people." He then took the orange roe and threw the pieces in all directions saying, "These will be the yellow race of people." Naⱡmuqⱷin looked at his bloody hands and reached down for some grass to wipe his hands. He let the blood fall to the ground saying, "This will be the red people, they will remain here forever."

Naⱡmuqⱷin, in all the excitement, rose to his feet and stood upright hitting his head on the ceiling of the sky. He knocked himself dead. His feet went northward and is today know as Ya·ⱡiki, in the Yellowhead Pass vicinity. His head is near Yellowstone Park in the State of Montana. His body forms the Rocky Mountains.

The people were now keepers of the land. The spirit animals ascended above and are the guiding spirits of the people.

http://www.ktunaxa.org/who-we-are/creation-story/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WHY FERNIE NEEDS A HERITAGE STRATEGY

Heritage is of critical importance to the Fernie community and the city's future. In consultations for the Official Community Plan (OCP), the people of Fernie said they value Fernie's heritage and want to retain it. Fernie's OCP, updated and adopted by Council June 23, 2014, incorporates statements and goals referring to the importance of heritage conservation in Fernie, including the development of a heritage register and a heritage planning toolkit.

This strategy provides a best practice platform for making this happen.

The strategy commits us to stepping up our efforts to sustain Fernie's heritage and ensure it is vibrant, relevant and celebrated into the future. Fernie's heritage is both a unique legacy and a living resource. If conserved and harnessed positively, it will underpin the city's future, growth, regeneration and response to challenges.

The overall goals of the strategy are to sustain this awareness, encourage new and continued engagement, and provide a valuable toolkit for the City to make informed decisions on the re-development, protection and conservation of Fernie's heritage assets, both tangible and intangible.

The strategy provides the background and tools to manage change in such a way that the wide range of heritage values found in the community are retained and embedded into overall community planning. This integration of Fernie's heritage into current and future planning will help ensure its future as an authentic, diverse, vibrant and sustainable city.

The strategy development process is first and foremost based on the gathering of information from the community, including a collaborative working relationship with the Ktunaxa, utilizing community-led workshops, open houses and in-depth consultation with individuals and groups.

A Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force, comprised of Fernie residents, city council and staff liaisons and representatives of the Ktunaxa, was formed to lead, guide and oversee the creation of the document and to ensure a balance of professional, municipal and community input and advice in the process of its development.

The Fernie Heritage Strategy is spearheaded by Heritage Fernie, a program delivered by the Fernie & District Historical Society, with the support of Heritage BC, and funding and support from the Columbia Basin Trust and the City of Fernie.

Top: Some members of the Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force and consultants in front of City Hall in August 2017

Below: Leanna Gravelle, Violet Birdstone, and Janice Alpine

What's Already Been Done: A Chronology

Year	Source	What was done	What this achieved in Fernie
1964	Fernie and District Historical Society (FDHS)	The organization was dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of Fernie by collecting and displaying photographs, artifacts and documents relating to Fernie's development.	The book *Backtracking with Fernie & District Historical Society*, the first history book dedicated to Fernie, was published by the Society. There is a fuller understanding and widening awareness of the importance of Fernie's heritage and the first organized initiative to collect and record locally relevant historic resources.
1976	Fernie and District Historical Society	The Society is incorporated, achieving Canadian charitable status.	This enables the Society to further its heritage activities by gifting funds and carrying out its own activities through employees, volunteers or intermediaries.
1979	Fernie Museum	The Fernie Museum was officially opened in 1979, coinciding with the city's Diamond Jubilee. The vacant rectory behind the Holy Family Church was used as the museum site for its first 20 years.	The Museum undertook a heritage program to celebrate Fernie's history and raise public awareness about the city's heritage. Since its inception, activities such as presentation of heritage workshops, walking tours and coordination of heritage events have continued to raise awareness.
1979	Survey of Heritage Buildings in Fernie	The RDEK commissioned a survey of heritage buildings in Fernie, including photographs and construction dates, was produced by Lambeth Jeune Dang Research Group.	This is the first professional survey of Fernie's built heritage which will serve as the foundation document for additional heritage initiatives in decades to come.
1985-1989	Heritage Area Revitalization Program (HARP)	This provincial program funded exterior building facade improvements for 20 commercial and institutional buildings in Fernie's historic core, along with dozens of other communities with historic areas. A six-member Fernie steering committee was struck to guide downtown improvements in Fernie.	HARP essentially sparked Fernie's first heritage planning project and resulted in 20 heritage designations (legally protected buildings).

Year	Source	What was done	What this achieved in Fernie
1986	Landscape, Heritage and Community Change - Fernie BC	This report, funded by the BC Heritage Trust and written by landscape architecture students Greg Smallenberg and D. Cameron Campbell, looked at the evolution of Fernie, its form, landscape and structure from the town's beginnings to the publication of the report in 1986. It included a record of the structure, form and description of the various landscapes in and around the town, major town projects that impacted the landscapes, major events and a description of how citizens used and remembered the landscape in and surrounding Fernie.	This is a key reference for a broad-based understanding of Fernie's heritage using a landscape approach. This report impacted Second Avenue's landscape design, including the notion of dual-name street signs, also historically-inspired planters, banners and lighting in line with the 1980s understanding of heritage conservation practices.
1999	Fernie and District Historical Society	The Fernie Museum was displaced from the Catholic Church rectory. A new group of passionate FDHS members brought new direction and ideas to the Society. With no facility, they began focusing on the digitization of the archives, expanding the photograph collection, created the Fernie Historical Calendar, published the Heritage Walking Tour booklet and took the museum to the people with satellite exhibits around the community. In recent years the Fernie Museum has gained immense popularity and is viewed as the 'go to' history and heritage institution in town.	These efforts and initiatives were an expansion off community heritage awareness and engagement in Fernie, already established by the earlier cohort of the FDHS.

Year	Source	What was done	What this achieved in Fernie
2003-2004	Fernie Centennial	For Fernie's centennial celebrations, the FDHS researched and compiled a Heritage Inventory which included an in-depth study of the history of dozens of heritage buildings in the city. They also opened a temporary museum at 362B 2nd Avenue from July through September of the Centennial year. High attendance prompted the Society to continue operating a museum and visitor centre from this location until 2010 in partnership with the Fernie Chamber of Commerce and with support from the City of Fernie. An exhibit of the Fernie Centennial Heritage Inventory was set up as part of the Centennial celebrations. The City of Fernie produced a centennial collage of important figures, places and stories in Fernie's history. These boards are still on display in City Hall.	Professionally researched building histories are available for the first time. These deepen and improve the Museum's programs, the content of the historic walking tours and the community's appreciation of their built heritage.
2008	New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP)	A federal program supporting projects designed by and for seniors to make a difference in the lives of others and their communities. A $25,000 grant helped locate, collect and correlate data on burial, update maps and find the names for over 1,875 unmarked graves in the Fernie Heritage Cemetery. 850 headstones were photographed out of approximately 4,000 existing burial sites.	This program raised awareness of the heritage value of the Fernie Heritage Cemetery (St. Margaret's Cemetery) and its role as a historic resource for the town. This sparked the organization of a new heritage-focused group interested specifically in the history and conservation of the cemetery.
2009	Fernie Heritage Cemetery Restoration Society	The purpose of the non-profit organization is to involve community members and organizations in a multi-phase, multi-year project to restore the Fernie Heritage Cemetery (St. Margaret's Cemetery). An additional project involves helping Legion Branch #36 replace substandard grave stones with Department of Veterans Affairs standard military headstones.	The group's formal establishment and activities raise awareness in the community about Fernie's long and diverse history, aided by the groups website www.fernieheritagecemetery.com/

Year	Source	What was done	What this achieved in Fernie
2011	Forever Fernie: Integrated Community Sustainability Plan	Contains a strategy section on Arts, Culture and Heritage that addresses: • provision of a wide range of entertainment and cultural activities for residents and visitors • celebration of history and creating a sense of place • fostering understanding and cooperation between cultures • preserving natural, built and cultural heritage • supporting the local tourism economy	A long-term vision plan for the city recognizes heritage as core to the identity and sustainability of the community moving forward.
2013	Fernie Historic Downtown (Permit Planning Area) Design Guidelines	The building design guidelines for Fernie's downtown were developed to describe, illustrate and explain the regulation of the visual quality of building design and construction to aid Fernie's enhancement objectives, and helps maintain the image of Fernie as a historic mountain community. The Building Design Guidelines also provide additional detail for several Development Permit Areas in the city.	Consistency in retaining the image and character of Fernie's downtown through conservation of building facades is managed by the City with the aid of the Design Review Panel, a group of local citizens who volunteer their time are chosen to review development permit area applications.
2014	Chautauqua	The annual event was resurrected by the Fernie Museum. This annual fall festival celebrates Fernie's culture, heritage and cuisine.	The museum's partnership with Wildsight (Elk Valley), the Fernie Heritage Library, the Fernie Seniors Centre, Tourism Fernie and numerous local organizations and businesses creates an important community and tourism asset.

Year	Source	What was done	What this achieved in Fernie
2014	Fernie Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw 2231	This document identifies objectives and policies for heritage, and makes specific mention of heritage as a key aspect of land management, the natural environment and resource lands, fostering a sense of community. The document also identifies issues related to heritage which, while not formal policy, provide information and thinking. For example, the conservation of early miners' cottages. Sections in the OCP identify specific strategic actions with regard to heritage: • Schedule C: Heritage Sites • Schedule M: Historic Downtown • Schedule S: Building Design Guide lines The OCP acknowledges and supports the development of neighbourhoods that are healthy, compact and connected. Through the identification of the overall character of each neighbourhood, the document makes recommendations for the preservation of Fernie's "small town" character through the conservation of heritage resources combined with respective and sensitive development in each of its neighbourhoods.	The OCP provides a wide basis of support for heritage that influences the development of the Heritage Strategy. The OCP is the impetus for including heritage in all City planning activities. The OCP includes initiatives such as selective redevelopment and renovation incentives to encourage slightly higher densities in some neighbourhoods while protecting the heritage character. It sets a precedent of providing architectural design guidelines for some neighbourhoods. It is the impetus for policies addressing retention of neighbourhood character, formalizing a list of local historic sites, establishing a Heritage Commission and proposing celebration and awareness programs such as heritage awards, within the Fernie Heritage Strategy.
2014	Fernie Livability Report	Intended as a long-term initiative, the Fernie Quality of Life and Livability initiative is embedded in the City's Official Community Plan Vision Statement. The report includes sections related to, or which have an impact on, heritage in Fernie, including natural environment, recreation and sense of community and identity.	A follow-up to Forever Fernie ICSP, this report reaffirms the need to consider heritage as part of future planning.

Year	Source	What was done	What this achieved in Fernie
2016	Heritage Fernie	Heritage Fernie is established and a program is delivered by the Fernie & District Historical Society. Through research and advisory services, workshops, awards, training bursaries, and tours, Heritage Fernie promotes the conservation of heritage buildings that preserve our sense of place and identity and foster community and environmental sustainability.	The group's formal establishment and activities, soon after the adopting of the OCP, raises awareness in the community about Fernie's built heritage, aided by the group's website, blog and facebook page: http://heritagefernie.com
2017	Heritage BC Workshop	Heritage Fernie and the City of Fernie invite Heritage BC to facilitate a Heritage Values workshop for Fernie and the surrounding area. This workshop brought together members of the community, as well as neighbouring communities, and gathered information from them on community heritage values and the evolution of the city to what it is today. The workshop resulted in the City of Fernie Heritage Values Report.	A clear and broadly based documentation and understanding of Fernie's heritage values. Impetus for the creation of a Heritage Strategy to ensure the ongoing conservation and protection of heritage in Fernie.
July, 2017	City Council to participate in the development of a Heritage Master Plan	Council approved that the City of Fernie participate in and financially support the development of a Heritage Master Plan.	With the formal and financial support of Council, and a grant from the Columbia Basin Trust, the Fernie and District Historical Society (DBA Heritage Fernie) put out a Request for Proposals for a Fernie Heritage Master Plan.
2018 - current	Fernie Heritage Strategy	Building on the work generated through the Heritage BC Workshop, the Fernie Heritage Strategy provides guidance and actions to sustain Fernie's heritage and ensure it is vibrant, relevant and celebrated into the future.	A team of heritage professional consultants was hired to lead the process which was launched in April 2018. A project website fernieheritagestrategy.com, community meetings, open houses and an extensive survey followed in May 2018. A Task Force of local citizens, representing a diverse cross-section of the community, along with City of Fernie staff and Council representation, lead the development of the work.
	Ktunaxa/ Fernie Museum partnership	The partnership takes advantage of a funded framework for the review of indigenous content at local museums by the BC Rural Dividend Fund.	These two groups co-developed programming and content for the Fernie Museum relating to the Ktunaxa land use and culture in the Elk Valley..

Year	Source	What was done	What this achieved in Fernie
2018-2019	Columbia Basin Trust Built Heritage Grants	In conjunction with the Fernie Heritage Strategy project, other local heritage conservation projects are funded through the CBT's new Built Heritage and Heritage, Museum & Archives grants. Several local historic buildings such as Fernie's City Hall, Knox United Church, Christ Church and Holy Family Church receive funding to plan and carry out heritage conservation work.	Heritage activity and initiatives are observed in town, included on walking tours and covered in the local media. Together with the Fernie Heritage Strategy community outreach efforts, heritage conservation becomes a trend, sparking interest from property owners of heritage buildings and houses all over Fernie.
2018	City of Fernie Resort Development Strategy 2019-2021	This document places Fernie as a tourism draw due to the city being an authentic Rocky Mountain community, with its historic downtown a key tourism draw. The document outlines opportunities and strategies for expanded services within the community, including infrastructure, programs and events.	The strong link between Fernie's attraction as a tourist and resort destination and its history and heritage is emphasized in the development of this strategy. The first chapter of the Fernie Heritage Strategy, Fernie's Historic Context, informs the development of this report.
2020	Tourism Master Plan for Fernie	Heritage is important to Fernie's tourism brand and contributes to its character as an authentic mountain community. The Tourism Master Plan for Fernie completed Fall 2019 involved stakeholder and community engagement and was developed by a local Task Force and consultants from Whistler Centre for Sustainability with leadership and coordination from Tourism Fernie..	The Fernie Heritage Strategy team and Task Force, collaborate with the Tourism Master Plan team and their Task Force, with certain task force members overlapping, to ensure that the two documents align.

The Economic Case for Heritage Conservation

Heritage Conservation has multiple values: cultural, aesthetic, educational, environmental, social, historical and others. A more recent addition to this litany of values, is the confirmation through multiple research studies of the economic value of heritage conservation. Heritage has increasingly become the driver of economic development.

Studies over the last decade have identified five major measurables of the economic impacts of heritage conservation:

"Cultural heritage constitutes an essential engine for economic development. Heritage is not only a factor of economic development but also the driver of the new economy."
Tuzin and Girard. Heritage in Socio-Economic Development: Direct and Indirect Impacts. Icomos - Paris 2011.

"(heritage conservation) has proven to be an effective tool for a wide range of public goals including small business incubation, affordable housing, sustainable development, neighbourhood stabilization, center city revitalization, job creation, promotion of the arts and culture, small town renewal, heritage tourism, economic development, and others."
Measuring the Impact of Historic Places. National Trust of Canada - 2017.

"Along with character, comes value. Those who respect historical aspects of any society have identified historical buildings as an excellent investment to hedge the effects of mainstream real estate investment strategy. This is evident in the fact that some of Calgary's prominent families and investors have located their main offices in historical buildings. The character of historical buildings affords a unique working environment, distinctive and unforgettable experience for visiting clients and patrons."
The Economics of Business in Calgary: A Preliminary Business Case for Heritage Preservation - 2018

1) Jobs and household income: The rehabilitation of historic buildings is particularly impactful for job creation and sustaining - while ordinary infrastructure projects and new construction are generally based on 70% materials and 30% labour, cultural heritage and sustainable tourism projects are based on 30% materials and 70% labour. Therefore, heritage conservation requires a high employment content and is labour-intensive, which brings a set of benefits related to job creation, promotion of local small and medium-scale businesses, reduction in foreign exchange requirements and development and utilization of local resources and materials.

2) Urban revitalization: City revitalization is not only limited to municipal landmarks, but relates to a larger scope of old buildings (abandoned warehouses, industrial plants, underused institutional and commercial buildings, etc.) that can be renovated and adapted for new, relevant and current uses. This in turn has many indirect socio-economic impacts and improves the area's image and reputation, which act as a magnet to businesses.

3) Heritage tourism: It is well documented that heritage visitors stay longer, visit twice as many places and spend 2 1⁄2 times more than other visitors. The size of the heritage-tourism sector in the UK is in excess of £12.4 billion a year and supports an estimated 195,000 full-time jobs – this makes the sector bigger than the advertising, car or film industries.

4) Small business incubation: There are 1.14 million small businesses in Canada representing 97.9% of the Canadian total, employing 70.5% of the private labour force. Startup businesses often choose to locate in historic buildings, or historic districts for their lower rent spaces, flexible space options and adaptability, for historic district's presence of compatible businesses that can serve and collaborate, for most often being located in walkable and transit served urban cores and for the character/image these spaces offer their brand.

5) Property values: Studies involving several thousand residential properties in 15 American cities found that the value of designated properties was 5 to 20% higher than comparable non-designated properties. An additional study observed that just proximity to a heritage district raised the value of non-designated properties. Also, as no "new" historical buildings can be built, those that exist will continually increase in value simply because of their scarcity.

A VISION FOR HERITAGE IN FERNIE

"Fernie is remarkable in that whether you are here for five minutes or five generations - it is home."

- comment in the May 2018 Heritage Strategy Public Survey

Heritage conservation in Fernie will help us to celebrate our past, value the present and build a sustainable future. It will be a vehicle for building meaningful relationships with the Ktunaxa and to identify and recognize valued Ktunaxa heritage resources.

Stewarding change, growth and development in the community will be informed by the understanding that Fernie's unique character and historic landscape is the result of the ongoing layering and interaction of economic, social, cultural and natural values over time. Fernie's heritage is not a static monument or group of buildings, but a diverse collection of tangible and intangible qualities and places. The vision will consider, understand, respect and sustain Fernie's unique and evolving heritage as we add new layers over time.

The commitment to a holistic approach of managing change - integrating the goals of heritage conservation and those of social and economic development - will be a key part of heritage conservation in this community and a means to delivering Fernie's Official Community Plan's vision - Ensuring Economic Viability, Enriching Community Life and Protecting the Environment.

Heritage conservation in Fernie will continue to foster and support our community events, the connection to the natural environment and built heritage, will reflect what is cherished as a community, and how the community values are informed, developed and embedded in all decision making processes.

Fernie's heritage program will focus on a series of grounded, practical and community-based actions that together will help safeguard, sustain and steward all that is great and unique in Fernie - historically, here and now, and into the future.

"Cities are dynamic organisms. There is not a single 'historic' city in the world that has retained its 'original' character: the concept is a moving target, destined to change with society itself. To preserve the urban historic landscape, strategic and dynamic alliances need to be built between various actors in the urban scene, foremost between public authorities that manage the city and developers and entrepreneurs that operate in the city."

UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape - adopted by UNESCO's General Conference 2011

PART 1: FERNIE'S HISTORICAL CONTEXT

An exploration of Fernie's historical context serves to reaffirm and document the history, identity and heritage values of the city through a community-wide understanding and celebration of its heritage and character. In turn, this information is used to identify important heritage places, and to inform the heritage strategies and actions for managing change and development in Fernie that will ensure the conservation of its heritage values.

A historical context study identifies and explains the major factors and processes that have influenced the history of an area and have shaped the built and cultural environment we see today. The objective of a context study is to provide a framework to investigate and identify heritage features and resources. It is not intended to be a detailed account of all aspects of the history of an area.

A historical context study can be prepared for a large or small area, or for an individual feature or group of features. The historical background contained in the context study is designed to provide an understanding of a heritage feature or resource within its larger cultural and geographic context, and assists with the assessment of its significance.

The historical context statement and chronology provide an over-arching time-line and narrative of the history of Fernie in its context within the wider Elk Valley.

The historical themes are key ideas that distill the major historical forces or processes, identified in the context study, which have contributed to the history and evolution of Fernie. A thematic framework uses themes and ideas to help conceptualize past events and to place sites, people and events into their historical context.

The themes connect the narrative of the historical context statement to Fernie's community heritage values and historic places. This organizes the complexities of history into a concise framework that supports the identification of heritage resources and the creation of effective strategies for their conservation and management.

The summary of community heritage values is a succinct synopsis that identifies what people in Fernie value about their community and why they value it. It was prepared through the evaluation of data collected through an online survey about Fernie's heritage and community values.

The policy and planning context identifies key planning initiatives, strategies, the Official Community Plan, and other documents, and summarizes their relationship and contribution to heritage conservation planning in Fernie.
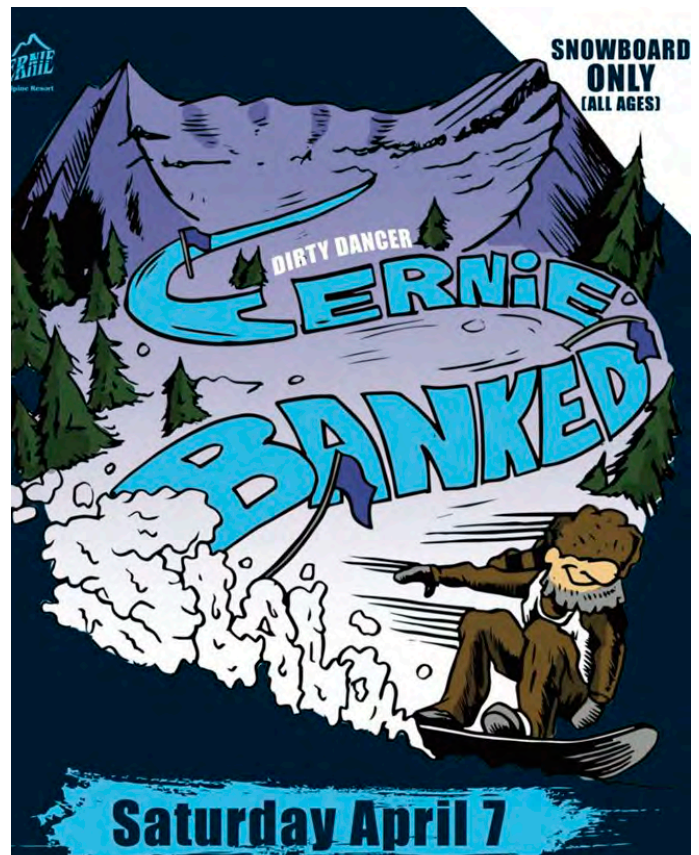
Fernie Museum and Archives.

Ȼaqahak -- Thick Forest

The Ktunaxa occupied the area now recognized as Ȼaqahak (Fernie) for thousands of years before the arrival of settlers. The area was known to be a winter hunting area where the Ktunaxa would hunt mountain sheep, mountain goat, moose, elk deer and other animals. They would trap and fish, and harvest natural vegetation. The Elk Valley is within Qukin ʔamakʔis (Land of the Raven).

1.1   Historic Context Statement

Fernie, B.C.: Elevation 1,004.6 metres, 3,302 feet

The city of Fernie is situated in B.C.'s Elk Valley on the banks of the Elk River between the Lizard and Macdonald mountain ranges of the Rocky Mountains. The Elk Valley is an area rich in forestry, wildlife, and a relatively soft organic sedimentary coal formed by the compression of ancient fern forests.

Fed by the ancient Petain Glacier, the Elk River has multiple identities. It is a river named Wasaʔki by the Ktunaxa people. It is a source of sustenance and energy. It is a place valued by residents and visitors for recreation and fishing.

"Ktunaxa people have occupied the lands adjacent to the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers and the Arrow Lakes of British Columbia for more than 10,000 years. Fernie is located within the homeland of the Ktunaxa Nation, which covers approximately 70,000 square kilometres (27,000 square miles) within the Kootenay region of south-eastern British Columbia and historically included parts of Alberta, Montana, Washington and Idaho." www.ktunaxa.org/who-we-are/

Coal and Fernie

Numerous historic resources, as well as archaeological evidence, indicates that mineral resources, including coal and stone tool material, were traditionally mined in the area. Beyond habitation, cultural use, hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering of plants, the mining of mineral sources in the Elk Valley and Crowsnest Pass area is known to have been a practice critical to Ktunaxa subsistence.

A flint quarry near Fernie was regularly accessed by Ktunaxa. Chief Ambrose Gravelle confirmed Ktunaxa mining and use of coal from the Elk Valley and Crowsnest Pass area as a resource used by Ktunaxa to reliably transport fire in pre-contact times, especially when travelling east of the Rockies. They used to collect coal at Coal Creek and use a piece to keep as a hot coal. They would store a piece of heated coal in clam shells between camp sites and then use it to start a fire.

Non-Ktunaxa exploration began in the 1840s. Coal deposits had been noted, but until former Hudson's Bay Company employee Michael Phillips' exploration of the Crowsnest Pass in 1873, the resource hadn't been exploited. Phillips, fluent in the Ktunaxa dialect, married Kootenay Chief Paul David's daughter Rowena and they had twelve children. He would serve as Canada's first Indian Agent for the Kootenay Indians and as a Justice of the Peace.

In 1874, Phillips and his men cut a trail through the Crowsnest Valley and Pass noting coal outcroppings along the route. He sent samples to the Geological Survey of Canada, which prompted noted geologist Dr. George Dawson of the Survey to come west and begin mapping the coal deposits.

Dawson's report, released in 1886, generated considerable interest, since the bituminous coal deposits were easily accessible and ideal for the creation of coking coal, which had a ready market across the continent and locally at the Greenwood and Grand Forks smelters.

William Fernie, the former provincial Kootenay gold commissioner, along with future MLA Colonel James Baker, took note of the report and set out to explore and exploit the resource. It took almost a decade, but by 1897 they had found the financing to create the Crows Nest Pass Coal Company (CNPC) and through their connections helped facilitate the construction of a much desired rail link stretching from Lethbridge in Alberta to the edge of Kootenay Lake, enabling the company to get their coal to market.

The CNPC constructed its first mine in a hillside five miles up the Coal Creek valley from the future town of Fernie. With the railway under construction, freshly mined

Ktunaxa in Fernie.
Fernie Museum 6678

The Ktunaxa & the Valley

*Ktunaxa presence in the Elk Valley has long been centred on a village area named **qakawakanmiⱡuqnik**, or Michel Prairie, a Ktunaxa settlement at the confluence of Michel Creek and the Elk River, near present day Sparwood. Used as the seasons dictated by the Michel Prairie people, also referred to as the Fernie Band or **qakawakanmiⱡuqnik**, a group with close ties to the community of Tobacco Plains, and whose annual round included hunting bison on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. The settlement at Michel Prairie included important tobacco cultivation areas. Most members of the Michel Prairie band died as a result of smallpox introduced by European settlers. Surviving members dispersed to join other Ktunaxa communities.*

Other important Ktunaxa seasonal settlements were at Whiteswan Lake (Kaintak) and important Ktunaxa settlement locations at Grave Prairie, Round Prairie, near Elkford, as well as elsewhere along the Elk River.

Some Ktunaxa families, post contact, moved to logging camps and nearby towns to take jobs in the forest industry.

Fernie miners at a coal adit. (undated) Fernie Museum and Archives 0151.

1901 "sheet 2 of the 1901 Fire Insurance Plan for Fernie" Library & Archives Canada R6990-121-7-E.

coal was brought down to the flats at the mouth of the valley and stockpiled near what would become the Canadian Pacific Railway's (CPR) right-of-way. After just seven months of mining activity the company managed to produce over 9,000 tons of coal and transport it to the track side.

Nearby, an informal community on the banks of Coal Creek grew up, housing miners, a few businesses and more than enough illicit opportunities for the purchase and consumption of liquor. Despite this early settlement, the CNPC had other ideas for its new town. The company would lay out a grid of streets and square blocks parallel to the CPR's right-of-way just west of the 'Old Town,' leaving the original district, literally and figuratively, on the wrong side of the tracks, until its destruction by fire in 1908.

'Old Town' lingered, but much of it was displaced with the construction of the coke ovens necessary to convert the coal into valuable coke for the ore smelting industry. For the emerging town, the ovens provided an ambience of pungent air loaded with coal dust.

A growing community

The CNPC saw Fernie as the focus of its business activities in the Elk Valley. Because of this, and the fact there were no mines nearby - Coal Creek was ten kilometres to the east, the Morrissey mine was 11 kilometres to the south and the mine at Michel 40 kilometres to the north east - the townsite of Fernie, with the exception of Old Town, never took on the appearance of a mining camp.

The initial townsite was laid out by the company and named after one of its major shareholders, William Fernie. It extended north from today's 1st Avenue and the train tracks to 5th Avenue, and east as far as 10th Street, with 2nd Avenue as its commercial heart. Originally, all but one of the early streets and avenues - Victoria Avenue - were given names of CNPC officials. Wooden sidewalks lined the streets of downtown.

CNPC operated the townsite as any typical company town where they leased but did not sell lots for development. In the commercial core the company sold building permits to interested lease holders but expected them to erect suitable structures. By the end of 1899, the town had its first school, and churches for the Catholic, Anglican and Presbyterian congregations, along with the Salvation Army.

The town soon sported a number of hotels including the Victoria Hotel, the first to open in the new townsite, followed by the Royal, Northern, Crow's Nest, and Fernie hotels along with at least four others. In the residential areas the company built reasonably cheap cottages to house the mine workers who were required to live there, and as result a substantial amount of their monthly pay packet ended up being returned to the company in rent.

The 1901 census recorded a population close to 1,700 and showed a multi-cultural community. Austrians and Italians were the two largest groups in town, along with Swedes, Belgians, a couple of Icelanders, and Canadians from the eastern provinces and around British Columbia. Fernie's Chinese community was 30 strong, with the men listed as working in positions as cooks and laundrymen.

That same year, the CNPC began selling lots in the townsite at an average price of $277.00. Across the river there was competition from the recently subdivided West Fernie area, which offered large building lots with two street frontages and no back lanes.

In the townsite, the coal company leased some of the empty lots to residents as garden plots. Concentrated in the north end there were many gardens scattered across the town including a few right on 2nd Avenue.

The town takes shape

The powerhouse for the company-owned Crow's Nest Pass Electric Light and Power Company at Coal Creek, provided both electricity and water to households and businesses on a user-pay basis.

The Great Northern Railway steamed into town at the end of 1904, erecting a station and freight shed on the site of today's Park Place Lodge. Their stay in town would be relatively short, as the tracks were removed just 12 years later, with the route becoming the basis for Highway 3, the Crowsnest Highway.

In 1905, the CNPC erected their impressive headquarters on 3rd Avenue between 5th and 6th Streets, then the centre of town, to the designs of the noted Toronto-based firm of Smith and Gemmell, with the building's distinctive concrete blocks manufactured on site. This, along with the new post office, courthouse and nearby business blocks that included branches of the Hamilton, Commerce and Imperial banks, prompted boosters to call out Fernie as the commercial 'Beehive' of southeastern BC

In keeping with that economic importance and showing the CNPC's strong connections to the financial world, the Home Bank of Canada arrived in town in 1906, leasing space on 2nd Avenue for their western Canadian outpost. The Home Bank was closely connected to the CNPC through James Mason, the bank's general manager and coal company director, and Canadian financier Sir Henry Pellatt. Mason's questionable loans to Pellatt over time amounted to a debt of over 7 million dollars, comparable to 75 million today. Pellatt's inability to discharge the debt was one of the chief factors in the bank's eventual collapse in the 1920s.

Along with coal, the lumber industry was a growing concern in the Elk Valley region, supplying timber for the mines, miners' accommodation and other construction projects. The Elk Lumber Company mill in West Fernie was originally established by the CNPC to supply roof supports for its mines. The Fernie Lumber Company and a sawmill owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway joined a host of smaller mills producing products that found a ready market throughout the valley. The Fernie Brick Company was established in West Fernie to take advantage of the clay beds found along the river's edge. After successful test firings of the clay at brick plants in Montana and Ontario, the local factory was in full production by the end of 1906. The distinctive cream coloured brick was used in a number of new structures in the booming town.

Incorporation, disaster and rebuilding

Earlier attempts by the Board of Trade to convince the CNPC to allow incorporation of the town of Fernie had been rebuffed, as a way of ensuring the company's continued management of the town and its resources. After a devastating fire in April 1904, which destroyed six blocks of Fernie that included six hotels, the Imperial Bank, and 65 businesses, the company agreed to the incorporation of Fernie as a municipality, with the guarantee that the coke ovens be left outside the new city limits. In August 1904, the City of Fernie was formally incorporated, with a mayor, six councillors and a school board with two trustees.

