



PHOTO BY ALAN HEIDEL

# THE LIFTLINE

CASTLE MOUNTAIN  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## FOUR TIPS TO SPICE UP YOUR OUTDOOR FUN

By Shalane Friesen, Head of Visitor Services for the Castle Parks

As lovers of the Castle Area, you know the spectacular scenery, serenity and outstanding recreation opportunities waiting in the Castle Parks. Here are a few simple and inexpensive ways to elevate your experience with friends and family.

**1. Gaze at the stars.** On a clear evening, head out to the Castle Parks and be dazzled by the blanket of constellations. Whether you use a telescope or not, there are many marvelous sights. On December 14, enjoy the Geminid meteor shower. For more astronomical events and viewing tips, visit the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada website.

**2. Cuddle up by a cozy winter fire.** With a warming hut and fire pits at

the Syncline trails, you could end your excursion by sharing stories next to a crackling fire. Bring firewood, a blanket, a thermos of hot chocolate and marshmallows for roasting.

**3. Try birding.** A simple pair of binoculars transforms your trip into an avian snow safari. If you are new to the activity, keep your eyes peeled for Ruffed Grouse, Bald Eagles, Great Horned Owls and Steller's Jays. For a birding guide in Castle, go to [AlbertaParks.ca](http://AlbertaParks.ca)

**4. Bring special treats.** Outdoor pursuits burn energy, so stay fueled throughout your adventure. Get treats at local cafes like Bear Grass Bistro or Harvest Cafe in Pincher Creek, Beaver Mines Deli & Store, or Cherry-on-Top & Stone's Throw Café in Blairmore.

Outdoor recreation remains a safe way to maintain health and fitness and reduce stress, but remember to take Covid precautions.

Before heading out, check with Alberta Parks for the latest advisories and for information released by the Government of Alberta regarding COVID-19 at: [www.alberta.ca/covid19](http://www.alberta.ca/covid19)

**Enjoy the trails!**



PHOTO BY TRAVEL ALBERTA

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER

Opening Day	4
CMR Volunteer Orientation	9
Ugly Sweater Day	19
Ski with Santa	25
Night Skiing on Green	27-28

### JANUARY

Alpenland Demo Day	10
World Snow Day Weekend	16-17
Avalanche Awareness Days	23-24
Full Moon Snowshoe & Fine Dining	29

### FEBRUARY

Night Skiing on Green Chair	13-14
Full Moon Snowshoe & Fine Dining	26
IFSA Junior Big Mountain Regionals	26-28

### MARCH

Alpenland Demo Day	6
Beats in the Base Concert	20-21
Fistful of Turns Banked Slalom	20-21
Tom Tataryn World's Longest Slalom	27
Beats in the Base Concert	27-28

### APRIL

Beats in the Base Concert	3-4
Beats in the Base Concert	10-11
Tentative Closing Day	11

# WELCOME TO OUR 20/21 SEASON

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Kevin Finn, President, Castle Mountain Community Association

As we move into the official season opening, I marvel at how much my confidence in the sustainability of CMR and our community is enhanced by the whooshing sound of the snow guns.

Despite Covid-19 and a lousy economy, there seems to be lots of optimism around the mountain. We have a number of new owners in our community. On behalf of the Castle Mountain Community Association, I want to welcome all new and returning residents. We are glad you are here!

A tip of my hat to all CMR staff for the countless hours and additional work they're devoting to get the Resort ready to open and to keep us all safe this winter. They've

already shared some of the changes being implemented to deal with the pandemic and I'm sure more information will follow.

With the start of the ski season, it's time to renew your membership in the Community Association, or to join. We are emailing membership forms and information to all on our email list. If you do not receive our email, please let us know to update our data base. Reach us at:

castlemountaincommunity@gmail.com

With the COVID - required cancellation of our major fundraisers -Huckfest, Maritime Dinner and Casino Night - we expect a significant revenue shortfall this year. So, if you would consider doubling

up on your memberships & donations this year we would appreciate it. We promise to use your contributions wisely to make the Castle Community safer, more attractive and more fun, and especially, to keep you informed.

