

# BACKGROUND

## Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015

December 4, 2015 to April 4, 2016

*On loan from the Natural History Museum, London*

*Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015* features 100 stunning, back-lit photographs showcasing the most incredible sights of our natural world. The exhibition, now on display at the Royal BC Museum for the fifth consecutive year, creates a visual oasis for visitors to enjoy during our dark winter months.

**Organized by the Natural History Museum, London, the world's leading nature photography competition** is celebrating its 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary in 2015.

Originally launched in 1965 with **just 361 entries, this year's winners were** selected from more than 42,000 entries from 96 countries across the globe; these images were judged to be the best by a panel that included some of the **world's most respected nature photographers and wildlife experts.**

Competition entries come from gifted amateurs, professionals and young photographers. They celebrate the beauty and magnificence of the world in which we live, as well as acting as a stark reminder of the fragility of nature.

For each of the 20 categories of competition, photographs are chosen by an esteemed nine-person international jury. Judges are instructed to look for outstanding images that raise awareness of nature's beauty and fragility, while also championing the highest ethical standards in wildlife photography.

Three Canadian photographers were honoured **in this year's competition, including Dr. Don Gutoski, of London, ON, who was named the competition's overall winner** for his photograph, *Tale of two foxes*, taken at Wapusk National Park in Cape Churchill, MB.

Connor Stefanison of Burnaby, BC received the Rising Star Portfolio Award for a collection of six photographs. This is the second time Stefanison has won this particular award, having also received it in 2013.

Ten-year old Albertan 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.



**Each photo includes the photographer's story**, sharing both why they chose their subjects and how they captured the perfect shot of our fascinating natural world. Technical details such as aperture, speed, camera and lens information are also provided, for those interested in technique.

**This year's** awards were presented at the Natural History Museum, London on October 15, 2015.

The Royal BC Museum will feature a full schedule of photography-themed events, activities and presentations through the run of the exhibition.

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