



THE LIFTLINE

CASTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PHOTO BY CHERYL DELEUW

LEGENDS OF THE SKY

By Heather Davis, Owner of Uplift Adventures

I always knew why I wanted to work with the Blackfoot People to create the Legends of the Sky program. I loved reading Indigenous stories about the night sky, but knew they weren't my stories to tell. I wanted to create an opportunity for people to hear these Blackfoot legends from the local Indigenous peoples. I approached Jaron Weaselbear, of the Piikani Traditional Knowledge Centre, to



PHOTO BY UPLIFT ADVENTURES

join me in creating a program that can do this.

Why did Jaron say yes and decide to work with Uplift Adventures?

Jaron wants to share who the Blackfoot People are, their history, and build new partnerships. Some of his ancestors couldn't do this, but he can. The Blackfoot People had their own way of living that included hunting and gathering, and learning from the animals about how to take care of their children.

Jaron wants to open doors for his people and to build relationships to enhance the ability to hunt and gather in this area. It is important to him to be able to gather things like traditional herbs and medicines. Jaron understands the complexities

Continued on next page →

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

CMCA Potluck	16
Ski w/ Santa 12pm-2pm	25
Night Skiing on Green Chair	31
NYE Day Lodge Party 90's Theme	
Fireworks at 8pm on NYE	

JANUARY

Alpenland Demo Day	6
Castle SKIMO Races	12-14
U14 Provincial Race Series	27-28

FEBRUARY

Freestyle Competition	1-4
Torchlight Parade	3
CMCA Cabaret	17
Night Skiing on Green Chair	18
Family Day Activities	19
IFSA Jr. Regional Freeski Event	24-25

MARCH

Slopestyle Competition	1-3
Alpenland Demo Day	2
Fistful of Turns Banked Slalom	16
Tom Tataryn World's Longest Slalom	23

APRIL

Slush Cup	6
Tentative Closing Day	7

Beats in the Base Spring Concert Series.
All weekends from March 16th to April 7th.

RECURRING EVENTS AT THE T-BAR PUB

Live Music every Friday, starting early December

Trivia Night on Sundays

Open Mic Night every other Saturday, starting 2024

THEME NIGHT Wednesday nights once a month

— Continued from Page 1

of the land nowadays, and wants to build connections to work together moving forward. Everything comes down to respect, and he wants people to think from a different perspective.

Jaron is one of the kindest people I know and I'm honoured to work with him and others from the

Blackfoot Nations. Jaron ended by telling me, "You're giving me a chance to be in the West Castle again and to reconnect with this area." I am so grateful that I get to share these lands with these incredible people and I hope I can help bridge a brighter, more collaborative future for all of us.

The Legends of the Sky program runs Saturday nights, offering snowshoe tours and storytelling, from December 23 to March 31.

To learn more or to book, go to:
www.upliftadventures.ca

Or call me at:

403-583-5884

ON THE PATH TO SUSTAINABILITY

By Dean Parkinson, General Manager, Castle Mountain Resort (CMR)

As CMR enters a new season, we thought it would be a good idea to highlight some of the areas where we've made progress in increasing our sustainability.

On the environmental front, this fall we took delivery of our first Tier-5 emissions compliant snowcat. By adding this new cat to our fleet, we're also taking steps to reduce idle time of other snowcats to reduce emissions, fuel, and maintenance costs.

Inside our buildings, we've been replacing incandescent and fluorescent lighting with LED fixtures and/or bulbs. Where we have added outdoor lighting, we've been careful to choose

dark skies approved lighting. Also we converted from propane to natural gas in 2019, recently installed water meters, and are moving toward electronic record-keeping to minimize paper use. This year we also added a water bottle filling station in the lodge.

You may see evidence of increased and improved automation when it comes to snow making with snow machines that automatically adjust to variable water flows based on temperature and humidity, this results in more efficient use of power and water resources. As well, we have invested in snow farming with moveable snow fencing around

the mountain including Huck Bowl and Joe's café.

On the financial side, CMR has momentum thanks to multiple, consecutive years of positive operational income. This, along with debt restructuring, has allowed us to continually upgrade and re-invest in our people, our infrastructure, and the guest experience.

As we near our 60th anniversary, my belief is that the future is bright for our resort and that we're primed to take on additional sustainability measures in the future.

SATURDAY JUNE 22 | 1:00PM SHOTGUN START

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SPIN FLIP TWIST WHO DOES IT?