Please, e-mail your membership form (or a photo of it) to [castlemountaincommunity@gmail.com](mailto:castlemountaincommunity@gmail.com) and then eTransfer \$20 per adult member, plus donations as possible, to [treasurercmca@gmail.com](mailto:treasurercmca@gmail.com). Or snail mail your registration and a cheque to Castle Mountain Community Association, PO Box 455, Pincher Creek AB, T0K 1W0

Thank you in advance. Looking forward to a great winter for us all!

# WATER IS GETTING CLOSE

## UPDATE FROM CMR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Brian McGurk, Chairman

Wow, what a year! It has certainly changed life. To keep us safe in our little slice of paradise and to ensure we will have a full season of outdoor fun, we are closely following all COVID guidelines.

Water is getting closer to our Community! We expect commissioning to be complete by early December, and to begin receiving water from the system in early 2021. We will continue to share information as it becomes available.

Despite early snow and cold temperatures followed by rain, chinooks and wind, with a year of snowmaking under our belt, new additions to our snowmaking

system, and some help from Mother Nature, we are even more ready for an early opening than last year. Everything is looking good thanks to the CMR team.

As you drive through the community, notice the new speed limit and children at play signs. This happened due to collaboration between CMR and CMCA. Thank you to all who helped make this happen.

CMR and Dana Hospitality have finalized an agreement which has CMR resuming the operation of our Food and Beverage functions for 2020/21. Things

will be different this year and we look forward to serving you in our new "Grab and Go" lodge kiosk.

On behalf of the Board, welcome to a new season and see you on the slopes.

# PARKING, PLOWING & FIRE LANES

By Karen Harker

Ever been stuck in the parking lot because plows were blocked by vehicles? Seen vehicles parked too close to a fire hydrant or blocking a fire lane? Experienced parking congestion in a cul-de-sac? These things are happening, sometimes frequently, making snow plowing difficult and interfering with emergency vehicle access throughout the community. If we work together, and are considerate of others, we will make parking this winter season better for everyone! Here are some important reminders:

- Keep fire lanes clear of vehicles 24/7
- Ensure access to fire hydrants 24/7

● Park in designated community parking zones or in designated parking spaces on your lots. Ensure your guests and family do too.

● After a snowfall, quickly move your vehicles to an area already plowed, so snow plowing can proceed in your area.

Designated parking spaces on your lots are fine to use if vehicles are parked completely off the roadway and don't interfere with access to fire hydrants or plowing.

In particular, cul-de-sacs are challenging areas to plow. If you live on one, please work with your neighbours to ensure your fire

lane and fire hydrant are always clear. Also consider, after unloading, parking in one of the community parking zones.

Base Village Map:

[www.skicastle.ca/villagemaps](http://www.skicastle.ca/villagemaps)

## APPLAUSE PLEASE!

Extensive firesmaring was done around Castle this summer.

Thanks goes to PC Fire Chief Dave Cox for sourcing grants, Supervisor Darryl Johnson and the Vitae Environmental team for their hard work. More clean up will occur in the Spring.



## HEY THERE CASTLE FOLKS!

Join your friends and neighbours in supporting the hill during COVID this winter

We have on-call volunteer & casual staff positions where we anticipate needing some extra help.

Sign up for as many shifts as you like

**3 HOURS LONG** volunteer shifts

## POSITIONS

- Parking Attendants
- Capacity Monitoring
- Sanitizing/clearing tables
- General Help at Base Area
- Ticket Checking, Lifts
- Snow School Instructors

**JOIN US ON ZOOM** | TIME: 9 DEC AT 7 PM MST (US & Canada)  
 Castle COVID Volunteers | MTG ID: 86307284292  
 Orientation and Info Session | LINK: [us02web.zoom.us/j/86307284292](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86307284292)

# YOGA on

By Julie Heinrich

YIN YOGA. The calm before the storm, the "How freaking long can I hold this c#\$p for?!" yoga.

Quick history; a fairly new form of yoga developed in the 70's, by a Taoist martial arts expert (just for a little street cred). It's a slow paced yoga, holding poses for a longer length of time than a general yoga class. It has some frequently used poses, my favourite being shoe-lace or cowface. It opens the hips and pulls back the shoulders. It's also basically impossible upon first try. It reminds me every time of our "Ugly Face" run for these very reasons.

Doing yoga alone in our living rooms has long lost its appeal. Live tunes and dancing the night away in the pub will be sorely missed in our little world, BUT we've still got some of the best snowfall and wind-sift around. Hold on to your yoga poses just a little longer, breath a little more deeply, and smile. Yoga on my friends, yoga on.



