

CROWSNEST PASS

2023 OFFICIAL VISITOR'S GUIDE





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CROWSNEST PASS

2023 OFFICIAL VISITOR'S GUIDE

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Nestled into the southwest corner of Alberta, right in the majestic Canadian Rockies, Crowsnest Pass is a mountain community like no other. Take the time to explore our extraordinary outdoors through hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, ATV-ing, and so much more. Fish in our world-class trout streams, swing away on one of the most scenic 18-hole golf courses in Western Canada, or just soak up the beauty of a sunset while sitting by your campfire. Steeped in a rich history full of coal mining booms and busts, natural and man-made tragedies and disasters, Crowsnest Pass has a preserved history that will astound you. Learn these stories through the numerous heritage attractions available within the community.

Join our amazing artists and artisans in sparking your creative side. Numerous events every month will allow you to sample our lifestyle and passions.

Our access to the outdoors and multitude of recreational options makes this your perfect Rocky Mountain getaway.

Once you've had a chance to explore what Crowsnest Pass is all about and realize that this is a place where mountain living rings true, we have a feeling that you'll be back. Enjoy everything the Crowsnest Pass has to offer.

Dalna Lazzarotto
President – Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce



Cover Photography

Bound for Mountain Photography

This Page Photography

Bound for Mountain Photography



This guide is produced by the Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce with support from Community Futures Crowsnest Pass, and the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass.

Printed in Canada for Free Distribution. U.S. Customs Harmonized Tariff #4911.10.00.

Ask the Locals

WITH SUCH A DYNAMIC AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY, you can tap into activities for every pace. We asked some of our local friends the must-dos and must-sees while visiting Crowsnest Pass. Here's what they said.

Peebles Family Adventurers



Hidden gem: Star Creek Falls - A very family friendly hike!

Must do/see: Crowsnest Candy Company

Must try: Pass Powderkeg for skiing/snowboarding in the winter and biking in the summer.

Don't miss: Thursday Community Markets.

Melanie Business Owner- Gilded Haus



Hidden gem: Window Mountain Lake is my favourite easy hike and is very doable for kids.

Must do/see: The site of the 1946 Dakota Plane Crash. While it can be accessed by ATV, I prefer to hike this 20km loop.

Must try: The sandwiches at the Crowsnest Café & Flyshop and cinnamon buns from Cinnamon Bear.

Don't miss: Thursday evenings at the Community Market in Blairmore!

Cierra Musician



Hidden Gem: Downtown Coleman, arguably the cutest part of Crowsnest Pass. The best food, art and historical buildings.

Must do/see: Wednesday Night Jam Night at the Greenhill. So much talent in our little town.

Must try: French toast and chocolate shakes at Chris' Restaurant!

Don't miss: Paddle boarding and picnicking at Chinook Lake in the summer.

Norja Artist



Hidden gem: The Crowsnest Pantry. Bulk foods, fresh produce, locally made products and ready meals!

Must do/see: The different moods of Crowsnest Mountain. It's never the same.

Must try: Year-round hikes with Crowsnest Adventures or Uplift Adventures.

Don't miss: Monthly issues of "Crowsnest Connect" to discover local shops.

Ella Student



Hidden Gem: Big Rock in Crowsnest River.

Must do/see: The Amazing Teen Race by CNP 40 Assets.

Must try: The Quarantine Pizza at The Pass Beer Co.

Don't miss: Snowboarding at Pass Powderkeg.

Chris Historian



Hidden Gem: The APP Barracks.

Must do/see: The Bellevue Underground Mine Tour.

Must try: Breakfast at Chris' Restaurant.

Don't miss: Crowsnest Pass Doors Open & Heritage Festival. ▲

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Must-Do Walks and Hikes

YORK CREEK FALLS, BRANDY FEHR PHOTO

BE SURE TO STOP at Frank Slide Interpretive Centre and pick up a copy of the guide map, "Take a Hike in Crowsnest Pass" or visit your favourite café and pick up a UROC mountain biking map. For more in-depth information purchase a copy of "Southern Rockies Trail Guide" by Joey Ambrosi. Always remember to pick up a suitable map and check the conditions before you hit the trail. The trails are mostly shared use so be sure to watch for mountain bikers while hiking. Trails are listed from east to west. Get local maps on your phone via trailforks.com/region/crowsnest-pass/.

Leitch Collieries

Easy 0.8km loop
East end of the community on Hwy 3

Crowsnest Community Trail

Easy to Moderate 23km one-way
Access points throughout the community

Frank Slide Trail

Easy 1.5km loop
Starts from Frank Slide Interpretive Centre

Livingstone Range Viewpoint

Difficult 2.6km one-way
Starts at the end of the forestry road north of Frank Slide Interpretive Centre

Lille

Moderate 6.3km one-way
Starts on the forestry road north of Frank Slide Interpretive Centre

Turtle Mountain

Very Difficult 3.1km one-way
Starts from southeast Blairmore behind 15th Ave.

Bluff Mountain

Intermediate 4km one-way
Starts near the bridge on Hwy 3 in Blairmore

Pass Powderkeg Trails

Intermediate up to 15km round trip
Starts from the Pass Powderkeg road in Blairmore

Miners' Path

Easy 0.8km one-way
Starts from Flumerfelt Park in Coleman

Big Bear

Difficult 11.5km to summit
Starts on York Creek Road south of Coleman

Star Creek Falls

Easy to Moderate 1.2km one-way
Starts at the west end of Willow Drive (16 Ave) in Coleman

Saskatoon Mountain

Moderate 1.8km one-way
Starts from the end of 80th St. in Coleman

Wedge Mountain

Moderate 1.9km one-way
Starts from McGillivray staging area north of Coleman

Chinook Lake Loop

Easy 2.3km loop
Starts from Allison/Chinook Rec area west of Coleman

Allison Creek Falls

Easy 3.2km one-way
Starts from Allison/Chinook Rec area

Crowsnest Mountain

Very Difficult 5.8km one-way
Starts 9.7km north on Atlas Road, west of Coleman

Window Mountain Lake

Moderate to Difficult 2km one-way
Starts 16.5km north on Atlas Road, west of Coleman

York Creek / Plane Crash

Moderate 6.2km one-way
Starts from York Creek Road in Coleman ▲

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Mountain Biking

BY CURT ETHERIDGE- UROC PRESIDENT

JENNYCE HOFFMAN PHOTO

THE CROWSNEST PASS offers a wide variety of mountain bike experiences for people of all ages and abilities. The two major trail systems in the area are located at Pass Powderkeg in Blairmore, and York Creek in Coleman. Between these two areas, you can easily spend a few days exploring new trails.

Pass Powderkeg

The Pass Powderkeg is a main hub for mountain bikers in the Crowsnest Pass, and with 22km of bike trails, there is something here for everyone. You'll find a skills park at the base of the hill, as well as a picnic shelter, making it a great place to spend the day outdoors with your whole crew. From here, you can access the trails in the network. Alternatively, park at the Pass Powderkeg day lodge halfway up the hill, and enjoy views of the surrounding area.

The Kid's Corner area, located just above the skills park, is a favourite among kids of all ages. It offers short loops of beginner level trails that allow riders to progress their

skills, with some optional jumps and wood features along the way.

The rest of the trail network offers a variety of options. Ride some of the lower trails up to Chainsaw Massacre, and then continue up to the top of the ski hill. Buck 50 offers a fast, intermediate downhill ride, with a flowy trail, berms, and optional jumps. If you're looking for something a little more challenging, check out Spare Change, Roots O'Hazard, and Berma-Grin.

Two new trails have been added to Pass Powderkeg and they were opened in the Fall of 2022. Electric Monkey is an intermediate-rated flow trail that winds through alternating open and forested

areas from the top of the mountain to the day lodge parking lot. Featuring an untold number of berms, turns, rollers and small jumps, it is a must ride on your next visit to Crowsnest.

Head across the parking lot from where Electric Monkey finishes to find the start of Nothing to Luge. A couple of switchbacks will take you to the top of a full-on, bike park style, flow trail with massive berms, a wall ride, and endless rollers and jumps to get you in the air. It was a massive hit with riders of all skill levels last season and a winter worth of setting up will only have it in better condition for 2023.

Continued on next page



PHOTO COURTESY OF UROC

York Creek

The York Creek area can be accessed by parking at Flummerfelt Park, located just north of Highway 3 in Coleman. From here, enjoy a pedal through the newly re-vamped downtown area to access York Creek Road, which is the starting point to explore over 25km of bike trails in the area. You can also park at the York Creek Staging Area just up the road to access the network.

