



PHOTO BY DAVID LITTLE

SNOW, STEEL, AND POWER

A Night in the life of a Groomer

By Grizz Anderson-Young

During a typical day, a single skier can move up to one metric tonne of snow downhill - Crazy right? Yet, every morning without fail, runs are found smoothed out, widened, and with fresh corduroy laid out like a red carpet. The trails of snowcats cover the mountain top to bottom and a few spaces in between.



PHOTO BY GRIZZ

We cat operators are the snow gremlins of the night, starting our day just as the lifts stop spinning and everyone heads home (or to the pub) for the evening. We work in two shifts: the evening going till midnight, and the grave shift finishing around 8 a.m. It's a tiring and relatively thankless job, but most of the mountain would be un-rideable or inaccessible without the roads and runs we sculpt into the snow. I also give enormous credit to our beloved mechanics, working everyday and sometimes into the evenings to keep our winter beasts running top notch.

Continued on next page →

ARE YOU CURIOUS? INQUISITIVE?

Excited by changes at Castle? We have a team of great editors, an awesome graphic designer and regular contributors to assist in the details. No experience necessary as the outgoing Publisher will support the transition. We publish 3 times a year about all aspects of Castle. It's an interesting volunteer position that connects you with staff, residents and our Community.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS: Caralee Marriott - cmarriott8@gmail.com

Looking for a Publisher for The LiftLine

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

CMCA Potluck	18
Open Mic Night @ T-Bar Pub	
Night Skiing on Green	
Musical Bingo @ T-Bar Pub	19
IFSA Junior Regional Freeski Competition	25-26
Trivia Night @ T-Bar Pub	26
Spring Pass Sale Begins	27
Season Passholder Renewal Period Opens	

MARCH

Alpenland Demo Day	4
Musical Bingo @ T-Bar Pub	5,19
Trivia Night in the T-Bar Pub	12,26
Last Day of Powder Stagecoach Cat Skiing	18
Fistful of Turns Banked Slalom	
Tom Tataryn World's Longest Slalom	25
LSA Spring Fling Fiesta	

APRIL

Musical Bingo @ T-Bar Pub	2
Slush Cup	8
Closing Day	9
Season Passholder Renewal Period Closes	15

Beats in the Base Spring Concert Series. All weekends from March 18th - April 9th.

Live Music @T-Bar Pub Fridays

Vitae Environmental Scavenger Hunt Sundays

Yoga @Daylodge Mon 6:00pm, Thur 8:00pm

— Continued from Page 1

The Snowcats make it all happen. These machines put in hundreds of hours of bulldozing, grooming, track packing and clearing snow every season. From the blade on the front, the jagged tracks, and the tiller at the rear, everything does its part to make coarse snow into fine, shapeable material; end result: corduroy. The reward is during the day we too ride on the fresh corduroy and judge or compliment our work. Pride in our work is a must.

Most evenings are straightforward: move snow, groom runs,

and make everything neat and tidy. Our extra projects and duties are determined by the events happening on the mountain. November through January we've been snowmaking, filling in the last pockets and holes in the slope, and covering bare spots eaten away by the Chinook winds. Building snow farms to lengthen the upper mountain runs happens depending on wind and snowfall. The Freestyle mogul course that's now hosted competitions (and was complimented by a visitor, as being among the top 5 in

Canada!) was nearly two weeks of work, the Tumbleweed terrain park another week and a half.

Like every operation, the grooming department is one of several that allows a ski hill to function. Everything from building race-courses to clearing avi-control debris, we work closely with the other outdoor departments, so Castle is ready and open every day of the season. After the hill closes, I'm waiting for the first snow in October, eager to get behind the controls and do it all over again.

CASTLE CHAMPION: SPEEDY PETE ALLAN

By Carolyn Armstrong



PHOTO BY BEV ALLAN - Speedy Pete shushing down the mountain in 1965.

When I think back to our early days of skiing at Castle, I can't help but reminisce about the quality time our family spent with the Allan family - Pete, Bev, Holly, and Heather. Pete epitomized Castle culture. He loved life, adventure, fun and had a passion for the outdoors especially skiing - all shared by his wife Bev and later, passed on to their girls. His love

of the outdoors translated into a deep passion for Westcastle; and after skiing its very first season back in 1965, he was hooked. Pete had found his favorite place in the world.

