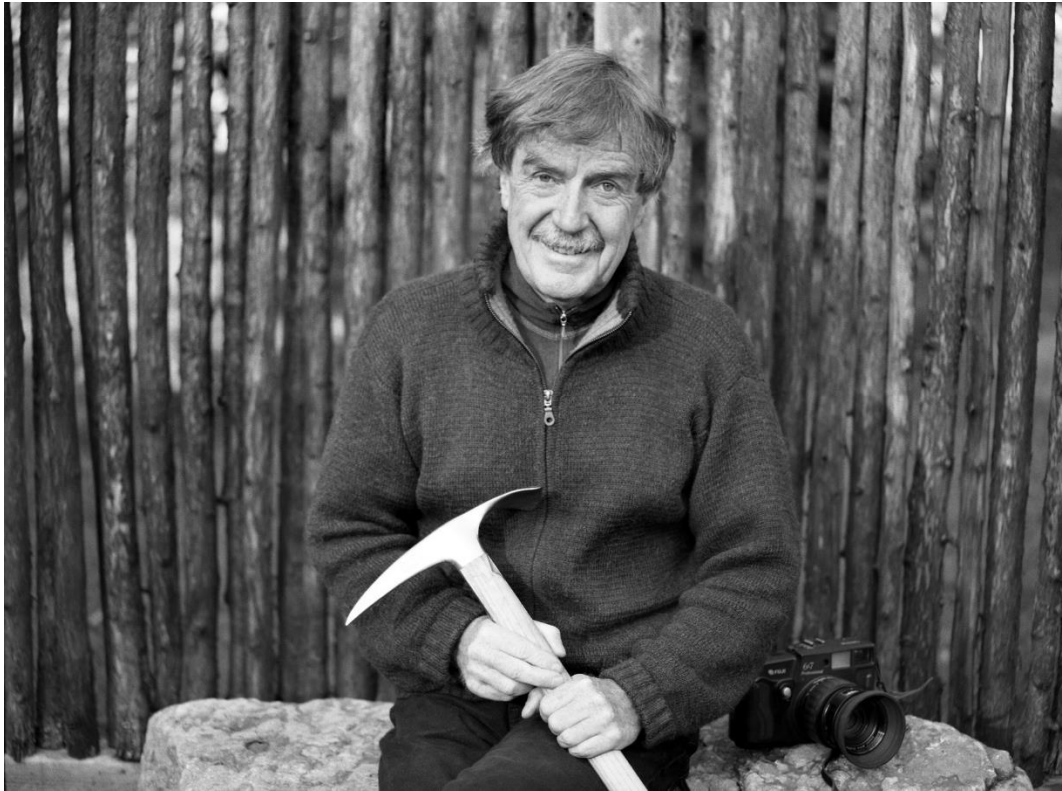


2015 SUMMIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Pierre Lemire



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Pierre Lemire's prolific life working as a certified mountain guide and photographer in the Rockies almost happened by chance.

As a teenager growing up in Quebec, Lemire was inspired by men of the mountains, and holds Frank Smythe, the British mountaineer, writer, and explorer, as an inspirational figure in his early life. Upon arrival in the Rockies in 1965, the 18-year-old Lemire started work as a store man at the Chateau Lake Louise; and a year later found work at the Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House ó a move which was to prove both pivotal and instrumental for the next 50 or so years of his life as a highly-respected photographer and mountain guide in the Canadian Rockies.

Lemire's experience working at the Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House introduced him to mountain life. He started his career as a lift operator at the Lake Louise ski area and fell in love with skiing. Working at the Lake piqued his interest in avalanche control, and for three winters, starting in 1972, he worked for Parks Canada on avalanche control in Rogers Pass. During those summers he also became an assistant guide with Canadian Mountain Holidays (CMH), and by 1974 was a certified mountain guide with the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG), starting to work for CMH as a heli-skiing guide where he quickly progressed through the ranks. From 1980 to 1990 Lemire became an examiner for the ACMG.

Throughout this time he continued to pursue his love for photography, a hobby he developed as a child. "Photography was my passion, definitely as much as I liked mountaineering and skiing," Lemire said. "Being in the mountains also provided a fantastic opportunity for me to take photographs." Lemire's love of photographing people and mountains led him to travel the world to Peru, Burma, Greenland, Bolivia, India, and Guatemala, among some of the highlights and document his experiences through the lens.

Pierre Lemire's work has appeared in *Canadian Summits*, *Equinox*, and the *Faces of Canada* exhibit.

Lemire, who now lives in Field, British Columbia, is most proud of his work which appeared in *The Hills of Nepal* exhibit at the Whyte Museum in 2000 featuring intimate photographs of men, women, and children taken over the course of three visits to the foothills of the Himalaya. "The photos I have taken have been hugely influenced by the places I've been and the people I've met," said Lemire, "I've been fortunate to have met people who channel and help me."

His photo of Bugaboo Spire is featured on the cover of *Voices from the Summit*, published by National Geographic Society in collaboration with The Banff Centre to commemorate 25 years of the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival in 2000.

Summit of Excellence awarding committee member, Bernadette McDonald, holds Lemire's skills with a camera second to none. "Pierre's photographs capture mountain landscapes and mountain people in nuanced and exquisite detail," said McDonald, who is also part of the committee that recommended Lemire for the award. "His uncompromising standards, his artistic eye, and his intimate relationship with the mountains have created a unique body of work that is admired around the world."

When asked what it takes to be a really good photographer, Lemire replied "The only difference is the motivation and passion. You have to be a little bit crazy, passionate, and driven."

The 2015 Summit of Excellence Award was sponsored by Norseman Outdoor Specialist.