Rebuilding efforts continued, as the city grew outward towards the river above 5th Avenue into an area known as the Annex. A 1905 survey laid out a grid of streets on top of slack dumped from the coke ovens that filled the river's marshy edge. Prominent Fernie citizens built residences at the southern end of the city at the foot of 2nd and 3rd Avenues, on the bluff overlooking the river.

The fire of 1908

Disaster struck once again in 1908 with a huge fire that raged through the city leaving almost nothing standing. A map drawn by engineer R. Potter immediately after the fire listed the only buildings that survived: Thirty-five houses at the southern end of the town, one house in the Annex, the priest's house at 5th Avenue and 5th Street, the offices of the CNPC, the Great Northern Railway station and a warehouse.

The publisher of the Fernie Ledger, George Meikle, writing about the fire, described:

"Homeless, frantic humanity rushed to fancied places of safety, and as the flames advanced, the stampede became general until the bulk of the population were inside the Coal company's building, the Western Canada Wholesale company's store and the mine train. Carloads of people were rushed east to places of safety and towards evening a special was made up for the west. There is no language at our command to picture the scenes. Our readers can fill in the colouring, there is nothing too vivid nor exciting, it would take pages to even mention the wild, mad, frantic, pandemonium that reigned supreme."

Aid was quick to arrive, and as it poured in from all over North America. The city council planning for the future of Fernie enacted a fire limit boundary along with bylaws which required that all buildings within the boundary be of concrete, brick or stone. It was suggested that the output of the Fernie Brick Company be used extensively in all commercial construction, resulting in the production of 20,000 bricks a day for the rebuilding effort and giving the city much of its strong and identifiable built character.

Catalogue shopping

Along with brick, concrete was utilized in many buildings in the business section and even in a few houses elsewhere in town. A better proposition for the quick rebuilding of the town was the use of catalogue and prefabricated houses. Companies across North America published books of plans that could be ordered and taken to local mills where the lumber would be cut based on specifications supplied by the publisher. As well as the plan books, a number of "ready-cut" companies such as Aladdin, Eaton's, Sears and others delivered the required cut lumber to the building site along with a detailed set of building instructions.

In addition, there were many prefabricated houses. The Vancouver-based BC Mills Timber and Trading Company supplied Fernie with a number of their patented prefabricated system houses to residents. These structures came with a wall panel system of siding, insulation, and interior wall surface that was set and bolted into a slotted sill, with additional panels added until the house was finished. These distinctive buildings came complete with windows, doors and a choice of brick or metal chimney.

As well, a number of residents took advantage of 'skid houses,' simple end-gable dwellings that arrived fully assembled via railway flat car from Lethbridge, Alberta.

A variable economy

Fernie's economy remained robust even in the aftermath of the fire. In 1909 the CNPC surveyed and began selling lots in their Annex extension that ran north from the city boundary between the Great Northern Railway right-of-way and the river. The local Anglican, Lutheran and Catholic congregations rebuilt their churches creating an informal Church Row on 5th Avenue at the edge of the ridge separating the Annex from the city's core and behind the coal company's head office. The Presbyterian and Methodists found locations for their churches on 2nd and 3rd Avenues. This emerging civic centre would soon be graced with the rebuilt provincial courthouse, post office, firehall and city hall.

The demand for coal fluctuated in the years after World War I. With the increased use of petroleum products resulting from the rise in the use of private automobiles, a shift to oil in home heating and the conversion by the railroads of their steam engines from coal to oil burners, there was a reduced demand for coal.

The economy was precarious in the years leading up to the Great Depression. Fernie was hit hard by the failure of the Home Bank of Canada, which closed in August 1923, with residents losing some 800,000 dollars in the collapse. Liquidator G.T. Clarkson wrote, after thoroughly examining the Home Bank's affairs:

"Never at any time in its career, was an experienced and trained banker at the head of the bank and in control of its affairs. It can be said that the [bank management] utterly failed to pay regard to or impose elementary safeguards in protection of the business of the bank."

The collapse of the bank, along with a continuous round of strikes and lock-outs in the mines during this period, were a hardship for Fernie. The Elk River flood of 1923, which caused severe damage to property and substantial businesses, such as the Elk Lumber Company mill, didn't help.

Heading into the Great Depression, Fernie's economy was impacted by the reduced work hours implemented at the mines, and by the sheer number of men requiring financial relief. BC towns and cities were responsible for paying out welfare funds to their residents; by 1931 the city had reduced staff wages and announced they could no long afford to pay. As a result, city council was dissolved and a provincial administrator was brought in to handle the city's affairs. It was 1945 before Fernie again had an elected city council.

Airfield and gardens

In 1931 Fernie was connected to the rest of Canada with a federal government airfield constructed on the river flats at the western edge of the city. This simple airstrip was part of a plan to provide a nation-wide series of airfields to support cross country transport and civil defence. The Airport neighbourhood, established in the 1960s, was built on top of the runway, giving the neighbourhood its east-west orientation.

It was also during the depression that the notion of garden leases came about. Certain portions of city owned property were divided into garden plots and used by many families without other means to provide food for themselves.

World War II and post-war development

The demand for coal surged and the mines flourished with the outbreak of World War 2, but the post war period saw a slack in demand once again. During this downturn two of the oldest operations, the Elk Valley Colliery and Coal Creek mining operations, closed. While coal still played a role in the local economy, Fernie began to look at other opportunities. Tourism, both summer and winter, was one such opportunity. The rise in leisure time in the post war boom, along with the increase in the private automobile ownership, brought travellers out along Highway 3.

Given the winter snow falls and nearby mountains Fernie was well positioned to become a recreation destination. The Fernie Ski Club was organized in 1947 and its members set about clearing ski runs on Mount Fernie, making many improvements with an eye to attracting vacationers. Snow Valley Ski Development, a locally owned company, opened the ski hill at its present site in January 1963. The publicity surrounding Fernie's bid in 1960 for the 1968 Winter Olympics, while unsuccessful, brought attention to the potential for recreation in the area and helped lay the foundation for today's Fernie Alpine Resort.
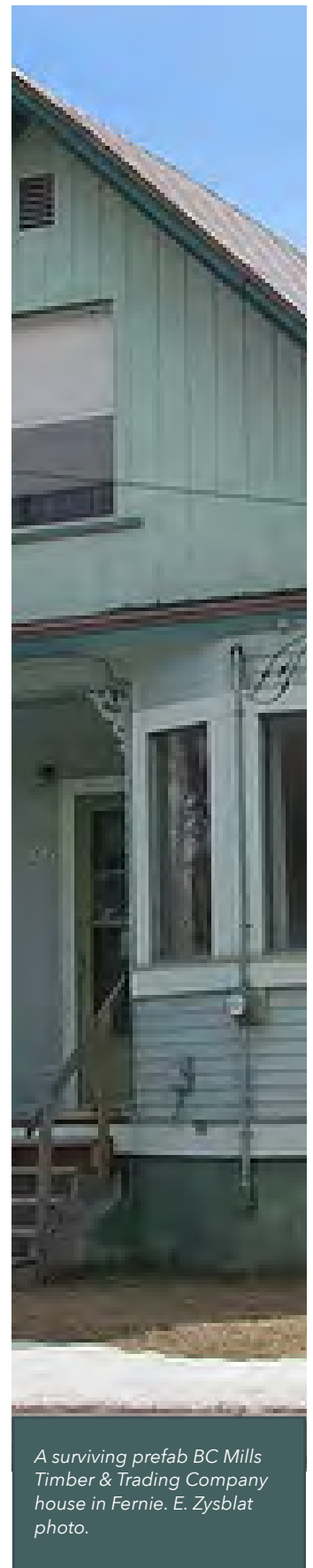
A surviving prefab BC Mills Timber & Trading Company house in Fernie. E. Zysblat photo.

SHIPPING HOUSES INTO FERNIE BC. AFTER THE FIRE OF AUG 1ST 1908

'Skid shacks' arriving on the train from Lethbridge after the 1908 fire. S. J. Armitage postcard.

Fernie saw its share of post-war immigration, most significantly through its Italian community, which established the Società Guglielmo Marconi and the Società Felice Cavalotti in 1965. Both Fernie, and nearby Natal, had Italian Consuls by 1964. Italian speakers were three times more common in Fernie than in the rest of B.C.

Fernie has been home to two prominent Ktunaxa families for decades, the families of Alex Phillips and Bob Gravelle. Alex Phillips was a great-grandson to Michael Phillips, early explorer and settler in the Fernie District, remembered for marrying Rowena of the Ktunaxa Tobacco Plains Band (Chief Paul David's daughter) and introducing dozens of Phillips' descendants in this area who all share a mixed heritage. Alex grew up in Grasmere, but met his wife Florence in Fernie during Rodeo, an event which many Tobacco Plains folks would round up wild horses for in the 1930s to 1950s, and ultimately attend. Alex worked at the Elko sawmill, where he was promoted to foreman. Alex and Florence Phillips' home in Fernie regularly housed kids from Ktunaxa reserves so they could attend and finish school in Fernie. It was also a hub for Tobacco Plains folks to watch TV, which was scarce on the reserve. Bob Gravelle was one of those kids, a grandson to Ambrose Gravelle (Chief Red Eagle). Bob also married a Fernie girl, Marian, and settled in the community. Bob and Marian's children were heavily involved with the riding club, rodeo, hockey and soccer. Together, they set up the Kutenai Trucking Co. as well as the Trail's End Western Gear and Tack store.

Development from the 1960s

The 1960s saw a renewed interest in coal, this time from overseas primarily through the Japanese steel industry. With demand for coal rising, the city saw an increase in population, leading to its expansion into new neighbourhoods such as the Airport and Ridgemont which were laid out in typical suburban form with rounded curbs and no sidewalks.

Older residential areas saw existing houses renovated and the few remaining lots filled in with new housing. The era brought a new design aesthetic which resulted in building innovations, such as a small series of elegant flat roofed houses. Modernist, open sided carports distinguished by their triangular supports were attached to many of the older residences across the city.

Further expansion of the city through the 1990s encompassed neighbourhoods such as Elk View on the east side of the river and the development of the ski resort, while West Fernie was incorporated in to the city in 2018.

A 1986 Heritage Trust report noted Ridgemont's enthusiastic use of recycled materials. Railway ties and bricks salvaged from the coke ovens were popular, and red-coloured crushed slag adorned many walkways and driveways. These industrial materials in the residential landscape strengthens Fernie's connection with the past and provides a legacy for its future.

The current street numbering system was implemented in late 1967, with Fernie joining the majority of BC's municipalities in adopting a system of numbered streets.

Fernie has evolved into a pedestrian-oriented town. Downtown, there are a number of walkable gaps between buildings that provide a series of shortcuts within the blocks. A similar series of connecting paths can be found in the Airport neighbourhood, while a few historic shortcuts such as ones that lead down to the river or up to the Ridgemont neighbourhood remain. Vestiges of earlier vehicular routes are found in the old bridge abutments in various locations on the Elk River, the width of McLeod Avenue in West Fernie, and the original route south out of town with its bridge connection to 5th Avenue, which itself has the remnants of early commercial development.

An appreciation for heritage

The Fernie & District Historical Society was founded in 1964, and incorporated in 1976, setting the ground for Fernie's Diamond Jubilee in 1979, when the first survey of Fernie's heritage buildings was commissioned. Following this, an appreciation for the built form and heritage of Fernie's downtown began to grow, and with funding from a variety of agencies, the City commissioned studies of its main street looking at heritage guidelines and beautification possibilities. Heritage lighting, sign control and tree planting were all part of the program.

The former CPR station was donated to the town by the railroad and after a short move westward, it was restored and became the centre of cultural activities for Fernie and a focal point for community events such as the Wednesday Social, markets and celebrations.

A 1979 report on Fernie's landscape and heritage noted that "When a building stands in a community for a long period of time it becomes as natural a part of the environment as an old tree on the boulevard or a mountain in the distance. Especially in smaller communities, where much sentiment is derived from personal memories, this can often be one of the many reasons for citizens to protect older buildings. Buildings that are preserved for this reason need not have any historical or architectural merit. Their continued existence provides the community with a more humane urban landscape, due to their familiar scale and appearance."

Chief Ambroase Gravelle, former Chief Joe
Dennis and Mayor James White)
Fernie Museum

The Rider shadow, 1966
Fernie Museum 2458 do

The Ghost Rider

Popularly associated with the Curse Story, the shadow of a rider on a horse can be seen in certain light on the side of Mount Hosmer.

Old timers knew the shadow as just The Rider. When the link to the curse and William Fernie was established, is unclear.

Fernie Legends and Myths

The Curse and A Ceremony

Historically, indigenous peoples were expected to "show up" and participate in all manner of Canadian ceremonies and celebrations, including Royal visits to Canada and municipal, provincial and federal anniversaries, to essentially function as props or scenery for the event. This was the context for the "invitation" of the Tobacco Plains Band to participate in Fernie's staged "curse lifting ceremony" of August 15th, 1964, a hugely publicized event which coincided with Fernie's Golden Jubilee and the opening of the Kootenay Skyway.

The curse on the town of Fernie isn't a Ktunaxa legend and its source is unknown to Ktunaxa Elders (especially since curses are not a Ktunaxa practice). However, the legend of the curse was well known in Fernie, and was said to have been set by a Ktunaxa chief whose daughter was rebuffed in an agreement made between the chief and William Fernie. Fernie's history of destructive events (fires, floods, mine explosions) was believed to have stemmed from this curse. For decades, Fernie blamed all of its misfortunes on the curse.

Chief Red Eagle (Ambrose Gravelle) and former Chief, Joe Dennis (Big Crane) and 60 members of the Tobacco Plains Band attended the ceremony, "A ceremony we didn't believe in. It was more of an acquiescence to the request of the community… Our participation perpetuated a stereotype." (Donald Sam, Director -Traditional Knowledge & Language - Ktunaxa National Council).

While curses are not a Ktunaxa practice, there is a Ktunaxa story about greed which was told to the assembled residents by Chief Red Eagle during the ceremony:

Many, many years ago, a boastful Squirrel considered himself to be as strong and powerful as Grizzly, who is the greatest of all animals. To prove himself, Squirrel set out to close the Elk Valley, and declared that no living creature should enter for as long as he should remain alive.

Squirrel guarded the western entrance of the Valley from Sheep Mountain (Mount Broadwood, near Elko), while his wife watched the eastern entrance near Crow's Nest Mountain, with the help of Raven. A Bighorn Ram, who lived in a cave on Sheep Mountain, helped Squirrel, and whenever another creature tried to enter the Valley, Ram killed it by pushing a rock down the mountainside onto it. If any tried to enter from the east, past Squirrel's wife and Raven, they became entangled in the dense underbrush and timber, where they starved to death. Since no foot ever trod the Valley, the growth soon became impenetrable.

After many years, Yawkikam, a Kootenay youth of Olympian stature, decided to end Squirrel's foolish pride and tyranny. He tricked Ram, and killed Squirrel, and then forced his way through to the other entrance of the Valley. Squirrel's wife and Raven, not expecting an attack from that direction, were easily overcome. As they died, Yawkikam decreed that henceforth, any others who reached too far in greed in this valley would meet a disastrous end.

1.2 A Chronology of Key Dates in Fernie's History

Time Frame	Historical Event	Community Impacts and Changes
145 million years BP	Over millions of years, and under great physical pressure, deep layers of plant material dating from the Lower Cretaceous period, slowly form the Elk Valley coal deposits	The economic viability of the Elk Valley and its communities is owed to the Elk River, Crowsnest and Flathead coal fields, an immense deposit of coal containing hundreds of millions of tonnes of coal in many different seams
10,000+ years BP	Ktunaxa people occupy their homelands adjacent to the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers and the Arrow Lakes of British Columbia, as well as parts of Alberta, Montana, Washington and Idaho, for more than 10,000 years	Cultural modification and use of the land over millennia facilitate an annual pattern of movement and settlement
1840s -1870s	The presence of coal in the region is identified and documented by early non-indigenous explorers Catholic presence is established after requests from Salish Native Americans for a "black robe" to baptise their sick and dying children	Early beginnings of coal exploration that will transform the region Beginning of changes that will impact the culture of the Ktunaxa people
1842	Reverend Pierre J. de Smet, SJ, (Society of Jesus Catholic Society) met Kootenay Indians at Arc – a – Plats, Tobacco Plains, and set the location for a church, near Eureka, Montana	The beginning of consistent influence and permanent presence of the Catholic church among the Ktunaxa
1846	The Canada-U.S. border is established	This divided the Ktunaxa homelands and severed ties between communities
1874	Father Fouquet, OMI (Oblate of Mary Immaculate) establishes the St. Eugene Mission located north of Cranbrook in St. Mary's Valley for the "religious training and social welfare of the Kootenay Indians." He was succeeded by Father Nicolas Coccola, OMI, who remained until 1905	The beginning of consistent influence and permanent presence of the Catholic church among the Ktunaxa in British Columbia
1870s	Hudson's Bay Company employee Michael Phillips locates a route through the Crowsnest Pass Phillips sends coal samples to the Geological Survey of Canada	Past indigenous use of the opening through the front ranges for seasonal migrations and trade between mountain and plains cultures now available to newcomers. Testing of coal determines its viability as an exploitable resource.
1880s	Geologist Dr. George Dawson maps the coal deposits	This nfluential report determines major coal deposits are viable and available for mining in the Crowsnest Pass area
1888	Charters are granted for the creation of the Crowsnest Pass and Kootenay Lake Railway	A means of transportation for coal is attainable

Time Frame	Historical Event	Community Impacts and Changes
1890	Railroad Act of 1890 grants 20,000 acres of coal land per mile of track laid. 1891 the railroad becomes the BC Southern Railway The first "Indian" school at the St. Eugene Mission, near Cranbrook, was built using lumber salvaged from Fort Steele	Land grants tied to railroad construction consolidates the Crowsnest Coal Company's control in the Elk Valley
1897	The Crowsnest Pass Coal Company begins operations: • June: The *Crow's Nest Pass Agreement* is approved by Parliament granting subsidies to the Canadian Pacific Railway • July: Railway track-laying commences	Lands granted to the Crowsnest Pass Coal Company form the basis of the large scale mining developments in the region Subsidies are in exchange for reducing, in perpetuity, eastbound rates on grain and flour and westbound rates on a specified list of "settlers' effects" Continued development of railway infrastructure for coal transportation opens the region to other developments
1898	Settlement of Old Town at Fernie begins The Elk River Lumber Company is established The Canadian Pacific Railway arrives in the town A spur line from the CPR line is constructed between Fernie and the mines at Coal Creek	Cumulation of settlement, transportation and economic events that will establish Fernie as a major centre that supports mining operations through the Elk Valley The branch line facilitates the efficient movement of coal to the new coke ovens under construction at Old Town
1898 - 1908	Coke ovens are built on and near the site of Old Town	With railroad infrastructure in place, the construction of the coke ovens makes Fernie an important link in the export of coking coal to North American markets
1899 - 1900	The Fernie Courthouse, brewery, reading room and Salvation Army facilities are built	With the mines firmly established, the company controlled settlement begins to develop a sense of permanence, local and regional institutions are built in the town
1901	The Fernie hospital is built	The town's infrastructure continues to grow leading to talk of incorporation, though initially refused by the Crowsnest Pass Coal Company
1902	The Coal Creek mine explosion occurs	An underground explosion in the No. 2 Mine at the Coal Creek Colliery is one of the worst mining disasters in Canadian history.
1904	Fire destroys part of the town The City of Fernie is incorporated The Great Northern Railway arrives in December	Fire destroys a significant portion of the town, and given the cost associated with rebuilding, the Crowsnest Pass Coal Company relinquishes control and allows incorporation Railroad connections to the United States bring new business opportunities, facilitating the town's growth

Time Frame	Historical Event	Community Impacts and Changes
1905	The Crows Nest Pass Coal Company head office is constructed in Fernie	This firmly establishes Fernie as the commercial and administrative centre of the Elk Valley
1906	The Fernie Brick Company is formed The Home Bank opens Fernie's population reaches 3,500	The company takes advantage of local clay along the Elk River that fires to a distinctive cream colour seen in many historic structures today With three banks already established, the town's importance to the region is further enhanced when the Home Bank of Canada establishes its western-most branch in Fernie, showing the strong connection of the Crowsnest Coal Company's board to the Toronto financial community
1907	The Post Office and Customs Building are constructed	The city's importance is underscored with the ongoing development of the town's civic centre, with substantial and imposing structures
1908	The town of Fernie is destroyed by fire	The fire reduces most of the town to smouldering ashes in less than 90 minutes. The coal company's office survives, as do a few structures in the downtown, along with a group of houses on the bluff on the west side of town.
1909	Rebuilding begins in downtown Fernie	Reconstruction dramatically transforms the city's landscapes, with the implementation of the fire limit boundary, which mandates fire proof construction, giving downtown it's distinctive architecture of brick, stone and concrete
1910	Home Bank of Canada's new building is constructed	Designed by Toronto architects the Beaux-arts building takes a prominent location downtown
1911	Construction begins on the St. Eugene's Indian Residential School, to replace the original 1890 school, with materials shipped from Fernie More than 5000 First Nations children attended between 1912 and 1970	Residential schools systematically undermined indigenous culture and disrupted families for generations, severing ties through which culture and language is taught and sustained
1911	6,000 miners' strike for eight months The new provincial courthouse is constructed	The long miner's strike is an indication that the future of coal may have a rocky future The new courthouse, replacing the earlier one destroyed in the fire, firmly establishes the civic centre of the town
1914	World War I begins.	Coal production ramps up to support the war effort
1915	Local "enemy aliens" are interned in camps opened in the East Kootenay region	Pressure from a number of sources results in the internment of numerous miners, severely impacting mine production through the valley
1916	Severe flooding of the Elk River occurs	Floods impact the town and are a regular occurrence

Time Frame	Historical Event	Community Impacts and Changes
1917 -1935	Fernie establishes its own version of a Chautauqua. Held annually, Chautauqua was a travelling institution begun at Chautauqua Lake, NY, with roots in Canadian Methodist Temperance rallies. Chautauqua festivals carried education, inspiration and entertainment across North America	This establishes an arts and cultural focussed community festival tradition
1920s	The Fernie Ski Club is established	The potential of the local hills as a destination is opened up with the establishment of the club, which works in creating some of the early runs and trails
1921	The Tourism Association of Southern Alberta and Southeast British Columbia is founded	Fernie and the Crow's Nest Pass is promoted to a newly mobile society, as a scenic holiday spot, perfect for the motor tourist and marks the beginning of Fernie's slow economic transformation and diversification of its economy
1930s	The shift in fuel used on the railways and industry sees a downturn in coal production.	Major railroads and industrial concerns converted coal fire engines and boilers to oil. This saw a significant drop in coal production
1931	The Fernie airfield is established and the first flight across Canada lands at the new airstrip.	Transportation connections expand as part of a government initiative to support the emerging air transport industry
1940	World War II begins	Coal production ramps up once again
1947	Geologists unearth one of the world's largest ammonite fossils near Coal Creek	Interest in the valley's archaeological record and tourism come together
1958	The Elk Valley Colliery and Coal Creek mining operations close	The continued downturn in coal consumption closes two of the earliest operations in the valley
1960	Fernie bids for the 1968 Winter Olympics	While unsuccessful, the bid raised the profile of Fernie as an outdoor recreation centre
1963	The Snow Valley Ski Development opens	The commercial development of skiing in the Valley begins, bringing new visitors and residents to the town still impacted by the shift in coal markets
1964	Fernie's Jubilee was celebrated Chief and members of the Ktunaxa Tobacco Plains Band assemble in Fernie by invitation, to perform a "curse lifting" ceremony Fernie and District Historical Society (FDHS) was created	For Fernie this is a psychological boost, at the end of a long period of bad luck and an up and down economy
1967	FDHS publishes *Backtracking with Fernie Historical Association* - the first history book dedicated to Fernie Many of Fernie's street names are changed to numbered streets and avenues coinciding with the first municipal sewer system and the addition of the Annex Extension	This creates awareness of the city's event filled past Street names are replaced to rationalize the system for administrative and fire services, though an overlay of historic names is added to downtown street signs

Time Frame	Historical Event	Community Impacts and Changes
1970s	A revival of coal mining leads to new expansion and development in the region	The rise of Japan and its steel industry's demand for coking coal brings a revival to the coal industry in the valley, along with new development in Fernie, as new subdivisions emerge to the west and south of the town
1979	Fernie's Diamond Jubilee FDHS opens a historical museum in the Catholic Church rectory The first City commissioned survey of heritage buildings in Fernie is completed	The survey provided information for HARP (Heritage Area Revitalization Program) applications, helping to finance early work on beautification and enhancing the downtown
1980s	Further studies are conducted and recommendation on the town's heritage given. Downtown buildings are renovated through provincial grants, and receive legal protection	Consultant's reports recommend 2nd Avenue's beautification and suggest design guidelines for the downtown district. Downtown buildings received funding through the BC Heritage Trust HARP for renovation and some heritage details
1989	The former CPR Station is relocated and converted into a community arts centre	As the Arts Station, the former railway station is now an important community cultural hub
1990s	Discussion and community engagement begins concerning the transformation of the St. Eugene school building, closed in 1970	"It was our people, our choice, here, we have changed the narrative of this building [and] this place." Sophie Pierre
1992	Fernie now has 20 protected heritage buildings	This protects the downtown core and gives the town its current form and sense of place
1997	Snow Valley Ski Development is purchased by the Lake Louise Group and renamed Fernie Alpine Resort	The beginning of Fernie as a major international resort
1999	FHDS museum closes permanently	
2003	St. Eugene Resort and Casino of the Rockies opens in the former school building	This employs people from the Kootenay region and elsewhere, empowering the Ktunaxa as gainful employers, contributing significantly to the economic viability and sustainability of the community This is a source of pride for the community and a centre of learning and interpretation for Ktunaxa culture and history
2000s	New residents bring pressure to existing neighbourhoods	Neighbourhoods see smaller houses replaced with larger 'Mountain Modern' houses. New subdivisions high on the hillside on the east side of the river are developed. Expansion of Fernie Alpine Resort continues

Time Frame	Historical Event	Community Impacts and Changes
2004	Fernie's Centennial sees the creation of a heritage building inventory and exhibit by the FHDS, in a temporary location downtown, which would serve the community until 2010	The growing awareness of Fernie's built heritage continues.
2005	A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the five governments of the Ktunaxa Nation Council and eleven neighbouring local governments, including the RDEK, the RDCK and nine municipalities including the City of Fernie	This represents a commitment by the local governments and the Ktunaxa Nation to develop strong, committed and fair working relationships and open and respectful communication
2009	The city purchases the former Home Bank of Canada building as the home for a new museum operated by the FDHS	This becomes an important community and tourism asset
2011	Fernie's Miners' Walk is unveiled on City Hall grounds	Celebration and commemoration of the community and commodity that helped create the foundation for Fernie's presence.
2012	The former High School is transformed	901 Fernie sees heritage and new development combined in a multi-family residential project near the centre of town
2014 - current	The Architectural Institute of B.C. declares that the Fernie Courthouse is one of B.C.'s best buildings	Affirmation of the growing awareness of Fernie and its qualities of livability and heritage
	Official Community Plan is approved	Fernie's Official Community Plan (OCP) is updated and adopted by Council in June 2014
	Chautauqua in Fernie was resurrected by the Fernie Museum. This annual fall festival celebrates Fernie's culture, heritage and cuisine	The museum's partnership with Wildsight (Elk Valley), the Fernie Heritage Library, the Fernie Seniors Centre, Tourism Fernie and numerous local organizations and businesses creates an important community and tourism asset
	The Ktunaxa are formally invited as annual program participants in Chautauqua	This is the first time since the 1964 "curse lifting" ceremony that the Ktunaxa are invited to be part of an official Fernie event
	In commemoration of National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st, the Tobacco Plains Indian Band of the Ktunaxa, inaugurated a recurring annual tradition of walking (or riding horses) across the Canada/U.S. border into Montana to honour their indigenous rights and show support and unity to their southern brothers and sisters	"The border walk is really about reminding people that the border is not of our making. Our home is on both sides of the border." - Tobacco Plains Indian Band councillor Darlene Trach
2017	West Fernie is incorporated into the city.	An OCP amendment and new zoning that reflects community needs and the desires of residents is developed.

Time Frame	Historical Event	Community Impacts and Changes
2018	Fernie's Heritage Strategy is launched Ktunaxa become sole owners of St. Eugene's Casino Resort Ktunaxa participated in developing and writing the Fernie Heritage Strategy	Created a strategy to guide the future of Fernie's heritage buildings, resources and neighbourhoods. For the first time in Fernie, Ktunaxa perception and perspective is introduced and articulated by the Ktunaxa
June 21, 2019	For the first time, City of Fernie representatives (Mayor Ange Qualizza and Councillor Nixon) joined the Tobacco Plains Indian Band, by invitation, on their annual Walk Across the Border.	

Members pf the Ktunaxa Tobacco Plains Band with Fernie mayor Ange Qualizza and Councillor Nixon and other guests at the annual Walk Across The Border event, June 2019   Photo: Tobacco Plains Facebook page

1.3   Thematic Framework

"Themes are webs we weave to better understand the history and storylines of a place."

The following themes are designed to encapsulate Fernie's heritage and connect the narrative of the historical context statement to community heritage values and historic places. Each historic place, site or feature identified in Section 2, Fernie's Heritage Resources, should find a place within one or more themes. The themes themselves are a useful tool in assisting in the identification and characterization of current and future heritage sites.

Fernie Historical Themes

Aspects of Fernie's heritage are organized under the following eight themes, which together seek to succinctly describe the history, physical character and central stories found in its community heritage.

A. Natural Environment

Fernie's natural environment, including its ancient marine sedimentary, coal-rich geology, mountains such as Mount Fernie, Three Sisters and Castle Mountain, the Elk River and river valley, tributary creeks including Coal, Lizard, and Fairy, and native flora and fauna, are considerable ecological attributes in their own right

This mountain environment provides sustenance and spiritual connections for the Ktunaxa. The natural environment has shaped the city of Fernie as it developed in the Elk River Valley, providing a source of coal and timber that helped fuel economic development.

Throughout Fernie's history, the local landscape has provided a source of recreational activity and relaxation, from the early enjoyment of the outdoors to its most recent development as a summer and winter playground through the Fernie Alpine Resort. Easy access to the river, forested wilderness and views, to the stunning surrounding mountain peaks, contribute to the beauty, character and activity of the city.

B. Mining Coal, Working The Land

Fernie's economy was founded on the mining, processing and shipping of coal, and on the forest industry, both which were instrumental in the settlement and development of the city.

Fernie miners, 1915. BC Archives d-08814.

Elk Lumber Company, c.1908. BC Archives a-08896.

Coal mining, sawmills and the brewery predominated as economic drivers in the past. The Elk River watershed provided water for steam plants, beer making, the sawmill and was a source of clay for the Fernie Brick Company. Agricultural pursuits included dairy and livestock farms, while Chinese market gardens were located near the North End of the town. After the relocation of coal mining north up the valley, Fernie's fortunes were revived as new markets for coal revitalized mining in the 1960s.

In addition to resource extraction, Fernie has, from its inception, included tourism and recreation development as an economic driver. First overseen in 1923 by the Board of Trade, the town historically welcomed visitors from nearby places such as Calgary and Spokane. Today, tourism benefits from the city's considerable natural and cultural attractions, including long-standing economic traditions such as the 1902 Fort Steele Brewery, today's Fernie Brewing Company.

C. Routes and Connections

Fernie's transportation heritage includes the Elk River that created and defined the valley as a natural corridor, the travel patterns, seasonal migrations and trails of the Ktunaxa, early settler routes, three significant railways, the Crowsnest Highway, River bridges and the "airport."

These diverse routes and connections established the city as a focal point of the Elk Valley, contributing to and influx of workers leading to early economic success.

Today, historic routes such as the Stove Trail in Mount Fernie Provincial Park and the Coal Creek Trail following the former railway line to the mines at Coal Creek, provide the means and opportunity for tourists and adventure-seekers to access the city and its environs.

D. Community

This theme places Fernie in the context of other communities in the Elk Valley, particularly through their coal mining roots and origins, in which the patterns of growth and development followed the coal mining cycles.

The origins of the town itself are displayed in its infrastructure, including the location of the mining camps and transportation corridors such as rail and road right-of-ways. Its rise as an economic centre is seen in the commercial core, where the grid layout of the original city is still in evidence. As the town grew, land amalgamated into the city expanded into neighbourhoods, each with a particular character.

The naming of streets and differences in layout, such as the West Fernie grid, are some of the physical aspects that differentiate individual neighbourhoods.

Landscape features such as dikes, ditches and bridges illustrate efforts to tame the Elk River and make the place suitable for development. These and other physical elements are evidence of the culturally manipulated landscape that today is part of the city's character.

While the city has a number of imposing architect-designed buildings, much of its character is derived from the vernacular nature of its commercial and residential buildings. Fernie's ethnic and cultural groups have historically shaped its neighbourhoods through customs, lifestyle and class distinctions. Today, iconic or aesthetic characteristics based on a particular ethnicity or culture can be seen throughout Fernie, be it Italian Canadian building details or a ski resort worker-style fence made from skis.

