



wildsight

WILD TIMES

A VOICE FOR CONSERVATION IN CANADA'S COLUMBIA AND SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Spring 2014 | FREE



Original Artwork by Laura Nelson

The En Plein Air Flathead Art Exhibition opened in Waterton this past September to rave reviews, and now Kootenay residents have a chance to enjoy six unique perspectives on the beauty of the Flathead Valley.

In summer 2012, five local artists gathered with Wyoming's Dwayne Harty on the 2012 Flathead Artist Retreat, collecting sketches and ideas for this exhibition. Harty is well-known for his "en plain air" approach: immersing himself in wilderness to capture the natural essence of his subject landscapes and wildlife, with unique and inspirational visual results.

Cranbrook artist Joseph Cross is well-known for his Kootenay wilderness landscapes, and his work begs audiences to ponder the past, present, and future of our wilderness legacy.

"Not having visited the valley before, I soon realized how vast it was," explains Cross.

"We drank straight from the river, knowing that it is the purest water in the world, and the global benchmark for evaluating water quality. Being a part of telling the Flathead story through my

art, is an honour and privilege."

Joining Cross on the 2012 retreat were Fernie's Laura Nelson and Tara Higgins, Invermere's Denise Lemaster, as well as Simon Haiduk from Kimberley.

The exhibition is a breath of artistic fresh air as pure as the water in the Flathead River, and as diverse as it's wildlife and flora. Art lovers will not want to miss this

unique take on southern Canada's largest unsettled valley.

**FLATHEAD ART EXHIBITION
FERNIE ARTS STATION
MAR 27 - APR 28
CRESTON VALLEY
MAY 2014**

WILDSIGHT.CA

REGIONAL

CANADA WATER WEEK

Mar 17 -23

The theme for Canada Water Week 2014 is Watersheds 101. Check for the event in your community by visiting: CanadaWaterWeek.com

KIMBERLEY/CRANBROOK

SIX FIGURE FARMING ON SMALL LOTS with JEAN-MARTIN FORTIER

Mar 12 • 9.30am - 4.30pm
Cranbrook Ktunaxa Nation Gym

BIG YIELDS, SMALL LOTS with JEAN-MARTIN FORTIER

Mar 11 • 7.30pm • Centre 64

WATERMARK

Apr 24 • 7.30pm • Key City Theatre
Apr 25 • 7.00pm • Centre 64

ELK VALLEY

FLATHEAD ART EXHIBITION

Mar 27 - Apr 28 • Fernie Arts Stationy

EARTH DAY EVENT • Apr 22

GOLDEN

EARTH DAY EVENT

Apr 22 • 5.00pm • Reflection Lake

BIRDING BREAKFAST

May 9 • 7.00am • Reflection Lake

CRESTON

AGM

Mar 1 • 6.00pm • Rotacrest Hall

LOCAL FOOD, LOCAL FARMING

Mar 1 • 7.00pm • Rotacrest Hall

CRESTON VALLEY BIRD FESTIVAL

May 9-11

INVERMERE

GREEN DRINKS • Mar 20 • 7.00pm

AGM & COLD AMAZON FILM

Apr 3 • 7.00pm • DTSSI

EARTH DAY EVENT • Apr 22

VALLEY PRIDE COMMUNITY CLEAN UP • Apr 26

WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES

May 5 - 11



WILDSIGHT REGIONAL CHAIR AWARDED ORDER OF CANADA Recognition for a Life Dedicated to Conservation

One of Wildsight's own has been awarded Canada's top honour: membership in the Order of Canada.

After many years working for Parks Canada and a range of conservation-focused NGO's, Juri Peepre resettled in the Columbia Valley in 2009, where he continues his commitment to wilderness through his work with the Invermere Wildsight Branch, and his role as the Wildsight's Regional Chair.

"In this era of rapidly dwindling wild nature, and in light of our relentless assault on so many wild species," says Peepre, "I am grateful that this Order of Canada recognizes the importance of conservation in Canadian society."



NEED TO DISCONNECT?

Go on a Wild Nature Tour!

Want to unplug for day, and plug into the world-class nature right here in our back yard? New to the area, or just visiting, and want to get out there with a knowledgeable, passionate local? If so, Wildsight's Wild Nature Tours are just the ticket!

Wild Nature Tours are back by popular demand, and options for 2014 include winter snowshoe tours in the legendary deep snows around Fernie, and easy-to-moderate hikes and paddles with local naturalists in the Upper Columbia Valley around Invermere this summer.