When Westcastle found itself in jeopardy of closing its doors forever, due to decreasing municipal interest and financial strain, Pete became involved with the Westcastle Management Committee. He, along with many dedicated volunteers, helped raise funds and support for the hill. Pete also wrote part of a study presented in support of The Vacation Alberta Proposal to further develop the resort. Although the Vacation Alberta Proposal never came to fruition, Pete's unflagging dedication to Westcastle played its part

in the creation of the resort we know today.

I'll always remember, in the time before chairlifts with freshly fallen snow sifting into Tamarack Bowl, two perfectly laid sets of ski tracks. Then the figure of Speedy Pete, grin on his face, climbing back up to lay his third. While Pete is no longer with us, his warmth, humor, and love for this special place lives on in those who had the privilege of calling him friend.

For more information on the history of Castle Mountain Resort and the people involved in keeping the ski hill alive, I would recommend Steven Kenworthy's book, *A History of Westcastle to Castle Mountain Resort*.

MOUNTAIN MOMENTS OF THE PAST



The following excerpts are from Kenworthy S (2014). The History of West Castle to Castle Mountain Resort 1965-2007 Pg 29-32.

Fritz Bortenlanger, the owner of (Ski & Sport Haus) Ski shop in

Calgary was brought in by (Paul) Klaas to run the ski school for the 1966 - 67 season..... Bortenlanger's tenure at West Castle was not a long one but he left a lasting impression on the local ski community... in the form of one of the first logos for West Castle. By putting a large W beside a simple silhouette drawing of a castle tower, Bortenlanger created what would become the resort's most enduring and identifying symbol for the next three decades.

AS PER ALBERTA PARKS REGULATIONS

All snowmobiles and snowbikes must stay to the side of the Main Road from the East Parking Lot then ride ONLY on the Westcastle Valley Trail (No forays into the forest) until they get to the designated Random Ride Areas up by Middle Kootenay Pass or at the far south end of our valley



STEVE'S "OLD SKIS" REVIEW

By Steve Motta, Castle regular, professional ski tuner & collector of well-used skis.

While looking for a pair of 88 underfoot skis to round out his collection, Steve was offered some Rossignol 88s circa 2011. They were his for the taking, but after a test drive, the original owner received the following note:

Truly an acquired taste...

Experience 88's are legendary all rounders known for stability and versatility in all snow conditions. Stable at high speed and quick to respond when asked.

The pair I demo'd came enhanced with a gnarly jagged core shot, wax starved prematurely grey bases, and limp rag flexibility. Not unlike my own physical condition. Similar to my weight, they were slightly heavy. Plastic features on the bindings were chipped and

scratched, desperately in need of a visit to the dermatologist.

But how was the experience?

Well, interesting. At 186cm the skis were solid and stable with good torsional stiffness of the variety I enjoyed in my youth. But they crawled like an old guy across traverses complaining the whole way. Headed down hill, they couldn't care less about responding to "please turn" requests. It felt like they had already calculated the value of their pension and were looking for an exit package.

I've been there, but I expect better of my equipment. Do as I say, not what I do.

Clearly they don't "meet expecta-

tions", and the likelihood of improvement over the next year is unlikely. I suggest we remove responsibility from these skis and restrict them to groomers, with no direct reports. Retirement is strongly recommended.

The only question remaining is, can we make them go away without providing severance.

Sure we can, they are just skis!



PHOTO BY CHERYL DELEEUEW

CMCA JOINS THE SOUTH WEST ALBERTA RURAL CRIME WATCH ASSOCIATION

By Tim Luke

Rural Crime Watch (RCW) is based on the observation that crime is least likely to occur in a community where people are alert to the potential for crime and willing to look out for each other. RCW is completely voluntary and involves residents working in cooperation with their local RCMP. It benefits the community by showing potential thieves, vandals and poachers that the community is alert and working together to prevent crime. Signs will be posted for all to see. We can help by recording the details of any

suspicious activity and reporting it to the **Pincher Creek RCMP at 403-627-6000**.