E. Becoming a Fernie-ite

As with most early settlements in BC, Fernie was a diverse community. Marks have been left on the community by all peoples who have contributed to the evolution and shaping of Fernie as a community, including Italians, Francophones and people from eastern Europe such as Ukraine, Poland and Hungary.

Early newspapers were printed in multiple languages to accommodate the diverse inhabitants of the town. Population patterns shifted with the boom and bust of the coal industry or amount of snow accumulation in winter.

The connection of people to their home community is a defining factor of Fernie. Whether born here, or a new arrival, a Coal Creeker, Creekite, Northender, Fernie-ite or something else, residents of Fernie are characterized by their understanding and appreciation of Fernie and its character. An erasure of early class divisions has caused people to see themselves as Fernie-ites first, while authentic experiences past and present have collectively contributed to a shared understanding and appreciation for this place.

F. Government and Social Institutions

An important part of Fernie's governmental and institutional history and heritage in its ongoing government-to-government relationship with the Ktunaxa First Nation. The presence of early American and Italian consulates in the town testifies to both its importance as a government centre and its cultural diversity.

Hiking at Castle Mountain. Crowfoot Media.

Passenger Train at the C.P.R. Depot. c.1890. Toronto Reference Library.

Kyle Hamilton "I Am Fernie" exhibit and book.

Other significant government and social institutions such as the courthouse, cemetery, schools and school districts, churches, the hospital and military institutions like the Legion, illustrate the importance of the city in the life of the East Kootenay region.

Mine workers' union halls and publications, such as the *District Ledger Union* newspaper, are the historical hallmarks of the working people of the city. Historical government decisions, such as the internment of Eastern Europeans during World War I and those made more recently, have also made their mark on the community, while issues such as empty buildings and unused churches raise the question of how heritage resources can be adapted to changing uses and conditions.

G. Recreation

Typical of small communities throughout the province, Fernie's residents live a friendly, small-town community life, while at the same time, citizens have historically and currently enjoy an active and sporting lifestyle in the beautiful landscape in and around the city. In the 1940s, the first ski tourers of the Fernie Ski Club ventured deep into the valleys below the sawtooth peaks of the Lizard Range, while Fernie's bid for the 1968 Winter Olympics helped lay the foundation for today's Fernie Alpine Resort and the town's distinct local ski culture.

The city's parks, trails and campgrounds, alpine sports, wilderness hiking trails, camping, fishing, the rifle range and the wealth of nearby provincial parks and protected areas are markers of the importance of many outdoor sports in the community. The arena, curling club, archery at the Elks Club and other amenities provide venues for indoor activities.

Fernie is a centre for the arts through institutions such as the Arts Station, its public art installations and the work of local artists seen in the many galleries throughout the city. Local events and rituals such as Griz Days, Friendship Days and the Festival of Light help to illustrate the diversity of Fernie's recreational context, while local myths and legends such as the Three Sisters, Griz and Ghostrider on Mount Hosmer add a sense of mystery to the community.

H. Adaptation, Reinvention, Resourcefulness

Adaptation, reinvention and resourcefulness are key components of the history and heritage of Fernie. The culture is used to experiencing and rising up from mass casualty events, such as snowmobile and ski accidents, avalanches and mine disasters.

Fernie has been through boom and bust times, mine explosions and historic fires, Eastern European internment during World War I, the decline in the use of coal and more recent challenging events.

Despite these setbacks, the people of Fernie and the wider Elk Valley have always rallied around, working together for the continuing common purpose of supporting and diversifying their community.

The perseverance and adaptability of Fernie-ites is readily and consistently visible in such aspects of the town as the prevalence of vernacular, practical architectural design and materials, both in residential and commercial buildings, the layers of alterations and additions to houses and businesses, the use and re-use of mostly locally sourced materials, and even rituals and events such as mine rescue competitions between the local valley mines.

Ktunaxa on the banks of the Elk River circa 1898.   Fort Steele 5.012

Raven's Land - ʔamakis Qukin

The entire area currently referred to as the Elk Valley is within **ʔamakis Qukin** (Raven's Land). The Ktunaxa never named the pass after crow. The first mention of the Crowsnest name is Captain Blakiston's 1858 report. A formal trail was established by the provincial government in 1881.

The Ktunaxa story of ʔamakis Qukin (Raven's Land)

There was a time when there was death. A council was held by all the Animal Spirits and it was decided that there would be no more death. Raven had attended the council and sat there thinking, "if there is no more death I'll starve because I eat the eyes." He told everyone, and it was decided that there would still be death.

The Chief Animal Spirit heard of the second decision and became angry. Raven would then lose both his children, his son to a hunting accident, the daughter to another accident. When Raven heard of his children's death, he went to the Chief Animal Spirit and demanded his children be brought back to life. Because it had been already decided that there would be death, he was told they would not be brought back because of the decision that had been made.

Raven left the community taking with him all the deer, elk, and moose. He would be seen flying overhead every few days. The animals started getting hungry. Beaver decided to catch him by playing dead. When Raven came to eat his eyes, he jumped up and caught Raven around the neck. Raven carried Beaver to the Chief's lodge. Raven wouldn't tell them where the game was. While being held captive in the Chief's lodge he saw Coyote peering at him through the doorway. When Coyote was on guard, he pretended to go for his eyes. Coyote flinched, therefore allowing Raven to escape.

In the meantime, Prairie Dog was delegated to go look for the game. He travelled until he came to a stream of water. Nearby was the home of two old lady mice. One of the old ladies was at the stream and saw him, she thought "I'll take him home, he's cute." Prairie Dog stayed with the old ladies a couple of days. The game started coming back, but when the old ladies saw them coming, they put rocks in sacks and shook the sacks spooking the game. This happened a few times.

Prairie Dog got up early and started chasing the game back. When they got to the old ladies' home, the ladies tried to scare them away again; however, the game kept coming. The old ladies saw what was happening and picked up sticks to hit Prairie Dog. They swung at him when he ran by but hit each other knocking each other out. Prairie Dog herded the game back to the camp. There was food once more and everyone celebrated. Raven never did move back to his people. He stayed in the mountain pass. This place is now called Crow's Nest Pass.

1.4   Community Heritage Values

To understand what Fernie's citizens value about the community and its heritage, an extensive consultation process was undertaken including workshops, one-on-one and group interviews, and a public survey.

The online survey about Fernie's heritage and community values was conducted between May 19th and July 31st, 2018 - a period of 10 weeks. The total number of responses was 115. Survey participants were mostly current Fernie residents (52%) and residents of nearby East Kootenay communities (31%). There were also participants from Alberta (11%), other regions in BC (5.5%) and a single response each from Ontario and Manitoba.

Of all participants of the online survey that stated to have an association with Fernie, 41.1% had an association of 11-20 years, 33.3% between 20 years to a lifetime, 13.3% had an association of 6-10 years, 7.8% from 1-5 years and 4.4% less than 1 year.

Summary of Community Heritage Values

Community heritage values identified and quantified in the survey resulted in Fernie's natural, wild setting and outdoor recreation and access to be of upmost importance. Within the 115 surveys, there were 724 individual mentions relating to the importance of the wild, natural environment; the mountains, river and creeks, trails and lakes; easy access to nature; the cleanliness of the local water and air; and outdoor recreation, activities and lifestyle.

Ranking second in the survey were two topics: Fernie's history and heritage (including built heritage) and Fernie's built form and public realm. Each of these values received just over 500 individual mentions.

The value of Fernie's history and heritage was mentioned in aspects such as Fernie's history, legacy and connection to its past and roots; First Nations; mining and coal, the Coal Creek townsite; historic walking tours; the Miner's Walk; the Ghostrider shadow; and Fernie's heritage buildings and streetscapes. Fernie's built heritage was mentioned specifically in the value of the historic downtown core, the Museum, the Arts Station, the Library, the Courthouse, City Hall, Fernie's churches and cemeteries.

The value of Fernie's built form and public realm was mentioned in aspects such as walkability; small scale and proximity of services and activities; vibrant streetscapes and local businesses; Fernie's location in relation to other close-by communities; downtown patios and flower pots; the vibrancy and vitality of downtown; the selection and diversity of local businesses, shops and restaurants; Fernie's banner project; and historic and informational plaques and signage.

Ranking third in the survey were the Fernie community and Fernie's arts and culture. Each of these values received approximately 300 individual mentions.

The value of Fernie's community was mentioned in aspects such as; community engagement, involvement, volunteering and service; small town atmosphere; diversity of community, its history and its businesses; community spirit, friendliness, close-knit, supportive, connected, inclusive; sense of safety; good public amenities, services and government; good schools and educational institutions; appealing to all ages; seniors amenities and programs; community vibrancy and vitality; selection and diversity of local businesses, shops and restaurants; Fernie's Farmers' Market.

The value of Fernie's arts and culture was mentioned in aspects such as Fernie's cultural scene; Fernie's Arts Station, arts cooperative and arts community; Fernie's music; Fernie's events; Fernie's festivals - specifically mentioning Griz Days, Wapiti, Chautauqua, Wam Bam Dirt Jump, Wednesday and Sunday Socials; First Nations; Fernie's banner project; historical and informational plaques and signs.

Ranking fourth in the survey was the value of Fernie's tourism, economy and industry, receiving 76 individual mentions. This topic was noted in statements about Fernie being appealing to tourists and visitors; Fernie's sustainable and diverse economy; Fernie's vibrant streetscapes and local businesses.

Several mentions around the value of affordability, 16 in total, brought up the affordability of Fernie's activities, especially for children, basic goods and living standards and the sense of loss of affordable housing, which is an important value to Fernie-ites.

In short, what we learned from the public survey is that heritage in Fernie is about the desire to conserve the continuity of character, be it of the natural environment, the built form, the community's neighbourhoods or Fernie's small-town atmosphere.

In addition to the eight Historical Fernie Themes detailed in the previous section (1.3) the public survey captures the following six Community Heritage Values:

- History and Legacy
- Built Form and the Public Realm
- Arts & Culture
- Context
- Uniqueness to Fernie
- Aesthetic value

Together, the eight Fernie Historical Themes and the six Community Heritage Values will guide how we identify and conserve heritage resources in Fernie.
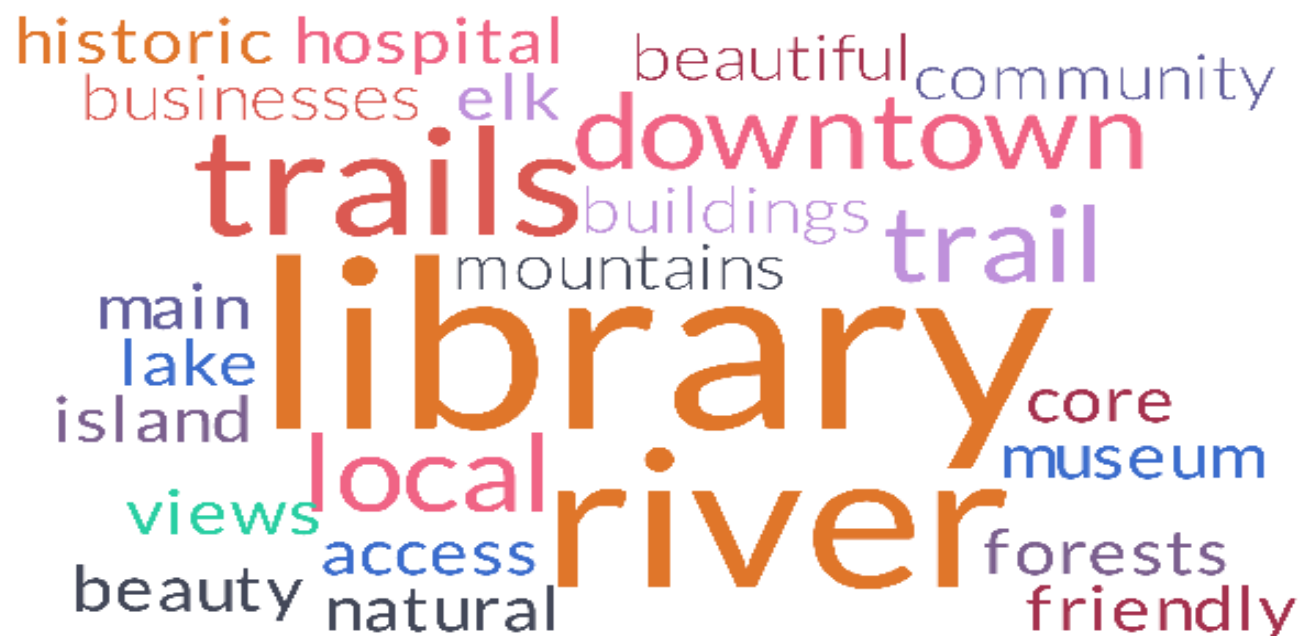
PART 2: FERNIE'S HERITAGE RESOURCES

2.1　What Are Heritage Resources?

Although the term 'heritage' has traditionally been associated with the preservation of old buildings, our understanding of heritage today has influenced current thinking in heritage conservation to be much more expansive and inclusive. With a focus on prioritizing local community values, we are moving beyond the sole preservation of the physical environment and considering additional aspects of our overall intricate human environment as worthy of conservation, including both tangible and intangible qualities.

A sample of quotes from the Provincial Roundtables on the State of Heritage in BC give us insight into a more current understanding of 'heritage' today in BC as expressed in 26 different community conversations held in late 2018 and early 2019. Heritage is:

- "the tangible and intangible record of human imprint on the world."

- "our environment. Culture is part of our environment; we need our culture to take care of our environment. If we don't take care of the land, we lose our culture."

- "the active recognition of the human story. The definition is evolving, it needs dynamism that moves through time. Heritage is a verb, not a noun."

- "what matters to a community."

- "a richness that suggests that it draws on experience and humanity."

- "not a state, it is an action. We 'do' heritage."
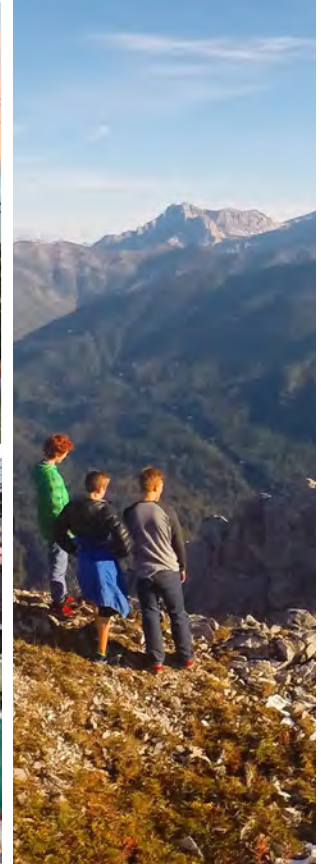
Heritage resources are a representation of a community's values, which tend to be a collection of places, traditions, events, names and even knowledge that a community cherishes. This collection of resources evolves as a community and its values evolve. When documented in the form of a heritage register, it is seen as a 'living' document that can be added to and edited overtime.

Fernie's heritage has traditionally been associated with its historic downtown buildings along 2nd Avenue. However, with the broader understanding of heritage today, the local feedback from public surveys and interviews conducted as part of this Strategy, the concept of heritage in Fernie has expanded, as well as the physical boundaries of where it is represented.

Heritage resources in Fernie now include its context in the Elk Valley, views, its natural environment, its residential neighbourhoods - each with their own unique character - as well as a diverse list of other community places, spaces, landscapes, traditions and events, that contribute to Fernie's identity and are deemed worthy of conservation.

2.2   Fernie's Character Areas

From its original 1904 confines, the city of Fernie has grown over the years through a series of boundary extensions to encompass both sides of the Elk River and the surrounding hillsides. Fernie's growth has left its mark on the physical city, with the much loved heritage streetscapes of downtown and prominent landmarks such as the Courthouse, City Hall and 4th Avenue's Church Row.

Although famous for its ski hill, its historic downtown, and its natural surroundings, Fernie's neighbourhoods are an integral part of the Fernie experience and the strong sense of community. Outside of the Historic Downtown which many people consider the 'heritage area', it has become very apparent that Fernie's residential neighbourhoods are also valued and viewed as heritage resources in the community, each with its own character, views and atmosphere.

As part of the community consultation for the Fernie Heritage Strategy, residents, members of Council and city staff noted that Fernie's historic neighbourhoods appear to be vulnerable to change and asked for "guidance on appropriate development options for historic neighbourhoods and areas." Fernie neighbourhoods are valued as anchors, catalysts and back-drops in what matters to Fernie-ites most - relationships, community, small town atmosphere and quality of life-aligning with the Kootenay Region motto "come for the snow, stay for the people."

Character Area Names

In a town situated in a valley with towering mountains on all sides, orienting oneself in Fernie is not simple for visitors or newcomers. Locals regularly use informal neighbourhood names and nicknames to give directions or to describe where one lives. Some of these informal names contain hints of direction or orientation, such as the North End, but it really depends who you ask. The area names used by Fernie-ites appear to depend on where they're coming from and why they're going somewhere. Residents of the Annex have often called Maintown 'Uptown' because they had to walk up to get to the commercial district. Others call Maintown 'Main Street' - but neither Uptown nor Main Street can be found on Fernie maps. Hundreds of people reside in the 'North End' or in the 'Airport', but again, good luck locating these places on any formal documents, as these are informal, historic, locally-used names.

Fernie's residential neighbourhoods have interesting histories and heritage character specific to each, partially expressed through their built form, geography and infrastructure. While Fernie's Official Community Plan (OCP) divides the city into eleven neighbourhoods for planning purposes, the Fernie Heritage Strategy proposes to acknowledge several sections of these as important and valued heritage resources in Fernie, to point out distinguishable character areas within them and to highlight historic, locally-used names.

In researching the heritage and character of Fernie's neighbourhoods, it became clear that these informal names not only have historic, cultural and social value, but often hint at the physical characteristics and perceptible atmosphere that distinguish each area. The character of each section of town is specific and valued, layered with unique views, natural features, amenities, traditions, stories, associations and names.

While some of the following character area names are well known and used, we propose to acknowledge certain distinct character areas with historic names. One such area is the historic Park area, which today is formally part of Ridgemont and Maintown planning areas. Park's distinguishable built form and street pattern is noticeably different

Proposed character areas map for Fernie.
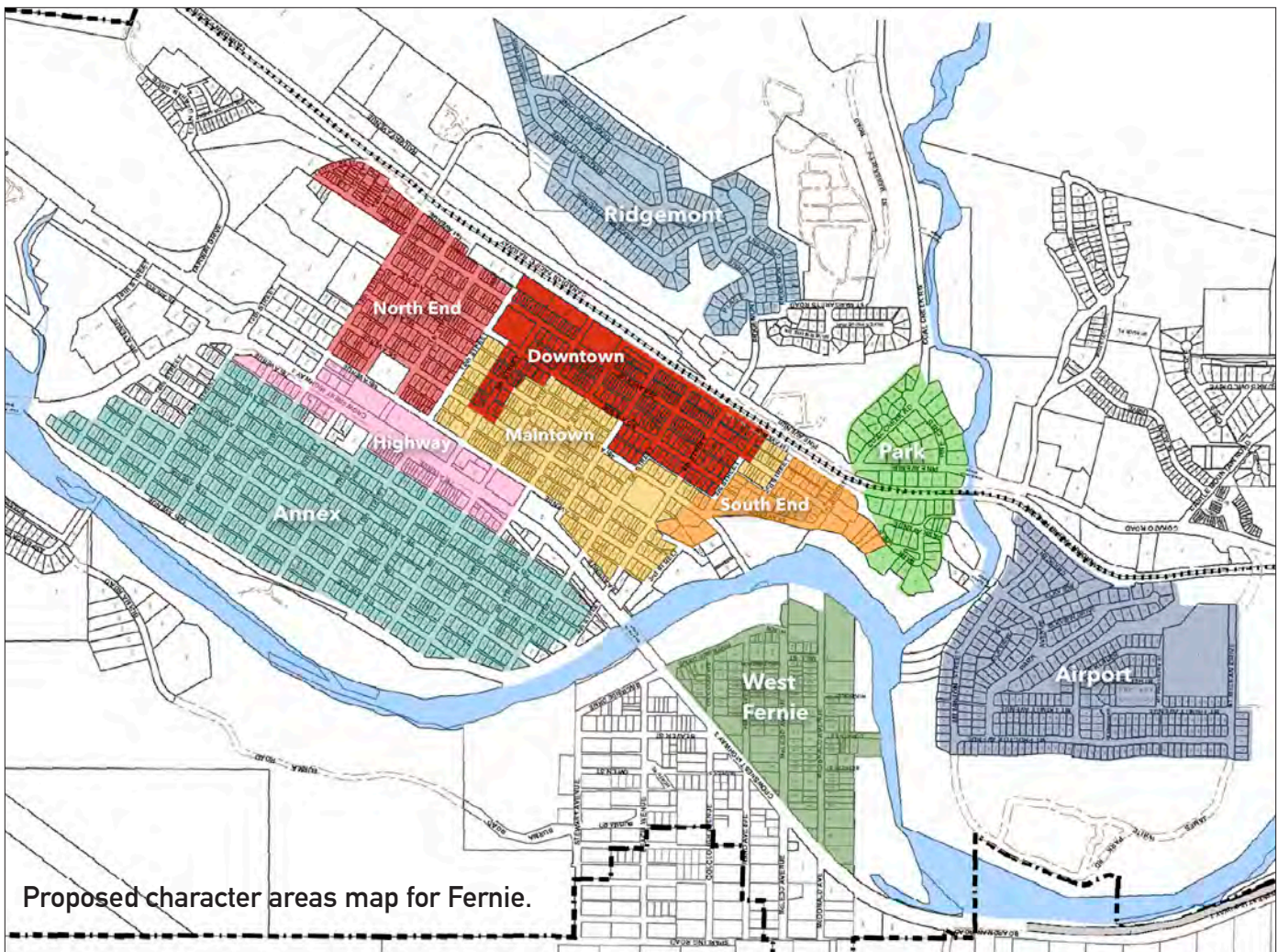
than those of the larger planning areas it is associated with. Grouping these two enclaves into the Park character area would assist in future planning.

Additionally, the Maintown planning area contains three character areas: the Downtown, the South End, and the North End., while the balance of Maintown is also an important and distinct character area.

Some known neighbourhoods are not included since these newer areas developed with greater planning and design controls that regulates their overall character into the future.

The Historic Areas and Their Character

What sets Fernie's character areas apart from the city's newer subdivisions, is how they were developed with minimal planning or guidelines apart from road layout, required setbacks and lot subdivisions. The designs of their historic buildings and houses were most often vernacular, based on what was popular at the time, with plans taken from plan books and house catalogues.

First Avenue, 1960s CNA 0135
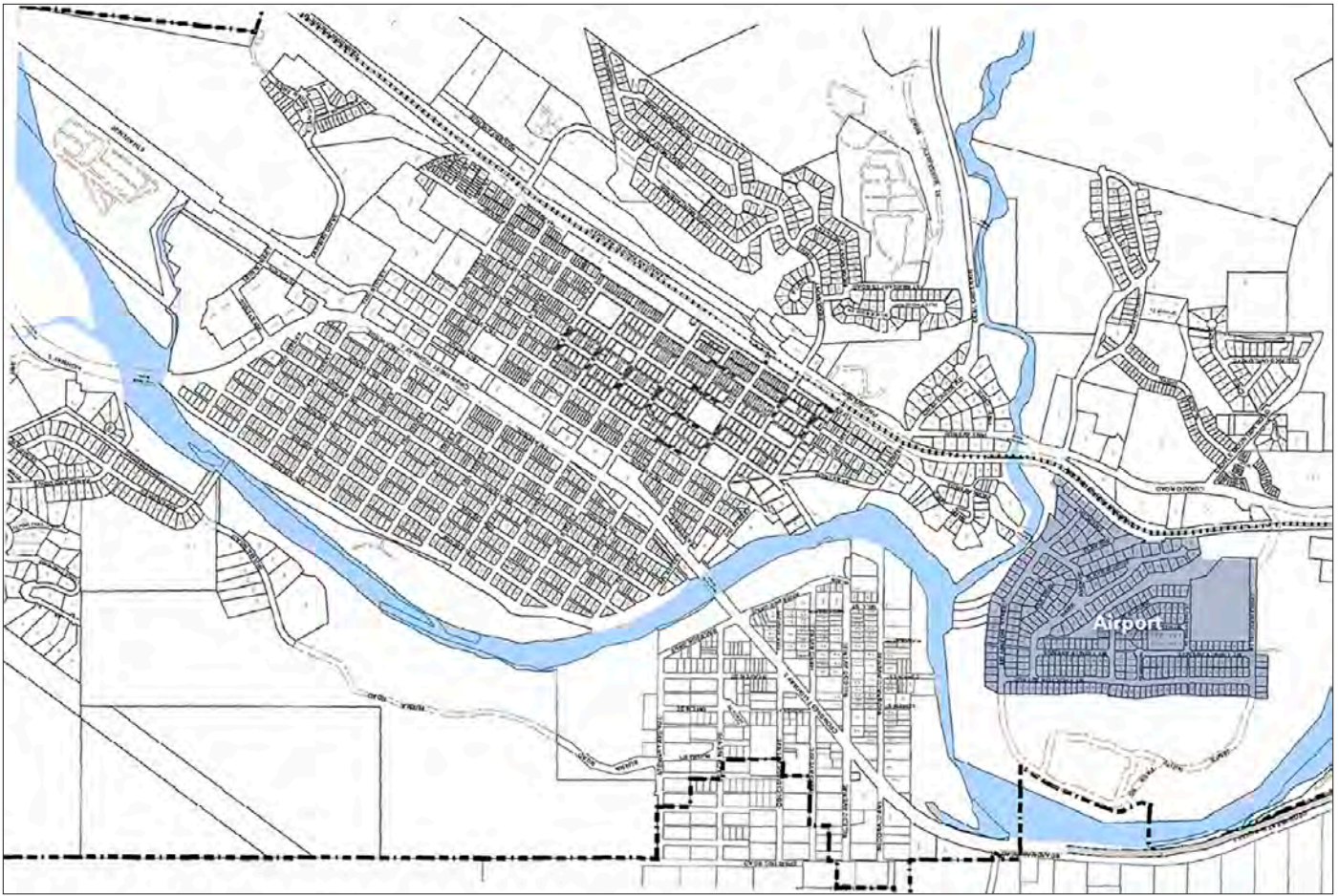
The Airport

Situated below the bluff on the south side of Coal Creek, the Airport subdivision (sometimes referred to as Mountview) was officially added to the city in 1968.

Originally the area was home to one of a network of cross country airfields built by the government of Canada in the 1920s. Along with the airfield, the area was home to the Fernie race track, sports grounds, and the popular, open-air, Coal Creek pool. Near the southern edge of Coal Creek was the railway connection from the CPR line to the Elk River sawmill in West Fernie. The alignment is recalled today with a portion of Elkview Drive

Residential development first began in the 1960s below the bluff on the south edge of the runway alignment, soon followed by further development oriented along the old runway and north out toward Coal Creek.

The Airport lies within the 1:200 year floodplain and is protected by an engineered dike system along the Elk River and Coal Creek. New construction will have to adhere to the Flood Construction Level in place for this area.

Fernie airport hangar and airplane c. 1940s.
Fernie Museum

The Airport Area Character

Characteristic of post war North American neighbourhoods, the Airport follows a typical car-centric suburban layout of larger lots with driveways, generous setbacks, and garages accessed from the front of the property. Sidewalks are present on a few streets, though only on one side of the road, and set at the curb edge with no boulevard. Where curbs exist they are rounded, to allow driveways without special curb cuts.

The built form reflects the late 1960s and early 1970s with designs drawn from nationally available plans published by a number of design firms, featuring split level homes placed lengthwise across the lot, with an attached carport or garage to the side. Entrances are generally centrally placed and windows are typically on the horizontal. A 4/12 roof pitch is common.

The original designs had some decoration that drew inspiration from traditional architecture with the odd Tudor inspired wood work in gables, 'Spanish' arches supporting balconies or decorative shutters recalling the Eastern Seaboard.

Over time, many of the homes have been renovated to enclose entryways and carports. Decorative features associated with the Mountain Modern-style, such as varnished shingles, and wood trim and doors have been added to update homes in the area.

The Airport has a number of pathways offering convenient shortcuts through the blocks, while the dike system provides park space with recreational opportunities including trails, sports fields and tennis courts. Current residents describe the area as very family-friendly, with a tendency for long-term occupancies. Neighbours know each other and talk to each other on the street.
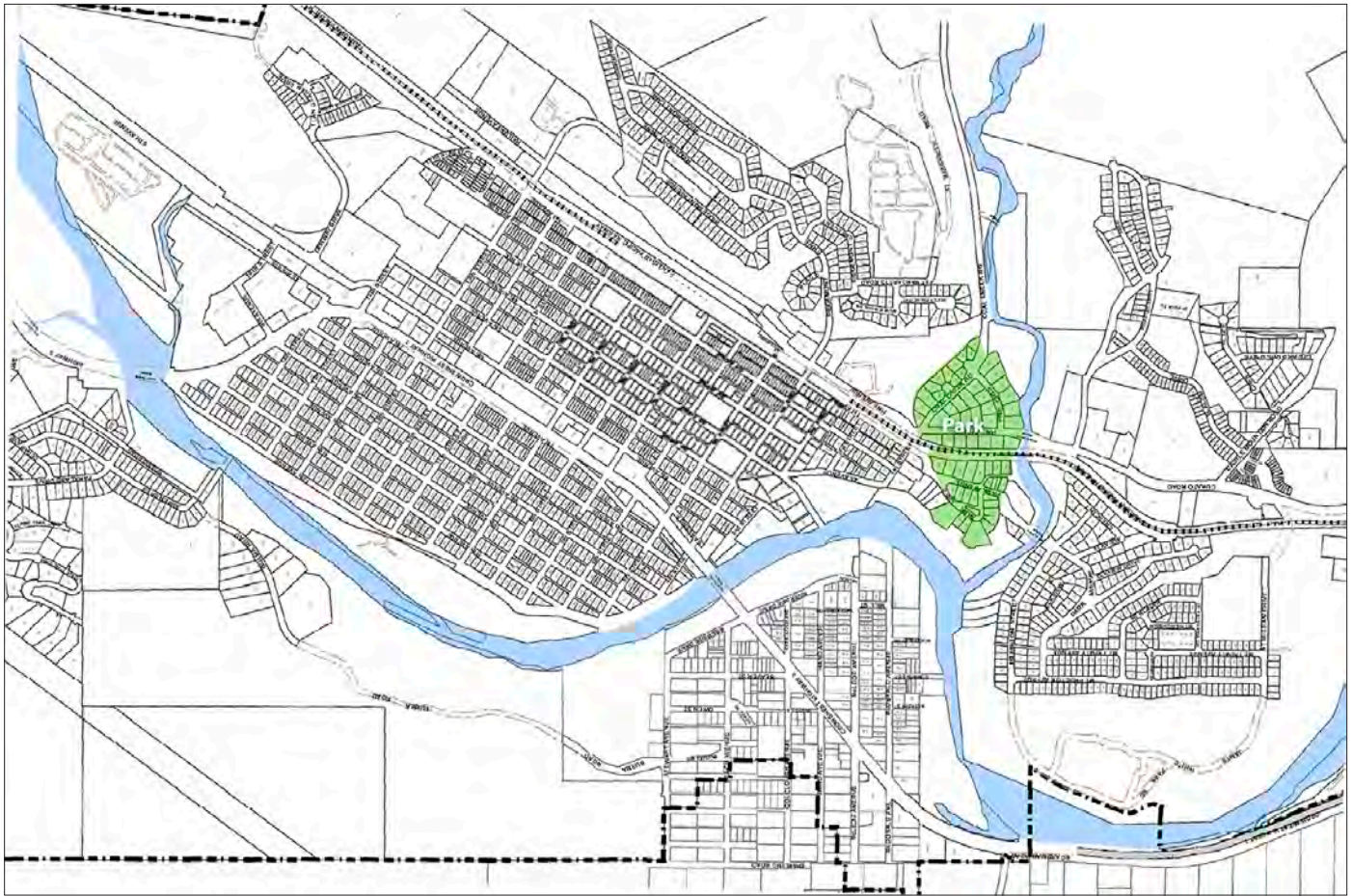
Park

The Park character area sits at the top of the bluff above the Airport overlooking the Elk River and is bisected by the Canadian Pacific Railroad (CPR) tracks. The western portion was originally laid out in a grid of lots south of 1st Street, but apart from a few large homes built on lots facing the river, this area saw little building activity until the 1960s. The eastern portion of the area was the location of Old Town, the original unofficial settlement before the coal company laid out the formal townsite in 1904.