# MAN'S BEST FRIEND

By David Carmichael

For many of us, those we most value spending time with are "man's best friends", our dogs.

Recreating with your dog at Castle is, however, a privilege. Pet owners owe a responsibility to all CMR users. Sure, your dog is highly trained and perfectly behaved, just like mine, but oddly enough not all people think your dog is such a model. To some people, your dog barks too much, chases wildlife, is out of control, poops all over the place, and might even seem threatening or scary. Yes...YOUR dog!! To ensure everyone can enjoy Castle,

please comply with these bylaws:

- Keep your dog on a leash AND under control at all times while in the village.
- Know CMR's ONLY off-leash area is south of Haig Creek along the Yeti multi-purpose trail.
- Pick up your dog's poop right away, in the base area, in parking areas, and along trails. Free bags are available at most trailheads.
- Dispose of poop-bags in garbage cans.
- If your dog is barking while outside, bring it indoors or control the noise it makes.

Once off CMR land, you are in the Castle Wildland Provincial Park and the park has rules about dogs, including being on-leash. It's your responsibility to know these rules by Googling "Alberta, park, dog".

Finally, if someone's dog is bothering you and its owner is not taking responsibility, please refer to the MD of Pincher Creek Animal Control protocol on their website or call the MD office at: 403 627-3130

When people take responsibility for their dogs and follow a few simple, common sense rules, everyone can enjoy Castle.

## THE YETI TRAIL

By Karen Harker

**Try out the Yeti Trail!** From dawn until dusk you will find people walking, x-country skiing, snowshoeing, and fat biking on our newly named Yeti Trail. This multi-use community trail starts at the little bridge over Haig Creek at the SE corner of the Westcastle Loop and meanders along the valley for 2.4 Km. You'll experience beautiful views of Barnaby Ridge, the West Castle Valley and Kootenay Pass. You may also be lucky enough to see wildlife tracks.

The trail is groomed frequently and portions are track set for cross-country skiing. One of the best things about the trail is that it connects to other trails, including the Little Dipper Trail that follows the river, making it a great loop.

You will notice the Public Land Use Zone sign at the start of the trail. This means it is an official off-leash area for your dogs. Please be considerate of other trail users by always keeping your dog under control and picking up your dog's poop. Remember, we love our own dogs, but not everyone else does!

Get out and try the trails this winter. It's a great way to get some exercise and have a good physically distanced visit with others.

You can find a trail map at: [www.skicastle.ca/wintermaps](http://www.skicastle.ca/wintermaps)

# KEEP OUR SEASON SAFE



**Face coverings are mandatory**

**Practice physical distancing**

**Wash & sanitize frequently**

[www.skicastle.ca](http://www.skicastle.ca)



# CASTLE CHAMPIONS: MONICA STEWART

By Carolyn and Glenn Armstrong



PHOTO BY WARD ARMSTRONG

Over the years we've been blessed to have many "Castle Champions" who've worked tirelessly to ensure our ski hill's success. We now officially recognize Monica Stewart as a member of this esteemed group.

Monica's been a long-term, invaluable member of the Castle Mountain Community Association, serving as secretary, and volunteer extraordinaire, for an impressively long time. She's brought cohesiveness & continuity to our CMCA executive meetings, kept comprehensive minutes, and been instrumental in building and maintaining email lists to ensure information gets distributed to our members. She has been quick to volunteer for potluck dinners,

membership drives, and hill beautification initiatives, always helping to ensure events run smoothly. She's also stepped up to work at Castle Mountain Resort and the Hostel when needed, and runs a successful B&B with her husband, Fraser, bringing many new guests to our hill.

Monica continues to support our community by being an informal ambassador for CMR, working behind a desk or helping visitors navigate the resort and find local trails. Her guests extoll her virtues as a hostess. Monica's ambassadorship extends beyond the hill to Pincher Creek, where she and Fraser have developed a positive working relationship with many of the local businesses.

We are very fortunate to have Monica as a neighbor and friend, and we deeply thank her for her many years of dedicated service to CMCA. She resigned her executive position in September and will be missed by all of us on the board. Monica is truly a Champion of Castle.