The intent of the Rural Crime Watch program is to provide extra "support" for the RCMP. The focus of RCW is to promote crime prevention through awareness, education and encouraging reporting of suspicious activity when observed. It is important to note that we are not to approach suspicious people in an attempt to gather additional information; we are not the police and do not have police authority.

There are 4 key areas for us all to focus on:

1. Property Identification,
2. Home and Building Security,
3. Reporting Suspicious Activity,
4. Reporting a Poacher

For more information, see:

www.facebook.com/swabrcw

www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca

CMCA'S PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Julie Heinrich, President of CMCA

Our membership drive has wrapped up again for another year. We knocked on doors, interrupted dinner, sat down for a sip and truly enjoyed our neighborhood. If we missed you, please sign up via our website or, if you're reading this digitally, use the membership form following the last page. Our fundraising fell short of recent years, understandable with stresses of covid still looming and an impending recession. We're several thousand dollars short of last year, which impacts some of our more critical programs like firesmarting, trail

work, this Lifeline newsletter and more. So we've put on our thinking caps and figured out a way to give you more bang for your donation buck!

Join me in welcoming CMCA stickers. Some for everyone because we all love stickers, but some for those who go above and beyond to contribute. Look for us handing them out proudly at upcoming events such as potlucks and slush cup. Bring on the rest of the season, and a ski hill community to pass along to the next generation!

YES YOU CAN



Invite staff for a home cooked dinner, contact Marquise at CMR Ext.302



Join Open Mike every other Saturday night 8-10pm at the T-Bar. Mar 4,18 - Apr 1



Access groomed XC ski trails at Syncline (synclineCastle-trails.org) for grooming details



Get a FREE Fire-Smart estimate for your mountain home by calling Jenny at FireWise Solutions at 403-432-1414

UPDATE FROM THE CMR BOARD

By Brian McGurk, President, CMR Board

We had a great start with exceptional early season snow falls enhanced by our snowmaking. Keep the snow-dancing and other traditions going as we can always use more snow.

Despite early season challenges with our grooming cats, our Maintenance team worked hard to ensure we now have a fully operational fleet. Our groomers have been doing a great job of

catching up around the mountain and providing us with quality corduroy.

The pandemic created unique challenges for our Food and Beverage services and we've undergone several changes. These changes should improve overall quality and service.

We've had a couple of incidents that impacted our ability to run our cat-skiing operation over the

last few weeks. Our primary cat-skiing cat was down but is now back in service. We've had to rebook our customers so the cat-ski terrain could be closed to touring more often than normal. Please check the snow report or contact the office before heading out into the area.

On the bright side, Spring awaits and the days are getting longer and longer.

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SKI MOUNTAINEERING

By Brent Harris, Race Manager, SKIMO Canada

The 11th annual 2023 Castle Mountain Resort Ski Mountaineering Races are in the books, and the terrain at Castle continues to put the Mo in Skimo. ☺

The first weekend in January saw a qualifying event hosted by Castle Mountain for the 2023 Canadian Team that will attend the World Championships in February in Spain. Three men, three women, and one Junior male qualified and secured their spots on Team Canada. Skimo athletes and organizers love this race as it is the athletes' first chance each winter to compete and gauge the success of their off-season training.

Skimo is now, once again, an Olympic sport. It was first staged at Chamonix in 1924 and again at St. Moritz in 1928. "Military Ski Patrol" pitted the armies of winter nations against one another in a

variant of a Biathlon Relay. In 2026, the Winter games at Milan Cortina will feature the Skimo disciplines of Sprint and Mixed Relay.

A Skimo Sprint race (which gets run at Castle along with the more arduous full mountain race) is super for spectators to watch. The athletes are uber fit and often the winning difference in a Sprint race comes down to which athletes' are able to do the fastest transitions (skiing to putting on skins, taking skins off to boot-packing or taking off skins to ski).

The Skimo Mixed Relay race is similar to the Sprint but with longer/more vertical ascent/descent and with teams of two athletes completing the course twice.

Know that the Skimo Races at Castle are a critical competition opportunity for our athletes.

You're helping athletes who will represent Canada at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games and beyond!

