

The Forest Is Calling



A One-Hour Documentary Media Kit

*"The forest is more than trees, it's the soil itself, it's the water, it's the air,
and all the living things within it. Everything is connected."*

Albert Karvonen

In *The Forest is Calling*, wildlife filmmaker and naturalist, Albert Karvonen, takes us on a fascinating journey through the northern boreal forests of Alberta and Finland.

Dramatic high definition footage captures the behaviours and sounds of some of the planet's most spectacular wildlife, from moose to songbirds. Witness the ruffed grouse drumming during mating season and the courtship rituals of Finland's capercaillie and black grouse. Close range footage of wolves, lynx, grizzlies and the illusive wolverine are captivating, as are images of orchids and an array of insect and hummingbird pollinators.

Canada is home to one quarter of Earth's boreal forests but excessive logging and land development, Alberta's rapidly expanding oil sands, and climate change threaten the forest and the wildlife that inhabit it. Albert believes, "The boreal forest is Canada's greatest treasure and the land, water, plant and animal life must be protected."

DIRECTED by ALBERT KARVONEN
PRODUCED by ALBERT and PIRKKO KARVONEN



The Forest Is Calling is an hour-long non-commercial film presentation about the boreal forests of Alberta and Finland.

The film shares the beauty, inner life, and heart of this magical forest, through the eyes and lens of wildlife and nature filmmaker, Albert Karvonen. A life-long champion of the environment, Karvonen Films has produced more than 120 award-winning films that have wowed millions around the world in more than 100 countries; films that create awareness, arouse curiosity, offer an intimate peek into the natural world, and encourage responsible stewardship of our water, land, air, plants and animals.

Now, 84 years young and the survivor of a stroke, Albert has decided to make one last film, his last stand for the beloved boreal forest he has lived and worked in his entire life. Albert's personal quest is to encourage citizens to help protect 50% of Canada's boreal forest (one of the largest ecosystems in the world and the primary source of our oxygen and fresh water) against the many threats that jeopardize its very existence. Clear-cut logging; the oil, gas and mining industries; and unbridled land development endanger the last remaining, undisturbed tracts of boreal forest.

The clock is ticking for Albert and the forest. In a race against time, the octogenarian travels to Finland, to explore his family roots and to capture HD footage of the largest grouse in the world. Spectacular images of the courtship dance, mating and hatchlings offer an intimate peek into the Capercaillie.

Stunning close-up footage of grizzly bears, wolves and the black grouse, round out his trip.

Arriving back in Canada late spring, Albert sets up blinds and scaffolds around his 65-hectare property at Amisk Lake in northern Alberta, prime landscape for capturing boreal forest plant and animal life. The ruffed grouse drumming and pileated woodpecker chicks with open mouths come alive in HD accompanied with a natural sound track. The yellow-bellied sap sucker pounds out the Morse code on an aspen tree, creating a nectar smorgasbord for a variety of the forest's insects, mammals and birds. Plant and animal connections and interdependence make up the web of life in the forest.

As summer arrives, Albert treks to the Rocky Mountains to film moose and grizzly bear, iconic symbols of wilderness, along with several species of songbirds. Wetlands and lakes, an essential element of the forest, are explored. Much of the world's fresh water supply is found in Canada's boreal forest.

The camera follows the turning of the leaves as fall morphs into winter. Rare footage of lynx, timber wolves, pine marten, caribou and wolverine grace a frozen backdrop, a few of the amazing characters that bring this film to life.



Lastly, the audience will witness actual footage of the tar sands and clear cut logging, bringing to mind the question:

If we destroy the forest where do the birds nest? What will the animals eat? What will happen to us?

Albert and his wife, Pirkko make a difference and take a stand to protect one of Canada's greatest treasures. They designate the majority of their property as a conservation site, protecting it from development in perpetuity.

The Forest Is Calling leaves viewers with hope. Albert offers doable suggestions as to how everyday citizens can make a difference and help to protect the boreal forest of Canada, and the world.

Quotable Quotes from Albert Karvonen

“A ruffed grouse drumming on the log, you not only see the beautiful coloration of the feathers, the action of the wings, but you hear the sound from the slow methodical drum beat to the rapid succession of wind beats in the end, it’s all in sync.”

“We’re losing the forest at a rapid rate. Canada has been listed as the number one country in terms of forest degradation the way we are consuming it.”

“It’s a form of self indulgence I feel, me personally, I get a high by taking a picture of an orchid with an insect on it, or a woodpecker drumming. As I have been filming nature for years I’ve realized how important, how beautiful, how intricate it is.”