## ADAPTING! CANADIAN ADAPTIVE SNOW SPORTS (CADS)

By Darryl Medoruma

This year our CADS program will look different due to COVID. We will not be bringing a bus to the hill so all students must find their own transportation.

Social distancing is impossible so we will have students in cohort groups on the mountain and in the warming tents. This season there will be an opportunity for

volunteers to see a list of students that are asking for a volunteer to ski with.

Adaptive skiing is going to do what we do best, "adapt" and continue on. We trust it will all work out and we can be safe and still have fun! We are thankful for all the support from CMR and the community over the last three decades.

## CASTLE FREESTYLE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

By Ryan Brown

Our Freestyle Club has been working hard to clear out ski shacks, mend air bags and secure top-notch Coaches for the upcoming season. We are pushing forward, through many obstacles, to ensure our young athletes can get outside, enjoy the company of their fellow skiers and bring back some normalcy to their lives.

We are holding off on final plans for the club, needing to be agile and change as the pandemic dictates, but we do know that we will be working to ensure smaller groups for the athletes with a controlled cohort. All our kids will need to follow the rules and regulations set out by CMR, AHS and the Alberta Government, and parents will need to be flexible in how they approach their family ski day.

All that aside, we plan to have our kids skiing in all four of our programs including FUNdamentalz, Freestylers, (CanFree) Competitive Freestyle and All Mountain. Alberta Freestyle has released their competition schedule and we are still awaiting the IFSA schedule. So, beyond PPE and social distancing protocol, we should have a fairly regular season ahead of us. (Fingers and toes crossed on that statement!)

For more information, visit us on Facebook or our website: [www.castlefreestyle.ca](http://www.castlefreestyle.ca)



# WHAT'S NEW IN THE MD

Bev Everts, MD Councillor for Division #3

COVID 19 has changed our world and all we took for granted. Our local emergency response organization, Pincher Creek Regional Emergency Management Organization (PCREMO) has led this community through the pandemic and now a 2nd wave, with dedicated and stoic leadership. For this we are ever grateful. For all our community members who continue to respect AHS protocols, I say a very sincere "Thank you" and please continue with all of your hearts.

Looking forward to ski season 2020/21, the Municipality is preparing to finalize commissioning of the Castle Waterline Project. The Utilities Bylaw that will provide water rates and other service delivery has heard first reading and the public hearing was held November 24th.

I remain committed to advocating for a Beaver Mines sustainable Wastewater solution and the delivery of safe clean drinking water for all. I also continue to

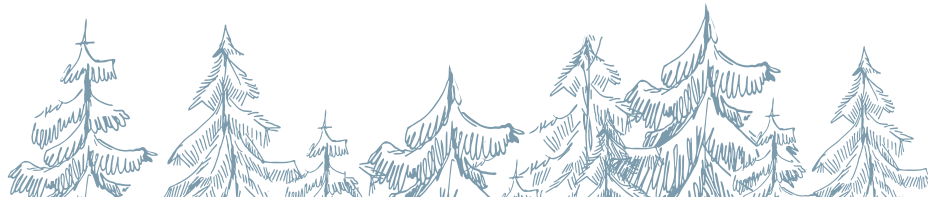
advocate, at the Council table, for decisions that best reflect the Vision statement of our Municipality: A community that manages growth and supports our western heritage while preserving our natural environment.

Stay well everyone, think snow and see you on the slopes real soon!

**#Roots&Vision, Bev**

Home Phone 403 627 4983

CouncilDiv3@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca



## 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. 24. **Castle Mountain Community Association**

(In 1964) only the first level of the chalet was completed prior to opening for the first season so a temporary roof was put in place.

"We used a tarp for the roof and brought in straw bales," Said (Gary) Barbero. "That was what passed for a roof the first season."

"It was disastrous come spring," recalled Stan Judd. "The straw that Floyd Lloyd brought in was leaking by then and there were tin cans all over to catch the drips of this dirty brown water that was leaking into the lodge."

The second story of the chalet, along with the two duplex-style cabins which became known as the Ranchhouses, were completed between the first and second seasons of operation.

A Swiss carpenter, Max Brunner along with his wife Elena, was brought in by (Paul) Klaas to work on the second story and furnishings for the chalet, which was a Swiss-style two story structure...

The handsome lodge provided a picturesque centerpiece to West Castle through the first decade of the resort's existence. The bottom floor had lift ticket sales, a ski shop, day room, offices, benches and a coffee shop while the second floor had a dining room, a sitting area and eight rooms for rent.