The original grid of the western section was redrawn into a series of winding streets and cul-de-sacs typical of mid-century subdivision practice. A similar pattern was adopted for the street layout of Coal Creek Road, Pine Crescent and Pine Avenue on the east side of the CPR tracks. A unique aspect of the subdivision pattern on Coal Creek Road are the half circle cul-de-sacs that each contain five lots.

The west side of the area had been part of the original 1904 city boundary, while the eastern portion was incorporated into the boundary extension of 1969. Formally the area is split between the Maintown and Ridgemont Planning Areas set out in the Fernie OCP.

Park Area Character

On the west side of the area the roads have no sidewalks or curbs and the houses date from the early 1960s, with generally shallower roofs and open carports. The setbacks are large and the landscaping, while sparse, is typical of the period. The houses are good examples of the post war Contractor Modern style.

On the east side (the Coal Creek area), the houses have a consistent, though somewhat shallower, set back and many of the roads have rounded curbs. Sidewalks, where present, are only on one side of the street set against the curb with no boulevard. The houses have steeper pitched roofs and tend to be two stories in height. Revival styles are found on this side of the character area, with examples of Mission, Colonial and English revival houses along with examples of the Contractor Modern. The landscaping is much more developed with a number of trees and ornamental shrubs.

Renovation is limited on both sides of the Park area but there are examples of new house construction beginning to appear in the area. Park has a local reputation as an exclusive area, perhaps in part for its physical location on the bluff and its relative isolation from other

neighbourhoods, along with the presence of a the few high-end, large homes, both historic and recent. 'Snob Hill' as a description of the west side of the area is found in local folklore.
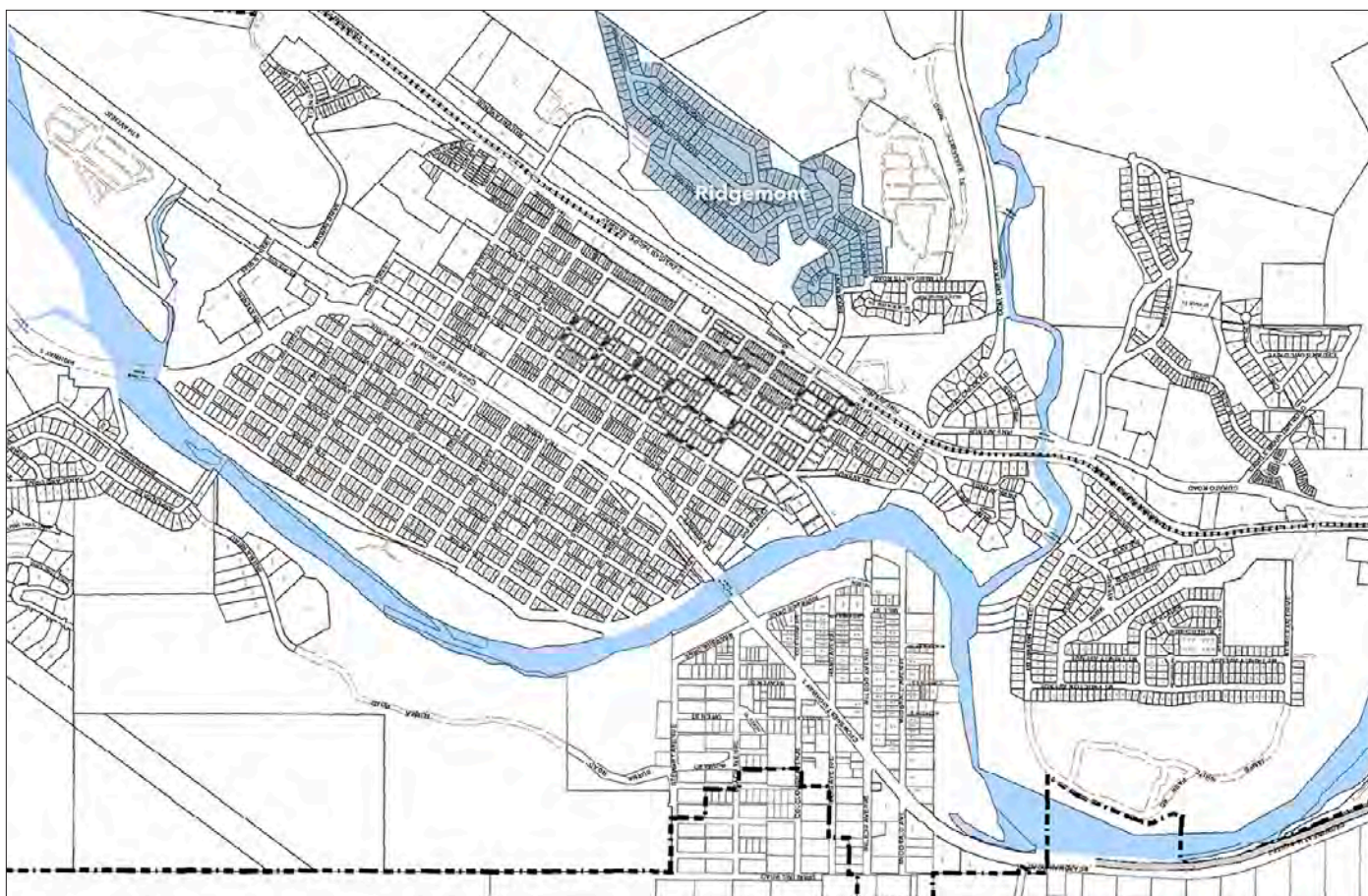
Ridgemont

Ridgemont is situated on the ridge above the CPR tracks on the east side of the city, just below the historic St. Margaret's cemetery. Developed in the 1960s and primarily built out in the 1970s as a result of the revival of the coal industry, the area is a self contained subdivision of cul-de-sacs and winding streets connected to the downtown with road access at each end of the subdivision and a series of foot and bicycle paths. Ridgemont became part of the city with the boundary extension of 1968.

Ridgemont Area Character

Ridgemont's built form reflects the 1960s and 70s era of development with designs drawn from widely available plans produced by a number of nationwide design firms. The area is a mix of single storey and split level ranch style homes with shallow pitched roofs. There are also larger two storey houses with above ground basements placed lengthwise across the lot. The subdivision's original layout was designed to accommodate a number of flat roofed, balconied apartment buildings set between Ridgemont Avenue and Ridgemont Drive.

The streets have rounded curbs and few sidewalks. The setbacks are large with driveways as a prominent feature.

Landscaping is mature with a number of trees, hedges, and other plantings on the lots. The houses on the east side of Ridgemont Drive are set on the slope and are for the most part raised above the street.

Stylistically, the area has a typical late 1960s and mid 1970s decoration featuring post and beam porches, varnished wood details and board and batten siding.

An important aspect of Ridgemont's character is how it is seen from the town centre with the backdrop of the forested hills above the houses.

Current residents describe the area as very family-friendly, with a tendency for long-term occupancies, although the apartment buildings are known as a 'first right of passage' for many newcomers' first home on the path to become permanent Fernie-ites.
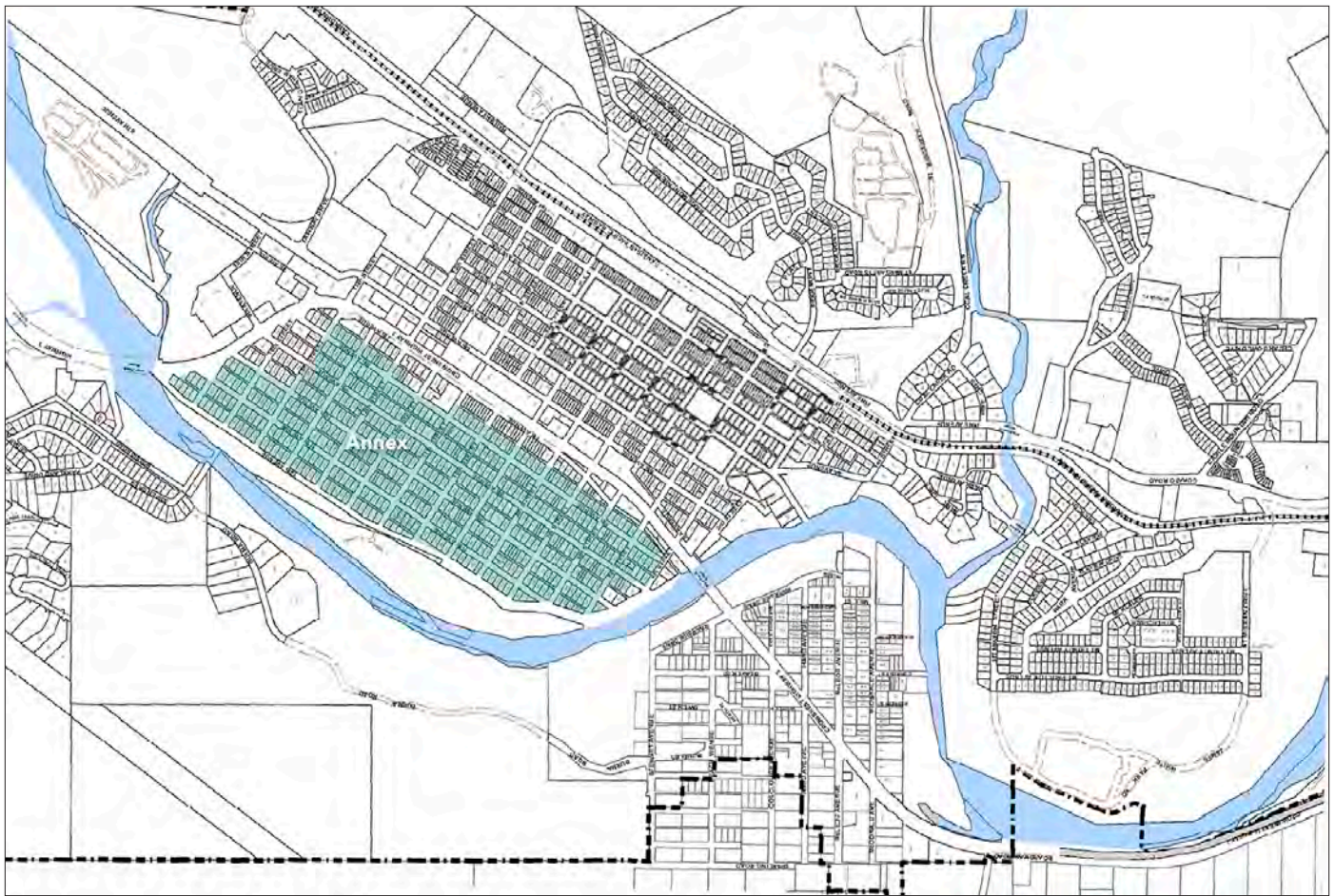
The Annex

The Annex character area is situated between the Elk River and the west side of the highway. The southern portion of the area was originally encompassed within the 1904 city boundary, while the northern portion was laid out by the Crows Nest Pass Coal Company in 1909 and called the Annex Extension. Originally the Annex extend east to 5th Avenue but over time the name has drifted down the slope to define the current neighbourhood situated on the west side of the highway.

The Annex is located within the 1:200 year floodplain and while protected by an engineered dike system, new construction will have to adhere to the Flood Construction Level in place for this area.

The Annex Area Character

Much of the Annex was rebuilt after the 1908 fire, which destroyed all but one dwelling here. The area is characterized by deep lots and generous setbacks. The road right of way is wider than other neighbourhoods in the city and sidewalks are limited in scope as are curbs.

The area is a mix of small, single storey cottages with pitched roofs, and two storey bungalows with porches,

pitched roofs and attics. The majority of the houses have seen renovations over the years with a change in siding, windows and small additions, in the form of carports and filled in porches. A few larger, older homes are scattered through the character area.

In the north end of the Annex the houses are a mix of older cottages and mid-century construction, marking the upturn in the town's fortunes with the revival of coal mining. More recent construction has included the currently trending 'Mountain Modern' with the characteristic shed roof design.

Garages and sheds populate the backyards with newer houses featuring street oriented garages and parking.

Of note, there are some houses in the older portion of the Annex that have the form and detail of the Skid House, a particular style of a simple, single-storey, gabled dwelling brought by train from Lethbridge to assist in the rebuilding of the city after the 1908 fire.

Current residents describe the Annex as very family-friendly, with a tendency for long-term occupancies. People know each other, talk to each other and enjoy

doing so while walking in the middle of the street. Annex Park, along the river, is a focal point of the area, both for Annex residents and visitors from other neighbourhoods.

Local publications have described the Annex as a popular and trending neighbourhood.

Maintown Redefined

The city's OCP defines the area between the CPR tracks and the highway, between the bluff above the river to the south and Northlands to the north, as Maintown. Within this boundary there are a number of character areas, each with their own distinct identity and quirks. These include the South End with its grander homes, many which survived the 1908 fire; the North End, a section of smaller houses north of the old high school; the Downtown with its brick commercial structures; and the Highway with a commercial strip interspersed with surviving miner's cottages.
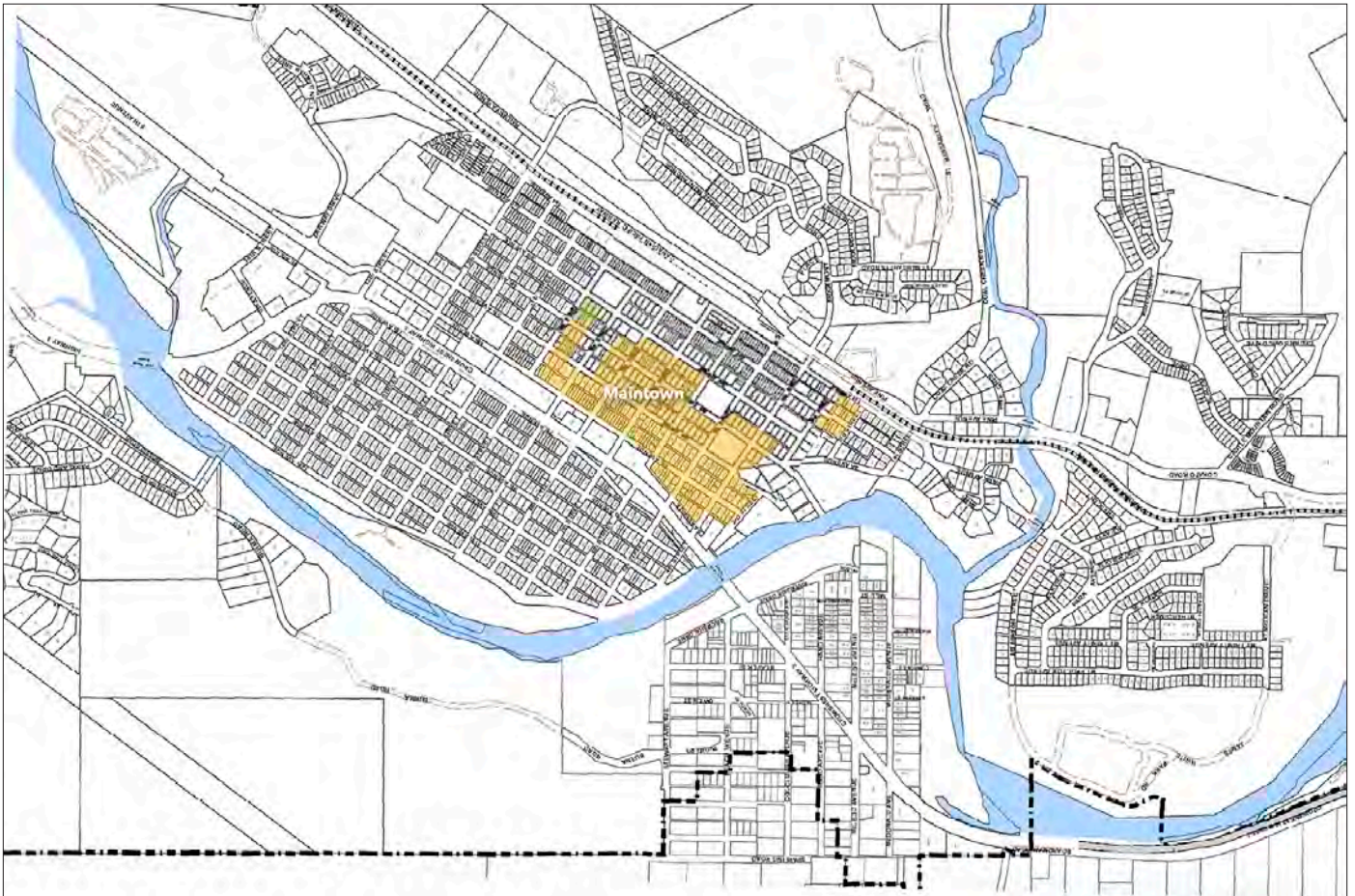
Maintown

Maintown contains a number of city landmarks, including the Courthouse, Church Row on 4th Avenue and a variety of houses in a range of architectural styles. Of note, are the collection of surviving BC Mills Timber and Trading Company 'Ready Made' houses brought to the city in the aftermath of the 1908 fire, one of the largest groupings of these structures in BC.

Maintown Area Character

Maintown is characterized by the range of housing styles from grand homes to simple cottages set on modest lots with mature landscaping. The location of the Crows Nest Pass Coal Company's (CNPCC) head office on the block between 3rd and 4th Avenue and 5th and 6th Streets attracted a number of the city's businessmen to build substantial homes near by. The area was further enhanced with the construction of the Provincial Courthouse, kitty corner to the CNPCC head office.

No one housing form dominates. There are substantial wood frame houses, others built using the cream coloured Fernie brick, red brick and in a few cases - concrete. After the 1908 fire many residents, along with Knox and the Anglican churches, ordered 'Ready-Made' houses from the Vancouver-based BC Mills Timber and Trading Company and many of these are still standing in this character area. Like the majority of Fernie houses, these distinctive homes have been renovated and added to over the years.

The character area drops over the slope at 5th Avenue

to the highway, where this former section of the original Annex features generally smaller homes, though there are some mid-century houses to be found, along with newer construction.

The streets have some sidewalks but many still exhibit informal edges without curbs.

Residents think of Maintown as part of the downtown heritage area and have in the past expressed concern about alterations to, or loss of, some of Maintown's heritage homes.
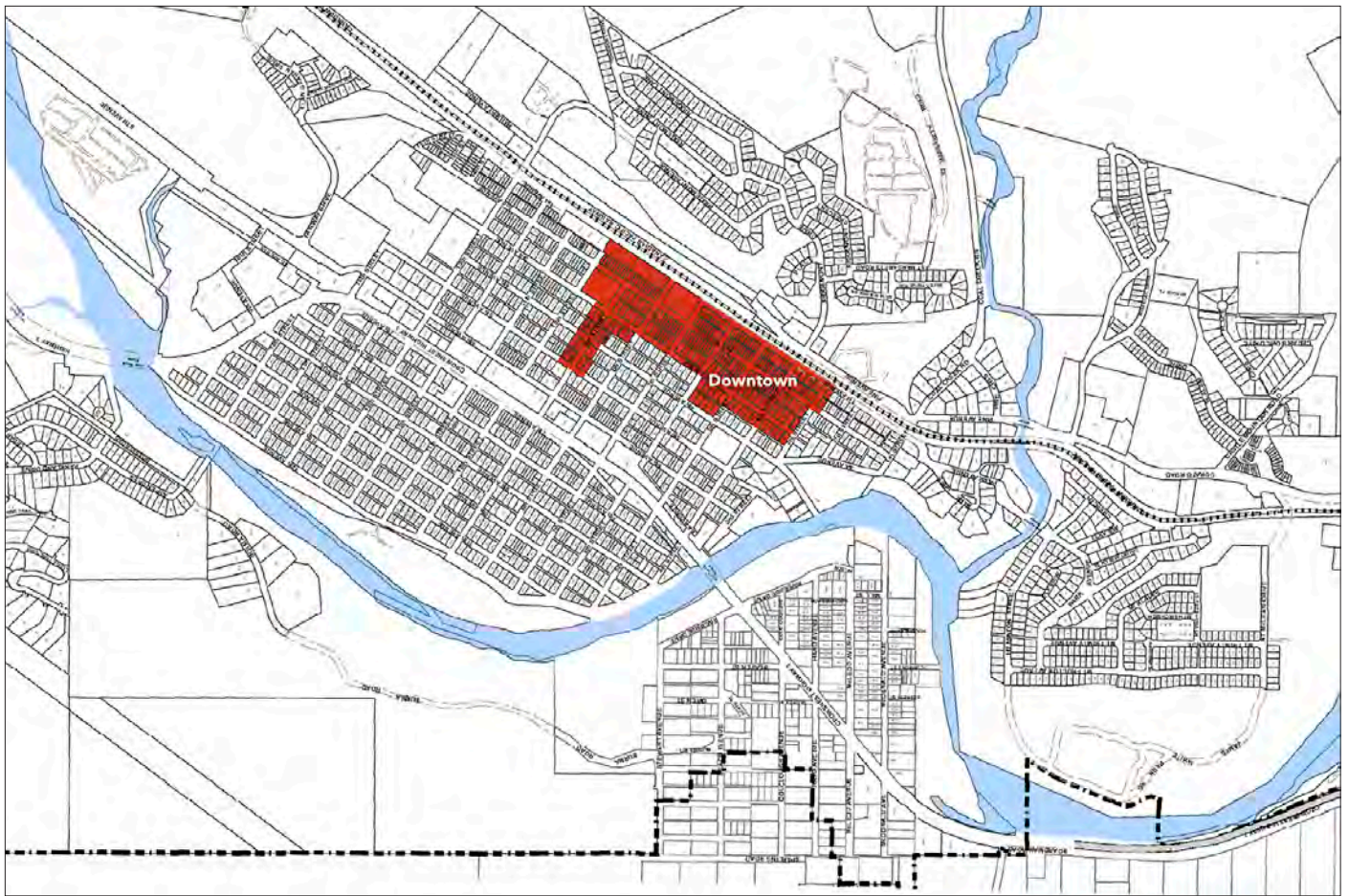
Downtown

The historic Downtown district is one of the city's visual calling cards and appears in magazines and websites locally and nationally. It has been identified as "the social, arts and cultural centre of the community" and its boundary encompasses the Historic Downtown development permit area as defined in Schedule M.

2nd Avenue developed as Fernie's main street as soon as the town was established in 1904. After the fire of 1908 reconstruction reestablished 2nd Avenue as the towns main street.

Downtown Area Character

Downtown is distinguished by its historic commercial core of brick and concrete structures centred on 2nd Avenue and for the landmark buildings that include the Arts Station, Museum, Library and City Hall. Brick is the dominant material on 2nd Avenue, but in the lanes the practical considerations of rebuilding after the fire is seen with the use of cast in place concrete, an affordable and easy material for rebuilding quickly after the fire. With new additions to commercial buildings and some

apartments on the upper storeys, many Fernie-ites now call Downtown home. It is definitely considered the busiest and most urban neighbourhood in town and it is cherished for its walkability, shops, restaurants, culture, banking, etc. The coffee shops, for instance, serve as informal work spaces and meeting places for business and provide important space for social connections.

The Downtown area has a number of narrow passages (breezeways) that cut through the blocks

In the early 2000s a modest revitalization program saw the addition of planters at intersections, street trees and some heritage themed street lights, but the program did not create the heavy handed faux heritage layer that many small towns have ended up with, leaving Fernie with a truly authentic main street that is as distinctive as it is popular with residents and visitors.
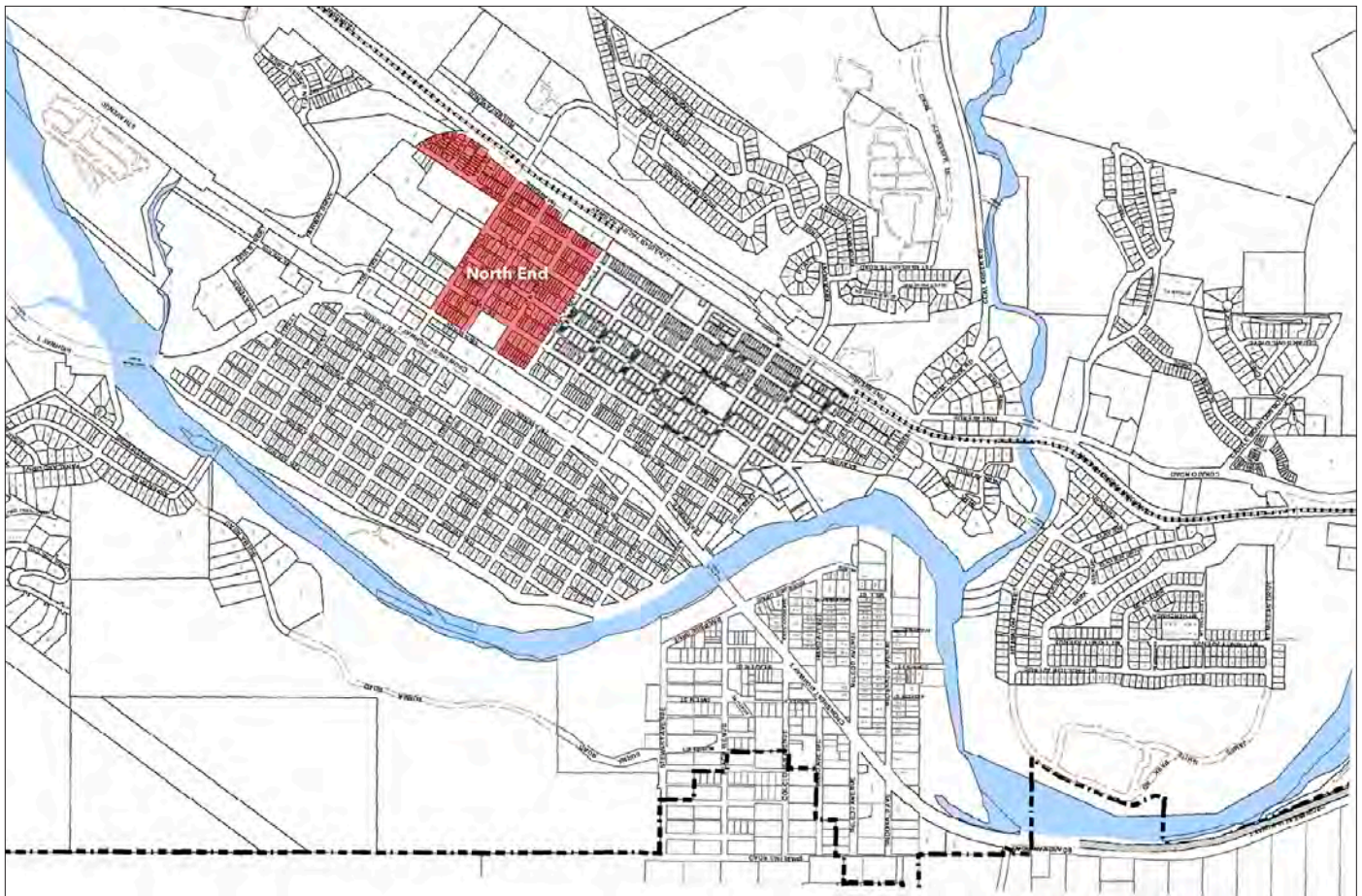
The North End

The North End runs north from the former high school at 9th Street between the CPR tracks and the highway and includes a number of community amenities such as Prentice Park, Isabella Dicken Elementary School, Fernie Secondary School, the Trinity Lodge and Tom Uphill apartments for seniors and people with disabilities.

It has traditionally been a neighbourhood of immigrants from the early days of the town, attracted by the employment opportunities found with the coal industry, the White Pine Sawmill to the north of the area, the railroad and in providing services such as restaurants and shops in the growing city.

North End Area Character

The North End's houses generally have a shallow setback that brings the buildings closer to the street than in other areas of the city. The houses are a mix of hip roofed single storey bungalows, a few larger houses, some early commercial structures, interspersed with some mid-century houses and more modern developments. A few brick houses and one concrete block house can also be found in the area. New construction is distinguishable for its significantly taller height, deeper setback and parking provisions at the front of the property.

The North End lanes have a number of accessory buildings, including some unique log sheds.

Renovation is the defining characteristic of the area with extensions at the rear, carports, dormers on the roof and a variety of siding materials, including interesting early stucco, aluminum siding, faux stone and corrugated siding.

There are few sidewalks or curbs in the area, it is said that many streets had them removed as a cost saving measure, though the city is repaving some streets and adding sidewalks.

For decades the North End was a social hub for sports, with soccer and ball fields and large stands for spectators. The fields also provided space for the circus when it came to town.
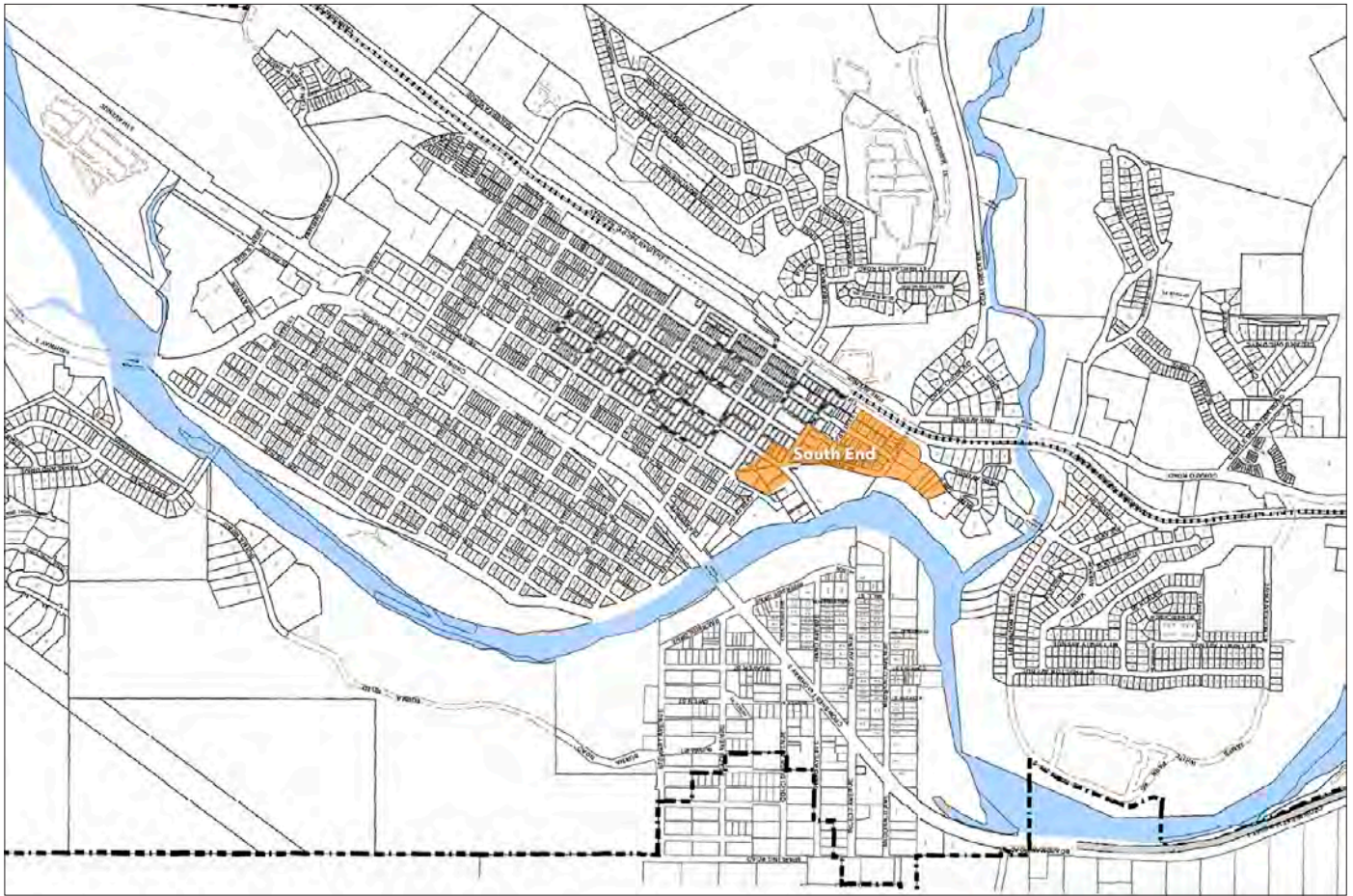
The South End

The South End area character is situated south of 2nd Street to the bluff above the Elk River between the CPR tracks and 5th Avenue. It is unique for the majority of the houses here survived the 1908 fire that destroyed the town.

South End Area Character

South End's character is defined by the range of house styles found on its streets, the majority which survived the 1908 fire, which provides a unique set of streetscapes. The lot sizes are irregular and setbacks are inconsistent, typical of early neighbourhoods that developed before any sort of building regulations.

The houses are a mix of vernacular and pattern book derived designs which over time have followed the Fernie tradition of renovation and adaptation. Landscaping is robust with many of the houses obscured from the street by trees and hedges.