“I believe very strongly in trying to show nature as nature is. To do the film in such a way that it reflects the animal in its natural world, doing its things as it normally does.”

Biography

Albert Karvonen

Albert Karvonen began his life-long love affair with nature while growing up on his family's homestead in northeastern Alberta. Surrounded by the ever-changing landscape of the boreal forest, he gained a profound respect for the earth's marvels and a strong work ethic. While he enjoyed a successful career as a teacher and then principal in Edmonton's public schools, even earning a Master's degree in education, he could not



dismiss the call of the wild. After 23 years of teaching and with a wife and five children to support, Albert risked it all and began producing independent wildlife films full-time. During the transition from teacher to filmmaker, he toured North America with the prestigious National Audubon Society for five years, lecturing on wildlife photography.

Albert's passion for the natural world and creative vision has led him to produce over 120 film, television, and multimedia titles. Relying largely on private financing, Albert's films have achieved commercial success enjoyed by few independent filmmakers. Albert's substantial contributions to filmmaking in Western Canada saw him honoured with the coveted **David Billington Award** in 1991. Sponsored by the Alberta Motion Pictures Industries Association, the award is a benchmark in a career devoted to the production of outstanding wildlife films. In 1997, the City of Edmonton recognized his tireless dedication and remarkable talents with the prestigious **Salute to Excellence Award** for Lifetime Contribution to the Arts. Albert's most recent acknowledgment was the **Alberta Centennial Medal**, awarded to him in November of 2005, for his contributions to education in Alberta. In 2007, Albert was awarded **The Honorary Doctor of Science** at Athabasca University. Albert was inducted into the **Order of Athabasca University**, June 2013, in recognition of his contribution to environmental conservation and natural history in Alberta and his support of Science Outreach - Athabasca. Although he has been intimately involved with all aspects of his productions, from inception to completion, financing and distribution, Albert still prefers to be on location filming wildlife.

Albert has created a filmmaking legacy that now includes over 120 film, television, and multimedia titles distributed to over 100 countries. This collection represents one of the largest natural history motion picture libraries in Canada. Along with numerous awards, his films have achieved commercial success, a feat that few independent filmmakers manage.



Pirkko Karvonen

Pirkko Karvonen has worked in film and television production since 1976 when she and her husband, Albert Karvonen, founded Karvonen Films Ltd. In the process of working as a cameraperson, still photographer, videographer, writer, and producer, Pirkko has gained a wealth of production experience.



Her directorial debut occurred with the 2001 documentary **The People of Sointula**, which garnered her a **Best Documentary** nomination at the 2002 Alberta Film and Television Awards. Since then she has produced 13 documentaries about artists and immigrant experiences and was inducted into the **Order of Athabasca University** in June 2013. Pirkko is also well known as one of Alberta's most talented and prolific textile artist. Her award-winning works are enjoyed locally and internationally in public, corporate, and private collections, including the permanent collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. She is probably best known for her inlay tapestries and transparencies and her work can be found in collections in Canada, Australia, Finland, Japan, New Zealand and Sweden.

Pirkko was a teacher of weaving and consultant with Alberta Culture (Gov't of Alberta) Visual Arts Branch for over 30 years. Besides this she gave evening courses in weaving with the Continuing Education of Edmonton Public School Board and Sherwood Park Recreation Department. She is the founder of Strathcona County Weavers, Handweavers, Spinners and Dyers of Alberta (HWSDA) and Tablet Weavers International Studies and Techniques (TWIST). Today Pirkko teaches and gives workshops from her Studio.

Credits

<i>Producer/Director/Camera</i>	Albert Karvonen
<i>Associate Producer</i>	Pirkko Karvonen
<i>Additional Camera</i>	Peter Wunstorf Andrew Manske
<i>Editor</i>	Brendin Evans
<i>Writer/Narrator</i>	Janice Ryan
<i>Supervising Editor</i>	Roley Wight
<i>Post Production Sound</i>	Downy Karvonen
<i>Post Production Facilities</i>	Reel Girls Media
<i>Archival Footage courtesy of</i>	Compass Media Green Peace Reel Girls Media Kari Kemppainen
<i>Funded by</i>	Albert and Pirkko Karvonen

Thank You

Alberta Conservation Association
Provincial Archives of Alberta
Vireo Karvonen and Richard Williams
Athabasca University
Science Outreach - Athabasca
Crooked Creek Conservancy Society
Keepers of the Water
Mike Hudema - Greenpeace
Studio Post
Timo Ahonen and Hannu Huttu

*In Memory of
Ben Albert Karvonen
for his interest in plants*