By Rose Tarrant



PHOTO BY ROSE TARRANT


For most skiers, skiing is on the brain after the first snowfall. For Castle Mountain Freestyle Ski Club (CMFSC), preparations began in July with water ramp training in Oliver, BC and Red Deer, AB. September brought the beginning of trampoline training in Lethbridge and Aldersyde. Athletes were working hard through the summer and fall, honing their flips and twists in preparation for the on-snow season. The start of the 2023/

2024 snow season is quickly approaching for these athletes and we look forward to watching what skills they have learned. As a club, we are focused on teaching athletes in safe environments to ensure they can transition to making great choices on a mountain and in the parks.

Having hosted a Provincial Mogul Competition for the last two years, the Freestyle Club has moved to hosting an Alberta Freestyle Club

Competition in both Mogul and Slopestyle disciplines. This competition is geared toward all ages in our club. The competition will be held from March 1 to 3, 2024.

On behalf of the CMFSC, we would like to thank CMR for all of their support! Without them and all the parent volunteers, our club could not have been as successful as we are today. CMFSC is continuing to grow and we are excited to have many of our coaches return. There are a few new coaches to round out the coaching staff, and we are always looking for individuals who love working with the youth of our community. If you have questions about the club check out our website at: www.castlefreestyle.ca or follow us on Instagram [@castlemountainfreestyle](https://www.instagram.com/castlemountainfreestyle) and Facebook [@castlefreestyle](https://www.facebook.com/castlefreestyle).



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READY TO RIP: WESTCASTLE SKI CLUB

By Scott Sherman, Director WSC

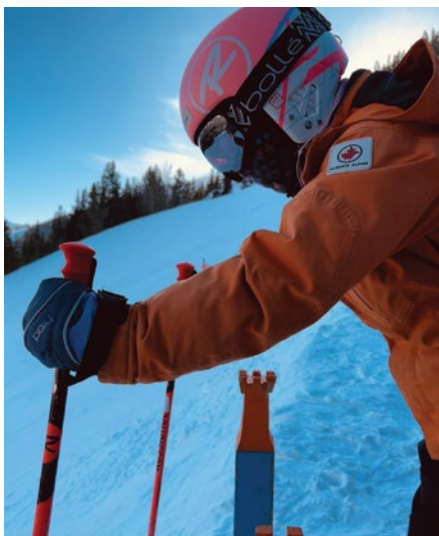


PHOTO BY SCOTT SHERMAN GRACE-LYNN READY TO RIP

Since 1984, the Westcastle Ski Club (WSC) has been nurturing young skiers' skills and passion for the sport. Located at Castle Mountain Resort, we provide a range of programs designed for kids, whether they are aspiring athletes aiming to compete or

simply eager to become proficient skiers. These programs are tailored for children between the ages of 4 and 17, and we maintain low athlete- to-coach ratios in a distinctive mountain setting. Westcastle's young athletes not only learn how to race but also excel in navigating any terrain on the mountain.

For the 23/24 season, we are introducing new offerings. First an All Mountain/Hybrid program. This is perfect for kids who enjoy racing but also want to spend a day each weekend exploring Castle's diverse terrain. Next, we're bringing back the All Mountain Sunday program, catering to skiers aged 12 to 17. Here, kids can explore the mountain and hone their skills, all while under the guidance of a

WSC coach. Finally, we're collaborating with FIS level athletes to provide training opportunities at Castle.

Whether your children are just beginning their skiing journey, seeking to uncover Castle's hidden treasures, or harboring dreams of competing in the World Cup Series, the WSC offers a program suited to their aspirations.

We're thrilled to host a Provincial Series U14 race on January 27 and 28, and we always welcome volunteers.

Program registration is currently open and spaces are filling up quickly. For more information about our 2023/24 season programs and to register, please visit www.westcastle.org. We look forward to seeing you on the slopes!

2023 DIETER AWARD WINNER – DAN GALLAGHER

By Judy Clark & Vicky Miller

Dan Gallagher, winner of this year's Dieter award, is not only an important member of the Castle community but also of Canada's whole ski racing community. He is one of this year's inductees into the Canadian Rockies Ski Racing (CRSR) Hall of Fame in the Official/Builder category.

Dan is a past member of the Alberta Ski Racing Team, coached for the Banff Alpine Ski Academy, built Alpine Courses at the World and Olympic levels, and was responsible for building and maintaining the courses for all four of the

men's ski disciplines at the Vancouver Olympics.

His career has taken him all over the world on snow. We are very fortunate he landed at Castle with his family 13 years ago. With his experience in course safety and coaching, Dan is never far from a Westcastle event and is always there for advice and help.