The infrastructure features streets with no sidewalks, a few with raised sidewalks and concrete retaining walls and stairs to access the sidewalks, an element not found elsewhere in the city.

Since the area survived the fire there is an excellent pictorial record of many of the houses showing them soon after their construction, which provides an invaluable record of the early neighbourhood.

Current residents describe the neighbourhood as one where everybody knows each other and it is acknowledged by local and city-wide residents as a heritage area.
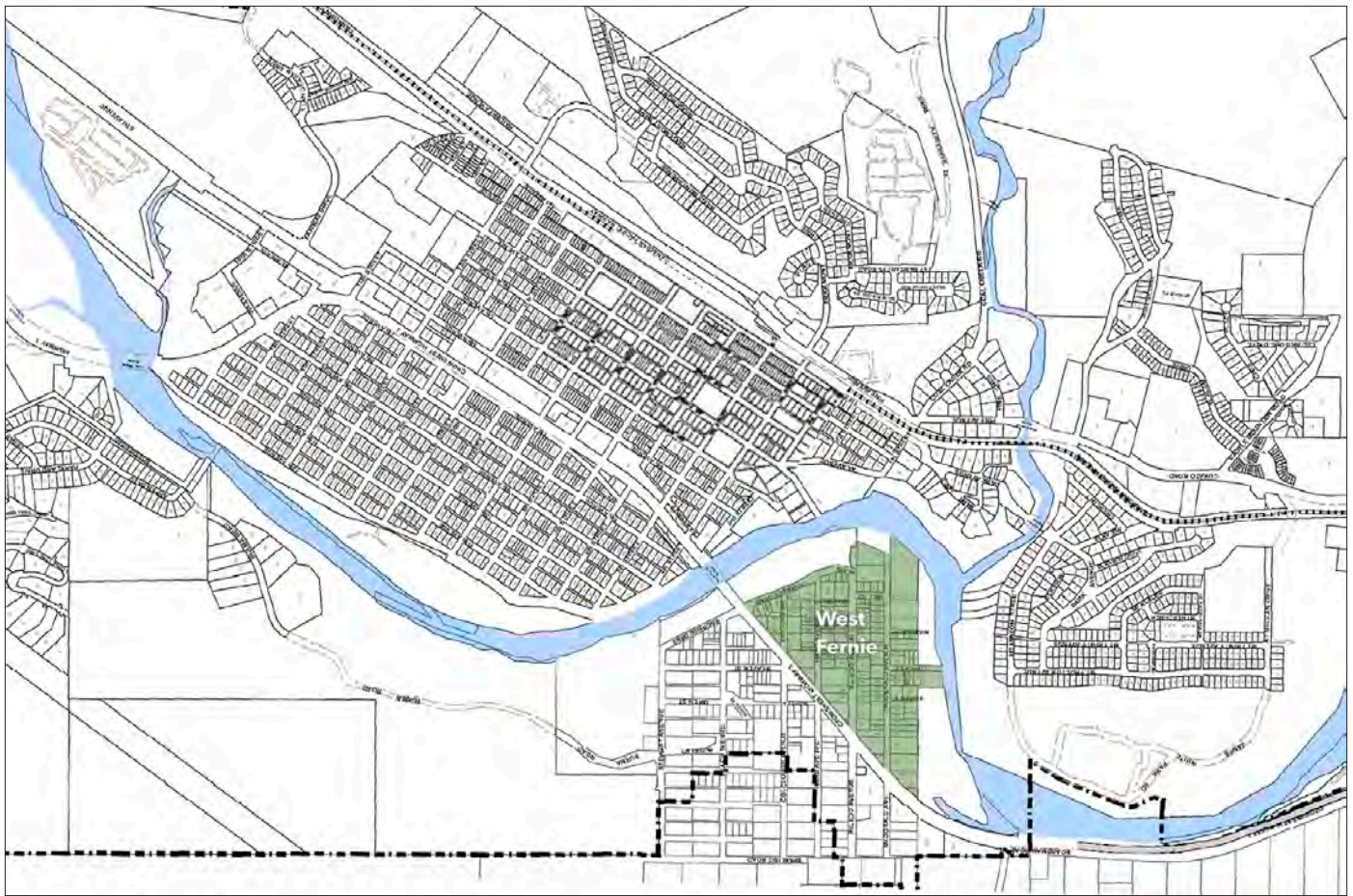
West Fernie

This character area situated across the Elk River and bisected by Highway 3, is a recent (2018) addition to the City of Fernie. West Fernie was once home to important early industry such as the Fernie brickworks and the Elk River lumber mill.

The low lying eastern side of the character area is located within the 1:200 year floodplain and while protected by an engineered dike system, new construction will have to adhere to the Flood Construction Level in place for this area. Homes on the western side the upland areas are considered to be in the steep slope hazard area.

West Fernie Area Character

With long unbroken blocks and few connecting cross streets, a lack of sidewalks and curbs, large and small lots interspersed with large open parcels, West Fernie retains a very distinct sense of place and a more rural character than Fernie's other neighbourhoods.

The built form is a mixture of small cottages and bungalows, a few surviving Skid Houses, mid-century construction, mobile homes and some new development. As with much of Fernie, the homes here have seen a number of renovations and additions over the years. There are a few commercial buildings mixed with housing closer to the highway in the western portion of the community with larger retail and commercial development on the south east edge. There is still some limited agricultural activity in the district.

A few hints of the area's past remain, such as Mill Street, the only reminder of the Elk River lumber mill, which once lead to the entrance of the lumber operation, and the width of McLeod Street recalls its role as the main road into downtown Fernie before the Great Northern rail line was converted into Highway 3.

Current residents describe the area as more affordable and accessible than other neighbourhoods and enjoy the rural, informal character including the fact that it is the only place chicken coops are allowed in the city.

2.3 Landscapes

Over the last several decades, an expanded view of cultural heritage has included an appreciation of the inter-relationships through time between people, events and natural and cultural places involving both associated intangible and tangible values. Central is the concept of heritage landscapes inextricably linked to notions of identity and continuity, to private and public memories, and to sense of place (genius loci).

Natural and cultural landscapes are interconnected. For example, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature has identified the following benefits found in the identification and conservation of cultural landscapes and seascapes:

- Conserving nature and biodiversity
- Buffering more strictly controlled natural areas
- Conserving human history in structures and land use patterns
- Maintaining traditional ways of life
- Offering recreation and inspiration
- Providing education and understanding
- Maintaining systems of land use in harmony with nature

Natural Landscapes

Fernie's natural, wild setting has been identified as being highly significant to the community. Responses to the survey mentioned the importance of the area's wild, natural environment, including the mountains, the Elk River, trails and lakes, the opportunity to easily access nature and keeping the environment as natural as possible.

These values are evidence of the importance of Fernie's ecosystems and natural environments, both from an extrinsic perspective, or how they impact the quality of life of the city's citizens, as well as intrinsically, as important in their own right. While ecosystems at an historic place should be evaluated and managed for their natural values by ecologists and other natural resource specialists, the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* provides guidelines for natural landscapes and ecosystem features identified as having heritage value to the community. Guidance can also be found in the *Principles and Guidelines for Ecological Restoration in Canada's Protected Natural Areas.*

Natural landscapes and ecological features can be character-defining elements of many indigenous cultural landscapes, where traditional practices have been sustained for centuries. In addition, ecological features associated with a historic place can extend far beyond its established boundaries.

The ability to access nature and to know that wildlife and ecosystems are being protected contributes to community health and well-being, sustainability, biodiversity and species richness and a contribution to addressing climate change. The identification and protection of Fernie's natural landscapes fulfill the scenic quality expectations of the public and the tourism industry.

Identifying natural landscapes as valued heritage resources can assist with Fernie's ability to manage visual, ecological and other impacts on its forest and other wild lands. While natural heritage values may be located on private or Crown land, management strategies include working with partners to potentially achieve the conservation of valued natural areas and landscapes.
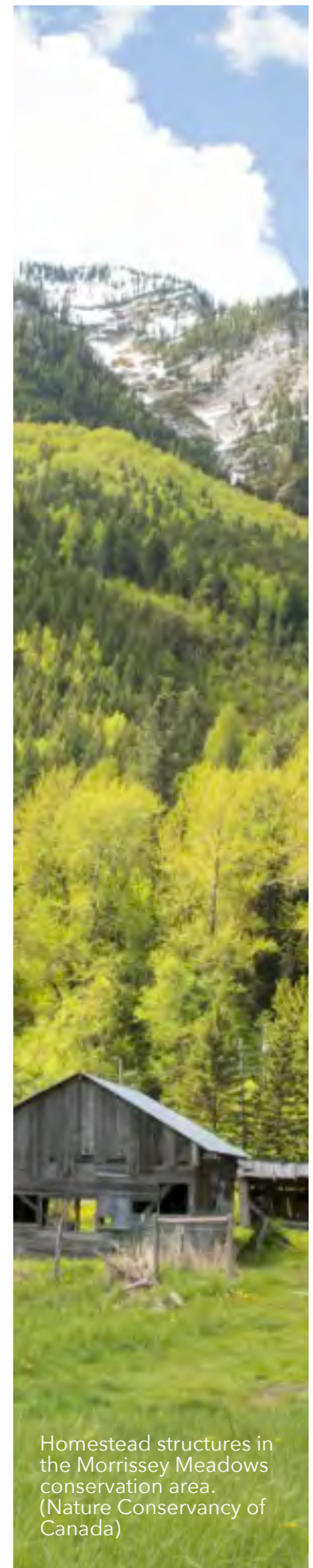
Homestead structures in the Morrissey Meadows conservation area. (Nature Conservancy of Canada)

Fernie's natural, wild setting has been identified as being highly significant to the community

As one example, Fernie's nearby forested hillsides have been identified as being important to the community. These landscapes support a range of natural resources and ecological and scenic values, some of them crucial to two local industries, tourism and forestry. Embedded into the management strategies is the concept of visual resource management, including tools and techniques developed at the provincial level and adapted for Fernie to assist in the co-existence and management of economic, tourism and scenic values.

A second example is the creation of the Elk Valley and nearby Morrissey Meadows heritage conservation areas, by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The variety of landscapes and diversity of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife make these areas a valuable addition to the conservation landscape in the Elk Valley and provide key benefits to the citizens of Fernie as well.

Cultural Landscapes

Many of Fernie's landscapes can be defined as cultural landscapes. Cultural landscapes are at the intersection of culture and nature. They embrace diverse tangible and intangible expressions of human interaction with the natural environment and there is an interdependence and integration of people, social structures, landscapes and associated ecological systems.

Cultural landscapes are defined as any geographical area that has been modified, influenced or given special cultural meaning by people.

- *Designed* cultural landscapes are intentionally created by human beings.

- *Organically evolved* cultural landscapes are developed in response to social, economic, administrative, or religious forces interacting with the natural environment. They fall into two sub-categories:

  – *Relict landscapes* in which an evolutionary process came to an end. Its significant distinguishing features are, however, still visible in material form.

  – *Continuing landscapes* in which the evolutionary process is still in progress. They exhibit significant material evidence of their evolution over time.

- *Associative* cultural landscapes are distinguished by the power of their spiritual, artistic, or cultural associations, rather than their surviving material evidence.

Cultural landscapes may possess significant natural values. They reflect the cultural and spiritual

relationships between people and nature and the sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources. They are managed as protected areas where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature notes that the identification and conservation of cultural landscapes also highlights the need for respecting the deep cultural associations of indigenous communities in the identification of heritage places and resources. The protection of traditional or indigenous cultural landscapes and land-uses also supports biological diversity, and can enhance natural values in the landscape.

Examples of Fernie's cultural landscapes identified through the community survey include: Ktunaxa travel patterns and traditional land use, grid pattern of the historic city, green spaces and parks, trail network, ski hills, Rotary Park including the memory of the outdoor pool, community days and festivals, and cemeteries.

2.4   Places of Interpretation

Fernie history books, archival images and Fernie-ite reminiscing remind us of the presence of features, stories and landscapes, some lost, some not well known, that are nonetheless a valued part of the community's story and identity. These places, such as former river bridges, the city crematorium, old railway right-of-ways, the sites of the original brewery, the Fernie brickworks, the Elk River sawmill and even the first ski hill, are crucial components of Fernie's heritage.

The ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites talks about the importance of preservation through interpretation. By making cultural landscapes "places and sources of learning and reflection about the past," the charter suggests they become "valuable resources for sustainable community development and intercultural and intergenerational dialogue." The language of landscape is a powerful tool. Heritage conservation has a critical role to play in conserving the tangible history and cultural memory that landscapes represent. It can curate and conserve buildings and landscapes, but it can also be an opportunity to teach landscape literacy to the community whose histories are embodied in them.

Below is a draft list of cultural landscapes in the Fernie area that deserve recognition and preservation, through documentation and interpretation, making the unseen history known and visible for residents and visitors. The list will grow and evolve with outreach, awareness and public input.

Fernie Airfield and Hanger: While the locally-used name of the neighbourhood recalls the former airfield, its existence is still relatively unknown. Built in the 1920s as part of a federal government's nation-wide program of providing airfields at convenient intervals to encourage the development of aviation in Canada, Fernie's 'airport' had a functioning airstrip until the late 1960s. A large part of the residential subdivision built in this area in the 1960s follows the alignment of the old runway.

City Park, Sports and Recreation Grounds: Surrounding the airfield was the early city's sports and recreation grounds, established at this location as part of the post 1908 fire rebuilding efforts, with its oval race track still visible in aerial photos of the late 1960s, and sports fields, picnic grounds and swimming hole. Fernie's Recreation Grounds played an important role in the social and cultural life of the early city.

Fernie's heritage cemetery.
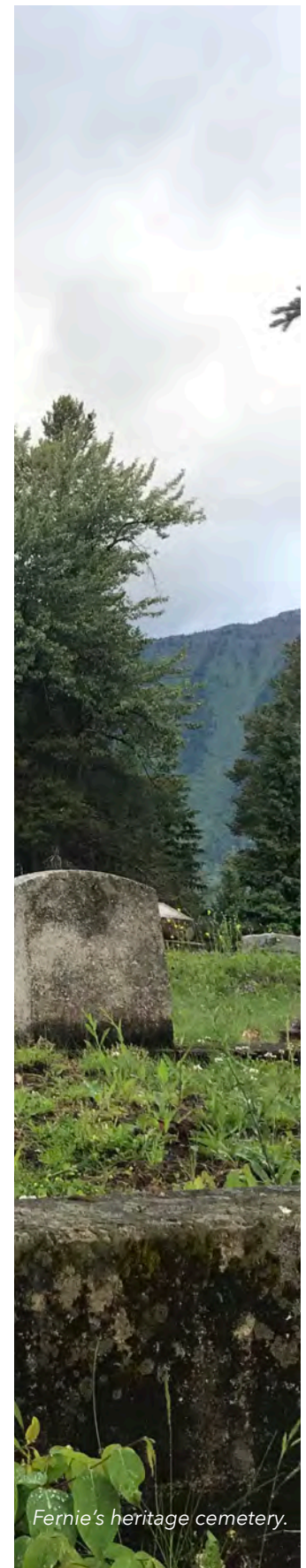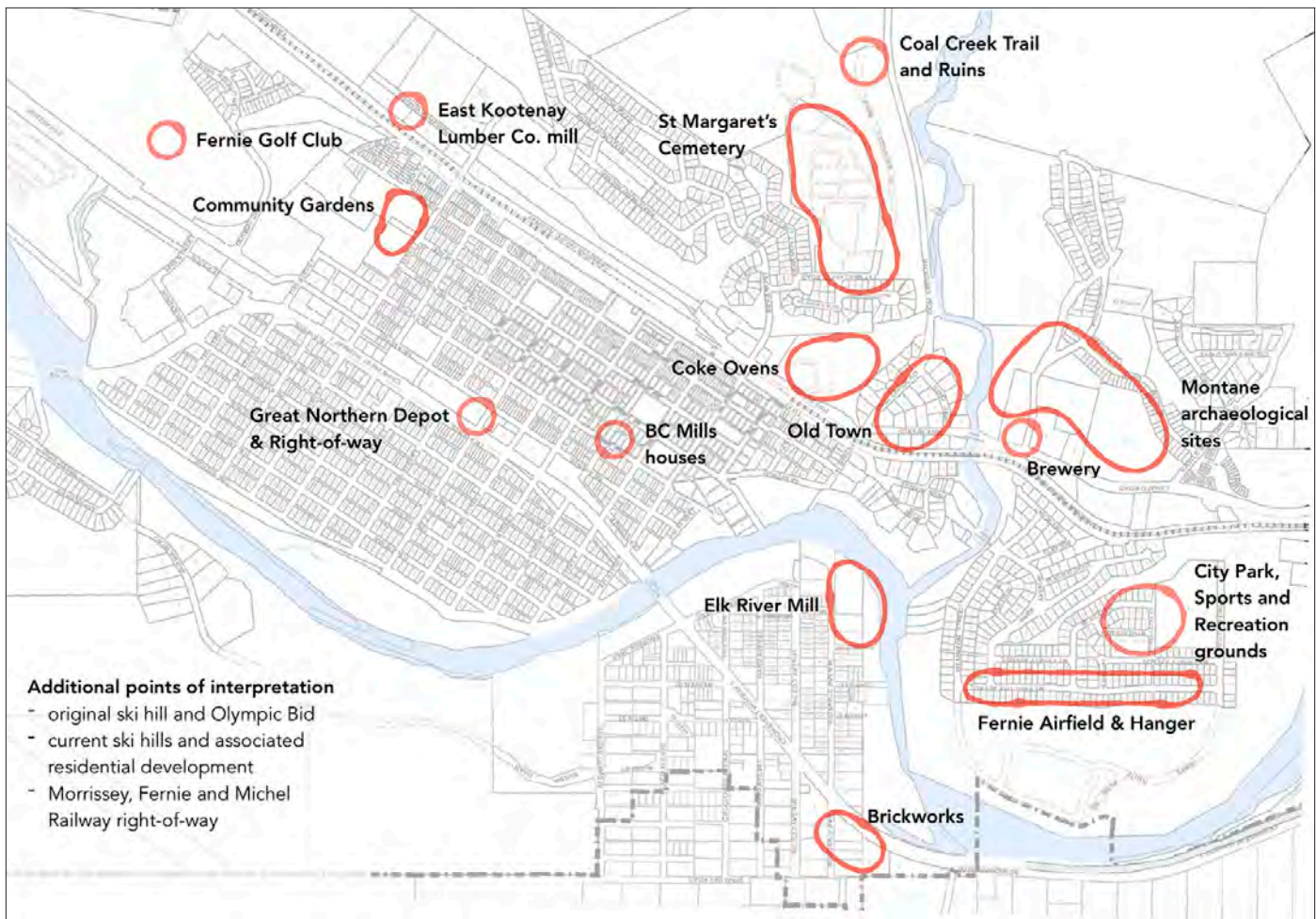
Brewery: The Fernie Brewery was an important entity in the early city set up by prominent businessmen George Scott, Friz Sick and Albert Mutz. The 1902 Free Press Souvenir Edition In 1900 recounted that they *"erected their large plant in Fernie just across Coal Creek. The brewery is one of the largest in British Columbia; in it is found every modern improvement for the production of lager beer and porter and the goods are being sold all over East Kootenay and Alberta. The building is 70×60 and three stories in height and presents an imposing appearance"*. The early Brewery's distinctive logotype has endured, and forms the basis for the City's logo and branding today.

Old Town: Before the coal company laid out the Fernie townsite in 1904 there was an informal settlement on Coal Creek of houses, saloons and businesses. Even with incentives to move across the train tracks, Old Town persisted for a few years before being swept away with the development and expansion of the coke ovens.

Coke Ovens: The mines at Coal Creek were ideal for coking coal, a premium product used in the manufacturing of steel. By 1898 the first 30 beehive style coke ovens were built (of an eventual 452!) over the site of 'Old Town', today the location of the Aquatic Centre.

Elk Lumber Co. Sawmill: The sawmill opened on the banks of the Elk River in West Fernie in 1897 to supply mine props to the area's coal mines. With new owners and investment the mill was expanded in 1903 and remained in operation until being destroyed by the 1908 fire. Today the large open area at the foot of Mill Road is the only reminder of the mill's presence.

Brickworks: Clay suitable for brick making was found on the banks of the Elk River in West Fernie and in 1906 the Fernie Brick Company Ltd. began production of the distinctive cream coloured bricks seen today throughout the city. After the 1908 fire destroyed the town, the brickworks ramped up production and began turning out as many of their cream coloured bricks as physically possible, except they had to wait for the bridge to be reconstructed to move their product across the Elk River. The brick plant was located just south of McLeod Avenue at the approximate site of today's Dairy Queen.

Community Garden Plots: The Crows Nest Pass Coal Company leased a number of town lots to individuals as garden plots. For residents this provided an important food source and in some cases needed revenue. In the North End, long time residents recall the use of the current school field by Italian families and others to grow vegetables for the household table.

Great Northern Railway Station and Right-of-Way: Highway 3 was the Great Northern Railway right-of-way until the 1920s. The passenger depot was located on the east side of the right-of-way between 9th and 10th Streets, on the site of the Fernie Community Centre. Passengers could connect to the United States and through the Elk Valley via the GNR service.

Morrissey, Fernie and Michel Railway right-of-way: The MF&M railway was opened in 1900 to connect the local coal mines to the CPR mainline. Part of the right-of-way today is a popular trail.

BC Mills 'Ready-Made' houses: After the fire of 1908 the BC Mills Timber and Trading Co. supplied a number of their 'ready-made' houses to purchasers who wanted an affordable and easy alternative to traditional construction. Fernie has one of the largest collections of these important structures in the province. The were produced between 1904 and 1910.

St. Margaret's Cemetery: The cemetery's heritage section dates back to the late 1800's. Operation of the cemetery passed to the city of Fernie in 1948 from the Crowsnest Pass Coal Company.

Fernie Golf Club: Established in 1918 on land known as "Prentice Park", a spur line of the Great Northern Railway formed the north boundary for Fernie's first golf course. The club paid the Coal company thirty dollars a year to lease the property.

Archaeological sites: Fernie's non Ktunaxa settlement is relatively recent. There are several known and likely unknown archaeological sites within the city boundary such as the Montane subdivision.

East Kootenay Lumber Co.: Outside of the coal industry, lumber was a major business and along with the Elk River mill and the Fernie Lumber Company among others, the East Kootenay operation had their mill and yard near the CPR tracks in Fernie and operated their own logging railroad in the Jaffray area.

Columbia Basin Institute 0039.0283, 0284

Fernie pool c. 1930   Fernie Museum 5118

Elk River mill Fernie Museum 1094
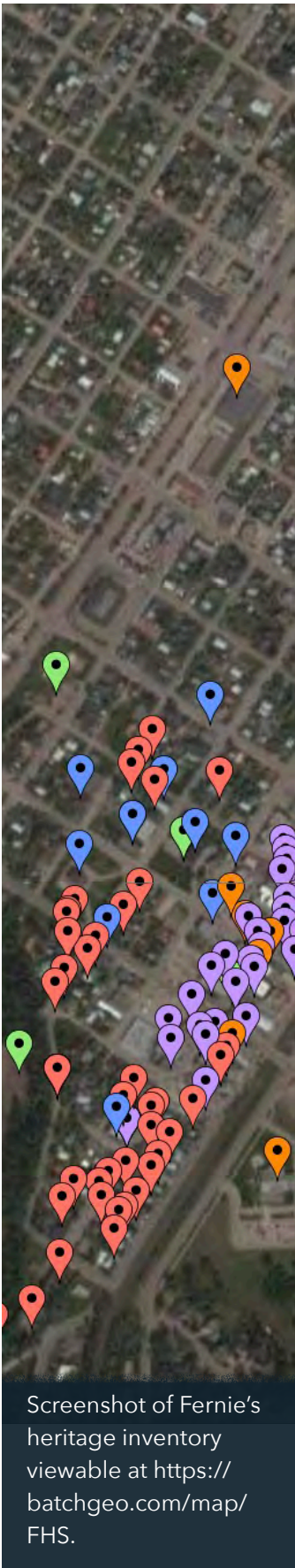
2.5 Managing Heritage Resources

Fernie's OCP calls for "a single heritage inventory and rating system to support informed decision making on the redevelopment, protection and restoration of heritage buildings in the community. "

Communities in British Columbia typically organize their heritage resources in two types of lists:

1. An informal list called a Heritage Inventory, which is like a database of potential ideas brainstormed by the community, but which have not yet gone through a rating or evaluation process.

2. A formal list called a Heritage Register established by Council, which includes community resources that have been evaluated with a consistent criteria process, and thus have formal heritage status.

2.5.1 Places That Matter in Fernie: a heritage inventory

A heritage inventory is a community tool which can act as an informal archive, database and map for community heritage resources. As a heritage inventory does not confer formal recognition or protection by a local government and is not subject to selection criteria. Resources on the inventory are typically located within the city's municipal boundaries, but it can include resources outside the community considered significant to Fernie. As an informal listing of places, features, events and organizations, the public can nominate anything deemed to have cultural, historical and community value that contributes to Fernie's overall heritage and character.

Fernie's proposed heritage inventory "Places That Matter in Fernie" (PTMF) was compiled from heritage resources named in various local surveys and studies ranging from 1979 through 2018. PTMF is an ever evolving document that can be added to and edited anytime and overtime.

PTMF can be used as a pool from which heritage resources can then be nominated to a Community Heritage Register, a formal list of heritage resources adopted by Council. Nominated resources would be subject to inclusion criteria and vetted for their appropriateness to be listed.

PTMF currently includes over 100 heritage resources categorized in the following types: *Residential, Commercial, Institutional, Recreational, Industrial, Landscape, Natural, Infrastructure, Event, Organization, Story, and Lost Resource.*

To nominate a heritage resource to the PTMF or to add content/information about an existing resource please e-mail info@heritagefernie.com

A list of the heritage resources on PTMF as of August 2019 can be found in Appendix E.

2.5.2 A Heritage Register for Fernie

A Community Heritage Register is a planning tool that allows a local government to formally identify historic resources so that they may be integrated into land use planning processes.

It is an official list of heritage resources recognized by the City as having heritage value.

Schedule C - Heritage Sites in Fernie's Official Community Plan (2014), is a comparable gesture to a Community Heritage Register in that Council formally recognized the list of properties on Schedule C as Buildings with Heritage Value. However, a Heritage Register is a 'living' document, not a static list, and it is overseen and reviewed through

Screenshot of Fernie's heritage inventory viewable at https://batchgeo.com/map/FHS.

a shared community/staff management process, which consistently guides the nomination, addition or removal of heritage sites.

The section in the Local Government Act that enables municipalities to create a Heritage Register is 598 (1) "A local government may, by resolution, establish a community heritage register that identifies real property that is considered by the local government to be heritage property."

What are the benefits of using this tool?

A Community Heritage Register:

- Provides legal heritage status - properties listed on a heritage register are eligible for powerful heritage incentive tools within the Local Government Act

- Provides eligibility for special provisions within the BC Building Code Heritage Building Supplement

- Typically visible and searchable on the municipal website, it provides public access to property owners, potential buyers and the general public to information about the heritage value of individual properties in the community

- Enhances community sustainability by integrating heritage conservation activities into the planning process

- Provides formal recognition which demonstrates community pride, enhances appreciation and raises awareness about the places that matter to a community

- Allows a local government to consider, and if necessary, undertake protective action, such as temporarily withholding demolition and building permits and ordering heritage inspections

- Is a condition for eligibility for many granting and funding programs such as Heritage BC's Heritage Legacy Fund.

What does it NOT do?

- Being listed on a heritage register does not mean that the resource is protected from demolition or alterations, simply that it is formally recognized as a heritage resource by the City

- It does not imply any costs to the local government

- It does not imply any costs to property owners

- It does not limit a property owner's ability to make changes to their listed property
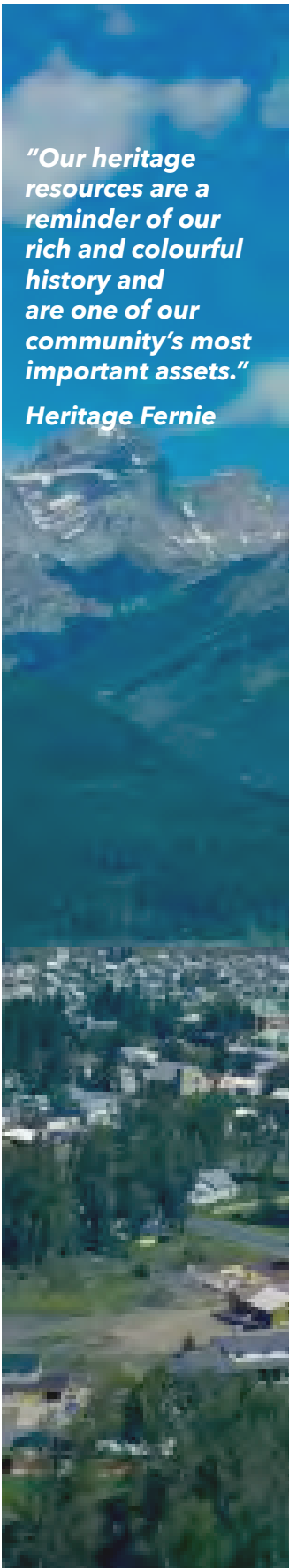
PART 3: SUSTAINING A SENSE OF PLACE

Strategy Goals and Actions

There are many competing and overlapping interests in civic management. By organizing the proposed strategies under three general goals, which align closely with municipal objectives and priorities, all city departments and stakeholders can work together to effectively understand the heritage strategy and their role in it.

This strategy outlines three goals for action of equal priority, that contribute to building on Fernie's past to inform its future, while safeguarding, celebrating and engaging its heritage. These goals were determined through engagement with local citizens and stakeholders, with City staff and Council. They apply heritage conservation best practices and tools to achieving the municipal vision and objectives in the other Fernie Plans and Strategies, which align closely with the Fernie Heritage Strategy vision.

Specific priority actions have been developed for the first stage delivery of the heritage strategy and have been identified as a priority under each goal.

GOAL 1: APPRECIATION
Fostering an appreciation of what makes Fernie unique

GOAL 2: PLANNING
Informing planning on all levels

GOAL 3: RESILIENCE
Contributing to Fernie's economic resilience, growth and regeneration

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Community Survey Alignment

73% of respondents in the Fernie Heritage Strategy community survey called for "Provide technical support for heritage projects and events".

76.7% called for "Establish a Heritage Plaque Program to identify and provide information on places that matter to the community".

56.7% called for "Establish a Heritage Awards Program to recognize heritage efforts in the community".

56.7% called for "Undertake planning initiatives such as this one (Heritage Strategy)".

3.1 Appreciation

Residents and visitors alike are drawn to the downtown and the iconic streetscapes of 2nd Avenue, but heritage in Fernie is more than just the commercial core and a few key landmarks such as the library or city hall. There are neighbourhoods with individual character derived from their development story, built form, geography, siting of houses and such things as the lack of, or the existence of, sidewalks and curbs.

Fernie's heritage is unique and unlike any other place. It is expressed in its neighbourhoods and downtown through layers of renovation, addition and adaptation, with construction materials of wood, brick and cast concrete. It is further reinforced through festivals, cultural and arts events and socials held throughout the year.

Fernie's unique heritage resources provides the town with a clear sense of place, and building a greater appreciation and understanding of its heritage for city staff and the public, is key as the city continues to develop and grow.

The initial actions proposed to achieve this goal are:

3.1.1 Heritage awareness for staff & council:

Ensure that staff and Council are aware of heritage initiatives in the City and around the province, and have continual opportunities to further their education and training on the topic.

How to:

- Build into Planning staff's work program annual presentations showcasing interesting case studies regarding heritage conservation, sustainable communities and economic development. Include Building Officials, DHRP and HRAC in all education opportunities.

- Include a presentation on the Fernie Heritage Strategy and any heritage initiatives when orienting new Planning staff members or new Councillors.

- It is recommended that the annual Heritage BC and BC Association of Heritage Professionals conferences are added to the conference rotation within the training and education budget.

- Heritage BC also offers webinars on a diversity of relevant topics: https://heritagebc.ca/learning-centre/webinars-on-demand/ Many of the courses and sessions offered by Heritage BC and the additional sources below offer PIBC or AIBC credits.

- Additional education programs and workshops are available (in person and online) through:
  - Heritage BC https://heritagebc.ca/learning-centre/heritage-bc-workshops/
  - University of Victoria https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/culture-museums-and-indigenous-studies/topics/heritage-studies
  - Vancouver Heritage Foundation https://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/learn-with-us/
  - National Trust for Canada Regeneration Works https://regenerationworks.ca

Project lead: City of Fernie

Protect partners: Fernie Museum, Heritage BC (Columbia Basin Heritage Planner), Columbia Basin Trust

Funding: Many of the online webinars proposed are either free or likely within the City's personal training budget for staff. One heritage related course or conference that requires one planner to travel and take days away from work, should be incorporated into the department's budget and work plan each year.