Trails in this area have been built over the years by a number of dedicated local riders. Intermediate and advanced riders will find a nice variety to create loops and explore the area. School of Rock is one of the most popular in the area, where you'll find rock rolls, wood features, jumps, and a large rock slab. For an even more challenging experience, riders can check out Big Bear. After a challenging climb, you'll be rewarded with great views of the area, before descending a steep, technical, and rocky route.

If you're looking for some intermediate options, or shorter rides, be sure to check out Sooper Trooper and Whistling Post. On these trails you'll find flowing singletrack, with berms and optional features scattered throughout.

Trail Information

If you want the most updated trail information and reports, be sure to check out Trailforks. This is the best place to find information about these trail networks, as well as other trails in the area. You can always find friendly locals on the trails willing to point you in the right direction.

If you enjoyed your mountain bike experience in the area, consider becoming a member or donating to the United Riders of Crowsnest (UROC). Check out uroc.ca for more information. ▲

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Crowsnest Fly Fishing

BY CRAIG BARNSON, TIGHTLINE TATTOOS

TRAVEL ALBERTA PHOTO

TUCKED JUST INSIDE THE CANADIAN ROCKIES, flowing from the mountains down through the foothills and into the prairies, lies the Crowsnest River.

Surrounded by some of the most beautiful scenery in the world is a blue ribbon fishery, small enough to walk and wade across but large enough to hold a trophy fish of a lifetime. The Crowsnest River boasts breathtaking views and excellent fly fishing experiences.

Whether you are a seasoned pro or new to the fly fishing experience the Crow has something to offer everyone. Its close proximity to town and Highway 3 make it easy for anglers to explore. Just a short walk from wherever you park your truck you will be sure to find many pools and riffles holding willing fish.

The Crow now offers year round fishing, but as always, be sure to check regulations. If you can brave the cold or manage to get out during one of the many chinooks during winter, there are many different species of fish waiting to give your line a tug. Come spring, the Crow is known for its



PHOTO BY KARA HAGEN ON A GUIDED TRIP WITH ALBERTA FLY FISHING

many hatches, including Blue Wing Olives, March Browns, and the ever so exciting Salmon Flies around the end of May. These bugs will put your entomology skills to the test. The warmer weather brings out more anglers but there are plenty of long deep pools, choppy riffles, and calm meadow waters for everyone to share.

Many different species of fish call the Crowsnest River home. There's nothing like having the opportunity to catch a

beautiful Brown Trout or maybe one of our hard fighting Rainbows, even the odd cutthroat or white fish with the most wonderful backdrop nature has to offer. Even if a fish doesn't grace your line, the scenery is enough to keep anglers intrigued and coming back for more. Sites like Frank Slide and Lundbreck Falls help make the Crowsnest River the most popular tributary of the Old Man River system.

When planning your trip to fish the Crowsnest area be sure to stay at one of the many accommodating local hotels. There is great dining and lots of family friendly activities to do in the area. The change in seasons brings different challenges out on the water - if you need to pick up gear or find out more about fishing in the Crowsnest Pass be sure to visit one of the local fly shops. We hope you have a great experience in our beautiful backyard. Cheers and tight lines. ▲

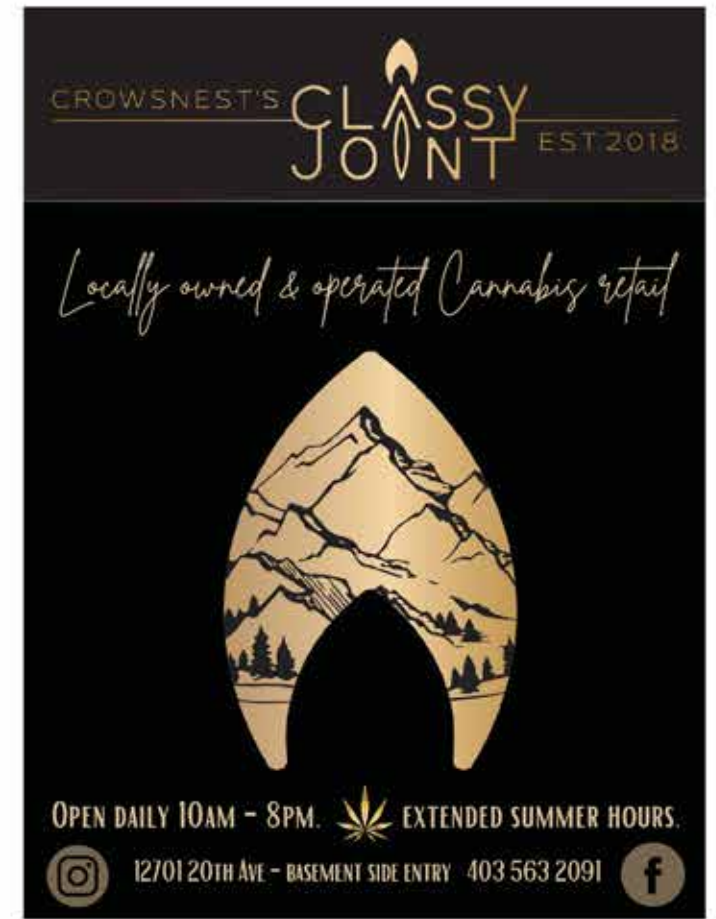


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Stop by both their shops and meet the crew!

Golfing in Crowsnest Pass

BY JEFF STRANDQUIST



THE CROWSNEST PASS GOLF CLUB has always been a little bit of a secret gem for golfers around the area.

More and more golfers have been lucky enough to come and enjoy its beauty and take their chance at playing the elements. It is surrounded by mountain views in all directions laid out right in the Eastern Rocky Mountain Forest. Signature holes have back drops of Crowsnest Mountain, Tecumseh Mountain, and Turtle Mountain. The elevated tee boxes, tree lines and water hazards can make you second guess your tee shots.

Growing up here has been a wonderful blessing and given me the opportunity to

see all the changes the course has taken on, all of them are clearly better than the last. Without a doubt the newest update, a brand-new clubhouse, has made it better than it's ever been. Sitting at the top of the course, crowning it with more amazing patio views and adding the extra space needed for special events, and offering great food with an extensive choice of meals and beverages.

Soon to be a full tournament course that will be able to host tour events, there are tee boxes for every level of golfers from

juniors to professional and none of them disappoint. It will guarantee to please everyone and often you will find yourself just enjoying the prestige views and crisp fresh mountain air. I always look forward to every round I get to play here, and I really look forward to my children being able to enjoy it the same way I did.

Don't miss out on your chance to experience everything this course has to offer. It's not just a diamond in the rough anymore, It's a well-polished gem in the fairway! ▲

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Soaking up Nature

BY JOHN CLARKE

KAREN RENDALL PHOTO

The Crowsnest Pass has always been known for its popular trails, breathtaking views and large diversity of wildlife that makes up our valley such as bears, Big Horned sheep, cougars and more.

Getting to lay your eyes on one of these creatures can be a real treat! But what about the smaller animals? Regardless of their small stature, they are very important to the community and can be just as spectacular if you take the time to get to know them. You may just have to take the time to look a little closer!

As you are passing through Frank you have the option to take the old Frank highway which gives you an up close and personal view of the massive boulders that fell from the mountain over 100 years ago. It also is a great place to explore and see birds of prey and other creatures.

Look closely, do you see the animal in the photo to the right? This was taken at Frank Slide! Sometimes smaller animals can be hiding in plain sight just like this little Pika.

Raccoons, skunks, foxes and marmots are just a few examples of the other animals you may catch a glimpse of while you explore the Pass. All of these animals play a vital part to our ecosystem and we have to make sure to respect them as we would respect the larger wildlife in the area.



JOHN CLARKE PHOTO

The majority of the animals are most vulnerable during the birthing months between May through June, so be sure to watch where you are stepping while you are exploring. It is important to remember that these families do not like to be bothered so keep your distance and make sure



KAREN RENDALL PHOTO

you bring your camera. Keep in mind you may be disturbing the wildlife's home by turning over a few rocks or logs, walking through thick grass or bush and you may be surprised by what you encounter.

Whether you are camping, hiking a mountain, or driving, there is always something to be seen. Don't be in a rush, take five minutes to smell the roses.

Make sure to make the most of your visit and soak up all that nature has to offer. ▲

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Lake Life

BY JOHANNA DALTON, CO-OWNER OF JOJO ADVENTURE RENTALS

DARLENE KONYNENBELT PHOTO

WHEN YOU GET TO CROWSNEST PASS you are immediately greeted by the mountains and the river. Drive a little further and you will meet the lakes. Not one or two, but five lakes call this area home and are almost all accessible by vehicle.

Chinook Lake is a short drive up a dirt road, off the main highway, and may be the most popular lake in the area. It is more sheltered than some of the others during those breezy days and it has a launch for non-motorized boats, small beach area, outdoor washrooms, camping and extensive trail system. The campground just recently received upgrades and is ready to show them off! This is our first recommendation for beginner paddlers.