In an interview for his induction into the Hall of Fame Dan said: "My work was skiing," "Ski Racing" I treated it like my farm, it made me a better person and taught me so

much that I am forever grateful to have had the opportunity to work in and alongside so many amazing individuals."

Dan is an invaluable asset to Castle. THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS!



PHOTO BY ROB MILLER

NEWS FROM THE MD: WATER WOES

By Dave Cox, MD of Pincher Creek

As most people are aware the MD of Pincher Creek is in a water supply crisis. The intake pipes for the water treatment plant (located just upstream from the Hwy 510 bridge on the Crowsnest River) are out of the water and will probably remain so until spring runoff brings the dam's levels back up.

The MD is hauling raw water from below the dam to the water treatment plant to meet the demand but it is incredibly expensive. There is also some potable water being hauled from the Town of Pincher Creek. The standpipes in Cowley and Beaver Mines have been shut down with the one in Pincher Creek remaining open. The water for the Pincher Creek Standpipe is supplied by the Town of Pincher Creek's water system and this system is excellent with no issues with its water supply.

We've looked at several options to reduce the trucking costs; most involve getting water to the plant by some type of pipe line either from the Crowsnest or Castle Rivers. Overland piping from either river is cost prohibitive.

The current flow of the Crowsnest River by the water treatment plant intakes has become cleaner and there are plans to establish a temporary pumping system to pump water from the river into the existing intake. The mud flats have dried up enough to allow access.

There are two aquifers within the footprint of the Oldman Dam and one of them is close to the intake pipes. This option shows the most promise and plans are underway to drill a well into this aquifer. If the well is successful the hauling cost should be reduced substantially if not completely eliminated.

All of these projects are provincial-approval dependent.

This crisis has highlighted how vulnerable the current system is from a raw supply point. We are looking at several strategies to reduce this vulnerability. An open house was held at the MD office to show the public the draft strategic plan as well as the draft land use bylaw. Feedback from people at that meeting and from the website will be considered as we move forward to finalize these plans.

The MD also participated in developing a climate risk assessment and adaptation plan. The risk of wildfire is probably the most pertinent to the Castle community, but there are other aspects of concern as well.

I probably haven't addressed all the questions you may have, but hopefully some. If you want to have a virtual or in-person meeting with me, please contact me at: 403-627-8164 (Cell) CouncilDiv3@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca



PLEASE CONSERVE WATER

The drought last summer has created a Stage 3 Water shortage throughout the MD of Pincher Creek which includes our Castle Community.

YES YOU CAN



Support the Race & Freestyle Clubs with your returnable bottles. The recycling trailer is located north of the lodge.



Drop off some treats for our Lifties or Maintenance Staff. They welcome home cooking!



Join the Community potluck on December 16th at the Main Lodge



Ski with Santa on Christmas Day



Submit any great photos to: photos@skicastle.ca
Or tag on social media: @Castlemountainresort

LIVINGSTONE SKI ACADEMY: 8 YEARS OF SUCCESS

By Andrew Bennett, LSA Coordinator

Hello Castle community! The Livingstone Ski Academy (LSA) is excited to be back for our 8th season of programming at Castle Mountain Resort (CMR)! We are based out of Livingstone School in the hamlet of Lundbreck, AB, and have 60 athletes enrolled this year, including three international students. We are excited to be offering 20-30 days of ski and snowboard training for our athletes starting on Dec 8, 2023.

Our program offers our students, in grades 4-12, the opportunity to take their learning outdoors, with CMR as our incredible classroom. With a focus on the devel-

opment of ski and snowboard specific skills, students also progress many intangible life skills such as teamwork, communication, resiliency, personal growth and problem solving. In addition to these enriching learning experiences, our older athletes have opportunities to explore careers in this industry, and obtain certificates and training to allow them to work in these fields.

We are incredibly excited and continuously grateful to be able to partner with CMR again this year for our programming. This is a beautiful and magical place that keeps our athletes and families

coming back year after year!

If you would like to know more about our program, or know someone who may be interested, please don't hesitate to reach out to me! Contact me at:

403-628-3897 (work)
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TRAVELING PRE-SEASON ROAD SHOW

By Cole Fawcett, Sales & Marketing Manager, CMR

One of the busiest and most challenging times for Castle Mountain Resort's Sales & Marketing team, is in the months leading up to the start of winter operations. We have a number of programs and campaigns to set up prior to opening, as well as being on the road for a 6 to 8 week period promoting Castle Mountain Resort. Chances are that you have encountered me and/or my team at several ski shows and swaps across Alberta. This year alone, we have attended events in Calgary, Okotoks, Crowsnest Pass, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat which covered pretty well every

weekend from mid-October until Opening Day.