Skimo loves Castle.

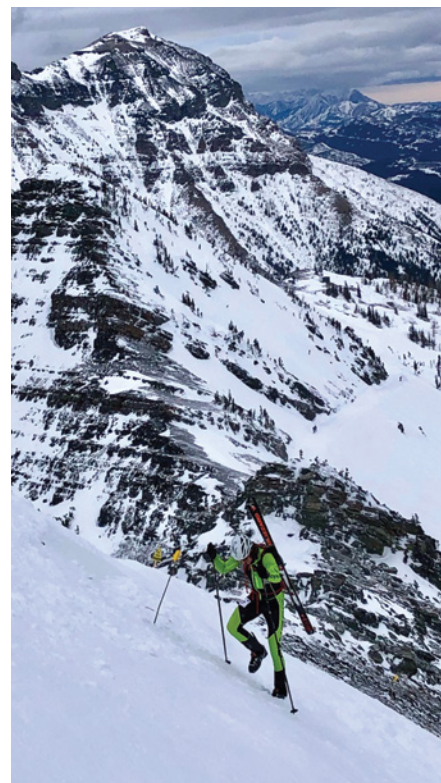


PHOTO BY ADRIENNE GOMES

MOGULS PROVINCIAL COMP

By Rosalie Tarrant, President, CFSC



PHOTO BY ROSALIE TARRANT

The Castle Freestyle Ski Club (CFSC) hosted a Provincial Competition on January 27-29, with athletes attending from across AB and SK. With 9 local athletes competing, CMFSC had a great showing from all athletes. Saturday, Brooke Ukraninetz placed 2nd in the F16 category, and on both

days, Brayden Baird placed 4th in the M14 category. Athletes and coaches had fun and remarked that it was a challenging course in comparison to other courses skied. CFSC would like to THANK ALL VOLUNTEERS and CMR for making this event happen. GREAT FUN! GREAT TIMES!

OPENING OUR TERRAIN EVERY DAY WE CAN

By Amanda Goodhue, Mountain Safety Manager, CMR



PHOTOS BY BETHANY MACDONALD

What does it take to get the mountain open every day? From a patrol perspective, the answer varies greatly, but there are a few key components that make up our daily routine.

We work in an ever-changing environment, so there are some systems we've implemented to help us with overall risk management. Every morning starts with a meeting, where we discuss overnight and forecasted weather, avalanche hazard, and any other potential hazards on the mountain that may need to be managed. This leads us to establish our operational plan for the day.

If we're lucky, it has snowed over-

night and we leave the office to conduct avalanche control work, either by ski cutting or using explosives. Weather changes, such as wind, also often require additional avalanche control work. As we ski around, we're always re-assessing how things compare to our avalanche hazard forecast formulated during our morning meeting. Sometimes, plans are modified based on the conditions we find.

We place rope lines strategically across the mountain, so we're then able to open areas in phases. This means we can continue conducting avalanche control in closed areas, while allowing people to start skiing on

other parts of the mountain. Skiable terrain is maximized.

While avalanche mitigation is one of our main tasks in opening terrain, other aspects of risk management also are considered: icy conditions, cold weather, and other potential hazards.

Getting the mountain open involves efficient teamwork and an ability to adapt to whatever conditions we're presented with on any given day. It takes coordination and hard work from all departments and staff members. Every day looks different, and I think that's one of the things we all enjoy most about ski patrolling at Castle Mountain.

STORM WARNING?

Please move your car to the far North end of the Parking Lot to facilitate efficient snow plowing.

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OFF-SEASON WORK AT CMR – PART ONE

By Dean Parkinson ,CMR General Manager

We are regularly asked what we do all summer, with some people thinking we just take the summer off. In reality, we spend the bulk of our time setting up for success for the next season.

Preparations for the following season begin in earnest in January and February as we prepare for the early bird season's pass sale. The budget process, which culminates with board approval in late May, also kicks off as we seek a balance between pricing and constantly increasing costs.

With next seasons' ticket pricing determined, our marketing & guest services work to rollout our graduated season pass pricing. Summer marketing activities include developing marketing plans, creating print and billboard ads, and ordering various promotional items. During the fall, marketing and guest services work together to travel to trade shows in major centres around Alberta promoting Castle, selling Wow cards and printing seasons passes.