A little further down the highway you pass by **Emerald Lake** and get your first views of Crowsnest Lake. Emerald Lake is a short jaunt down from the parking area. This lake hits our intermediate rating as you need to transport your gear and it gets deep very quickly! If you get your timing right in the spring you will also see a waterfall that appears from the cliff face and drains toward the lake.

The east end of Crowsnest Lake also known as 'the dance hall' has become a popular spot for paddlers of all abilities. This section is more sheltered compared to the west end and a sandbar allows for shallow family friendly waters. You can also find a boat launch here, just no bathrooms.

Island Lake is the next gem as you travel towards British Columbia. There are two access points, with the first being a signed (albeit, poorly) turn off equipped with camping, bathrooms, picnic tables and a few private jut-outs to set up for the day. The second access is a pull-out (that can sometimes be underwater until runoff has finished), this is the perfect spot to set up for a quick paddle!

Window Mountain Lake and the west end of Crowsnest Lake receive our highest difficulty rating. Window Mountain Lake is only accessible by foot and is about a 3.5km

hike in and up. It is further down the dirt road from Chinook, the road gets rough but it is worth it. You can camp around the lake and there is a half toilet available for public use. The water is very cold, but you may be the only people on it.

The west end of Crowsnest Lake has a parking area, a boat launch and sometimes a food truck. There are not many people in the water as there are usually a lot of waves. The weather can change very quickly and the lake is deep - it is even rumored there are a few vehicles and train cars at the bottom!

If you head south from the Pass you can also check out **Lee Lake** and **Beauvais Lake**, slightly less mountainous but beautiful nonetheless. ▲

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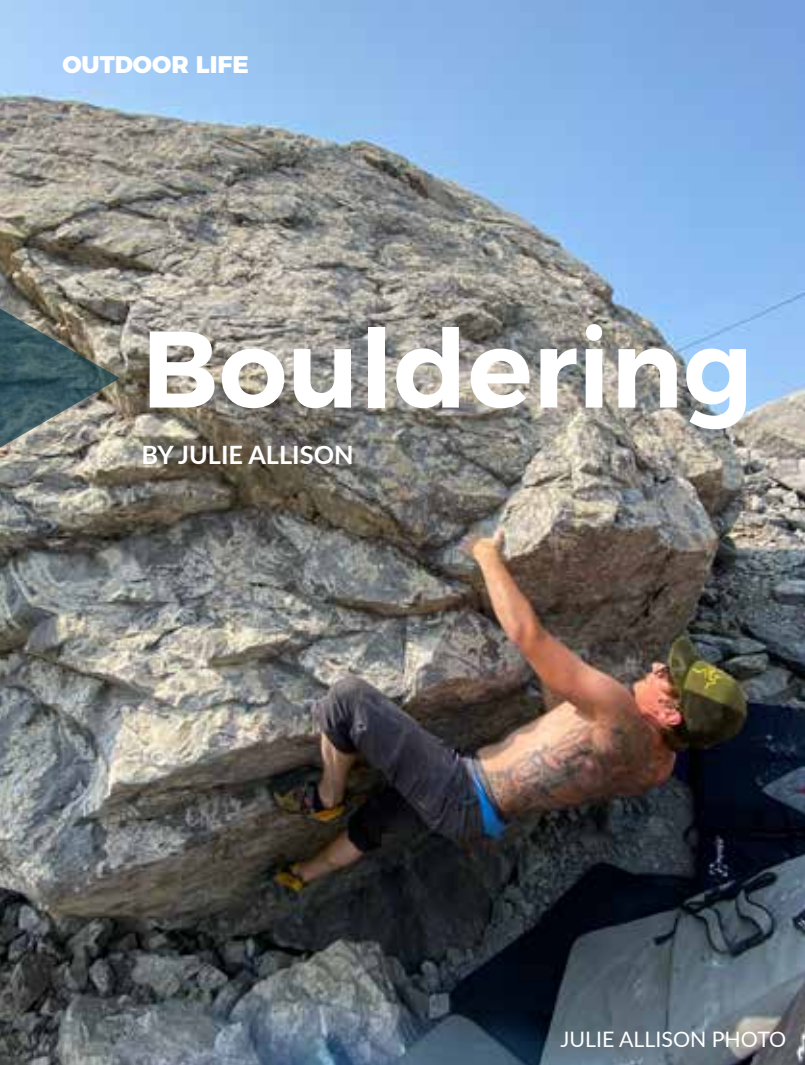
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Bouldering

BY JULIE ALLISON



JULIE ALLISON PHOTO



JENNYCE HOFFMAN PHOTO

THE CROWSNEST PASS is not just another small, Canadian mountain town. Yes, it is beautiful and quaint, but the history here is unique. The Pass is home to some of Canada's largest disasters and as a result, also home to some of the most resilient small communities in Canada.

Its history contains many stories of mining disasters, rum running and several murders. The stories here often go untold. Travelers that stop to listen will find that the people here tend to look for the sun through the clouds that can hang over this valley.

When driving through, you will pass by Frank Slide, where Canada's largest rock slide occurred in 1903. The slide partially buried the small town of Frank, Alberta, leaving devastation and 90 million tons of limestone in its wake. Yet, life here carried on. The railway was rebuilt, businesses continued, families and neighbours came together. The community soldiered on and came through the other side. What remains today still leaves visitors marveling at the magnitude of this tragedy.

Today, the boulders of the Frank Slide attract many kinds of people; perhaps the most interesting of the group are the

boulderers of the Frank Slide. Bouldering is a form of free climbing where the objective is to perform short, but extremely difficult climbing sequences. The boulders of the Frank Slide offer the perfect venue to do this as it's a unique area consisting of thousands of routes ranging from V0 (easy) to V10+ (extremely hard). Climbers from all over Canada and the world come here to sample many of these boulder problems. This once unknown activity is now featured in the Olympics and the Frank Slide is every serious boulderer's dream.

This social sport builds many friendships and a great community that Southern Alberta is lucky to have. You may see these rock climbers hanging around the slide with their crash pads almost every day of the year! This pain-loving, endurance-lacking group can most often be found tearing apart their hands while obsessing over a certain problem they haven't yet climbed. On calm

nights, you can hear the loud cheering and laughter as a climber reaches the top of a boulder, kept safe by a few good friends and the pads they carry in on their backs.

The bouldering community here embodies the Crowsnest Pass' best trait: community. It brings people together to support one another, through a test of strength and perseverance. It is a sport that relies on the trust in the people you have around you; how fitting that this can take place in an area where resiliency and support has been needed countless times before.

To learn more about the history of the Crowsnest Pass, you can join a historical tour with Uplift Adventures, visit the Crowsnest Pass Museum or the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre.

Remember to respect the area while visiting and to pack out what you pack in. ▲

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MINOTAUR SKYRACE. PHOTO: MEET THE MINOTAUR

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Rumhead Bikefest

Hosted by the United Riders of Crowsnest, the Rumhead Bikefest is a weekend family event. Events include group rides, scavenger hunts, bike demos and a skills competition, and an Enduro Race on Sunday. uroc.ca

Sinister 7

Sinister 7 Ultra is Canada's biggest trail run with over 1,750 competitors. It has also become known as one of the toughest trail races in North America. The 100-mile, 50-mile and 50km race brings together endurance athletes from around the globe.



SOLE SURVIVOR FOOT RACE. PHOTO: KAREN RENDALL

The course takes competitors through the most rugged, remote and beautiful terrain in Alberta's stunning Rocky Mountains. With 6,400m of elevation gain across the full course, this race will punish those who are not prepared. sinistersports.ca/sinister7

Sole Survivor Foot Race

A family-friendly event with categories for all ages. Run 10km, 5km, or 2.5km on the singletrack trails around Pass Powderkeg. While this has always been a family event, Sole Survivor always attracts a number of seasoned trail runners who push hard to reach the podium. solesurvivor.ca



SINISTER 7. PHOTO: SINISTER SPORTS

Minotaur SkyRace and Mini-Taur 10 KM

Minotaur SkyRace is a challenging 33.5 km race that will take runners through some of Crowsnest Pass' most stunning and technical terrain – including the iconic Livingstone Range. Part of the prestigious Skyrunner® World Series, Minotaur SkyRace promises to take runners from all over the world to new heights in the South Canadian Rockies. A shorter option, the Mini-Taur 10 KM, is an action-packed 10 km course that's perfect for runners who are looking to take their adventures to the next level. meettheminotaur.com

Crowsnest 100

A 30, 50 or 100 km mountain bike race in the beautiful and historic area of Crowsnest Pass in southern Alberta, Canada. With a mix of fire road, double track and single track, and a total elevation gain of approximately 3000 metres (10,000 feet), this is one of the most breathtaking and brutal mountain bike races anywhere! This race also offers a 50, 100 or 150 km route featuring approximately 1000 meters (3000 feet) of elevation on gravel, dirt, fireroad, and road as an alternative to the mountain bike race. crowsnest100.com

Tour de Frank

Tour de Frank is Alberta's largest outdoor bouldering festival. Held every autumn in the Frank Slide boulder field, the Tour de Frank is structured like an outdoor climbing competition, but the emphasis is on enjoying Alberta's biggest (and best!) bouldering area, and connecting with climbers from across Western Canada. With categories that range from beginner to expert, climbers of all levels of experience can enjoy a day of climbing at the Tour de Frank.