Idea: Take advantage of visiting guests, local residents and community contacts to showcase heritage projects, case study or similar issues in other communities for informative 'lunch and learns' or evening presentations. Schedule annual 'lunch and learns' on heritage topics through the Fernie Museum - during BC Heritage Week (February), in August (schedule a staff and Council Museum-led historic walking tour) and Fernie Chautauqua (September).

Heritage BC Conference Workshop

3.1.2 Heritage awareness for the public:

Organize events and programs on city wide and neighbourhood heritage, while encouraging participation by making information widely and easily available.

3.1.2a Heritage information at your finger tips:

Highlight and expand heritage content on multiple websites, including the City of Fernie, Fernie Museum, Places That Matter to Fernie, Tourism Fernie, Fernie Chamber of Commerce and Fernie Heritage Strategy websites.

How to:

- The City of Fernie History & Heritage webpage to include documents such as the Fernie Heritage Strategy, the Fernie Heritage Register, Fernie Character Areas descriptions and maps and links to all other local heritage organizations, as well as relevant provincial and national websites. The Planning webpage also to expand content to reflect Heritage Strategy and ongoing heritage actions and initiatives.

Case Studies:

- **The City of Calgary website:** www.calgary.ca/PDA/pd/Pages/Heritage-planning/researching-building-history.aspx
- **The Vancouver Heritage Foundation's guide to research:** www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org

3.12b Research resources at your finger tips:

Provide easy access (online and in-person) to historic research resources in Fernie to promote and encourage public research into historic properties and Fernie history, which would promote awareness, education and heritage-focused development.

How to:

- Ensure all proposed 'updated and new' heritage web content is consistent and all links are current. Fernie Museum will send proposed content to each of the websites mentioned and work with communication's staff at each organization to fine-tune.

- Historic property or general history inquiries at City Hall or at the library could be centralized and referred to the Fernie Museum so that individual questions for specific projects or any general interest in learning can be handled by the Museum in a consistent, professional manner.

- Make available the historic resources gathered for the Fernie Heritage Strategy and the Fernie Property Research checklist (Appendix D), above and beyond the Fernie Archive's collections, when a research inquiry comes in.

- Create an online guide on how to research historic property in Fernie to be crossed linked on all above mentioned websites.

Project lead: Fernie Museum, as the 'go to' authority for heritage and history related inquiries. As the Museum already has excellent programming and expertise in organizing and carrying workshops, they are best positioned to lead these programs.

Project partners: City of Fernie, Tourism Fernie, Fernie Chamber of Commerce

Funding: Columbia Basin Trust grant programs such as: https://ourtrust.org/grants-and-programs-directory/heritage-museum-and-archive-grants/ and Heritage BC Legacy Fund (https://heritagebc.ca/heritage-legacy-fund/)
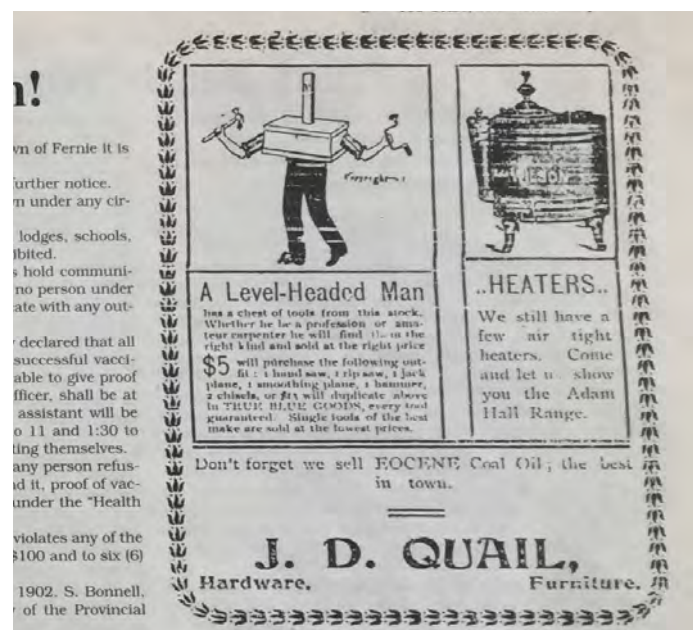
3.1.2c Relocate, preserve, process, digitize and make accessible the Crowsnest Pass Coal Co. Archives:

This unrivalled collection of archival documents, maps, photographs and artifacts, crucial to the story of Fernie and other Elk Valley communities, is currently stored in two locations in the City Hall basement and is at immense risk for being kept in inappropriate conditions for archival materials, such as unsecured spaces, which is neither temperature nor humidity controlled.

How to:

Under the guidance and management of the Fernie Museum:

- Temporarily relocate the entire collection to a secure, temperature and humidity controlled storage space under the guidance of the Fernie Museum director.
- Document the collection (photograph and annotate) general components, numbers and dimensions.
- Apply for a processing, description and digitization grant.
- Manage the collection on behalf of the City and CN Archive partners, make it publicly accessible.

Project lead: City of Fernie

Project partners: Fernie Museum

Funding: National Heritage Digitization Fund, Documentary Heritage Communities Program, British Columbia History Digitization Program, Columbia Basin Trust Heritage, Museum and Archives Grant https://ourtrust.org/grants-and-programs-directory/heritage-museum-and-archive-grants.

3.1.2d Places That Matter to Fernie:

Maintain this community tool as an informal archive, database and map for community heritage resources. As part of the Fernie Heritage Strategy process, this project was already initiated using a free online tool BatchGeo. The Places That Matter to Fernie online may can be viewed at https://batchgeo.com/map/FHS. It should be viewed as a pool of significant places and stories that has the potential to be formally recognized and further researched.

How to:

- As this 'heritage inventory' does not confer formal recognition by a local government and is not subject to selection criteria, the public can nominate anything deemed to have community value.
- Post occasionally on the Museum and Heritage Fernie social media and blog, utilizing hashtags, to maintain and spark interest and new nominations.
- Accept nominations via e-mail.
- Look into integrating the database which populates the online map into the City's GIS system as a layer of places of interest with potential heritage value.

Project lead: Heritage Fernie (a program of the Fernie Museum)

Project partners: City of Fernie, Design and Heritage Review Panel, Tourism Fernie, Fernie Chamber of Commerce

Funding: continually developing and improving mapping applications, this type of project can essentially be run at almost no cost by volunteers.

Case Studies:

- **Vancouver:** The project can be an online resource only, or the Vancouver Heritage Foundation's model, highly nominated sites, can also receive community recognition plaques. Supplementary stories and photos reside only online: https://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/places-that-matter/
- **National Trust of Canada:** This country-wide map and nomination project includes a fund-raising and competition aspect: https://thisplacematters.ca
- The original online model was established in the US by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. https://savingplaces.org/this-place-matters#.XTXd3i0ZPBI

3.1.2e Fostering neighbourhood identity and awareness:

Neighbourhood events, including walking tours, talks or themed block parties brings people together where local knowledge is shared.

How to: Using the Character Area context statements as a basis for developing awareness of the unique story and character of each Fernie neighbourhood, local resident associations could be formed to discuss local history, issues and potential events. They could become the local equivalent of the city's Wednesday Socials.

Case Studies:

- Jane's Walks are community lead walks held in May each year. One example is Calgary's roster of walks: https://www.avenuecalgary.com/things-to-do/janes-walks-calgary/

- Local resident's leading informal walking tours telling their own personal stories and perspectives should become a Fernie tradition. Much of Fernie's history lives in the memories of local Fernie-ites. With regular tours in a format that allows stories to evolve, based on feedback from participants, Fernie's heritage comes alive. Jane's Walks is an excellent form and model for this to develop.

3.1.2f Fernie heritage in schools:

Distribute the Fernie Heritage Strategy and Places That Matter map to Fernie school teachers with the idea of incurring student engagement, knowledge and projects around the city's history, heritage and stories. The Fernie Museum could act as a resource to develop class plans, projects or events for school students.

Guidance and Support: The BC Heritage Fairs Society (BCHFS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to history education for Canada's youth. Since 2003, they have successfully brought people and history together: each year some 4,000 students participate and 700 volunteers work with them, their teachers, and community museum staff in Heritage Fair Programs across the province. Fernie students and projects could ultimately participate in the organization's Heritage Fairs, see: http://bcheritagefairs.ca/heritage-fairs/

Case Studies:

- The Vancouver Heritage Foundation has been collaborating with educators and students, in the classroom and with digital archives and resources, to develop an original Heritage Study Guide for Schools, for more information see: https://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/projects/heritage-study-guide-for-schools/

3.1.2g City-wide Heritage Awareness:

Expanding and diversifying the Fernie Museum's walking tour program to include tours focussed on particular neighbourhoods, building styles, houses that survived the 1908 fire, negative/lost spaces, fire-proof materials, etc., would increase awareness of the city's diverse resources and go towards expanding the public's understanding of what heritage is and can be. Train and encourage local volunteers that are suited as guides and story tellers.

How to: The Fernie Museum has regular walking tours which are an excellent model to repeat and expand on: https://ferniemuseum.com/event/historic-walking-tour/. In 2018, Fernie Chautauqua walking tours looked at Fernie's Greatest Heritage Hits and Catalogue homes.

Collaborate with Tourism Fernie to coordinate and expand potential tour ideas and programs.

3.1.2h Fernie Heritage Awards:

Creating a civic award program brings a greater focus and awareness to the broad range of projects and programs under the heritage umbrella, and over time will promote and encourage local restoration and rehabilitation projects along with other aspects of the city's heritage.

How to: The Design & Heritage Review Panel and the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) could partner with Heritage Fernie to run the Heritage Awards. Ensure that Mayor and Council endorse and participate in the award ceremony. The award ceremony could coincide with provincial heritage week or another heritage event such as Chautauqua. It should have a strong educational aspect to it, taking the time to tell the story of each project, ideally accompanied by an illustrated presentation. Certificates, publicity and ceremony are important to acknowledge the value of heritage efforts in the community. The awards should not only celebrate built heritage projects, but also efforts, advocacy, volunteerism, publications, projects etc.

Project Lead: Heritage Fernie

Funding and Partners: Heritage Fernie had already proposed a cash award for special accomplishments, projects and efforts that further the goal of heritage conservation. However, rather than provide cash prizes for heritage projects, these funds could be allocated towards any administration or organization of the event itself. The heritage awards should and can be a low or no cost local event. Success would be achieved by maintaining a consistent and serious nomination and assessment process, followed by a meaningful, public ceremony.

3.1.2i Heritage informs wayfinding:

Incorporating heritage and interpretion into the City's signage strategy.

How to:

- In collaboration with Ktunaxa, review March 2012 Comprehensive Signage Strategy (https://Fernie.civicweb.net/document/8438) to determine if the strategy's branding messaging aligns with the Historic Context and Community Heritage Values as identified in this document and whether it aligns with Reconciliation efforts. This is an opportunity to collect feedback from the community on the success of the program thus far.

- Revise above Strategy to always include historic and heritage values content on the following sign typologies: Information Kiosk, Pedestrian Wayfinding and Interpretive Sign.

Funding: Specific support for adding historic content to municipal signs may be available from the Resort Municipality Initiative funds, Heritage BC Heritage Legacy Fund and the CBT's Community Outdoor Revitalization Grant

Project lead: City of Fernie

Project partners: Fernie Museum, Fernie Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Fernie and the Ministry of Transportation.

Guidance:

- The Streetwise review of wayfinding systems: www.streetwisesystems.com/WayfindingReport.pdf

City of Victoria wayfinding incorporates the traditional Lekwungen name for the area

3.1.2j Interpretation of cultural landscapes and 'lost' heritage resources:

With an expanded, civic signage and interpretation program, explore opportunities to interpret cultural landscapes identified in Fernie as a way of identifying, preserving and educating the community and visitors alike.

How to:

- The Cultural Landscapes section in the previous chapter (section 2.3.2) identifies numerous valued cultural landscapes and lost historic places in Fernie that could be highlighted and celebrated though an interpretive signage, mapping or exhibit program.

- Interpretation approaches can be online only, in map form, on permanent signage or markers, as temporary or pop-up exhibits or as permanent exhibits.

- Any specific site of interest should be proposed to the City or the land owner to begin discussing the appropriateness and feasibility of interpretation.

- Any new plans for City signage in or around identified cultural landscapes should be run by the Fernie Museum to begin working on historic content or expanded interpretation projects.

- Consider publishing correlating self-guided maps with heritage content.

Project lead: Fernie Museum

Project partners: City of Fernie, Tourism Fernie, Fernie Chamber of Commerce

Funding: Heritage BC Legacy Fund (https://heritagebc. ca/heritage-legacy-fund/) and Columbia Basin Trust grant programs such as: https://ourtrust.org/grants-and-programs-directory/heritage-museum-and-archive-grants or Community Outdoor Revitalization Grant, Resort Municipality Initiative funds

Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force field trip to Crowsnest Pass communities in Alberta to learn about their heritage programs and initiatives. August 2017

3.1.2k Capacity building for heritage trades and skills

Foster an appreciation and understanding of traditional building techniques and materials that would lead to more appropriate approaches being taken in regards to heritage buildings.

How to:

- Organize and hold 'how to' workshops lead by local or visiting conservation professionals such as the Masonry Conservation course (Heritage BC/CBT sponsored) held in April 2019 Fernie (http://heritagefernie.com/event/heritage-masonry-an-introduction-to-traditions-and-techniques-for-heritage-buildings/).

- For a professional and consistent curriculum and the opportunity to collaborate with neighbouring communities, look into working with the College of the Rockies or other local education institutes.

- Reach out to local property owners who are in the midst of, or have recently completed heritage work, to ask about an on-site tour and overview lead by the contractor or trade who carried out the conservation work, as a case study for 'how to' and 'lessons learned' regarding work on old buildings.

- Reach out to local trades with conservation expertise such as Stephanie Rogers (stained glass) and River City Woodworks (wood doors and windows) to host talks or workshops.

- Topics that are important to cover in Fernie are conservation of brick, wood elements, wood windows and doors, storm windows, stained glass windows and concrete block.

Project lead: Fernie Museum

Partners: City of Fernie, College of the Rockies, CBT and Heritage BC

Funding: Columbia Basin Trust, Fernie business or corporate sponsorship, College of the Rockies

Case Studies:

- The Vancouver Heritage Foundation's Old School program: https://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/attend-an-event/workshops-talks/old-school-workshops/

- University of Victoria Cultural Resource Management courses: https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/culture-museums-and-indigenous-studies/topics/heritage-studies

- This Old Edmonton House Seminars: https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/ThisOldEdmontonHousePoster.pdf

Bruce Elson of Knox United, mason Karl Schmieder and Rob and Shawn of Paulson - Fire & Flood, General Contractor restoring the Knox United bell tower cornice. Sep 2019

3.1.2l Promote awareness of local materials

Materials such as Fernie bricks and the unique, locally produced concrete blocks on City Hall, are important resources. Encourage their retention and set up a mechanism to source, collect and manage a supply for key restoration projects.

How to: Run a social media campaign, including some background, about historic Fernie materials and a call out to residents who may have reserves of it, especially when there is a specific project in need. Send out press releases to local media outlets.

Project lead: Heritage Fernie (a program of the Fernie Museum)

Partners: City of Fernie to provide vehicles for pick up and storage space if necessary.

3.2 Planning

The Fernie Official Community Plan (2014) states that heritage *"serves to ground a community and to remind us of where we have come from. Community heritage resources give a city a particular sense of time, place, identity and culture."* - Fernie Community Survey respondent

Fernie's growth and evolution brings change. A comprehensive understanding of the community's heritage and what matters to Fernie-ites, is key to ensuring that growth and change don't erase or lose connection with the past and the sense of place that people cherish. The ongoing challenges facing the community - climate change, population growth, areas of overuse, development pressures and an economy in flux, can and should be addressed by adopting an integrated planning approach that will safeguard Fernie's heritage and identity. Goal 2 outlines strategies, actions and programs to guide and strengthen Fernie's regulatory framework by introducing a heritage lens and historic context to all planning processes and areas. This approach is consistent with Fernie's Official Community Plan (2014), Fernie's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (2011) the city's Resort Development Strategy (2019) and Fernie's Tourism Master Plan (2019) all five of which aim to allow and encourage Fernie to grow and find sustainability, whilst maintaining its sense of identity and place. This heritage 'lens' not only provides a Fernie-specific consistency and authenticity to managing growth and change, but also utilizes and applies the expertise of established heritage conservation practices, which are arguably the most well-positioned for handling questions of sustainable development.

The initial actions proposed to achieve this goal are:

3.2.1 Fernie Heritage Strategy:

Adopt the Fernie Heritage Strategy as a guiding document for heritage understanding and planning in Fernie. Publish the Fernie Heritage Strategy on the City website.

3.2.2 Community Heritage Advisory Group:

Establish a community heritage advisory group to review and assist in planning decisions around any heritage sites, heritage areas or heritage developments, as well as to ensure that heritage context is considered on relevant municipal initiatives or locally impacting projects. Inclusion and active participation of the Ktunaxa nation in this group's work will be a crucial aspect of its legitimacy and relevancy, to ensure the Ktunaxa perspective is always considered.

How to:

- Acknowledging that the City doesn't want more advisory groups or obligatory review meetings which cause planning processes to be longer, an effective and sustainable model could be to expand the Design Review Panel's terms of reference to include Heritage issues.

- Part 15, Division 3, Section 597 (1) of the Local Government Act, enables municipalities to establish Community Heritage Commissions "a local government may designate an existing organization to act as a community heritage commission."

- Amalgamate the Design Review Panel and the Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force Terms of Reference - to be renamed the Design and Heritage Review Panel (DHRP). This would provide a renewed body of engaged people with experience in reviewing local heritage issues and projects, while addressing the potential burn-out of the existing Design Review Panel, and provide a diversity of skills and advisory experience to the City. Enlarge the group to 9 members.

- Review and update Fernie Council Procedures bylaw - Part 9 - Commissions, to limit the term of commission members so that regular turn-over occurs, burn-out is avoided and to ensure fresh and wider perspectives of community members over time. See Appendix F for Fernie Heritage Task Force Terms of Reference.

- All members of the DHRP should subscribe to Heritage BC's newsletter. Heritage BC offers open forum conversations for heritage commissions to share ideas and discuss issues on an ongoing basis. https://heritagebc.ca/resources/heritage-commissions/ and https://heritagebc.ca/learning-centre/community-heritage-commissions-a-resource-guide/

Project Lead: City of Fernie

Project partners: Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force and Fernie Design Review Panel Chairs

3.2.3 Fernie Heritage Register

Establish this planning tool to allow the City of Fernie to formally identify and acknowledge historic resources so that they may be integrated into land use planning processes. All nominations to the Fernie Heritage Register will be consistently evaluated using the Heritage Register Inclusion Worksheet (Appendix B). The Heritage Register will grow, change and evolve overtime, adapting to community heritage values and the physical evolution of the area. As part of the OCP update of 2014, Fernie Council had already formally recognized a list of 88 buildings as "Schedule C - Heritage Sites" for their heritage value. However, the heritage value of the sites was not established nor publicized, and an evaluation criteria and a mechanism for adding and removing sites from this list is lacking.

How to:

- Part 15, Division 3, Section 598 (1) of the Local Government Act: "A local government may, by resolution, establish a community heritage register that identifies real property that is considered by the local government to be heritage property."

- Establish a Heritage Register for Fernie by Council resolution, to replace Schedule C in the Fernie OCP, which will initially include:

  - All the properties on Schedule C

  - The Lutheran Church at 691 4th Avenue, recently protected under a Heritage Revitalization Agreement

  - The nine Fernie Character Areas as distinguishable heritage neighbourhoods without listing the individual properties in each Area.

- The Heritage Register should be present and searchable on the City of Fernie History & Heritage as well as the Planning webpages, accepting nominations from the public, and allowing information and updates about the community's heritage resources to be available to the public.

- New nominations, to be submitted via a nomination form (Appendix C) viewable on the City website, or any proposed changes to the Heritage Register will be evaluated by the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) using the Heritage Register Inclusion Worksheet (see appendix B) to assess its appropriateness for the Fernie Heritage Register. See also Action 3.1.2 - Research Resources at Your Fingertips and Appendix D - Fernie Property Research Checklist, detailing how the Fernie Museum will support the City, the HRAC and applicants, to collate resources about heritage properties in Fernie.

- The Fernie Heritage Register will be integrated into the City's GIS database so that any heritage resource would be flagged upon inquiry.

- More resources about establishing a Community Heritage Register in BC are available at: https://heritagebc.ca/learning-centre/community-heritage-register-a-resource-guide/

Case Studies:

- Vancouver Heritage Foundation's Heritage Site Finder - an interactive map of the Vancouver Heritage Register www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/learn-with-us/discover-vancouvers-heritage/heritage-site-finder-interactive-map/

- City of New Westminster's Heritage Register integrated into their GIS map system: http://newwestcity.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=64899d2473934fe08c6eff11ee58d452

- City of Rossland Heritage Register
  Buildings: http://heritagerossland.com/BUILDINGS.aspx
  Sites: http://heritagerossland.com/SITES.aspx

A Community Heritage Register:

- *Provides legal heritage status - properties listed on a heritage register are eligible for powerful heritage incentive tools within the Local Government Act*

- *Provides eligibility for special provisions within the BC Building Code Heritage Building Supplement*

- *Typically visible and searchable on the municipal website, it provides public access to property owners, potential buyers and the general public to information about the heritage value of individual properties in the community*

- *Enhances community sustainability by integrating heritage conservation activities into the planning process*

- *Provides formal recognition which demonstrates community pride, enhances appreciation and raise awareness about the places that matter to a community*

- *Allows a local government to consider, and if necessary, undertake protective action such as temporarily withholding demolition and building permits and ordering heritage inspections*

- *Is a condition for eligibility for many granting and funding programs such as Heritage BC's Heritage Legacy Fund.*

What does a Heritage Register NOT do?

- *Being listed on a heritage register does not mean that the resource is protected from demolition or alterations, simply that it is formally recognized as a heritage resource by the City*

- *It does not imply any costs to the local government*

- *It does not imply any costs to property owners*

- *It does not limit a property owner's ability to make changes to their listed property*

3.2.4 Heritage Advisory Committee:

Establish a Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) under the umbrella of the Fernie and District Historical Society. This small group of five community members, initially made up of Fernie Heritage Task Force members for their training and understanding of identifying heritage values, will meet about three times a year or if and when nominations come in. Working in communication with Planning staff, the group will advise Council to consider regarding the adding or removing of properties to the Heritage Register. The OCP need not be amended each time, only the Register itself. (see Chapter 2, sections 2.4.3 and 2.4.4 for more details on managing a Heritage Register).

Community survey alignment

- *70% of respondents in the Fernie Heritage Strategy community survey called for "Provide guidance on appropriate development options for historic neighbourhoods and areas."*

- *66.7% of respondents in the Fernie Heritage Strategy community survey called for "Establishing a Community Heritage Commission to assist Council and the City's planning department with the management and implementation of community heritage planning and activities."*

- *73% of respondents in the Fernie Heritage Strategy community survey called for "Provide technical support for heritage projects and events."*

- *56.7% called for "Undertake planning initiatives such as this one (Heritage Strategy)."*

3.2.5 Fernie Character Areas:

Adopt Fernie's 9 (nine) Character Areas Design Guidelines and add the Character Areas to the Fernie Heritage Register to acknowledge them as formal heritage resources. Manage change and development in Character Areas by guiding applicants to conserve and respect property form and character, by guiding appropriate infill using the design guidelines, and incentivizing Heritage Revitalization projects, where eligible, in these neighbourhoods. Integrate the Character Area approach and thinking into upcoming zoning reviews.

1. Airport Character Area Guidelines: Development in the Airport is robust and the overall form is still readable within the various alterations and updates. Renovations should not introduce forms that are incompatible with the over all sense of place such as steep pitched roofs or tall vertical elements.

New houses should have an emphasis on the horizontal rather than vertical and while historically inspired decoration is fine, the temptation to design and build a new Victorian, Edwardian or Craftsman inspired home should be avoided in this neighbourhood.

Set backs are consistent throughout the neighbourhood with prominent front yards and relatively narrow side yards. The set back should be respected with any new construction or addition.

2. Park Character Area Guidelines: Development in the Park neighbourhood has a diverse built form with a variety of roof pitches and designs. Renovations should not introduce forms that are incompatible with the over all sense of place but historically inspired decoration is fine. While revival styles are present, they do not dominate. New Victorian, Edwardian or Craftsman style homes should be avoided in this neighbourhood. Set backs are consistent throughout the neighbourhood with prominent front yards. The set back should be respected with any new construction or addition.

3. Ridgemont Character Area Guidelines: The development in Ridgemont is robust and the overall form is still readable within the various alterations and updates. Renovations or new builds should not introduce forms that are incompatible with the over all sense of place such as steep pitched roofs or tall vertical elements. New houses should have an emphasis on the horizontal rather than vertical and while historically inspired decoration is fine the temptation to design and build a new Victorian, Edwardian or Craftsman inspired home should be avoided in this neighbourhood. New multi-family construction should be contemporary in its design and not reference historical styles.

4. Annex Character Area Guidelines: Because the neighbourhood sits in the flood plain, new construction must meet the Flood Construction Levels set by the city and this will alter the look of the Annex over time. New construction is placed higher on the lot than existing houses which creates an interesting juxtaposition. Infill should be considered on larger lots that contain smaller houses to facilitate their retention. Setbacks should be consistent with new construction in line with existing dwellings. The lack of curbs are a distinguishing feature of the area and while the city is adding sidewalks on some streets, the informal nature of the streets should be considered as part of the Annex's character.

5. Maintown Character Area Guidelines: *Maintown retains a number of significant buildings and retention should be the first consideration for the majority of existing structures and importantly for the BC Mills houses. The majority of the houses have been renovated at some point but their original form is easily distinguished. Future renovations or additions should respect the overall style of the building and be distinguishable from the original. Setbacks are inconsistent throughout Maintown and new construction should relate to its neighbours when determining the placement on the lot.*

6. Downtown Character Area Guidelines: *The existing design guidelines should be reexamined to minimize the temptation to create a faux historicism in regards to signage, lighting and renovations. New buildings should reflect the scale and massing of surrounding structures but should be contemporary in their design. Commission a mural study and policy for downtown to be added to the current guidelines. (A marked-up copy of the current design guidelines with suggestions from the FHS team will be submitted to the Planning Department to be reviewed together with the DRP.)*
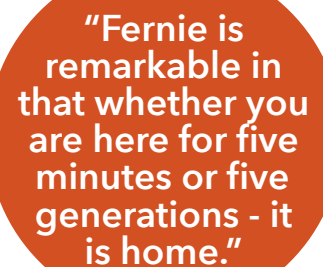
7. North End Character Area Guidelines: *Houses tend to be set close to the street and new development should maintain the same relationship to the street and not be pushed back on the lot. Where feasible, parking should be located to the rear of the property. Infill should be considered to retain smaller cottages and streetscapes. Consideration should be given to leaving some streets without sidewalk improvements to maintain the informal street edge, an important aspect of the neighbourhood's character.*

How to:

- Fernie Character Area Statements and Guidelines are available to view and download on the City website, both on the History & Heritage webpage and on the planning webpage.

- Fernie Character Area Statements and Guidelines inform and impact ongoing zoning review processes, and ultimately are articulated in the zoning of each neighbourhood.

- Where possible and appropriate, the Character Area Statements and Design Guidelines impact infrastructure considerations, upgrades and new development initiatives in each area.

- The Character Area Statements and Design Guidelines inform variance applications.

- The relevant Character Area Statement and Design Guidelines are made known to each building and development applicant. Applicants are encouraged by Planning staff to consider and respect these.

8. South End Character Area Guidelines: *The area retains the city's only pre fire residential structures and retention should be the first consideration. The majority of the houses have been renovated at some point but their original form is easily distinguished. Future renovations and additions should respect the overall style of the building and be distinguishable from the original. Retaining walls and other older infrastructure should be retained and where necessary rebuilt to match the original construction.*

9. West Fernie Character Area Guidelines: *West Fernie's character is derived from its eclectic development pattern and jumble of building styles. There is no consistent setback of the buildings from the street and siting of new construction could be more varied to reflect the nature of the neighbourhood. The lack of curbs is a distinguishing feature of the area and this informal nature of the streets should be considered as a key aspect of West Fernie's character. Commercial buildings could be considered for conversion to other uses including residential to maintain the eclectic nature and building stock of the district.*

"Fernie is remarkable in that whether you are here for five minutes or five generations - it is home."

3.2.6 Fernie Viewscapes Study:

Commission a viewscapes study with the future goal of informing City development and design guidelines and to formally communicate Fernie's heritage values with land owners in the district.

Background:

An assessment of Fernie's Development Footprint is detailed in the Fernie Livability Report (2014, pages 27-30) in an attempt to identify land ownership allocation and designation in the greater Fernie area and how these can impact the desire "to ensure the protection of wilderness, agricultural land, viewscapes and recreational areas" around Fernie. Concerns around heavy logging, development and overuse of the visible or regularly accessed natural environment from the city, although much of this land is privately owned, is a constant, current concern amongst residents. Viewscapes have been identified as an important aspect of the visitor experience in the 2019 Tourism Master Plan for Fernie.

How to:

Meet with the RDEK, Ktunaxa, local mining and forestry companies, Fernie Alpine Resort, Tourism Fernie, Trail and River Alliances, Wildsight, Fernie Rod and Gun Club, Island Lake Lodge and any other local landowner or business who could have an impact on Fernie's valued viewscapes to explore a partnership in commissioning the viewscapes study based on shared concerns and interests.

Possible Funding resources:

- BC Rural Dividend Fund https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/economic-development/support-organizations-community-partners/rural-economic-development/rural-dividend
- Resort Municipality Funding https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/tourism-immigration/tourism-resources/tourism-funding-programs/resort-municipality-funding-rmi/eligibility
- Regional District of the East Kootenays
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Union of BC Municipalities
- Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust
- Forest Lands Natural Operations and Rural Development

Case Studies:

City of Vancouver View Cone Assessments https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/protecting-vancouvers-views.aspx and View Protection Guidelines https://guidelines.vancouver.ca/V003.pdf

Community survey alignment

Outdoor recreation, views of and access to Fernie's natural, wild setting was identified as the top mentioned, most important heritage value in the Fernie Heritage Strategy community survey.
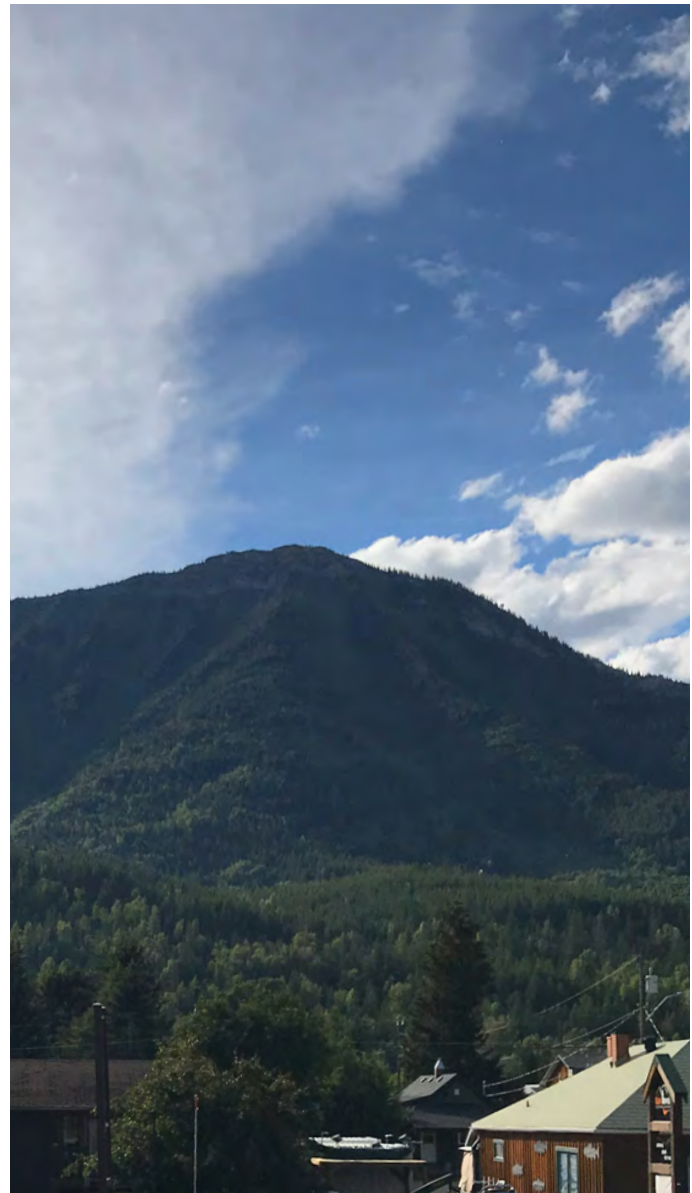
3.3 Resilience

With its iconic downtown and diverse residential areas, heritage is key to Fernie's sense of place, a heritage all its own, not something found elsewhere, nor has it been homogenized into a generic everyday historicism found in many places across North America. Where many communities might look at aspects of the city's heritage and develop strategies of restoration in the pursuit of a 'correct' heritage look, Fernie should be comfortable in its own shoes.