By the time the lifts have stopped spinning at the end of a season, our teams are discussing the hits, misses, and lessons learned from the season. Many of the lessons learned are incorporated into next year's plans and budgets.

With the hill closed, our maintenance programs for all of our equipment kick off. Outside equipment requires lift line inspec-

tions, testing, and repairs on everything from sheaves, auxiliary motors, bearings, drives (the computer that runs the lift), chairs, and maintenance on cats, trucks, loaders, snowmobiles, snowmaking guns and hoses, sewer line flushing, etc. Supplies and parts are ordered early to garner suppliers' discounts. Planning which repairs to do first is based on a myriad of factors. For example, Huckleberry chairlift is generally the first lift to be ready as we need it for Huckfest in late August. All major projects must be planned, scheduled, and budgeted by the end of April. For the buildings, as with our outdoor equipment, we keep a running list of maintenance and improvement projects as we go through the season. Projects that are too large to complete while operating are done in May or October (eg. replacing staff accommodation roof).

As the snowline moves further up the mountain, we are able to proceed with more projects, such as installing or cleaning drainage ditches and culverts. Spring also sees a return of hikers, so signs are installed to illustrate the routes to scenic areas around the mountain. Roads within the village

are plowed to speed up melting so that residents can more readily access their properties and CMR can move ahead with maintenance projects.

In May, many of our winter RV residents depart for the summer months while others continue their lease year round. This provides an opportunity for summer campers to enjoy CMR. Winter RV leases are prepared and sent out in July for the upcoming winter season and these residents return to CMR in October.

One of the biggest end-of-season adjustments we make at CMR is saying goodbye to many of our team-members as we reduce our team from 200 down to 30-35 over the summer non-operating months. Job postings and recruiting for the upcoming season begins in the summer, so there only 2-3 months of relative quiet time on the seasonal staffing front.

Stay tuned for Part Two to learn about the work done by CMR staff from June til November!



OUR HEROES: Amanda Goodhue & Madeline Martin

By Cole Fawcett



PHOTOS BY BETHANY MACDONALD - Amanda & Madeline (Left to right)

On Friday, February 3, 2023 at roughly 3:40 PM, Castle Mountain Resort (CMR) Mountain Safety received a call from 911 dispatch reporting an individual in distress. 911 Dispatch was able to relay to CMR Mountain Safety staff the coordinates of the individual. CMR Mountain Safety staff determined that the location of the person was outside of CMR's ski area boundary and not safely accessible by CMR staff. RCMP were then contacted and Southwest Alberta Regional Search and Rescue (SARSAR) was tasked to assist.

At 5:15 PM, two SARSAR members (Amanda Goodhue & Madeline Martin) who are also members of CMR's Mountain Safety team, started out in the hopes of accessing the individual via the Syncline Valley. By 8:15 PM, rescuers made contact with the injured individual and found that,

while he was in stable condition, he had sustained injuries that made it not feasible to downclimb to safety. Goodhue and Martin then decided to stay in place for the night. Their assessment of the patient confirmed that he had likely been involved in a size 2 avalanche outside the ski area boundary. It is believed that he was carried approximately 250 meters over rocks and through trees, where his fall was eventually arrested by small trees.

At 11:30 PM a second team of two rescuers, Andrew Fairhurst & Nathan Pinchak, made their way to the rescue party and injured individual, with supplies to make the overnight more comfortable including food, water, extra clothing, and sleeping bags. They made contact with the party at approximately 1:05 AM, on Saturday morning (February 4) and returned to the staging area shortly thereafter.

By 7:00 AM, Kananaskis Country Public Safety began a flight to the rescue site with the intention of extracting the individuals by helicopter. By 9:35 AM the injured individual was slung out by helicopter and handed over to EMS. The K-Country team returned to the site and picked up the two rescuers. By 10:00 AM, all rescuers had returned to the CMR Mountain Safety Office and all resources stood down.