The Divide 200

The Divide 200 will be the first race of its kind in Canada. The route includes the Castle/Crownest/Flathead region of the southern Rockies. This is a celebration of our Rocky Mountain heritage, and life along the continental divide. The route highlights portions of the stunning Great Divide Trail and The Divide 200 will keep you up high and enjoy the varied landscape of the region. The race is about alpine travel, ridge walks, and getting you into remote backcountry. sinistersports.ca/divide200 ▲



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ATV Adventures

BY RITCHIE PARTS & MECHANICAL (RPM)

KARA HAGEN PHOTO

NESTLED IN THE FAR SOUTHWEST of Alberta is the little gem of the Crowsnest Pass. Encased and surrounded by high peaks such as, Mt Coulthard, Mt McLaren, Mt Parish, Turtle Mountain, and our very own Crowsnest Mountain, we are surrounded with snow covered mountains in the winter, and lush forest in the summer. Among many things the Crowsnest Pass has to offer is its OHV trails. With five staging areas directly accessed within the municipality, and many within a short drive, there is no shortage of trails to explore. Many trails lead to great fishing spots, and incredible overlooks of the Rocky Mountains.

Like many OHV areas, there are countless hours that go into the protection, maintenance and sustainability of these trails. Backing that up here are two groups, The **Crowsnest Pass Quad Squad**, and **SABER (Southern Alberta Enduro Riders)**. Together these two groups advocate for all OHV use to remain in our area for a long time to come. They are continuously meeting, planning, and maintaining these riding areas. Over the years the Crowsnest Pass Quad Squad have repaired and maintained countless trails and bridges, installed new signage to ensure legal trail use is clearly marked, and advocated for continued use of these trails. Within the

last three years SABER – a branch of the Lethbridge Motorcycle Club, has spent countless time and effort establishing sustainable single track “enduro” style trails. These trails have started to be signed for single track motorcycle use only. And they are far from done. SABER is working on many new trails, one of which is a new riders loop, with less aggressive features and more aggressively cleared of branches and fallen trees.

Whether its ATV/UTV trails, or it's tight technical enduro trails you are looking for - the Crowsnest Pass has it for you. We look forward to seeing you here! ▲

Crowsnest on Horseback

BY KATE MCKIM-KEIL,
CENTRE PEAK HIGH COUNTRY
ADVENTURES

KATE MCKIM-KEILPHOTO

IF YOU WISH TO ESCAPE the monotony and stresses of life, there is no better way to do it than on the back of a horse. For me, it is desired by my soul and allows me to be one with my horse and with the remarkable area I call home.

The mountains around Crowsnest Pass offer some of the most spectacular areas to ride. Trail riding allows you to experience the wonder and awe of this area while connecting to the stillness and natural beauty around you. It lets you make everlasting memories with friends and family that will be treasured for years to come. Whether you choose to venture out

on your own or ride with an outfitter, you will not be disappointed in what you will get to experience.

If you are not quite ready to head out on the trails, it is always worthwhile to book a lesson to help you gain the confidence to handle your horse. You may even wish to book a ranch getaway which is offered through working ranches in the surrounding area. This is a full immersion into the lives of these people who are stewards of the land. Learn about the history of the area and hear stories of how these places came to be while riding in these magnificent mountains that they call home. Experience

the ranching culture and the cattle in their natural environment. You may even be fortunate enough to catch sight of some of the local wildlife, such as eagles, bears, bighorn sheep, and moose to name a few.

This area is a hidden gem and being able to explore it from the back of a horse truly takes you back in time. This quote from a guest who experienced our ranch getaway speaks to its essence: “South West Alberta, along the eastern slopes of the Rockies, is a paradise few are aware of. It rivals anything you will find in Montana, Colorado, and Utah without a doubt... and it is right here in Canada.” ▲



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Hidden Gems of Crowsnest Pass

BY HEATHER DAVIS, UPLIFT ADVENTURES

CASCADING WATERFALL WITH OLD DAM TIMBERS AT THE TOP
UPLIFT ADVENTURES PHOTO

MY STORY STARTED before Crowsnest Pass when I guided buses of people and lived in other mountain towns, and then I settled in Crowsnest Pass.

My love for exploring the hidden gems around here came with my first job in the area working for the provincial government operating a disaster relief program after the 2013 floods. I was fortunate to get to know some instrumental people who have a love for this area and spread this passion onto me. I remember my first week on the job, and being shown around the area. One memory stands out, and that was with a co-worker who took me in the backcountry and as we rounded a corner, I came face-to-face with the Continental Divide. I was right under it, immersed, and in absolute awe of the natural beauty.

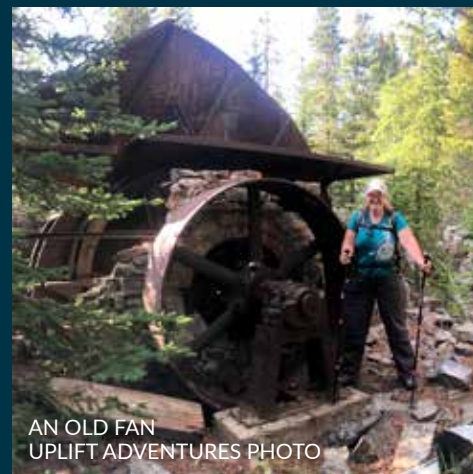
How has this place not been discovered? How is this still under the radar? I ask myself this all the time and to be honest I struggle with it at the same time. Do we expose these incredible hidden gems to the world? I love the idea of introducing this area with integrity, with understanding just how special this place is, so that everyone else can fall in love with it in the same way I have, yet provide this area the respect it deserves.



OLD STEAM ENGINE
UPLIFT ADVENTURES PHOTO

So, where are the hidden gems? They are everywhere and in the stories. It isn't just in the beauty of the mountains and the landscape, but it is in the heart of the history and the people before us. Over the short few years of living here, I've uncovered and stumbled upon:

Several pictographs: This area is located on traditional Blackfoot territory and there is no shortage of evidence to prove this. I feel it too, there is a presence in the air, a spirit that is guiding us, and something whispering in the wind telling those who care to stay. I'm continually learning what is okay to share with others about the First Nations who resided here for thousands of years, and what is not okay to share. Now, I operate a professional guiding company, and I hope to collaborate, or encourage



AN OLD FAN
UPLIFT ADVENTURES PHOTO

others to participate in a meaningful way that gives respect to the past, present and future.

Old camps: Cabins are spread out everywhere in the backcountry. Tracking down the original owner of the camp is tricky, but one can speculate that the stories were immaculate. Stories of trapping, logging with 3 metres of snow on the ground, or mining for what someone dreams is going to be their prosperous beginnings. The oldest camp from the early settlers that I'm familiar with dates back to the 1800s when the railway came through the area. A friend and I were able to track down the 'bake ovens' of this camp and rumours are that the bake ovens were just that – the railway workers would bake bread in these ovens.

Old mining relics: What I find stored away, hidden along the forest floor around Crowsnest Pass has me digging for more information and opening up as many history books as possible. I was able to track down a steam engine from the 1920s hidden amongst the trees, old mining fans and infrastructure with trees starting to grow atop the concrete walls, mine entrances that express the story of endless days and nights of miners hauling out the black coal in hopes of a brighter future.

Next time you are visiting Crowsnest Pass, take some time to be curious and open your eyes and hearts to the stories of the land, the people, and the strikingly beautiful mountains. From cave formations to waterfalls to the perfect fly-fishing creeks, this area has it all. It's a mecca for outdoor recreation and for outdoor lovers, but it's also a mecca for hidden gems left behind from the people before us. ▲



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Small Town Charm

BY TEYEL STRANDQUIST PETRYSHYN, EMERALD & ASH



I DECIDED I would look up the definition of *small town charm*, and from what I could find, it refers to *“the calm and serene environment of semi-urban areas.”* The people who belong to bigger cities are often impressed by life in these small towns.