So why do we attend these events? It's important that we seize as many opportunities to interact with potential ski and ride guests as possible, with the hopes of drumming up awareness amongst folks who don't think to ski and ride with us first. With a smaller marketing budget than most of our competitors, ski shows, sales and swaps are naturally a great venue for showcasing Castle. These shows also provide opportunities for pass and cardholders to avoid long early season line-ups at Guest Services. At each

event we generally tote along a fully functional Guest Services point-of-sale terminal. In Lethbridge alone, at two of these event weekends, we got season passes and WOW cards into the hands of more than a thousand people!

Someday we plan to send our season pass and WOW Card holders their cards in the mail, but for now we hope you'll make attending one of our pass-printing events part of your pre-season plans. To those we saw on the road this fall, a hearty thanks for stopping by to see us!

CMCA UPDATE: WELCOME TO WINTER

By Tim Luke, CMCA President

The webcams are signaling a new season of fresh powder and fun with Castle family and friends. When I think of Castle, I think of the energy that your board members and volunteers dedicate to making everyone's experience at Castle even better. This year we have four new CMCA board members, Curtis Trim, Carly Hazell, Chris McCue, and Kyle Lussier. Sincere thanks to Julie Heinrich for her leadership over the past 4 years and to Glenn Armstrong for his endless dedication to Castle. If you are interested in volunteering

this winter or have ideas how the CMCA can brighten someone's day, please let us know.

We have a great line up of events planned. Our first event is a Community Christmas Potluck on December 16. Together with CMR we will be hosting New Years Eve Fireworks. Be sure to check out the Chevelles after the fireworks. I am excited to report that we are bringing back the Castle Cabaret on February 17. See you on the slopes and keep doing that snow dance!

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE LIFTLINE

By Caralee Marriott

#1

READ EVERY EDITION!

We have lots of good information gathered in each edition.

#2

KEEP A PRINTED COPY

visible in your home. The more people who read it the better!

#3

THINK OF US MORE OFTEN!

Give us some ideas on articles, poems, etc. Even better, write one!

CASTLE PRO-PATROLLERS PREP OUR MOUNTAIN

By Amanda Goodhue, Mountain Safety Manager, CMR

As Castle gears up to open for the season, our mountain safety team has been hard at work training. We always hope that our entire patrol crew returns each year, but with the nature of seasonal work and career progression, we usually end up with a few open spots to add new people to our team.

Hiring patrollers for the season starts way back in August, when we conduct interviews and offer successful candidates jobs for the winter. When we put our team together we look for minimum certifications including, advanced first aid and CAA (Canadian Avalanche Association) Avalanche Operations Level 1. The people who make up our team bring a wealth of experience from different aspects of the ski industry, as well as from a wide variety of other workplaces, educational backgrounds, and recreational activities.

When our crew of patrollers arrives at the mountain mid November, everyone participates in two weeks of training. This gives us a chance to teach new patrollers about our operation, and we all get to brush up on our skills. Prior to the whole crew arriving, a small team of senior patrollers put in a lot of hard work to plan these weeks of training. They spend time building a training schedule, prepping equipment, coordinating patrollers to teach



PHOTO BY AMANDA GOODHUE

various sessions, and reviewing training resources.

Our training weeks include a wide variety of topics, with training taking place both indoors and out. Specific skills and knowledge needed to work as a patroller take up the majority of our time, and we also prioritize team building and getting to know each other in order to work efficiently as a team. Training sessions include topics such as:

- First aid equipment use
- Rope skills and chairlift evacuation
- Toboggan handling
- Snowmobile operation
- Avalanche search and rescue
- Mental wellness for first responders
- Weather and snowpack monitoring
- Avalanche control

We've even been able to incorporate a daily fitness session designed for us by Alecia at Wildr,

which not only gives the crew a chance to move around on indoor days, but it's also a first step to preventing injuries and getting ready for big ski days on the mountain.

Our weeks of focused patrol training pre-season give us the chance to make sure everyone has a baseline of knowledge and skills before the mountain opens. However, it's not nearly enough time to gain all the skills required to develop as a patroller. We also have an ongoing training and mentorship program throughout the season.

We continue to train on all the same skills addressed during pre-season training, and we also introduce more advanced skills as we go. Patrolling is a dynamic job that requires continuous learning, and we're always working to incorporate new skills and training opportunities.

CASTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY FIRESMART ASSESSMENT SUMMARY JULY 2023

Provided by Pincher Creek Emergency Services: Nichole Boissoneault FireSmart Officer



Castle Mountain residences and businesses are constructed (mostly) with materials that are fire-resistive, and which provide inherent "FireSmart" advantages, for example, non-combustible roofing, vents and openings with 3mm screening, that cannot be penetrated by wind-driven embers. (Camper trailers are not included in this statement)

TOP PRIORITIES FOR FURTHER REDUCTION OF WILDFIRE RISK FOR CASTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY:

1. Initiating pruning of lower branches and removal of excessive surface fuels from beneath the "dripline" of all conifer trees - within 30m of structures.
2. Gradually increasing the space between individual, or small clusters of 2-3 evergreen trees, to prevent tree-to-tree fire spread.
3. Annual cutting of all grass/weed cover within 10m of all buildings.
4. Achieving storage solutions for combustible materials now cluttered within 10m of structures, or beneath and on top of decks/porches.
5. Creating 1.5-metre-wide non-combustion zones surrounding all Castle Mountain Community structures.
6. Ongoing cleaning up of dead branches from wind-blown trees and isolated spots where



PHOTO BY CAROLYN ARMSTRONG - Dean Parkinson hard at work on FireSmart Day June, 2023

branches/trees are broken from mechanized winter operations >30m from buildings.

7. FireSmart the area where the camping trailers are located.
8. Recommend additional educational efforts to continue raising awareness of wildfire risk and mitigation solutions among residents (High Priority). Conduct a minimum of 2 FireSmart educational (awareness) workshops and one FireSmart work day annually.
9. Meet the requirements for FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Program certification annually.

Neighbourhood Education and Awareness:

- A. Continue with a FireSmart education campaign to raise awareness among residents about wildfire risks and safety measures. Conduct workshops and seminars to educate homeowners on fire-resistant construction practices and landscaping techniques.
- B. Host one or two FireSmart Neighbourhood Clean-up Events /

Work Days to address significant hazards concerning wildland vegetation located within the immediate and intermediate zones. Carry out appropriate pruning of lower limbs to prevent surface fire from spreading into tree crowns and remove hazardous accumulations of leaves, needles, grasses, and other fine fuels.

Note: Next FireSmart Day June 15th, 2024

- C. Advance FireSmart home assessments by encouraging residents to participate in home assessments to identify and discuss appropriate ways of managing personal items and combustible materials that create threats to the community and to action to mitigate these hazards. Encourage homeowners to create defensible spaces around their properties by clearing flammable materials, pruning trees and removing dry vegetation, within a minimum distance of 30 meters from structures.

UPPER BOWL BLISS: MOUNTAIN MOMENTS OF THE PAST 1966-1975

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

Advanced Skiers and those looking for bigger challenges were in their glory when the upper T-Bar opened. Richard Mamini was a ski instructor who made West Castle his home when the upper T-bar was installed and “he hit up Fritz” Bortenlanger for a job. Mamini has fond memories of skiing Goat Run and climbing up the ridge and skiing the powder in what is now known as Outlaw. “There wasn’t a cat track

(Skyline Traverse) so it was a continuous slope from up above to all the way down to the bottom where it met up with the other run.”

In the spring a few traverses were made as far as what is now named Sherriff but during the season it wasn’t worth the effort since there was good skiing in The Larches (or what is today known as the Bandito Trees) says Mamini, who eventually retired in the area and is still skiing those same runs into his Golden Years.



POWDERDAY HAIKU

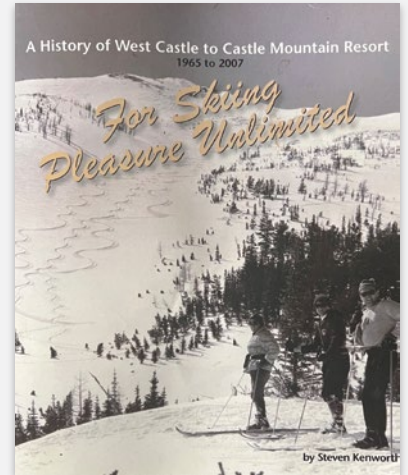
From above flakes fall
Skis, boards glide gently atop
A Snowblader sinks

By Graham Czebere

CMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Tim Luke	Treasurer: Kyle Lussier	Director: Carly Hazell
Past President: Julie Heinrich	Membership: Judy Clark	Director: Chris McCue
Secretary: Kelly Furuya	Director: Kevin Finn	Director: Curtis Trim

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FEBRUARY 16, 2024

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Caralee Marriott

Incoming Publishing & Production Manager:
Nancy Tynan

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Sunday: 11 AM - 12 AM



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 _____