CMR wishes to extend its gratitude to all parties involved in this successful rescue mission, including but not limited to the Pincher Creek RCMP, Southwest Alberta Regional Search & Rescue, Kananaskis Country Public Safety, Pincher Creek Emergency Services, in addition to CMR's own involved team members.

SHARE SOME CASTLE HOSPITALITY!

We are looking for dinner hosts for Castle staff. Can you host 2 extra people for dinner at your cabin sometime? Contact Marquise in Staff Accommodations at 403-627-5101 Ext 302 and she will pair you up!



NEWS FROM THE MD

By Dave Cox, MD of Pincher Creek Councillor

Winter road maintenance has dominated the MD's operations. A dry January gave us somewhat of a break.

Some of the things that are happening:

Development applications to change a land's designation from agriculture to one of the recreation designations has been put on hold until June 30, to allow us time to come up with a strategy for dealing with these applications. There is a lot of interest in this type of development with the

increase of tourism in the area and some applications have been controversial.

The MD is also looking at how we can get provincial support for infrastructure upgrades with the increase in tourism.

There has been an open house as well as a public meeting to get reaction and input to changes to the utilities bylaw. This has resulted in changes to the original draft. The second reading is coming up.

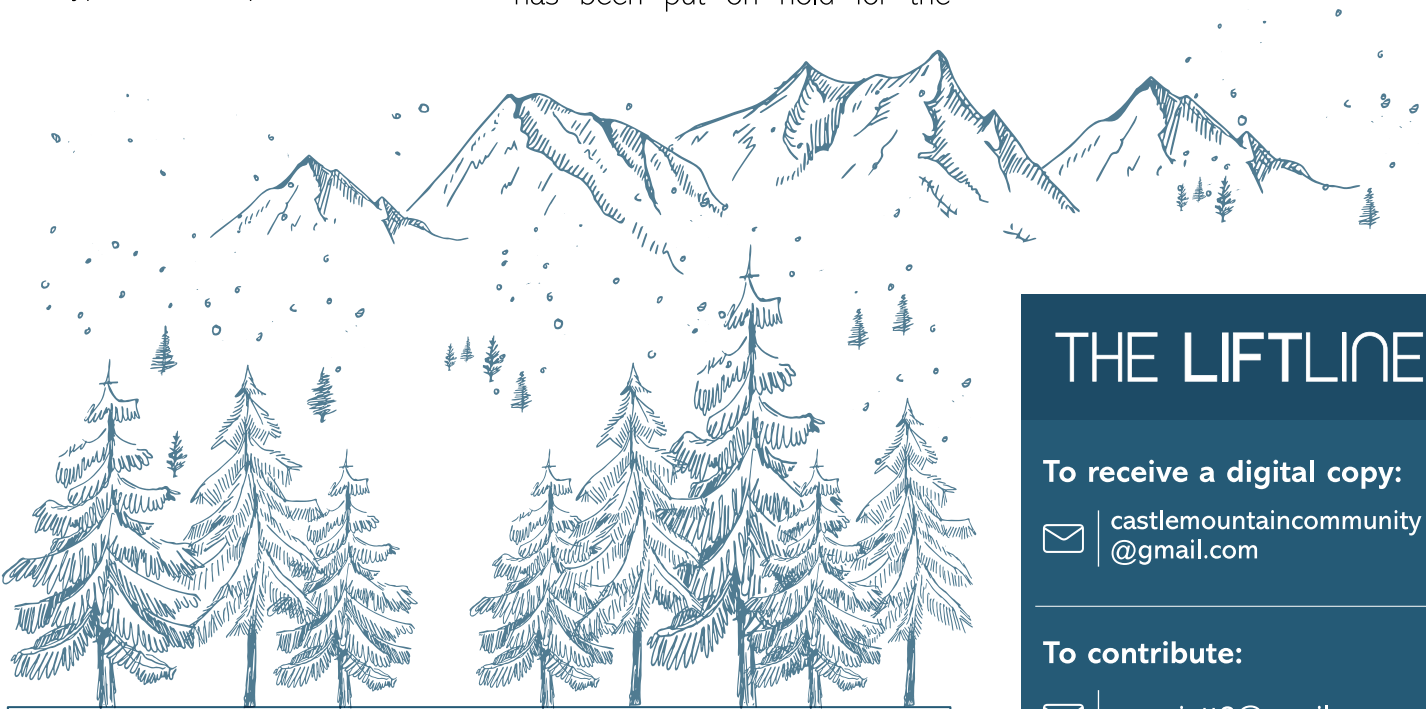
The Beaver Mines water project has been put on hold for the

winter but may resume with milder weather. This may impact traffic to Castle Mountain Resort.