I'm impressed with our little town. I hope all (or most), are as well. We have a uniqueness about us. We're cute, we're quirky, we're relaxed and genuine - all different ways of saying, *we're charming.*

I've lived in the Crowsnest Pass all my life. Actually, I'm a fourth generation resident, and third generation business owner - to say I love it here, would be a mild understatement.

I think growing up in a small town can sometimes leave a less desirable taste in your mouth, you know, those pesky teenage years: "it's so boring here, I wish we had something to do", was often heard when I was growing up. I remember wishing we had the big box stores, fast food joints, and many other things that city life could offer. Not the fresh air, beautiful views, and one of a kind retail stores that filled my peripherals! I still hear some of these same comments out of the mouths of babes, and I smile and chuckle, as one day, they'll be as grateful as I am to grow up and flourish in a little mountain town such as this one.

I hope when you visit you enjoy our amazing views (sunsets in the Coleman area are second to none), that you take part in some of the incredible outdoor adventures we have to offer. I know there's some great businesses listed in this guide that will suit any of your exploratory needs.

I hope you stay in one of our amazing boutique hotels or quaint B&B's, they'll treat you like family, and sneak you a few tips along the way. I also hope you eat at some of our award-winning restaurants, and have a drink or two at a local watering hole - there's no better way to meet a few locals or get the deets on where to eat, sleep or shop during your stay.

And please, take a wander through each town's downtown corridor and make the day of a shop owner. Our amazing selection of retail stores have handpicked and purposefully curated spaces so you will, just like us, fall in love. ▲

Best of Crowsnest



TAKE A LOOK AT WHO OUR BEST OF CROWSNEST AWARD WINNERS ARE FOR 2022.

To see a full list of winners, visit crowsnestpasschamber.ca. Make sure to follow the Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce Association on Facebook to take part in this year's nominations and vote for your favourites.

- Best Atmosphere:** The Pass Beer Co.
- Best Burger:** Rum Runner
- Best Patio:** The Pass Beer Co.
- Best Food Truck:** Rocky Mountain Gut Truck
- Best Entertainer:** Tynan Groves
- Best Staycation Spot:** Chinook Lake Campground
- Best Summer Activity:** Crowsnest Pass Golf Club
- Best Experience for Visitors:** Frank Slide Interpretive Centre
- Best Retail Store:** Emerald & Ash
- Best Photographer:** Katalily Photography
- Best Winter Activity:** Pass Powderkeg



TAMARA RZAN
REALTOR®

Voted for the second consecutive year as "Best Real Estate Agent" in Best of Crowsnest '22, Tamara is your local REALTOR® and key to moving mountains in real estate. Serving your residential real estate needs in Crowsnest Pass, Pincher Creek and surrounding areas in Southern Alberta. Let Tamara help make the process an enjoyable one for you; whether it's marketing and listing your property or purchasing your new home in the mountains.

“She was very knowledgeable about the communities in the Crowsnest Pass and showed us several homes that fit our needs. She was always quick to respond to any communication. She helped us get into an amazing house and made the process as pain free as possible.”

“Tamara worked through some challenging situations with us without breaking a sweat. She always advocated strongly on our behalf, which we really appreciated as first time homebuyers.”

“Tamara listed our home and instructed us on how to present our home for potential purchasers. She provided us with professional answers to all our questions and was eager to research correct answers if required.”

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Crowsnest Pass for KIDS

BY SARAH GALLANT



MUNICIPALITY OF CROWSNEST PASS PHOTO



WHETHER YOU ARE VISITING the area for a day or a week, be sure to check out these activities, attractions, and events.

Hikes

Crowsnest Community Trail between Fireman's Park and the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, Interpretive Trail around the Frank Slide Centre, Miner's Path, trail around the lake at Chinook Provincial Recreation Area. Older kids might want to give Turtle Mountain a go.

Biking

The Crowsnest Community Trail stretches between Hillcrest/Bellevue and Coleman. It is both paved and natural trail and very bikeable with varying degrees of difficulty.

There are bike trails at Pass Powderkeg Ski Hill and even a skills park at the bottom of the hill, a definite favourite with the kids.

Events

See the Event Guide for a full listing of events, dates, and locations. The following events have activities geared towards kids. Wintervention, Kananaskis Pro Rodeo, Bellecrest Days, Rumhead Bike Festival, Doors Open and Heritage Festival, Alberta Culture Days, Pumpkins in the Park, and Christmas in the Mountains.

Attractions

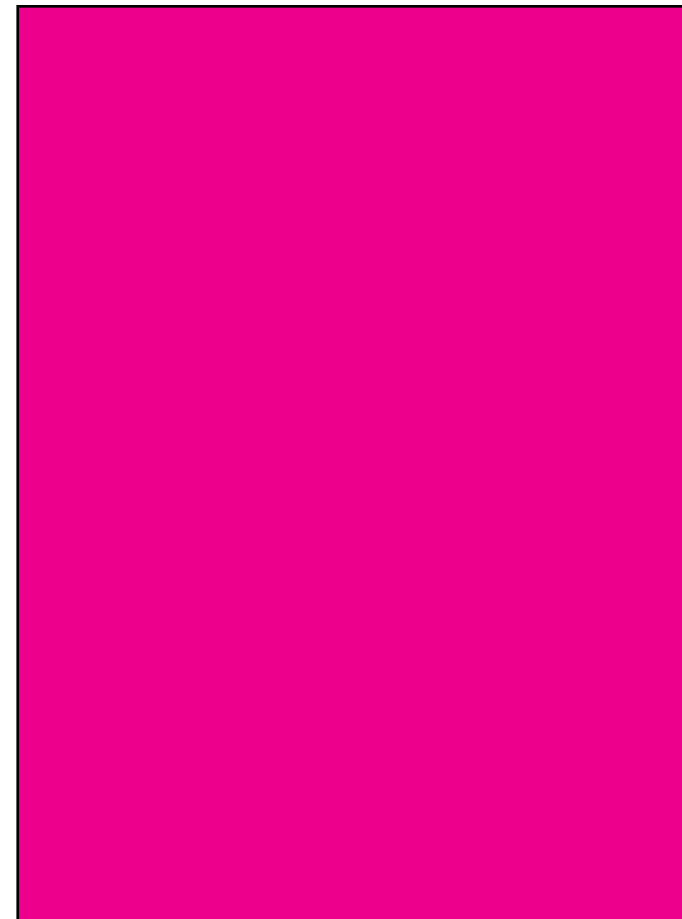
Bellevue Underground Mine, Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, Crowsnest Pass Public Art Gallery, Municipal Library, and Crowsnest Museum all have ongoing, drop in, or special events for kids of all ages.

Swim

Drop in for a swim at the newly renovated Pass Community Pool, located in downtown Blairmore, from late May through August. The pool features a large water slide, hot tub, lazy river, 6 lane lap pool, diving board, spray features, and toddler wading pool. It's also handicap accessible.

What else to do?

There are playgrounds in all communities including a Splash Park at Flummerfelt Park. Enjoy a round of mini golf with the family at Bellevue Fireman's Park. Finally, while out walking around, exploring, why not check out the Free Little Libraries that are set up around the community too?



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A Fall Wedding Meets Winter in the Mountains

By SAVANA ANTONATION



JENNIFER HAWKINS PHOTOGRAPHY

THE CROWSNEST PASS is a breathtaking small town, and the perfect place to have your dream wedding.

Although anticipating a fall wedding in October 2022, we were graced with 15 cm of snow the morning of, creating a beautiful winter wonderland.

The Crowsnest Pass Golf Club made for a beautiful atmosphere for our special day. Complete with a ceremony on the balcony overlooking the mountains, a cocktail hour with a cozy fireplace seating area (and boozy hot drinks), numerous photo spots throughout the golf course, and an upscale plated meal for the reception — the Crowsnest Pass Golf Club made for any bride's dream venue.