Heritage is more than a commodity to be bought and sold but should be a cornerstone of civic policy that puts local needs first. Acknowledging that the reuse of existing buildings is good for the environment, community and economy policies should encourage their retention, rehabilitation and adaptation.

Recognizing the uniqueness of the local heritage is key to developing policies and incentives that will give Fernie's heritage resilience and purpose, as the city develops and grows. With heritage woven into the city's social, cultural and economic fabric, it will continue to reinforce a strong and identifiable sense of place.

The initial actions proposed to achieve this goal are:

3.3.1 Facilitating Retention Policy

In line with all of Fernie's recent Plans, Strategies and its OCP, a policy to retain the community's existing building stock, as a statement both of heritage value and environmental stewardship, will demonstrate the link between heritage conservation and sustainable practices. This will set the expectation for an approach of reusing, recycling and reducing in the most high impact area of construction. This policy enshrines and facilitates Alternative Solutions in the BC Building Code for buildings and sites listed on the heritage register, with the objective of streamlining a clearly understood and straight forward process that would encourage the retention, rehabilitation and adaptation of heritage buildings and the reduction of construction waste in Fernie.

How to:

Discuss and draft a built environment sustainability policy for the next OCP update, which focuses on the retention and conservation of Fernie's existing building stock, acknowledging that construction waste and energy from demolitions is likely the highest negative impact a municipality can have on its carbon footprint. "…it takes 10 to 80 years for a new building that is 30 percent more efficient than an average-performing existing building to overcome, through efficient operations, the negative climate change impacts related to the construction process." - *The Greenest Building* report (see above).

Consider charging a significant fee for demolition permits or requiring buildings to be deconstructed and recycled rather than sent to the landfill.

Currently, Fernie permit applications for demolition include the question 'is the building a heritage site?' However without a formal Heritage Register, and unless the property was one of the 19 downtown protected heritage buildings, Council would not be able to delay a demolition permit even if the property was of heritage value. For example, with the current lack of a Heritage Register, theoretical demolition applications for sites such as Holy Family, Christ Church and the Arts Station could not be delayed.

Case Studies:

City of Vancouver Green Demolition bylaw
https://bylaws.vancouver.ca/11023c.PDF?_ga=2.253600329.1384390891.1581537789-1518059611.1402678614

Guidance and Support:

The Greenest Building: Quantifying the Environmental Value of Building Reuse a report by the Preservation Green Lab of the National Trust for Historic Preservation https://forum.savingplaces.org/viewdocument/the-greenest-building-quantifying

"The greenest building is the one that is already built."
Carl Elefante, Quinn Evans Architects.

3.3.2 Policy and Zoning Review:

Review and adjust existing zoning bylaws, Development Permit Areas and their corresponding design guidelines to prioritize and facilitate retention and adaptation of the existing building stock, and to reflect Canadian Standards and Guidelines for Heritage Conservation. Consider and encourage appropriate infill development in all character areas to encourage retention of existing character buildings (see Character Area guidelines).

Do not enforce or encourage non-local or cosmetic heritage approaches. Specifically adopt the proposed Character Area Design Guidelines, revise the Historic Downtown Design Guidelines to be less prescriptive and dismissive of potentially valued alterations, layers and buildings of other periods.

Case Studies:

Victoria Old Town Design Guidelines update for New Buildings and Additions to Existing Buildings (2019) https://www.victoria.ca/assets/Departments/Planning~Development/Community~Planning/Old%20Town%20Design%20Guidelines%202019%2003-28-2019%20LOW%20RES.pdf

3.3.2a Mural Study:

Commission a mural study and policy for downtown to be added to the guidelines.

3.3.3 Incentives for Heritage Protection

3.3.3a Heritage Revitalization Agreement:

This powerful incentive tool (Local Government Act part 15, division 5, section 610) allows local governments to offer planning incentives to encourage owners of heritage buildings to retain, stabilize, adapt and protect their heritage buildings through density bonuses, and the relaxation of use, density, lot size, parking, setback and other regulations.

Background:

Fernie Planning staff have already negotiated, drawn-up and received Council approval for Fernie's first HRA at the Lutheran Church (691 4th Avenue) in December 2018 with the guidance of the Fernie Heritage Strategy team. Additionally, two local heritage developments 901 Fernie (former Fernie High School) and the Masonic Hall (former Methodist Church building) have essentially been managed as Heritage Revitalization Agreements by Planning staff (allowing for change of use, relaxations and density bonuses in return for building retention), with the exception of the last step of heritage designation.

How to:

In using the HRA tool as allowed by the LGA, the heritage properties are not only legally protected in perpetuity in return for the bonuses they receive, but their development can also be guided by national standards and guidelines for conservation to ensure that they are always maintained and conserved in a form that embodies the heritage values the community cherishes.

HRA applications should be considered only for properties on the Fernie Heritage Register, and where the conservation plan for the historic property can be guided or reviewed by a heritage professional

All HRAs should reviewed by the DHRP.

All HRAs must be authorized by Council bylaw.

Guidance:

Heritage BC provides webinars on how to use the HRA tool presented by planners and consultants from around the province:

* https://heritagebc.ca/learning-centre/webinars-on-demand/

* https://heritagebc.ca/learning-centre/heritage-revitalization-agreements-a-resource-guide/

New Westminster's Guide to HRAs https://www.newwestcity.ca/database/files/library/Guide___Heritage_Revitalization_Agreements(1).pdf

3.3.3b Heritage Revitalization Tax Exemption Program

Tax-based incentives are appealing because "the funding is derived from future incremental property taxes arising from remediation and redevelopment efforts, rather than from current expenditures or reserves" - Urban Innovations: Financial Tools in Brownfield Revitalization, Plan Canada magazine - winter 2004.

Heritage BC's Snapshot of Heritage Conservation Report (2017) states that in 2017, four local governments in BC reported 'forgiving' a total of $3.42 Million in taxes for commercial heritage properties, which resulted in a 165% return on investment, generating $5.64 million in private investment.

Implement a tax exemption program to encourage the owners of listed heritage buildings in the historic downtown as well as to landmarks and buildings of outstanding significance in other areas of the city, to conduct improvements, repairs, maintenance, seismic upgrades and revitalization projects.

How to:

Section 226 of the Community Charter gives municipalities the authority to grant revitalization tax exemptions for a period of up to ten years. Heritage Revitalization Tax Exemption Program would apply only to listed heritage buildings in the historic downtown as well as to landmarks and buildings of outstanding significance in other areas of the city. The tax exempted will only be for the increase in the assessed value of land and building improvements resulting in the revitalization project. Only municipal taxes will be exempted, not school district and other taxes.

Case Studies:

City of Ladysmith Revitalization Tax Exemption Program https://www.ladysmith.ca/docs/default-source/forms-permits-applications/revitalization-tax-exemption-package.pdf?sfvrsn=19

Guidance:

The City of Duncan commissioned a comparative research study of the success of Revitalization Tax Exemption programs in BC: https://duncan.civicweb.net/document/54362

"A collaboration between business, tourism, history and local government needs to be firmly established so as to make sure the heritage aspect of our town is continued regardless who is at the table at any given time."

"People love to stay, work, walk around and be around old buildings."

"There is some aspect of heritage in every part of our lives here in Fernie - there are roots to the businesses, clubs and institutions."

3.3.4 Downtown Resilience Program

Development Program for Under-utilized Spaces in Historic Downtown

The downtown is Fernie's hub, the community's gathering space. It should be protected for and adapted to the local community's needs first, and remain the centre of Fernie's cultural, social, civic and business life.

To promote revitalization and maintenance of Fernie's iconic downtown buildings, while achieving municipal goals of increasing housing availability, affordable housing, sustainable development and a diversity of housing types - implement a fee-reduced or fee-waived permit program to encourage the conversion of under-utilized spaces in downtown. This program also addresses the need for downtown businesses to stay, grow and evolve within the downtown core and have access to flexible development models, which will enable them to expand and adapt through the use of infill and additions. The program will prioritize the retention of local business and health services, and locally serving retail in the downtown.

Design guidelines for downtown extension development

Above and beyond the question of underused spaces in the historic downtown, certain existing business, as well as potential new businesses, are looking for opportunities to geographically extend the downtown business district, particularly onto 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Avenues. As this approach could support the sustainability, resilience and regeneration of Fernie's downtown, these types of proposals should be facilitated. Design guidance for a complementary downtown extension development would align with guidelines for infill and additions to the downtown core, in that it should be both distinguishable as contemporary but compatible with the scale, form and culture of the historic downtown. See Downtown Character Area Design Guidelines and proposed revisions to existing Design Guidelines for Fernie's Historic Downtown.

Eligible development spaces may include:

- Upper storeys
- Undeveloped lot areas and adjacent streets
- Potential roof or rear additions
- Basement and storage areas
- The rear section of larger than necessary commercial spaces
- The 2nd Avenue frontage of the Save-On-Foods parking lot and other parking lots

The use plan for eligible applicants must meet with the above goals of:

- Conserving and protecting Fernie's historic downtown buildings
- Supporting housing or locally-serving business development
- Does not displace local services or existing housing from the downtown core

How to:

- Work with the Fernie Chamber of Commerce, industry and business partners to develop this program.
- Work with Building Officials and downtown building owners to identify common issues and ideas for additional incentives and solutions.
- A marked-up copy of the current design guidelines with suggestions from the FHS team will be submitted to the Planning Department to be reviewed together with the Design Review Panel.

Policy Alignment

3.1 Appreciation

The proposed actions responds to **Fernie OCP policy 1-B: Heritage Conservation and Restoration** - *Work with the Fernie and District Historical Society and the BC Heritage Conservation Branch to support informed decision making on the redevelopment, protection and restoration of heritage buildings in the community* **(1-B.2)**.

Develop a recognition program for individuals and organizations involved in the preservation and promotion of Fernie's heritage **(1-B.5)**.

Support the Fernie and District Historical Society's Heritage Walking Tour to promote Fernie's historic buildings to visitors and residents alike **(1-B.7)**.

Continue to recognize the Fernie Court House as an important part of Fernie's heritage **(1-B.8)**.

Build relationships with the Ktunaxa Nation and member communities to identify and recognize important First Nations heritage sites or locations **(1-B.9)** and policy **3-F Historic Downtown.**

Work with business and tourism partners to develop strategies that enhance and animate the Historic Downtown for visitors and residents alike **(3-F.12)**.

Continue working with local businesses and community groups to increase cultural programming and events to enliven the Historic Downtown (e.g., Griz Days) **(3-F.10)** and policy **4-A Public safety, health and community well-being.**

Strengthen the mental and spiritual health of our citizens by supporting accessible and inclusive community events, groups and places (e.g., Fernie Heritage Library, Arts Station, Fernie Museum, seniors centre, etc.) **(4-A.8) and policy 5-A Arts, culture and cultural diversity**

Support and encourage cultural events that celebrate the cultural diversity of Fernie's community **(5-A.11)**.

Continue to build relationships with local First Nations to identify and celebrate their culture, local historic and heritage landmarks in the Fernie area. **(5-A.5)** and policy **9-A Managing development.**

Respect and protect Fernie's heritage for the benefit of existing and future generations. **(9-A.5).**

3.1.2i Heritage Informs

The proposed actions respond to Fernie OCP policies in Getting Around: *Explore participating in the Elk Valley Sign Program to provide an opportunity for Fernie businesses to advertise on the highway in a coordinated manner, and in coordination with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's Service and Attraction sign policy* **(2-D.7)**.

Work with the Chamber of Commerce and Fernie businesses to consolidate local business signage at appropriate locations to preserve "Gateway Street" aesthetics **(2-D.8)**.

Work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to provide directional signage to the Historic Downtown on "Gateway Streets" (4th and 9th, see **2-H.11**) **(2-G.6)**.

Recognize 4th Street and 9th Street as the main "Gateway streets" to the Historic Downtown **(2-H.11)**.

Develop "Gateway Street" design guidelines for 4th and 9th Streets that are both consistent with complete streets guidelines and provide standards for directional and wayfinding signage to reach the Historic Downtown from Highway 3 and to permit easy passage back to Highway 3 **(2-H.12)**.

3.1.2k Capacity building for heritage trades and skills

This action aligns with **Fernie's OCP policy 3-B Local Economic Diversification**. *Continue to work with the College of the Rockies and other partners in providing educational services to help ensure that there is an educated local workforce that meets local industry needs and helps to attract new business requiring such workers* **(3-B.4)**.

Facilitate relationships between the College of the Rockies and local industry to make Fernie a centre of excellence or innovation in the natural resources/ resource extraction and adventure tourism sectors **(3-B.5)**.

Support the diversification of higher education, adult education and training opportunities in Fernie to both support the education sector and to build community capacity and skill **(3-B.11)**.

3.2.3 Fernie Heritage Register

The actions in this goal respond to and expand on **Fernie OCP policy 1-B Heritage Conservation and Restoration.** *Work with the Fernie and District Historical Society **to develop a joint committee to evaluate development applications for heritage buildings and sites of significance (1-B.3).***

*Build relationships with the Ktunaxa Nation and member communities to identify and recognize important First Nations heritage sites or locations **(1-B.9)**.*

*Maintain a heritage conservation area in Maintown and the Historic Downtown to support the continued preservation of historic buildings in the community **(1-B.1)** and on policy* **1-C Neighbourhoods and Planning Areas.** *Fernie supports the development of neighbourhoods that are healthy, compact, connected and preserve Fernie's "small town" character. It responds also to policy* **1-C.1.1 (Protect the character of the Annex)**, **1-C.1.2 (Permit character compatible lower density multi-family residential infill)** *and* **1-C.2.8 (Support conservation and preservation of heritage homes and buildings in the Maintown South area)** *and on policy* **3-F - Continue efforts to revitalize the Historic Downtown as a commercial centre and tourist hub**. And policy **9-A Managing Development Ensure new development respects Fernie's small town charm and character. (9-A.4)** and all of the policies **9-B.1.1 to 9-B.1.7** regarding the management of Historic Downtown. Encourage the restoration and preservation of heritage homes in Fernie. **(9-B.7.3)** Support residential development that is compatible in scale, character and mass with adjacent residential development **(9-B.7.4)** Ensure that commercial buildings are consistent in character with the surrounding neighbourhood **(9-B.12.15)**

3.2.6 Viewscapes

This action responds to **Forever Fernie ICPS Priority 1- Protecting the Environment and Fernie OCP policy 6-F Viewscapes** *- The City of Fernie acknowledges the importance of protecting significant viewscapes and corridors throughout the city for residents and visitors. And policy* **1-C Neighbourhoods and Planning Areas** *- Fernie supports the development of neighbourhoods that are healthy, compact, connected, and preserve Fernie's "small town" character. and policy.* **9-A Managing Development.** *Respect and protect Fernie's heritage for the benefit of existing and future generations.* **(9-A.5)**

3.3.3 Incentives for heritage protection

Fernie OCP policy 1-A Housing *Utilize financial incentives and instruments (e.g., density bonusing, DCC incentives, permitting incentives) to encourage infill development (cluster, small lot infill, narrow lots, granny suites, etc.) wherever appropriate and feasible **(1-A.3)**.*

*Support infill and redevelopment throughout the City, locating housing close to existing services, in accordance with each neighbourhood plan **(1-A.4)**.*

Policy 1-C Neighbourhoods and Planning Areas *Fernie supports the development of neighbourhoods that are healthy, compact, connected and preserve Fernie's "small town" character. It responds also to policy* **1-C.1.1** *(Protect the character of the Annex),* **1-C.1.2** *(Permit character compatible lower density multi-family residential infill) and* **1-C.2.8** *(Support conservation and preservation of heritage homes and buildings in the Maintown South area)*

Policy 1-B Heritage Conservation and Restoration *Explore the establishment of a Revitalization Tax Exemption Program bylaw for the Historic Downtown **(1-B.4)**.*

Policy 3-F *- Continue efforts to revitalize the Historic Downtown as a commercial centre and tourist hub. and **policy 9-A Managing development** Respect and protect Fernie's heritage for the benefit of existing and future generations. **(9-A.5)**.*

*Ensure new development respects Fernie's small town charm and character. **(9-A.4)** and **policies 9-B.1.1 to 9-B.1.7** regarding the management of Historic Downtown.*

3.4 Strategy: Action Priority and Implementation

Strategies	Priority	Summary	Estimated cost or hours
Goal 1 - Appreciation			
Action 3.1.1 Heritage awareness for staff and council	**High**	Ensure City staff and Council are aware of heritage initiatives and have continual opportunities to further their education and training on the topic.	**5 hours** Museum staff One-time set-up meeting and incorporation into work schedule **10 hours/year** Museum staff Organize lectures and tours Incorporate into standing training and education budgets Add heritage conference to eligible conference rotation
Action 3.1.2a Heritage information at your finger tips	**Moderate**	Highlight and expand heritage content on City website to provide central web resource.	**10 hours** City staff for website updates
Action 3.1.2b Research resources at your finger tips	**Moderate**	Provide easy access (online and in-person) to historic research resources in Fernie.	**80 hours** Museum staff
Action 3.1.2c Relocate, preserve, process, digitize and make accessible the Crowsnest Pass Coal Co. Archives	**Very High**	Currently stored in City Hall basement, the incredibly valuable archive are at immense risk for being kept in inappropriate conditions. This collection is of utmost value as a community heritage asset.	**160 hours** City and Museum staff Relocation and temporary preservation - as part of the overall records management plan Processing, storage and digitization - could be funded through grants
Action 3.1.2d Places That Matter to Fernie	**High**	Maintain this community tool as an informal archive, database and map for community heritage resources, see: https://batchgeo.com/map/FHS	**8 hours/month** Museum staff City staff (IT) one-time set up to link to Museum and City website
Action 3.1.2e Fostering neighbourhood identity	**Low**	Neighbourhood-focussed events including walking tours, talks or themed block parties brings neighbourhoods together where local knowledge is shared.	Facilitated by Heritage Fernie and other community groups

Strategies	Priority	Summary	Estimated cost or hours
Action 3.1.2f Fernie heritage in schools	**Moderate**	Distribute the Fernie Heritage Strategy and Places That Matter map to Fernie school teachers. The Fernie Museum could act as a resource to develop class plans, projects or events for school students.	
Action 3.1.2g City-wide Heritage Awareness	**Moderate**	Expand and diversify the Fernie Museum's walking tour program.	
Action 3.1.2h Fernie Heritage Awards	**Moderate**	Create a civic heritage award program to celebrate heritage projects and programs and encourage new ones.	Heritage Fernie
Action 3.1.2i Heritage informs wayfinding	**Moderate**	Review and update Comprehensive Signage Strategy to facilitate, enhance, and formalize community gathering spaces and incorporate heritage education opportunities in signage.	City and Museum staff to review, discuss and adjust Sign Strategy. Ad hoc hours Museum staff to produce content when new signs are being produced.
Action 3.1.2j Interpretation of cultural landscapes and 'lost' heritage resources	**Moderate**	Explore opportunities to interpret cultural landscapes as a way of identifying, preserving and educating the community and visitors alike.	Budget within Sign Strategy. Apply for grants for special installations.
Action 3.1.2k Capacity building for heritage trades and skills	**Moderate**	Foster an appreciation and understanding of traditional building techniques and materials that would lead to more appropriate approaches being taken in regards to heritage buildings.	**10 hours per course,** Museum staff. Apply for grants to create workshops.
Action 3.1.2l Promote awareness of local materials	**High**	Encourage the retention of local, historically important materials such as Fernie bricks and set up a mechanism to source, collect and manage a supply for key restoration projects.	Becomes part of the Museum's regular operations

Strategies	Priority	Summary	Estimated cost or hours
Goal 2 - Informing planning on all levels			
Action 3.2.1 Fernie Heritage Strategy	**Very High**	Adopt the Fernie Heritage Strategy as a guiding document for heritage understanding and planning in Fernie. Publish the Fernie Heritage Strategy on the City website.	**3 Hours** City staff to write Council report **2 hours** City staff (IT) to publish on website
Action 3.2.2 Community Heritage Advisory Group	**Very High**	Establish a community heritage advisory group to review and assist in planning decisions around any heritage sites, heritage areas or heritage developments, by amalgamating the Design Review Panel and the Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force Terms of Reference.	**16 hours** City staff (set up) Ongoing meeting hours already in planning staff work schedule **2 hours** City staff (IT) to update website
Action 3.2.3 Fernie Heritage Register	**Very High**	Establish this planning tool to allow the City of Fernie to formally identify and acknowledge historic resources so that they may be integrated into land use planning processes.	**16 hours** City staff (set up) HR administration and management additional **40 City staff hours/year** **20-40 hours** City staff (IT) to configure & publish on website
Action 3.2.4 Heritage Advisory Committee	**Very High**	Establish a Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC under the umbrella of the Fernie and District Historical Society. This small group of five community members will work in communication with Planning staff. The group will advise Council to consider regarding the adding or removing of properties to the Heritage Register.	**16 hours** City staff (set up) Incorporate additional 10 City staff hours/year for meetings into work schedule **2 hours** City staff (IT) to update website

Strategies	Priority	Summary	Estimated cost or hours
Action 3.2.5 Fernie Character Areas	**High**	Adopt Fernie's Character Areas & Design Guidelines. Manage change and development in Character Areas by guiding applicants to conserve and respect property form and character, by guiding appropriate infill using the design guidelines. Integrate the Character Area approach and thinking into upcoming zoning reviews.	Ongoing zoning review and updates - already scheduled in work plan. **10 hours** City staff (IT) to configure & publish on website
Action 3.2.6 Fernie Viewscapes Study	**Moderate**	Commission a viewscapes study with the future goal of informing City development and design guidelines and to formally communicate Fernie's heritage values with land owners in the district.	**40 hours** City staff (set up) and community consultation **RFP $30 - $50K**
Goal 3 - Contributing to Fernie's resilience, growth and regeneration			
Action 3.3.1 Facilitating Retention Policy	**High**	Discuss and word a built environment sustainability policy for the next OCP update which focuses on the retention and conservation of Fernie's existing building stock.	**30 hours** City staff to prepare research and report to Council.
Action 3.3.2 Policy and Zoning Review	**High**	Review and adjust existing zoning bylaws, Development Permit Areas and their corresponding design guidelines to prioritize and facilitate retention and adaptation of the existing building stock, and to reflect Canadian Standards and Guidelines for Heritage Conservation. Review and revise the Historic Downtown Design Guidelines. Commission mural study and policy for Historic Downtown.	Ongoing for general zoning reviews and updates. Planning staff to retain heritage professionals to advise on Historic Downtown. **8-16 hours** City staff to review guidelines. Additional **$3-$5K to consultant** Additional **$5-$8K** for mural study & policy to consultant

Strategies	Priority	Summary	Estimated cost or hours
Action 3.3.3a Heritage Revitalization Agreement	**Very High**	This powerful incentive tool (Local Government Act part 15, division 5, section 610) allows local governments to offer planning incentives to encourage owners of heritage buildings to retain, stabilize, adapt and protect their heritage buildings through density bonuses, and the relaxation of use, density, lot size, parking, setback and other regulations. Fernie Planning staff have already negotiated, drawn-up and received Council approval for Fernie's first HRA at the Lutheran Church (691 4th Avenue) in December 2018.	**4-6 hours** City staff (IT) update on website
Action 3.3.3b Heritage Revitalization Tax Exemption Program	**High**	Implement a fee-reduced or fee-waived permit program to encourage the conversion of under-utilized spaces in downtown. Work with the Fernie Chamber of Commerce, industry and business partners to develop this program. Work with Building Officials and downtown building owners to identify common issues and ideas for additional incentives and solutions.	**200 hours** City staff develop program, incentives and permits. **40 hours/year** City staff administer applications **4-6 hours** City staff (IT) update on website
Action 3.3.4 Downtown Resilience Program	**High**	Implement a fee-reduced or fee-waived permit program to encourage the conversion of under-utilized spaces in downtown. Work with the Fernie Chamber of Commerce, industry and business partners to develop this program. Work with Building Officials and downtown building owners to identify common issues and ideas for additional incentives and solutions.	**200 hours** City staff develop program, incentives and permits. **40 hours/year** City staff administer applications **4-6 hours** City staff (IT) update on website

Part 4 Moving Forward

A number of ideas have come forward as suggestions for future action to be developed as the Strategy is implemented. They are listed below for consideration.

A Heritage Trust for Fernie?

A possible topic for future consideration is the notion of a heritage trust, or an endowment fund, for purchasing or temporarily holding heritage properties at risk in Fernie. This trust could not only purchase properties but also accept the donation of properties in trust.

Setting up such a trust is a complex process involving the raising of capital funds, forming an organizational structure, governance, legalities etc.

Running a heritage trust is an additional process to plan for with caution as the capacity to manage funds, maintain the properties and sustain the organization are as important as the initial set-up and intent.

Preliminary research into successful models for heritage trusts around the world resulted in the following case study from Amsterdam which could be a source of inspiration for Fernie, not only as a business model but as a model of effective collaboration between the community, the business sector and government:

Stadsherstel Amsterdam (which translates to Urban Regeneration Amsterdam) preserves heritage churches, fortresses, industrial buildings and even residential houses of outstanding significance, through acquisition, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse. The new uses the organization introduces are predominantly for offices, rental housing (about 90 units in 2019), and community venues (concerts, meetings, receptions, lectures, and weddings). By retaining ownership of the buildings, Stadsherstel Amsterdam guarantees a standard of good maintenance. All buildings that are owned by Stadsherstel Amsterdam are marked with a Stadsherstel logo on the facade.

Established in 1956, Stadsherstel Amsterdam has since purchased close to 600 at-risk heritage houses and buildings in Amsterdam and its surroundings. It has become the largest preservation company in the Netherlands.

The organization's goals are:

- the preservation of old(er) buildings through adaptive reuse; and
- the preservation of the city's character.

This approach combines the value of the preservation of neighbourhood and streetscape character with the simultaneous generation of much needed housing, epescially rental housing and other spaces needs that make for a sustainable community.

Stadsherstel Amsterdam is a private profit-making company that 'serves the common good' through public-private partnerships. It is supervised by a Board of Directors, and is supported by an Advisory Board. Stadsherstel Amsterdam also works with volunteers and societies, and offers students learning opportunities. The department in charge of the maintenance of the buildings generally outsources the work to companies with specific conservation skills to maintain high standards of construction and maintenance.

The shareholders mentioned on the organization's website are:

- Some of the Netherlands' largest banks;
- Some of the Netherlands' largest insurance companies;
- The City of Amsterdam;
- Local non-for-profit organizations;
- Heritage and conservation groups.

Shareholders receive a small share in profits, or dividends, fixed at 5% (2009). It appears that although the shareholders do make money, their investment in the company is primarily to be associated with the cause which may support their mandates, publicity and branding. The majority of the company's profit is used for the maintenance of properties and the purchase of 'new' threatened buildings. Additional income to cover the costs of new projects and maintenance derives from crowdfunding and the 'Friends of Stadsherstel Amsterdam', who organize activities, newsletters, a bi-annual magazine, lectures and tours that support the organization. The organization's annual revenue restoration related work is about 10 million EUR (2019).

Imperative to the success of Stadsherstel was - and is - the cooperation between citizens, the business world and government, both local and national.

Citizens - Stadsherstel was and is often the go-to authority and solution for advocacy groups. Concerned citizens muster support for the saving of a building and start the battle. Frequently they contact Stadsherstel for advice or

to investigate the possibilities of an economically sound future and a possible purchase of the building by the company.

Business world - Netherland's large banks and insurance companies have remained shareholders through the years. They are satisfied with a smaller return on their money, because of the cultural and social benefits of Stadsherstel's work. In other words, social involvement is the main motive for shareholders to invest in the company.

Government - local: although conflicts with some municipal departments were - and are - fought out, others supported Stadsherstel from the start. But since its partnership with Stadsherstel in 1968, the City of Amsterdam on the whole has been an ally.

National: the national government supported Stadsherstel in the early years by granting certain tax benefits that are still valid.

English website: https://www.stadsherstel.nl/36/diversen/english/

English Brochure: https://www.stadsherstel.nl/ul/cms/fck-uploaded/StadsherstelEngels2011.pdf
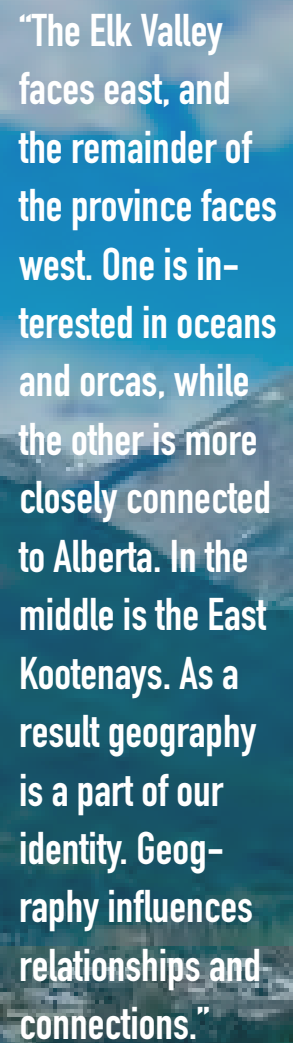
Extension of Heritage Strategy into RDEK Electoral Area A

Many of the Places That Matter identified by Fernie citizens actually reside outside of the corporate boundaries of the City of Fernie. Therefore, while many of these recommendations will require enactment by the City of Fernie, similar work will need to be undertaken in the Electoral Area A to ensure that all places of importance to the broad Fernie community are protected.

It is recommended that a scaled-down version of the Heritage Strategy exercise be done in the portion of Area A that encompasses the historical town sites of Morrisey, Hosmer and Coal Creek, the Morrisey Internment Camp, Mount Hosmer and the Ghostrider Legend, the Fernie Alpine Resort, and the Island Lake Lodge.