The Coffee With Council meeting at the Coalfields School was well attended and, while there were diverse topics discussed, I feel not everyone had an opportunity to ask their questions. Feel free to bring these up to me at:

CouncilDiv3@mdpincercreek.ab.ca.

Enjoy the season and remember time flies. Spring is just around the corner.



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To receive a digital copy:
 ✉ castlemountaincommunity@gmail.com

To contribute:
 ✉ cmarriott8@gmail.com

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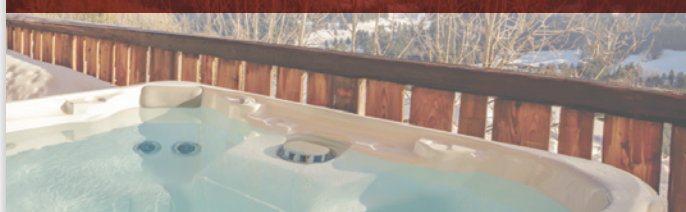




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CMCA Annual Membership Form

CMCA memberships are **\$20 per year, per adult**, due at the time of application/renewal. Membership is **open to all Castle residents and others with strong CMR connections**, age 18 or older. CMCA initiates and develops many projects in our community. We appreciate your membership, and your financial and volunteer support. Primary method of communication is by email. **Please email a copy/photo of your completed form, or any questions/comments, to CastleMountainCommunity@gmail.com, and eTransfer your fees and donations to treasurerCMCA@gmail.com indicating in the Notes section the name of the members your payment is covering.**

Your Name(s) & Contact Information (Please list all adults whose fees you are paying. Use back of page as needed.)

Surname	First Name	Email Address	Cell Ph #	Home Ph #	Home Location*

**Eg Home Location: Castle, Pincher Creek, CNP, Lethbridge, Calgary ... Knowing members' home locations can be useful in representing CMCA to governments.*

Your Total Annual Fees due: \$20 x #adults listed, ___ = \$ _____ **Payment Method:** Cash ___ Cheque ___ eTransfer ___ **Mail Address** Box 884 Pincher Creek T0K1W0

Your Connection(s) to CMCA (check/describe all that apply)

- Have a residence at Castle**** Cabin, suite or RV address: _____ Local ph# _____
- Work for Castle Mountain Resort (CMR)**
- Hold, or will hold, a current CMR season's pass** (Note: this, by itself, is a non-voting membership category)
- Other** (also, by itself, a non-voting membership category), please describe: _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (Optional)

Are you joining CMCA for the first-time ___ **OR** **renewing your membership** ___? *If renewing, in what year did you first join CMCA?* _____ (approx.)

Do you have family under age 18 who regularly join you at Castle? Yes ___ No ___ *If yes, please list their ages:* _____
(Knowing this can help us improve planning of age-appropriate and inclusive events.)

In the past few years, have you:

- Done volunteer work with CMCA? If so, THANK YOU, & please describe briefly:
- Made material donations to CMCA (eg, silent auction items)? If so, again, THANK YOU, & please describe briefly:
- Made financial donations to CMCA? If so, again, THANK YOU, & please describe briefly:

This year, are you potentially interested in:

- Doing some volunteer work with CMCA?
- Making some material donation(s) to CMCA?
- Making a financial donation to CMCA? (Note: You may add a donation to your current membership fee payment.)

Thank you very much for expressing interest in any/all of these ways of support! CMCA board members will follow-up with you.

CMCA abides by the Alberta Personal Information Act and shall not sell, barter or lease any of its membership, donor or other lists as per sections 56(1)(iii) and 56(3) of this Act.

** Residents: If CMCA should resume publishing a Residents' Directory, for distribution solely among Castle residents, would you like your information included?	
Yes ___ No ___	Signature _____ Date _____