To find out tour dates, costs, and more, visit: wildnaturetours.ca



ROCK-STAR FARMER ROCKIN' THE HOUSE IN CRANBROOK AND KIMBERLEY Six-Figure Income from Farming? On Less Than a Hectare?

Find out how from Montreal-based Jean-Martin Fortier, known as the Market Gardener. Fortier is well-known for his accomplishments in the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) world. For more than a decade, his 0.6-hectare (1.5 acre) market garden, Les Jardins de la Grelinette, has provided his only household income, generating close to \$140,000 in annual sales, and feeding close to 200 families.

March 11, Cranbrook (all day): Learn 6-Figure Farming for Small Lots.

March 12, Kimberley (evening presentation): Maximum Vegetables in Your Backyard.

Register: Wildsight.ca



CRESTON VALLEY BIRD FESTIVAL

May 9 - 11, 2014

Building on the success of last year's Creston Valley Bird Fest, this year's fest is not only about birds, but showcases all the Creston Valley has to offer: incredible art, mouth-watering local organic food, locally made artisan cheese, apple cider, and wines, and locally-inspired music all add up to a festival of the senses.

The Creston Valley is an international flyway for migratory birds like Tundra Swans, Greater White-fronted geese and many, many waterfowl species. Every spring, thousands of birds pass through, stopping off to enjoy the rich, life-filled Creston Valley Wetlands, making this flyway second in importance only to the coastal flyway route. Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with us and thousands of winged beauties in the beautiful Creston Valley.

Don't miss Ed McMackin's "Biologist in Your Backyard", where he visits local yards to identify and discuss birds, butterflies, plants, and animals we see every day. Other must-sees include events led by wildlife photographer Jim Lawrence, raptor specialist Brian Baxter, and CBC Radio's Outdoor Guy, Dave Quinn.

Come and see it all at the Creston Valley Bird Festival, May 9-11!

Registration opens March 1, 2014. Visit: crestonvalleybirds.ca



FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF COLLARED GRIZZLY BEARS, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE YELLOWSTONE TO YUKON CONSERVATION INITIATIVE RECENTLY PURCHASED 274 HECTARES OF LAND IN THE NORTHERN CRESTON VALLEY TO PROTECT GRIZZLY AND ENDANGERED MOUNTAIN CARIBOU MOVEMENT CORRIDORS BETWEEN THE SELKIRK AND PURCELL MOUNTAINS, AS WELL CRITICAL HABITAT FOR ENDANGERED LEOPARD FROGS AND OTHER MIGRATORY BIRD SPECIES.



WILD FOR LIFE

Yes, I would like to join Wildsight.

\$20 Lifetime Membership [no annual renewals!]

I would like to make an additional contribution of \$ _____

One Time

Monthly

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to volunteer with Wildsight

SAVE A TREE! No paper correspondence please

Mail in, phone in or visit us online!

wildsight.ca

Wildsight: 2-495 Wallinger Ave
Kimberley, British Columbia V1A 1Z6
Phone 250.427.9325

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS DECLARE VICTORY IN ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION CASE

Over a year ago Wildsight, Greenpeace, Sierra Club BC, David Suzuki Foundation and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee took the Federal Government to court over lengthy delays in the creation of recovery strategies for species at risk. This February, victory was declared.

The lawsuit highlighted Southern Mountain Caribou, Western Pacific Humpback, Marbled Murrelet and Nechako White Sturgeon, endangered species whose habitats are impacted by the controversial Northern Gateway pipeline. With no recovery plans in place, and as a result no critical habitat identified, the environmental review for the proposal could not effectively determine impacts on them.

The recovery plans for these four species, all recently submitted, were between four and six years overdue, and the government's own lawyer admitted that the only reason they were fast-tracked was due to this litigation.

"Where does that leave the applicants?" asked the judge in the proceedings.

"To get the minister to do what the law requires him to do within the time limits prescribed by Parliament, do you expect the applicants to commence 167 other applications for judicial review and expend their time and resources, their clients' time and resources, the court's time and resources to get the minister to do what the law requires him to do?"

A final verdict on the case was released in February, with the judge stating: "To state the obvious, the Species at Risk Act was enacted because some wildlife species in Canada are at risk. As the applicants note, many are in a race against the clock as increased pressure is put on their critical habitat, and their ultimate survival may be at stake"



WE ARE WILDSIGHT

We care about our home. Not just the homes we live in, but the ecological home that supports all life, all industry and all of us. That's why we work hard for healthy human communities and healthy wild spaces here, in Canada's Columbia and Rocky Mountains ecoregions.