Having the ceremony, cocktail hour, photo spots, and reception all at the same venue not only made for a relaxed environment for all our guests, but also the wedding party too! Not to mention, everywhere our guests turned, they were wowed by the beautiful scenery this community has to offer. This is one of the many reasons why the Crowsnest Pass should be at the top of your list for a wedding destination! ▲




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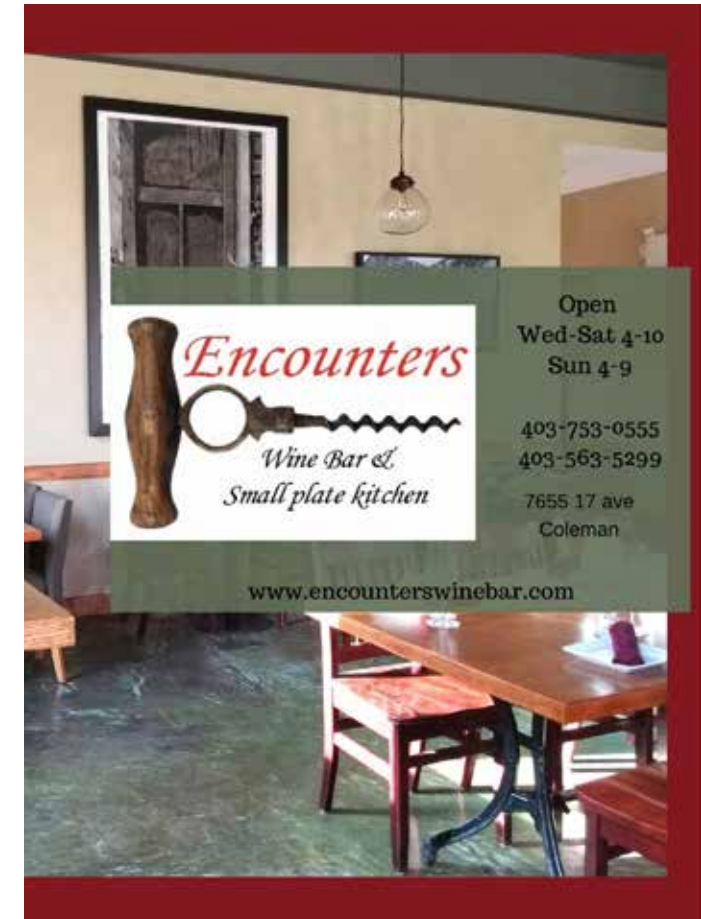


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Crowsnest Pass Events

THERE IS RARELY A DULL MOMENT IN CROWSNEST PASS with a lot of community spirit going into events each month. New events are added all the time, so to see everything that is happening, go to www.gocrowsnest.ca and www.crowsnestpasschamber.ca. Many groups have recurring events that are not listed here, and there is always something to do.

MARCH 2023

The Pole and Spur Skijoring
March 11, 2023 | poleandspur.com
Pass Powderkeg Retro Day
March 18, 2023 | passpowderkeg.com
Pass Powderkeg Year End & Slush Cup
March 26, 2023
passpowderkeg.com
Festival of The Stars, TPDS
March 25, 2023 | turningpointedance.ca
Crowsnest Pass Music Festival
March 20-31, 2023
crowsnestpassmusicfestival.com

APRIL 2023

Bunny Bonspiel
April 6-9, 2023
crowsnestcurlingclub.ca
Kananaskis Pro Rodeo
April 28-30, 2023 | kraprorodeo.com
Easter Fun Run
April 7, 2023 | solesurvivor.ca

MAY 2023

Symphony Spring Concert
May 17, 2023
crowsnestpassmusicfestival.com
Old-Time String Jam/National Fiddling Day
May 20, 2023
crowsnestpasspublicartgallery.com

JUNE 2023

28th Annual Ed Gregor Stewardship Day
June 3, 2023
Quad Squad Season Opener
June 17, 2023
quadsquad.com
Darcy's Nature Walk for Mental Wellness
June 10, 2023
darcysnaturewalk.com
Bellecrest Summer Kickoff
June 17, 2023
Bellecrest.ca

Rumhead Bikefest
June 2023 | Uroc.ca
Minotaur SkyRace
June 24, 2023 | meettheminotaur.com

JULY 2023

Canada Day Celebrations
July 1, 2023
Sinister 7 Ultra
July 8-9, 2023 | sinister7.com
Municipality Movies in the Park
July 11, 2023 | crowsnestpass.com
Sole Survivor Foot Race
July 15, 2023 | solesurvivor.ca

CROWFEST

Jul. 21/22, 2023 | cnpchamber.ca

AUGUST 2023

Doors Open & Heritage Festival
August 3-7, 2023
cnpheritagefest.ca
Artists' Studio Tour
August 5, 2023
crowsnestpasspublicartgallery.com
Municipality Movies in the Park
August 11, 2023
crowsnestpass.com
Crowsnest 100 Mountain Bike Race
August 2023
crowsnest100.com

SEPTEMBER 2023

Amazing Teen Race
Sept. 9, 2023 | cnp40.com
The Divide 200
Sept. 12-16, 2023
sinistersports.ca
Quad Squad Season Wind-up
Sept. 16, 2023
quadsquad.ca
Tour de Frank
southernalbertabouldering.com/our-projects/tour-de-frank-2/

Harvest of Memories
Sep.t 2023 | crowsnestmuseum.ca

OCTOBER 2023

M.Arty's Market
Oct. 13-14, 2023
crowsnestpasspublicartgallery.com
Halloween Spooktacular
Oct. 28, 2023
cnp.recdesk.com
CNP Chamber Best of Gala
Oct. 21, 2023
cnpchamber.ca

NOVEMBER 2023

Pumpkins in the Park
Nov. 1, 2023
crowsnestpass.com
Christmas in the Mountains
Nov. 30, December 3, 2023
christmasinthemountains.ca
CNP Brighter Futures Clothing Fest
Nov. 18, 2023
brighterfuturesproject.com

DECEMBER 2023

Bellevue Festival of Lights
Dec. 2023 | bellecrest.ca
Christmas In The Park
Dec. 3, 2023 | crowsnestpass.com

FEBRUARY 2024

Coldest Night of the Year
Feb. 24, 2024
Wintervention
Feb. 24, 2024 | crowsnestcando.org
Chili Bowl Festival
Feb. 24, 2024
crowsnestpasspublicartgallery.com
Crow Snow Riders Poker Run
Tentatively Feb. 25, 2024
crowsnowriders.ca

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CATHERINE SPETIFORE PHOTO

Music in the Pass

BY SHELLY GROVES

Music has played an important part in the cultural fabric of the Crowsnest Pass since the early 1900's. Social get-togethers involving live music ranged from dances to weddings to funerals, with regular concerts thrown in for good measure.

Today, audiences can enjoy great sounds in a number of venues around town. Local artists perform regularly at quite a few restaurants, while house concerts featuring local and travelling artists are enjoying popularity as well. The **Crowsnest Pass Symphony** performs twice a year, featuring Christmas and spring concerts. This group, the longest continuously-running orchestra in Canada, offers programs including standard classical greats like Beethoven and Vivaldi to modern pop and movie repertoire.

Even more exciting, in the summer of 2023, a brand new international **Baroque Music Festival** will debut here, featuring specialist performers from around the globe. With gorgeous mountains as a backdrop and world class performances to enjoy, this will be a one-of-a-kind event not to be missed.

For those who enjoy a good old barn dance, the **Second Fiddle String Jam** performs often at the weekly markets in summer as well as hosting square dances from Twin Butte to Grasmere and the Polish Hall in Coleman. Often boasting up to twenty players, this group has even been known to play for wedding dances, keeping alive a great folk tradition.

Singer-songwriters such as **Lani Folkard, Becky Pichurski, Dave Combden, Kevin Smith, and Tynan Groves** also call the Crowsnest Pass home. Often setting up at the markets in gazebo park or local restaurants, these fine singers perform as soloists or get together in various combinations for a full band sound. A few have recorded albums and have also been featured on Lethbridge radio station, CKXU.

On the Rox, a group formed for the 2022 Revive the Roxy fundraiser, is a cover band with multiple vocalists and a wide range of instruments, including trumpet, saxophone, violin, and piano. This group has enjoyed many performances since, gaining popularity with local audiences. **The Bushtown Boys** are another popular cover band in town, sharing a drummer with **On the Rox**. Have a penchant for jazz? **The Big Beat** performs dinner shows as a trio quite often. Another group not to be missed are the **Little Mountain Misses**, whose blend of covers and originals in three-part harmony is sure to send shivers down your spine.

Open stages offer a chance for anyone to perform, with several weekly events hosted at the Greenhill, Grand Union, and Coleman Legion. Get up and play anything your heart desires, alone or with other musicians. Open mics are sure to be a good time.

Budding musicians taking lessons from local teachers have several chances to play in public, from busking at the market to afternoon concerts at retirement homes, to more formal situations like entering classes in the Music Festival. This year, the **Crowsnest Pass Music Festival** will expand to ten days of classes involving soloists on vocals, strings, and piano as well as school groups, culminating in a final concert showcasing the best performances of the festival. Students even have the opportunity to win awards or advance to Provincials, and many local musicians have gone on to professional careers.

Before too long, the historic **Roxy Theatre** in downtown Coleman will be refurbished and modernized to accommodate live performance as well as operating as a traditional movie theatre. This project has brought the community together in various fundraising events and a common purpose. It will be a lively addition to the cultural fabric of the area.

