

Trail-Rossland News

## Celebrating the backcountry



A photo from the collection of Jack Mitchell show the Rossland Ridge on Jan. 19, 1936. Provided by Jan Fairweather.

Jack Mitchell

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The Back Country Film Festival is making its first and only stop in Canada this year in Rossland on Feb. 28 at the Miners Hall, presented by the Friends of the Rossland Range (FORR).

The showcase will have international and local features that promote the work of independent filmmakers who show the stories of backcountry recreation and environmental preservation.

Proceeds from the festival will go directly to the FORR aiding them to achieve their goals of ‘to foster the traditions and community spirit of the Rossland Range, work toward keeping this gem a great place to play, and teach the natural recreational cultural and historical values of the area.’

“We are the first and only stop in Canada this year. We’ve chosen to add local content to the festival here in Rossland, in celebration of the beautiful, easily accessible backcountry that we all enjoy just outside our door,” said Sheree Sonfield, an organizer of the event from the FORR.

“The purpose of this all-ages film festival is to raise continued awareness of the Rossland Range and support goals of the FORR. We want to encourage youth to enjoy the backcountry, but to do so in a safe manner and to take ownership and responsibility of the area’s special qualities now and in the future.”

The group is currently working on inspiring a community-based, multi-use recreation plan for the Rossland Range, establishing a winter backcountry recreation area in the Old Glory Alpine region and the development of a Streamkeepers program and a forest interpretation project.

The Backcountry Film Festival has travelled to more than 30 other locations around the U.S. before hitting up the Alpine City for a showing.

The Winter Wildlands Alliance is the organization behind the travelling festival, they are a non-profit, Idaho based organization working to protect winter ecosystems and to promote opportunities for backcountry and Nordic activities.

The doors for the show will open at 6:30 p.m., the show will begin at 7 p.m. with a brief intermission half way through the flicks.

A total of eight films will be shown from three to 20 minutes in length, from locations such as Japan, the Kootenays, Rossland backcountry and around the world.

Admission is \$5 at the door or in advance at Ross Vegas.

The event is supported by the Columbia Basin Trust, Rossland Rotary and other area businesses and non-profits.

The FORR is a non-profit charitable organization with the environmental, cultural and historical aspects of the area at their heart and the future in mind. They are always

accepting new members and participation. For more information contact [www.rosslandrange.org](http://www.rosslandrange.org).

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