"The Elk Valley faces east, and the remainder of the province faces west. One is interested in oceans and orcas, while the other is more closely connected to Alberta. In the middle is the East Kootenays. As a result geography is a part of our identity. Geography influences relationships and connections."
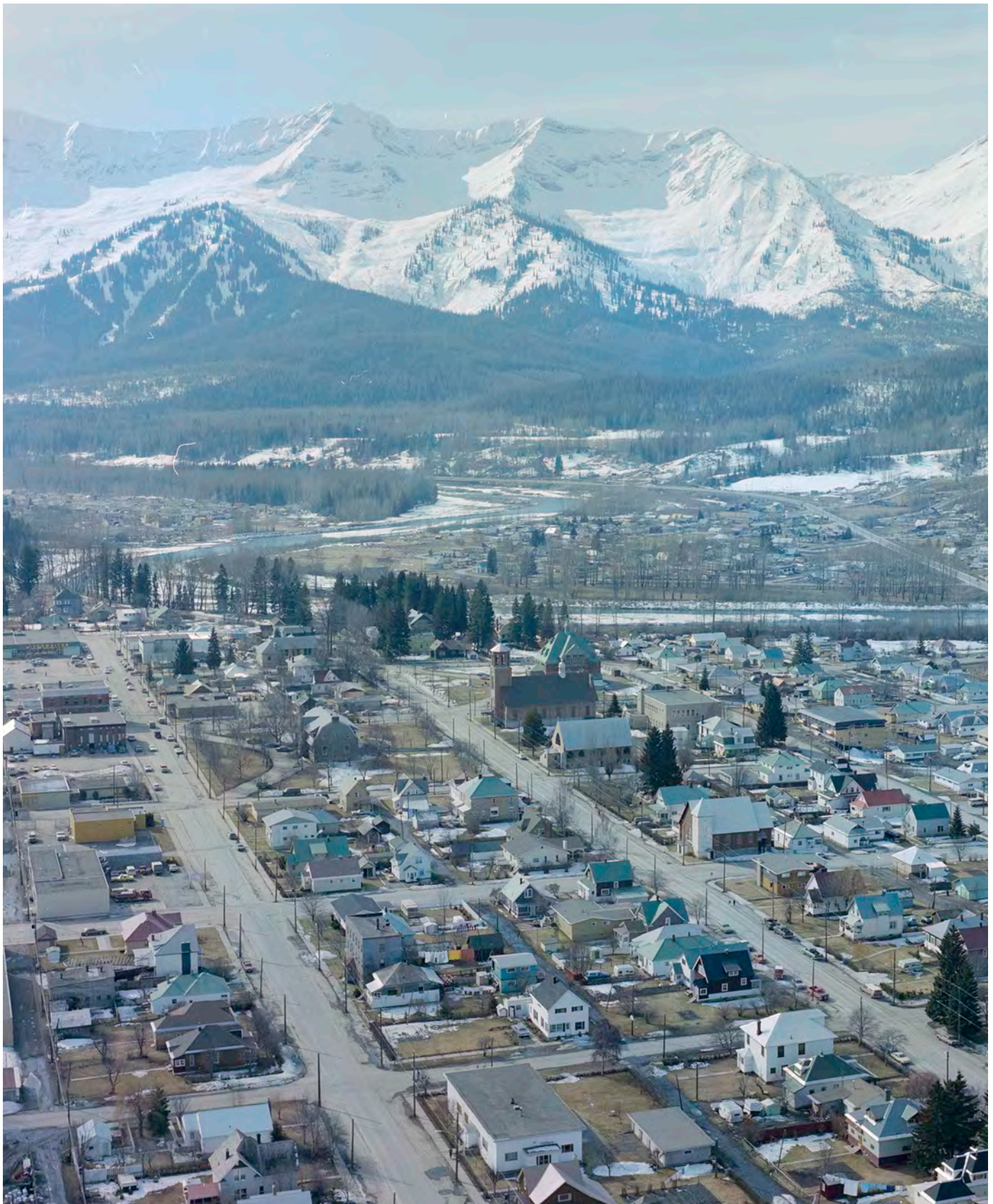
Aerial view of Fernie, 1981 Beautiful BC Magazine BC Archives i-08514

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Fernie Heritage Register Inclusion Worksheet

Resource name/s _____

Address (if applicable) _____

Resource type _____ *Residential, Commercial, Institutional, Recreational, Industrial, Landscape, Natural, Infrastructure, Even*
Organization, Story, Lost resource, or other (please elaborate)

Resource facts (construction or establishment date, story, traditions, designers, builders, groups involved, important anniversaries, etc.)
Attach background research supplied by nominator

Nominator/s _____

Alignment with Fernie themes and values _____ /16

1. Natural Environment ☐   2. Mining Coal, Working the Land ☐   3. Routes and Connections ☐

4. Community ☐   5. Becoming a Fernie-ite ☐   6. Government and Social Institutions ☐

7. Recreation ☐   8. Adaptation, Reinvention, Resourcefulness ☐   9. Built Form, Public Realm ☐   10. Arts & Culture ☐   11. Ktunaxa Values ☐

12. Context ☐   13. Uniqueness to Fernie ☐   14. Aesthetic value ☐   15. Historical Value ☐   16. Risk ☐

Choose one: **Include on Heritage Register**   **Leave on Heritage Inventory**   **Delay decision until more information can be provided**

Fernie Theme	Direct relationship to theme	Notes	Applicable
Natural Environment Fernie's natural environment (including views of and access to) is valued for providing sustenance and spiritual connections for the Ktunaxa People, for sustaining and shaping the city of Fernie, and as a atmosphere setting backdrop and source of recreational activity and relaxation. Is the heritage resource part of the natural environment, does it exist because of the natural environment, does it help access, enhance or celebrate the natural environment, is it located in an intentional relation to the natural environment? etc.	How does the heritage resource relate to or illustrate this theme? Excellent illustration/relation Good illustration/relation Its related through..... Not applicable to this theme	Sample statement: The heritage resource is a good illustration of the natural environment in Fernie for its siting on the river with views of the Three Sisters	yes/no
Mining Coal, Working The Land Fernie's economy was founded on coal mining, processing and shipping of coal, and on the forest industry. Other valued local industries are sawmills, the brewery, the brick works, dairy and livestock farms, market gardens, tourism and recreation development. Is the heritage resource associated with any of these industries? For example - a typical miner's cottage, a resource made of Fernie bricks, a farm house, a resource associated with one of these industries' organizations or community leaders? Located on the former grounds of a known important industry?	How does the heritage resource relate to or illustrate this theme? Excellent illustration/relation Good illustration/relation Its related through..... Not applicable to this theme		yes/no
Routes and Connections Fernie's transportation heritage includes the Elk River as a natural corridor, the travel patterns, seasonal migrations and trails of the Ktunaxa, early settler routes, three significant railways, the Crowsnest Highway, the river bridges and the "airport." Does the heritage resource help to mark or commemorate one of these? Is it associated with a local transportation network or tradition? Is it associated with a transportation organization?	How does the heritage resource relate to or illustrate this theme? Excellent illustration/relation Good illustration/relation Its related through..... Not applicable to this theme		yes/no

Fernie Theme	Direct relationship to theme	Notes	Applicable
Community Fernie's community and community groups have historically shaped its neighbourhoods through customs, lifestyle and class distinctions. Is the heritage resource associated with a community group or effort? A distinct residential neighbourhood or streetscape? Does it represent community diversity, a certain ethnic or political group that is key to the Fernie community? Is it a place of community gathering? Is it associated with community engagement/involvement/volunteering/service? small town atmosphere? community spirit/friendliness/close-knit/ supportive/connected/inclusive?	How does the heritage resource relate to or illustrate this theme? Excellent illustration/relation Good illustration/relation Its related through….. Not applicable to this theme	sample statement: The heritage resource is important for its association with a key group in Fernie's past and current community Or The heritage resource represents a typical and practical working-class dwelling from an important period in Fernie's development, the late 1960s and early 1970s.	yes/no
Becoming a Fernie-Ite Whether born here, or a new arrival, a Coal Creeker, Creekite, Northender, Fernie-ite or something else, residents of Fernie are characterized by their strong loyalty and connection to this place, and their appreciation of Fernie and its character. An erasure of early class divisions has caused people to see themselves as Fernie-ites first, while authentic experiences, past and present, have collectively contributed to a shared understanding and appreciation for this place. Is the heritage resource associated with a Fernie-ite or someone who contributed to the unique identify of Fernie?	How does the heritage resource relate to or illustrate this theme? Excellent illustration/relation Good illustration/relation Its related through….. Not applicable to this theme		yes/no
Government and Social Institutions Fernie's ongoing government-to-government relationship with the Ktunaxa First Nation, as well as government and social institutions such as the courthouse, cemetery, schools and school districts, churches, the hospital and military institutions such as the legion, illustrate the importance of the city in the life of the East Kootenay region. Is the heritage resource associated with any of these organizations? Does it have a historic connection to any of them?	How does the heritage resource relate to or illustrate this theme? Excellent illustration/relation Good illustration/relation Its related through….. Not applicable to this theme		yes/no

Fernie Theme	Direct relationship to theme	Notes	Applicable
Recreation Fernie's residents live a friendly, small-town community life, while at the same time, citizens have historically and currently enjoyed an active and sporting lifestyle in the beautiful landscape in and around the city. The city's parks, trails and campground, alpine sports, wilderness hiking trails, camping, fishing, the Rod and Gun club and the wealth of nearby provincial parks and protected areas are markers of the importance of many outdoor sports in the community, while the arena, curling club, archery at the Elks Club and other amenities provide venues for indoor activities. Does the heritage resource exist for recreation purposes? does it help access, enhance, support or celebrate recreation, is it located in an intentional relation to recreational activities? Is it associated with a recreational organization or leader?	How does the heritage resource relate to or illustrate this theme? Excellent illustration/relation Good illustration/relation Its related through...... Not applicable to this theme		yes/no
Adaptation, Reinvention, Resourcefulness The perseverance and adaptability of Fernie-ites is readily and consistently visible in such aspects of the town as the prevalence of vernacular, practical architectural design and materials, both in residential and commercial buildings, the layers of alterations and additions to houses and businesses, the use and re-use of mostly locally sourced materials, and even rituals and events such as mine rescue competitions between the local valley mines.	How does the heritage resource relate to or illustrate this theme? Excellent illustration/relation Good illustration/relation Its related through...... Not applicable to this theme	Sample statement: The heritage resource represents a typical and practical working-class dwelling from an important period in Fernie's development, the late 1960s and early 1970s.	yes/no

Fernie Theme	Direct relationship to theme	Notes	Applicable
Built Form and Public Realm Fernie's heritage buildings and streetscapes are valued, including historic downtown core, Fernie's distinct residential neighbourhoods and their setting within the mountain backdrop. Also valued are Fernie's walkability; small scale/proximity of services and activities; downtown vibrancy and locally-owned businesses; Fernie's banners, historic & informational plaques and signage. Is the heritage resource part of or continuing to Fernie's built form or public realm? This includes stand out examples as well as the collective groupings forming the vernacular, working class character of streetscapes and neighbourhoods.	How does the heritage resource relate to or illustrate this theme? Excellent illustration/relation Good illustration/relation Its related through..... Not applicable to this theme		yes/no
Arts and Culture Fernie is a centre for the arts through institutions such as the Arts Station, its public art installations and the work of local artists seen in the many galleries throughout the city. Local events and rituals such as Griz Days, Friendship Days and the Festival of Light help to illustrate the diversity of Fernie's recreational context, while local stories such as the Three Sisters, Griz and Ghostrider add a sense of mystery to the community.	How does the heritage resource relate to or illustrate this theme? Excellent illustration/relation Good illustration/relation Its related through..... Not applicable to this theme		yes/no
Ktunaxa Values The Elk valley and the Fernie area include many places associated with Ktunaxa habitation, culture (gathering places, ceremony places, spirit places, teaching places, medicine collection sites, burial sites, rock art sites, archaeological sites) trails, transportation routes, subsistence (food harvesting sites, including hunting, berry picking, and food plant collecting), and environmental features (fish spawning areas, habitat for black and grizzly bear, moose, elk, mule deer, and white tailed deer). Is the heritage resource of value to the Ktunaxa people?	How does the heritage resource relate to or illustrate this theme? Excellent illustration/relation Good illustration/relation Its related through..... Not applicable to this theme		yes/no

Fernie Theme	Direct relationship to theme	Notes	Applicable
Context Is the heritage resource an icon or landmark in Fernie? Does the heritage resource contribute to Fernie's character as a whole, to its immediate surroundings or to the character of its neighbourhood? Is it important as part of a collective grouping of similar resources, including vernacular resources? Does it give context to a bigger Fernie story or value? Is it a rare or last reminder of a lost story? Please look at the resource's Neighbourhood Context Statement (if applicable) for more information.	The heritage resource is a Landmark/ iconic/unique/one of last surviving It is important as part of a grouping It has little/some contextual significance No contextual significance/ not applicable to this theme		yes/no
Uniqueness to Fernie Is the heritage resource unique to Fernie? Does it convey or illustrate unique Fernie stories, materials, traditions, customs?	It is unique to Fernie It is unique to the Elk Valley It is unique to towns like Fernie It is common in other places and thus not applicable to this theme		yes/no
Aesthetic value Does the resource have heritage value for its appearance, design or materials?	It is of outstanding design or materials/ Unique design or materials to Fernie/ Outstanding natural beauty or phenomenon It has natural beauty or is of good design or common materials The design is of no special significance or quality so it is not applicable to this theme		yes/no
Historical value How well does the resource represent broad patterns or significant moments of local history, such as development and settlement patterns, transportation routes, or social, political, or economic trends?	It is an excellent representation of a historical pattern in Fernie It is a good/ contributing example It is a typical or common example It has no association with a historical pattern and is not applicable to this theme		yes/no

Appendix C: Heritage Register Nomination Form

Fernie Heritage Register Nomination Form

Heritage resource name/_____

Address (if applicable)_____

Resource type (choose from below) _____
Residential, Commercial, Institutional, Recreational, Industrial, Landscape, Natural, Infrastructure, Event, Organization, Story, Lost resource, or other (please elaborate)

Resource facts _construction or establishment date, story, traditions, designers, builders, groups involved, important anniversaries, etc._

_____

_____

_____

_____

Resource research _Please attach any relevant background research, photos and documentation. Please contact the Fernie Museum at info@ferniemuseum.com or 250.423.7016 to assist you in compiling available research for your nomination._

Resource heritage value Why should this be considered a heritage resource in Fernie?
Choose any relationship the resource has with as many of the below Fernie Historical Themes, as detailed in the Fernie Heritage Strategy - Chapter 1.

Natural Environment ☐   Mining Coal, Working the Land ☐   Routes & Connections ☐   Community ☐
Becoming a Fernie-ite ☐   Government and Social Institutions ☐   Recreation ☐   Arts & Culture ☐
Adaptation, Reinvention, Resourcefulness ☐   Built Form, Public Realm ☐   Ktunaxa Values ☐
Context ☐   Uniqueness to Fernie ☐   Aesthetic value ☐   Historical Value ☐   It's at risk ☐

Also, please explain the resource's community heritage significance in your own words below:

_____

_____

_____

Nominator/s contact info _____
(full names, emails and phone numbers)

Appendix D: Fernie Property Research Checklist

Confirm the property address and neighbourhood

Street names table - historic and current - Fernie Museum (FM)

Neighbourhood context statements - Fernie Heritage Strategy (FHS)

Fernie historic maps collection - FHS

Fire Insurance Maps - 1901, 1922 and 1956 - FHS

Early historic resources (1898-1914)

1914 Southeast Kootenay Directory lists Fernie Streets and Names

https://bccd.vpl.ca/index.php/browse/title/1914/Southeast_Kootenay_Directory

Fernie Free Press booklets - 1902, 1903, 1905, 1909 - FHS

Fernie District Voter's List 1910 - FHS

Additional resources

Places that Matter in Fernie spreadsheet - FHS & FM

FCHI spread sheet - to be created by FM

Fernie Museum archival photos - FM

Fernie censuses 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921 - FM

Historic aerial photographs - FHS

Columbia Basin Institute archival photos and documents: https://basininstitute.org/projects/imagebank.html

BC Archives photos: https://search-bcarchives.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/archives-visual-records-collection

Newspapers

Fernie Free Press newspaper - digitization in process by FM

Online searchable historic newspapers https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/bcnewspapers:

The District Ledger newspaper 1908-1919

The Ledge 1904-1905

The Fernie Ledger newspaper 1905-1908

Appendix E: Heritage Inventory 2019

Heritage Resource Name	Historic Name/AKA	Street	Street	Construc	Resource Type
Walter's Hair Studio		591	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Commercial
2nd Avenue/Main Street	Victoria Avenue		2nd Avenue		Streetscape
3300 Club		29	Ridgemont Ave	1969	Organization
41 Meat Market	41 Market, Quality Bakery,	641	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial/Reside
901 Fernie		901	2nd Avenue	1909	Residential/Institutic
A. B. Trites Mansion	Leroux Mansion	341	4th Avenue	1912	Residential
Aiello Building	Minifie's Men's Wear	572	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
Bank of Hamilton Building	Coles Building/Tea & Coffe	492	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial/Reside
Barton Building	The Guide's Hut	671	2nd Avenue	1900	Commercial
Beanpod Chocolate and It:	Falk insurance-Gone Holly	691	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Commercial
Big Bag Bagels	P. Burns & Co.	502	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
Bike Base	Stork Block/Bike Base	442	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
building type - catalogue house					Residential
building type - miner's cottage					Residential
Bunches		522	2nd Avenue		
Canada Post	Fernie City Hall and City Ji	491	3rd Avenue	1909-10	(Lost) Institutional
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (C.I.B.C.)		501	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
Carosella	Huckleberry Plaza	601	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Commercial
Catholic Church Nunnery	Catholic Church Priest House/Hol	521	4 Ave		(lost) Residential/Ins
Catholic Rectory		502	5th Avenue		
Central Public School	Fernie Secondary School	900	2nd Avenue	1909	Institutional
Chautauqua	Dominion Chautauqua			1917	Event
Christ Church Rectory	ANGLICAN CHURCH OF	561	4th Avenue	1909	Residential
Christ of Church ANGLIC/	Curch of England	591	4th Avenue	1910	Institutional
City Park - Annex Park		12	Avenue		Landscape
City Park - Dogwood Park		200	4th Avenue		Landscape
City Park - James White Park			Mt Minton St		Landscape
City Park - Prentice Park		1500	5th Avenue		Landscape
City Park - Ridgemont Park		200	Ridgemont Ln		Landscape
City Park - Rotary Park			6th A Avenue		Landscape
City Park - Sparling East Park		402	2nd Avenue		Landscape
City Park - Thomson Park	Thompsen Park	990	McDonald Avenue		Landscape
Coal Creek Pit Ponies Bar	Montane Barn		Coal Creek Road		Industrial
Coal Creek Townsite	Coal Creek		East Kootenay A		Landscape
Cokato Area					Landscape
Cokato Dairy	Old red barn				Industrial
Dumpster Art Project				2013	Event
Duthie House	Canadian Spruce B&B	661	4th Avenue	1909	Residential
Elk River					Natural

Elk River Masonic Lodge N	Methodist Church/Mason's	392	4th Avenue	1909	Institutional
Elk Valley Clinic	Stork Opera House site	302	2nd Avenue	1904	
Elks Hall	How Foon Laundry Buildin	491	1st Avenue	1908	Commercial
Eye of the Needle Studio	Salvation Army Building	260	5th Street	n.d.	Commercial/Instituti
Fernie Banner Project	The Fernie Arts Station	601	1st Avenue	1999	Event
Fernie City Hall	Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co	501	3rd Avenue	1905	Institutional
Fernie Elks Lodge No. 81	Elks Hall				Organization
Fernie Free Press Building	The Free Press	342	2nd Avenue	1908	Commercial
Fernie Golf Course		201	Fairway Drive	1918	Landscape
Fernie Hotel and Pub	Roma Hotel/The Fernie Ho	691	1st Avenue	1909	Commercial
Fernie Livery	The Livery Restaurant/Mor	701	2nd Avenue	1908	Commercial/Reside
Fernie Meat Market	Brown's	290	5th Street	n.d.	Commercial
Fernie Memorial Arena		1092	BC-3	1960	Recreational
Fernie Museum	Home Bank of Canada/BC	491	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
Fernie Oil Derrick		141	Commerce Rd		Infrastructure
Fernie Public Library	Post Office & Customs Hou	492	3rd Avenue	1910	Institutional
Fernie Rotary Club		743	Crowsnest Highway 3	1921	Organization
Fernie Senior Centre	Senior Citizens Drop-In Ce	562	3rd Avenue		Institutional
Fernie Senior Citizen's Dro	Fire Hall Site	552	3rd Avenue	1901	Institutional
Fernie's Bars - historic & non					Commercial
Former bridges and surviving footings					(Lost) infrastructure
Former Chinese market gardens		Lecher Property - Area A			(Lost) landscape
Former Fernie crematorium					(Lost) Institutional
Former Gymkhana Ground	Fernie RV Resort	Fernie RV Park			(lost) Recreational
Former highway route					(Lost) infrastructure
Former internment site					(Lost) Landscape
Former landing strip site (Airport)					(Lost) infrastructure
Former School - High School		now 901 Fernie			Institutional
Former School - Max Turyl	Max Turyk Community Cen	now Max Turyk Community Centre			Institutional
Former School - Ridgemont		now Silver Ridge Subdivision			Institutional
Former site of Elk Lumber Co.					(Lost) Industrial
Fort Steele-Fernie Brewery	Fernie Brewing Company	26	Manitou Rd	1898	(Lost) Industrial
Freshies Coffee and Crepe	Valley Family Footwear-Fe	632	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Commercial
Freyja Kootenay Boutique	King Edward Hotel	602	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Commercial
Ghostrider Crossing					Story
Ghostrider Maiden					Story
Ghostrider Trading Co. Ltd	Fernie General Store	661	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Commercial
Giv'er Shirtworks	Saan-Hempire-Odyssey	672	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Commercial
Grand Central Hotel	Central Hotel	301	2nd Avenue	1908	Commercial
Grid Pattern of Historic City					Streetscape

Griz Days			Downtown	1977	Event
Grow Children's Boutique	Liphardt Block/Sears Cana	482	2nd Avenue	1908	Commercial
Henderson Block	Cotton Tree Quilt Shop, W	581	2nd Avenue	1908	Commercial
Hislop Building	Imperial Bank Building	401	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
Holy Family Church		521	4th Avenue	1911-1912	Institutional
Hosmer Mine ruins					Landscape
Human Resources Canada	Mrs. E. Todd's Millinery	341	2nd Avenue		
IGS Value Drug Mart	Trites-Wood Company Lim	41-461	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
Imperial Hotel		571	1st Avenue	1908	Commercial
Ingram Block	Board Stiff Touring/ Savage	542	2nd Avenue	1908	Commercial
Island Lake			East Kootenay A		Natural
Island Lake Lodge			Cedar Ave	1988	Commerical
J.D. Quail Building		462	2nd Avenue	1909	Commerical
Job Seekers-Dollar Store-No Just Pizza		362	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
Johnson–Falconer Block	J.F. Block; Polar Peek Boo	592	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
Kefoury Bros.building	B.J. Building/ Frozen Ocea	571	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
Knox United Church,The U	Presbyterian Church	201	2nd Avenue	1909	Institutional
Knox United Rectory		221	2nd Avenue	1908	Residential
Leroux Clinic		521	2nd Avenue	n.d	Commercial
McEwing's Bakery	The Good Earth	322	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Commercial
Morrissey Mine Ruins	Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company (CNP Coal)			1901	Landscape
Mount Fernie Provincial Park				1959	Landscape
Mountain High Travel & Tours		652	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Commercial
Mt. Fernie Moccasin Bike Trail					Landscape
Nevados	Isis Theater/Ginger Beef R	531	2nd Avenue	1910	Commercial
Northern Hotel	The Northern Bar & Stage	561	2nd Avenue	1908	Commercial
Nufloors - Fernie	P. Carosella Building/Unite	391	1st Avenue	1908	Commercial
O.N. Ross House	A. Joyce House, Octagon	111	2nd Avenue	1905	Residential
Original Fernie townsite/Fe	Old Fernie//MFM railway ya	250	Pine Avenue		(Lost) Streetscape/I
Original Ski Hill	Fernie Alpine Resort				Landscape
Parkeview House		175	1st Street	1901	Residential
Quail Building	Crow's Nest Trading Co/BI	421	2nd Avenue	1908	Commercial
Ridgemont Neighbourhood					Streetscape
Rocky Mountain Optometry		642	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
Rotary Park Outdoor Pool					(lost) Recreational
Royal Canadian Legion Br	Pollock Wine Co	551	1st Avenue	1909	Commercial
Save On Foods,Overwaite	Queen's Hotel-Fernie Gara	792	2nd Avenue	1905	Commercial
Service BC Centre Fernie	Fernie Provincial Courthou	401	4th Avenue	1909-191	Institutional
Ski Base Building	Alex Beck Block/Ski Base	432	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
Ski Hill	Fernie Alpine Resort	5339	Fernie Ski Hill Road	1962	Landscape

Sparling East house		402	4th Avenue	1910	Residential
Sparling East Medical Clin	Hotel Fernie site	402	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
St. Margaret's Cemetery		15	St. Margaret's Road	Late 1800	Landscape
Stephanie's Glass & Art Studio		532	2nd Avenue	1908	Commercial
TD Canada Trust Branch a	Victoria Hotel Site	391	2nd Avenue	1901	Commercial
The 54th Battalion				1915	Organization
The Arts Station	CP Railway Station/Fernie	601	1st Avenue	1909	Commercial / Institu
The Brickhouse Bar and G	Imperial Bank of Canada/S	401	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
The District Ledger Newspaper				1905 (in F	Organization
The Fernie Fix	Fernie Dairy	361	1st Avenue	n.d	Residential/Industria
The Ghostrider Legend	Fairy Creek Falls		102 Commerce Rd		Landscape
The Griz Legend	Silver Spring Lake		East Kootenay B		Story
The Old Elevator	Dobson & Willingham Build	291	1st Avenue	1976	Commercial
The Royal Hotel		501	1st Avenue	1909	Commercial
The Salvation Army Thrift Store		731	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Commercial
The Three Sisters Legend	Three Sisters Mt		East Kootenay C		Story
Three Sisters Day Spa	J.J. Harrington Building/Fe	472	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Commercial
Trail system (including Dyke Trail, Coal Creek Trail, Coal Discovery Trail, Heritage Trail, Heiko's					Landscape
Trans Canada Trail	The Great Trail				Landscape
Trinity Lutheran Church	Olivet Baptist Church	691	4th Avenue	1910	Institutional
Vacant IC&I	The Bargain Shop	781	2nd Avenue	n.d	Commercial
View of Lizard Range, Hosmer and Three Sisters mountains			East Kootenay B		Landscape
Vincent Minifie Accounting	Mrs. E. Todd's Millinery	371	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
Vogue Theatre	Miner's Union Hall/Grand T	321	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
W.R. Ross House	Eschwig House	302	4th Avenue	1901	Residential
Waldorf Building	Morgan Manor	562	2nd Avenue	1908	Commercial
Wam Bam Dirt Jump Jam				2009	Event
Wapiti Music Festival			Annex Park		Event
Wednesday/Sunday Socia	Station Square		6th Street	2010	Event
Westland Insurance Buildir	E.K. Realty Ltd. Insurance	512	2nd Avenue	1908	Commercial
Wood House		13	Park Crescent	1906	Residential
WWI Internment Plaque & Site		1349	5th Avenue	2014	Landscape
		162	4A Avenue	1901	Residential
		172	4A Avenue	n.d.	Residential
		191	1st Avenue	1892	Residential
		201	1st Avenue	1901	Residential
		252	4A Avenue	1908	Residential
		362	4th Avenue	1909	Residential
		15	Park Crescent	1909	Residential
		121	1st Avenue	1910	Residential

		151	1st Avenue	1902	Residential
		112	4A Avenue	n.d.	Residential
		521	5th Avenue	1909	Residential
		321	1st Avenue	1910	Residential
		331	1st Avenue	1910	Residential
		202A	4A Avenue	1909	Residential
		261	1st Avenue	1908	Residential
		342	4th Avenue	1909	Residential
		602	5th Avenue	1909	Residential
		202	4A Avenue	1908	Residential
		592	5th Avenue	1912	Residential
		321	4th Avenue	1909-191	Residential
		192	4A Avenue	1900	Residential
		152	4A Avenue	1907	Residential
		442	4th Avenue	1908	Residential
		181	1st Avenue	1902	Residential
		361	4th Avenue	1901	Residential
	Beaver Lodge Bed & Breal	562	5th Avenue	1904	Residential
		101	2nd Avenue	1905	Residential
		106	1st Street	n.d.	Residential
	Octagon House	111	1st Avenue	1905	Residential
		112	2nd Avenue	1898	Residential
		122	2nd Avenue	1900	Residential
		152	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Residential
		172	2nd Avenue	1895	Residential
		202A	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Residential
		222	2nd Avenue	1910	Residential
		232	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Residential
		251	2nd Avenue	1909	Residential
		345	4A Avenue	n.d.	Residential
		392	2nd Avenue	1909	Commercial
		602A	4th Avenue	n.d.	Residential
		702	2nd Avenue	1910	Commercial
		791	1st Avenue	1909	Commercial
	Barkside Pets	791	2nd Avenue	n.d.	Commercial
		501	4th Avenue	1920	Organization

Appendix F: Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force Terms of Reference

Mandate

The Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force's mandate is to lead, guide and oversee the creation of the Fernie's Heritage Strategy and to ensure a balance of professional, municipal and community input and advice in the process of the development of the Plan.

The Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force is an ad-hoc community-based task force which receives administrative support from Heritage Fernie, a program arm of the Fernie & District Historical Society.

Time Frame

The Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force will carry out this work for the duration of the Heritage Strategy planning and development process which is estimated to commence in summer 2017 and last for a maximum of 30 months.

Membership

Members' term of appointment will be for the entire duration of the Heritage Strategy development process. Membership criteria for the Task Force are as follows:

- Individuals who are representative of the community.
- Individuals who have an interest in Fernie's heritage.
- Individuals who have an interest in or commitment to heritage conservation.
- Individuals who have strong community engagement, communication and organizational skills.

The Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force will be comprised of up to 12 members:

- One (1) member from Heritage Fernie/Fernie & District Historical Society.
- One (1) member from the Fernie Cemetery Restoration Society.
- One (1) member from Tourism Fernie.
- One (1) member from Fernie Chamber of Commerce.
- Seven (7) public-at-large members from within the greater Fernie area with broad interests in community, natural and/or built heritage.
- One (1) member from City of Fernie Municipal Council,
- One (1) staff member from the City of Fernie Planning Department.

Members may be added to the Task Force at any time with the approval of the Task Force members. Changes to the membership of the Task Force will reported to the Fernie & District Historical Society (Board of Directors) and the City of Fernie (CAO).

Responsibilities

Chair's Responsibility:

- The Committee Chair is the Executive Director of Heritage Fernie.
- Shall commit to serving for the duration of the Heritage Strategy development process.
- Must attend all meetings.
- Is the liaison with City staff, Council and project consultant.
- Sets the agenda for each meeting together with the project consultant.

Members' Responsibilities:

Individual Task Force members have the responsibility to:

- Commit to serving for the duration of the Heritage Strategy development process.
- Attend key meetings and community open houses. Participation in community engagement sessions is encouraged.
- In all cases, Task Force members will advise the Chair if they are unable to attend at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance, to ensure that a quorum will be met.
- Understand the mandate, tasks and desired outcomes of the Task Force.
- Understand and represent the interests of the Task Force.
- Take a genuine interest in the Fernie Heritage Strategy's outcomes and overall success.
- Act on opportunities to communicate positively about the Task Force.
- Check that the Task Force's activity is aligned with the Fernie Heritage Strategy Work Plan and Task Force Terms of Reference.
- Actively participate in meetings through attendance, discussion and review of minutes, Plan drafts and other Task Force documents. If a member cannot attend a meeting, it is expected that s/he provide her/hisinput to the project team using an alternative method (e.g. via email or phone call).
- Support open discussion and debate and encourage fellow Task Force members to voice their insights.
- Disclose a conflict of interest, so that he/she may be asked to abstain from any process deemed necessary by the Task Force to make a decision or recommendation.

- Recognize that they may be asked to leave for lack of attendance, inappropriate conduct or failing to perform their function as Task Force members.

Tasks

The Task Force's key tasks are:

- To plan and lead an introductory tour of Fernie to the project consultant at start-up.

- To review the Heritage Strategy drafts and provide feedback to the consultant.

- To conduct community consultation and engagement on the Fernie Heritage Strategy content and drafts.

- To provide communication and raise awareness about the Fernie Heritage Strategy within the greater Fernie community. Much of this can be done through Heritage Fernie's website, blog on social media and through local newspaper articles.

- To provide quorum-based decisions about the Heritage Strategy development process if and when identified as necessary by the Task Force, the Municipality, the consultant or the community.

- To update Fernie City Council at the end of each phase of the project and to present the final Fernie Heritage Strategy to Fernie City Council upon completion.

Meetings

The Task Force will meet a minimum of five (5) times on the days and times specified in a schedule. Meetings will range from 1.5 hrs to 5 hrs for longer planning meetings. In addition to meetings, during the Fernie Heritage Strategy process members will be asked to review and provide feedback by email on elements of the Strategy during its development.

Meeting Procedures

- The Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force meetings will mainly be facilitated by the consultant team and Chair

- Meetings will be structured to encourage free and open discussion of relevant issues.

- The Task Force will work toward agreement in decision making and consensus which means agreement to move forward. If consensus cannot be reached, voting may occur.

- Quorum is defined as ½ of the committee + 1.

Code of Conduct

- To ensure a safe environment for dialogue, members should convey the ideas and experiences of the meeting to others outside the group only in a very general manner and without attributing specific ideas or statements to any identifiable individual.

- If Task Force members hold positions or have a special interest in a certain topic, organization, event or program that may present a Conflict of Interest with a discussion or decision of the Task Force. In those circumstances that member must voluntarily exit from the decision-making process or may be asked by the Chair representative to remove themselves from the meeting or the entire process.

Privacy

The meetings of the Task Force are open to the public. Members will be made aware that their names will be made public and a list of membership may be provided when requested.

Financial

- Task Force members have no direct financial responsibilities or ability to authorize payments or other expenditures on behalf of Heritage Fernie which administers grant funding received for the development of the Fernie Heritage Strategy.

- Under certain circumstances Task Force members may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses, but only when prior approval by Heritage Fernie staff. Recurring Task Force expenses such as meeting rooms, document printing and copying, postage and meeting refreshments will be covered by Heritage Fernie.

- All members of the Task Force shall serve without remuneration.

Resignation

A Task Force member may resign at any time, but must provide the Chair with written notice in advance of resignation. The resignation of any member will be reported to the Fernie & District Historical Society (Board of Directors) and the City of Fernie (CAO).

Amendments to Terms of Reference

Changes to the Fernie Heritage Strategy Task Force Terms of Reference shall be approved by the Task Force and reported to the Fernie & District Historical Society (Board of Directors) and the City of Fernie (CAO).

Paintings by Aqamnik Elementary School students made in 2002 after hearing the Ktunaxa Creation Story from Elder Dorothy Alpine, depicting elements of the story. The full series of paintings is held at the Ktunaxa Nation Council Archives

Consultant Team
Ance Building Services
Denise Cook Design
John Atkin History + Research

FERNIE HERITAGE STRATEGY