So there you have it - choices aplenty to enjoy the music scene here in the Crowsnest Pass. Hope to see you on the stage or the dance floor soon! ▲

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Our Arts Community

BY KAREN TAMMINGA-PATON



PAINTER, KARI LEHR, AT EASEL IN HER STUDIO, WORKING ON "A WILD ENCOUNTER"



CERAMIC WORK BY KATY DRIJBER, POTTERY

The Crowsnest Pass is a natural magnet for artists. The five small communities within the Pass are a curious mix of old and new, traditional and off-the-beaten-track, and all within walking distance of the many mountainous ecosystems that support the life we all share.

As online networks grow and real estate remains within reach for many, the Pass is attracting a culturally diverse array of creatives who are finding a place to thrive.

One can walk through a downtown occupied by diverse businesses like the local beer brewery, tattoo salon, artisan coffee roaster, ethnic food stores, and spas, as well as active studio spaces alongside the regular businesses one would expect to see. And yes, situated between them are the derelict buildings telling their old stories, reminding us that the Pass is not a veneered, gentrified mountain getaway town, but honest, gritty and real.

A visit to the Crowsnest Pass Public Art Gallery is a great way to find out more about our wonderful art community. It hosts rotating art shows, workshops, children's events and community happenings like the Chili Bowl Festival (February) and M.Arty's Art Market (October), as well as a fabulous gift store with creations from local artists/artisans. This makes our gallery a vital force for connection and inspiration. Don't miss

the outdoor mural and Flight of the Corvids installation on the gallery's west side!

In addition to the public gallery, there are more than a dozen private studios, including the Gushul Studio whose artist-in-residence program attracts artists and writers from around the world. Our annual Open Doors Studio Tour during Heritage Day weekend (August) offers a glimpse into the working lives of many of our artists:

- Artists' Collective (Kari Lehr & Tony Partridge)
- Fallen Mountain Studio
- Gushul Studio
- Karen Tamminga-Paton Studio
- Katy Drijber Ceramics
- Launstein Imagery/Wildlife Art Gallery
- Mountain Mud Pottery Studio
- Pass Pottery Club, and more.

Numerous businesses showcase local artwork as well: Cherry On Top Café, Cinnamon Bear Café, Crockets Trading Co., Crowsnest Café & Flyshop, Crowsnest

Pass Public Library, Encounters Wine Bar, Sinistra Salon & Gallery, and the Stone's Throw Café.

Creative endeavours are ongoing as interests and needs arise. Currently, there is a collective effort to "Revive the Roxy", an old theatre in Historic Downtown Coleman with the potential to hold productions in theatre, dance, music, and other cultural events. Turning Pointe Dance Studio offers wonderful performances, as does the Crowsnest Symphony and our community choir. DG Productions bring a joie de vivre during long winter seasons with musical and theatre productions. Youth have the opportunity to join the Heritage Youth Theatre Company, or the annual Shakespeare Youth Theatre Camp held at the Gallery. And be sure to check out the library to connect with our many local writers and poets.

In this widely diverse, talented, and resourceful community there is potential to grow, opportunity to belong, and the room to forge new paths of creativity. ▲



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Experience Our History

BY CROWSNEST HERITAGE INITIATIVE

CROWSNEST PASS has a remarkable heritage based on an unmatched array of historic events, colorful characters, ethnic culture, boom-town architecture, and epic disasters both natural and man-made. Today, visitors can experience this heritage through our many historic sites and interpretive facilities.

The Burmis Tree

This solemn Limber Pine stands at the east portal to Crowsnest Pass, and may be Canada's most-photographed tree. The tree died sometime in the 1970s after a 700-year weather-beaten life, but remains standing as a symbol of resilience in the face of adversity. An interpretive sign at the highway pullout tells the story.

Leitch Collieries Provincial Historic Site

Interpretive panels bring the story of this glorious business failure to life as you wander through the ruins of the surface plant for this historic coal mine. Open during snow-free months, interpretive staff are on site to answer your questions. No admission fee.

Hillcrest Cemetery

Contemplate the quiet scenery and tragic legacy of Canada's worst mine disaster on a walk past interpretive signs in this 115 year old cemetery. The site includes Canada's

national Mine Disaster Monument, and a Memorial Park with picnic tables. No admission fee.

Bellevue Underground Mine

Enjoy the unique experience of a guided tour into a century-old coal mine. Suitable for all ages, slip on a hardhat and headlamp (included) and follow your knowledgeable guide 300 metres into the cold and dark. Booking required.

Frank Slide Interpretive Centre

Learn about the destructive power of nature through interactive exhibits, films, and interpretive staff, and find out what really happened to the town of Frank. Enjoy stunning views from the Centre's viewing area and take the one km walk through the margins of the Slide itself.

Crowsnest Museum & Archives

Experience the depth of the cultural, industrial and natural heritage of the region through exhibits and programming. This 1936 former Coleman High School

building also houses an extensive archive of photographs, documents and artifacts.

Alberta Provincial Police Barracks

Not just a heritage building! Visit the scene of the 1922 murder of Constable Stephen Lawson and find out why Crowsnest Pass was the hub of illegal alcohol importation during Prohibition.

Coleman National Historic Site

Stroll through the historic downtown and residential districts which retain architecture from 1906 to the 1950s. Check out the interpretive signs and plaques, and an informative interpretive booklet available at the museum.

Heritage Drives, Walks and Hikes

By car, bike, or on foot, we have pamphlets and maps for a wide array of informative heritage excursions.

Find out more at crowsnestheritage.ca and cnpheritagefest.ca. ▲

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

www.crowsnestheritage.ca

Alberta Provincial Police Barracks

www.appbarracks.com

Frank Slide Interpretive Centre

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Coleman National Historic Site

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CROWSNEST MUSEUM

2023 – A year to Celebrate Crowsnest Pass History

By FRED BRADLEY

THE CROWSNEST PASS has been an historic corridor for thousands of years and is considered to be one of the oldest continually occupied areas in North America. The history of this corridor is diverse and very interesting, and in 2023 marks many significant heritage moments of the 'Pass'.

The Ktunaxa (Kootenay) are some of the first known peoples to have used the route after the last Ice Age and the glaciers had receded. From the shores of Crowsnest Lake to Burmis there is evidence of human presence on the landscape for over ten thousand years. More recently the Blackfoot and other indigenous peoples have used the corridor for travel, trade, hunting, and resource extraction.

In 1858, Thomas Blakiston, of the Palliser Expedition, who was looking for a route to build a railroad through the Rocky Mountains, wrote of the Crow's Nest Pass "By report of the natives it is a bad road and seldom used." He opted to explore the much higher North Kootenay Pass to the south. As it turns out, the Crowsnest Pass is the lowest elevation pass through the Rocky Mountains between New Mexico and Jasper.

150 years ago: In 1873, Michael Phillipps, a Tobacco Plains Indian Agent and prospector in search of gold, and Jim Collins, a trapper, travelled from west to east through the Crowsnest Pass along a well-travelled buffalo trail and emerged onto the prairies. They found a lot of coal along their journey but no gold. Phillipps Pass is named after him. Phillipps advocated cutting a wagon trail to facilitate travel and trade between south-east British Columbia and southern Alberta.

125 years ago: In 1898, the Canadian Pacific Railway Crowsnest Line was completed to open up the coal fields of Alberta and south-east British Columbia.

125 years ago: Blairmore, the first European settlement in the Crowsnest Pass, was officially named in 1898 after the Hon. A.G. Blair, Minister of Railways. Previously the area was known as "The Springs," after the sulphur springs in Frank, and as "Tenth Siding" then during the construction of the railway.

120 years ago: In 1903, 110 million tonnes of rock slid down Turtle Mountain, burying part of the Village of Frank and killing 90 people. On April 29th there will be a commemoration ceremony to mark this catastrophic event. Visit the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre which tells the story of Canada's deadliest landslide. More information at frankslide.ca and crowsnestheritage.ca.

100 years ago: In 1923 the Blairmore Courthouse was opened. It was the first courthouse in Alberta that combined court facilities, police office and residence, and gaol facilities. It is a designated Provincial Historic Resource.

100 years ago: May of 1923 marks the hanging of Emilio Picariello and Florence Losandro for the shooting of Constable

Stephen Lawson outside the Alberta Provincial Police Barracks in Coleman National Historic Site of Canada. To find out more of this story visit the APP Barracks in Coleman, which has been restored as an interpretive facility to tell the story of the tragic murder, the history of the Alberta Provincial Police and the Prohibition era in the Crowsnest Pass and Alberta. Checkout appbarracks.com for more on this story.

75 years ago: In 1948, the historic Roxy Theatre in downtown Coleman opened. Crowsnest Cando in partnership with the Crowsnest Historical Society are working to Revive the Roxy as a multi-purpose performing arts centre for the Crowsnest Pass. For more information go to crowsnestcando.ca.

