

October 16, 2015

BC photographer among big winners for Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015

VICTORIA, BC – A black bear peers out of the dark of night directly into the lens; a raven stands out as a sole black figure in the white of winter; a mountain goat lounges under a star-filled night sky.

These striking images are among the six stunning photographs of BC nature at its best by Burnaby-based photographer Connor Stefanison, who has been singled out as the winner of the Rising Star Portfolio Award for *Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015*.

Chosen from more than 42,000 entries submitted from across 96 countries, **Stefanison's images are among the 100 selected as the year's best**, and will be on display at the Royal BC Museum starting December 4, 2015.

Another Canadian, Don Gutoski, was named the overall winner for Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015 by a panel of international judges for his image *Tale of two foxes*, a beautiful and haunting portrait of the struggle for life in the subarctic climes of Cape Churchill, Canada.

Young Canadian Josiah Launstein is a finalist in the 10 Years and Under category for two photographs: *Goose attack*, taken at Burnaby Lake in BC, and *Snowy scene*, a photo of a snowy owl taken in Calgary. Currently 10 years old, Launstein, who lives in Alberta, has been a photographer since the age of seven. This is his first time as a Finalist for *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015 at the Royal BC Museum, the only showing in Western Canada, will feature all 100 winning images, in huge, backlit displays, each accompanied by the story behind it.

The annual competition, organized by the Natural History Museum and co-owned with BBC Worldwide, receives entries from professionals, gifted amateurs and young **photographers alike. The international judging panel includes some of the world's** most respected nature photographers and wildlife experts.

Stefanison will be hosting a number of events at the Royal BC Museum tying into the *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition, which will be on display until April 4, 2016.

A special *Gallery Tour* on March 18 will see Stefanison take visitors on a personal tour of the exhibition.

Also in March, *Spring Break Camps: Focus On Nature* will encourage aspiring shutterbugs to find inspiration in *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*. Each week-long



session will feature a visit from Stefanison, as participants learn about photo composition and storytelling. This popular event sells out quickly each year.

Finally, the *Photography Workshop for Adults*, running March 19 and 20, will involve **going behind the scenes to our imaging studio and spending time “in the field” with Stefanison.**

For more information and to register for these events, visit royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

About the Royal BC Museum

The Royal BC Museum explores the province’s human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Looking to the future, the Royal BC Museum will be a refreshed, modern museum, extending its reach far beyond Victoria as a world-class cultural venue and repository of digital treasures.

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For high-resolution copies of Stefanison’s winning images, use the media contact information below.

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