During the annual Crowsnest Pass Doors Open and Heritage Festival from August 3 to 7 many of these anniversaries will be commemorated or celebrated. For details of this and other events scheduled in 2023 to commemorate and celebrate the incredible history of the Crowsnest Pass visit crowsnestheritage.ca and cnphheritagefest.ca. ▲

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For admission to the APP Barracks please visit the Crowsnest Museum located just down the street from the Barracks.

Visit us online for upcoming programs & events WWW.APPBARRACKS.COM

Coleman's historic downtown
The APP Barracks are located in Coleman's historic downtown. Pick up an interpretive guide from the Crowsnest Museum and take a self-guided tour of this National Historic Site.



Ski Three Ways

By MEAGAN MUFF

CHRISTINE MISSEGEHERS PHOTO

Downhill

Nestled in the heart of the Crowsnest Pass, the Pass Powderkeg Ski Hill (PPK) offers stunning views of the community and a chance to get up close to nature at every turn. With 1,000 ft of vertical spanning 27 trails, the Pass Powderkeg truly offers something for everyone. The ski area boasts challenging terrain, affordable rates, an excellent ski and snowboard school, equipment rentals, terrain park, night skiing, snowmaking and friendly service. PPK is a family-friendly, community-focused ski area dedicated to providing an outstanding experience for people of all ages and skill levels.

Cross Country

The Crowsnest Pass is a spectacular destination for Nordic ski enthusiasts. With over 30km of well-signed, groomed and track-set trails, the Allison-Chinook Cross Country Ski Area offers cross-country ski trails suitable to all ski levels and techniques. The area is located on public lands on the east side of Tecumseh Mountain at the continental divide. The Allison-Chinook Ski Area has beautiful forested ski trails and basic amenities, including a warm-up hut with a wood stove and pit toilets, making for a superb experience for the cross-country skier. The icing on the cake is the snowshoe and fatbike trails available in the area. With epic panoramic views, access to the backcountry and designated trails for four-legged friends, you will surely enjoy your time here.

Backcountry

The Crowsnest Pass is a backcountry paradise. You will find endless fun featuring wide-open alpine bowls, gladed tree runs, and fast and flowy trails. Some popular areas include Window Mountain, Lynx Creek, York Creek, and Tecumseh Mountain. If you're a novice adventure seeker, there are plenty of places for learning and progression that offer that big mountain experience on mellow terrain. The backcountry lends itself well to telemark, alpine touring, and light touring skis. Be aware that while close to civilization, there are very real consequences for wrong turns. Always check the Avalanche Canada forecast and know what it means before heading into the backcountry. ▲

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BEN CAMPBELL PHOTO

Snowshoeing

WE ENJOY BEING ABLE TO STRAP ON OUR SNOWSHOES and make a day-long trip starting right from our front door. Locals are seen on the regular winter trails, but also blazing new routes in many areas including the **Pass Powderkeg Trails**, the **Frank Slide Interpretive Centre**, **York Creek**, and the **Allison/Chinook Recreation Area**. Some of the smaller creeks also become perfect snowshoe routes once they ice over and the snow packs down. Local businesses such as **spry**, **Alpenland** and **Uplift Adventures** offer affordable rentals of all sizes, to accommodate families wanting to try something new this winter.



and many of the adjoining trails, which are groomed for snowmobiling. Stop by a local café or bike shop to find out the conditions and best options for the day.

Fat Biking

Thanks to all of the runners and snowshoers in the area, many of the trails in the **Pass Powderkeg area** are well packed for fat biking. We all share these routes and it makes for a great day of riding. Other areas include **York Creek**, **Sartoris Road**,

Skating

Once in a while, when the conditions are just right, **Crowsnest Lake** is completely windswept, and the ice is as smooth as glass. When this natural phenomenon occurs, you will see skaters enjoying this massive sheet of black ice for hours. You

can park right at the Highway 3 rest area, or start at the sheltered east end and make your way around the rocky shore, enjoying natural scenery and historic ruins.

Ice Fishing

Whether your preference is standing on frozen water or along the frozen edge of a river, Crowsnest Pass has a wealth of prime winter fishing spots to explore. Nearby and with easy access you'll find scenic lakes including **Allison**, **Beauvais**, **Beaver Mines**, **Crowsnest**, **Island**, **Lee**, and **Phillips**, along with the **Carbondale**, **Crowsnest**, and **Oldman River**. Each waterway holds its own special bounty including brook, brown, bull, lake, and rainbow trout, along with whitefish and cutthroat. New to winter fishing, need a few supplies, or want to learn what to catch where? A quick visit to the **Crowsnest Café and Fly Shop** or **Crowsnest Angler** will get you the right lures and bait, a little local advice, along with your license and fishing regulations. ▲

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BY MANDY AND TRAVIS SENKOW



MANDY SENKOW PHOTO

MY LITTLE FAMILY AND I moved to the Crowsnest Pass in February 2020. It was a big decision to leave our prairie home, family and friends. But ultimately we wanted to raise our kids in the mountains, where we continuously found ourselves weekend after weekend. We have many hobbies and living in the CNP allows us to enjoy them together as a family. Narrowing it down to one that is simply our favourite would be getting out in the snowy winter months on the snowmobiles. Lucky for us we are minutes from each staging area; Sartoris, Atlas and McGilvray, in which each area has a wide variety of terrain no matter the capability on a sled, making it

super family friendly. Our local club, the **CrowSnow Riders**, devote countless hours maintaining and grooming our trails which makes a smooth and enjoyable ride for the kids (as well as mom and dad!) The newest warming shelter is about 9km up the Atlas road and makes a great halfway point to stop for a quick warm up, a snack (or 27, who knows with toddlers), couple bathroom breaks and stretch the legs before moving onto the Octagon (Atlas shelter) to do it all over again.

It's so rewarding to get out in nature and teach our kids to love the great outdoors as much as we do. Being able to see the

backcountry covered in layers of white fluffy snow is quite possibly one of the most beautiful things I've ever witnessed. I'm beyond excited to watch my kids grow up riding sleds and to see their skills develop as they become experienced riders, as well the bonds that will be created with new friends over a shared love of the sport.

We are so fortunate to continue to expand our family's social circle as we become more active in the club and snowmobile community that is growing and thriving in the Crowsnest Pass. ▲

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Feel the warmth of our community as you head outside to celebrate with us this winter! In true alpine town fashion, the fun doesn't stop when the temperature drops. Besides the numerous recreational activities, locals are always ready for some.

Christmas in the Mountains

December

The community comes together to celebrate Christmas each year. Kick off the festive season with the **Artisan Gift Market**, Christmas concerts, and many more events for the family. Bring out the family and enjoy the **Gazebo and Tree Lighting**, late night shopping, Christmas parade, pictures with Santa, bonfire, caroling and more!

Festival of Lights

December

As winter settles in and the holidays approach, darkness falls earlier in the evening and the Bellecrest Community Association takes the opportunity to light up a wee portion of Crowsnest Pass. On Bellevue Main Street you can wander and enjoy the properties and businesses that have lit the way. The festivity peaks at the **Festival of Lights and Santa Party**, held early December at the Bellevue Legion, with music, hotdogs, Santa visit and gifts, outdoor fire rings, and more. Everyone is welcome.

Wintervention

February

Winter is a special time in Crowsnest Pass, so join us to celebrate at **Wintervention**. This is a family-oriented weekend with a little something for everyone. Some of the marquis events include human dogsled races and pancake breakfast. crowsnestcando.org

Chili Bowl Festival

February

Sit shoulder to shoulder with hungry locals and art lovers from around the region. A celebration of our arts community and fundraiser for the **Crowsnest Pass Public Art Gallery**, this is the one event you do not want to miss. Volunteers cook up a storm and the pottery club donates unique handmade bowls. Choose a bowl, choose your chilli, and have a laugh with your neighbours. crowsnestpasspublicartgallery.com

The Pole and Spur Skijoring

March

Bringing the ultimate mashup of rednecks, horses and ski bums to Crowsnest Pass. This wild event lets riders and skiers show their skills through a friendly, and slightly mad-capped, competition. Horse, rider, and skier teams will race against the clock through an obstacle course with gates, rings, and jumps in an effort to claim glory as the fastest team. poleandspur.com

Bunny Bonspiel

March/April

The **Bunny Bonspiel** is a southern Alberta Easter tradition with a history of over 70 years. Everyone is welcome and there is a lot of fun and camaraderie at "the Bunny". The event is held each year in conjunction with Easter, and for many former Crowsnest Pass residents, it's a bit of a homecoming. Visitors from all over Canada join us to curl a few ends. ▲

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