The Swiss craftsmanship of Brunner's thick solid wood furnishings is fondly remembered by those who used the original chalet. Rooms were named for local wildlife such as fox, beaver, etc. Unfortunately, a few chairs and a couch were all that survived the 1977 fire that leveled the lodge.

### Keep our Community safe!

Contact the RCMP Dispatch if you see trouble or have something stolen. **They will respond to our concerns!**

Call: 403 627 6000



## YES YOU CAN



Drop off baking or other treats to CMR staff. Our staff misses home cooking! Please wrap the treats for ease and cleanliness



Put up WARM-rated Christmas lights... COOL lights are too bright for our dark skies. Buy the lowest lumens possible



Donate your old skis to be recycled into something new. The Laniers at Lot 65 are collecting old skis for use by the Hutterites in their area to build children's sleds and toboggans. (Drop them off at the side door beside the wood pile)

# WOMEN OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES: KATHY CALVERT

By Claire Clarkson, Castle resident & pro-patroller

I recently read a great book called *June Mickle: One Woman's Life in the Foothills and Mountains of Western Canada*, by Kathy Calvert. The author lives in my hometown, Cochrane, I was inspired to meet her.

There is something about the Canadian Rockies that seems to foster brave, hardworking, ambitious people. Kathy Calvert is one of many strong women who built a life and career in the Canadian Rockies. Born in 1947, Kathy grew up in a family that wholeheartedly embraced the outdoors. At a young age, Kathy hunted white-tailed deer, fished mountain lakes, rode horseback in the foothills and, thanks to her father, was mountaineering on many significant peaks.

Kathy's father, Don Forest, is a Canadian climbing legend. She credits much of her accomplishment to his generosity and mentorship. Don was known for his highly accomplished climbing career and was a key member of the famous climbing quartet, "The Grizzly Group". Don became the first Canadian to climb all the 11,000 footers in the Rockies and

the Selkirks, and set a Canadian climbing record in 1991 by becoming the oldest person, at age 71, to reach the West Summit of Mount Logan.

On many of Don's adventures, he took Kathy and her younger sister, Sylvia, teaching them key skills to survive and play in the mountains. He empowered and inspired his daughters to pursue their unconventional dreams. Kathy and Sylvia became pioneers in the National Parks Service and trailblazers in the mountain community.

In 1974, pivotal changes were made in the National Parks Service allowing women to join and become wardens. Kathy was quickly recruited by Yoho National Park and became one of the first female National Park wardens in Canada. Working as a warden, Kathy had no shortage of adventure between traveling the perimeter of the park by horseback, performing avalanche safety, fighting wildfires, managing wildlife and responding to search and rescue calls.

Like many who love the mountains, Kathy found herself

embarking on epic trips outside of work. Some of her accomplishments included the first all-women expedition to Mount Logan, and the first all-women ski traverse of the Columbia Mountains from the Bugaboos to Rogers Pass.

Kathy has written numerous books about the Canadian Rockies. Soon, Kathy is hoping to release a new book: *Vertical Reference: The Life of Legendary Mountain Helicopter Rescue Pilot, Jim Davies*. Today, at age 73, Kathy remains an influential, active and inspiring person who makes a difference.

## STAY IN THE S'KNOW

If you love Castle, The Liftline keeps you up to date with what's going on here. Send your name & email to [castlemountaincommunity@gmail.com](mailto:castlemountaincommunity@gmail.com) and receive a digital copy of all Liftline editions. Also consider becoming a CMCA member.

**LOOK FOR THE SPRING EDITION  
FEBRUARY 12, 2021**

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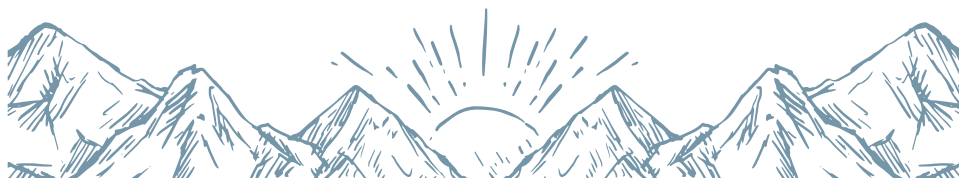
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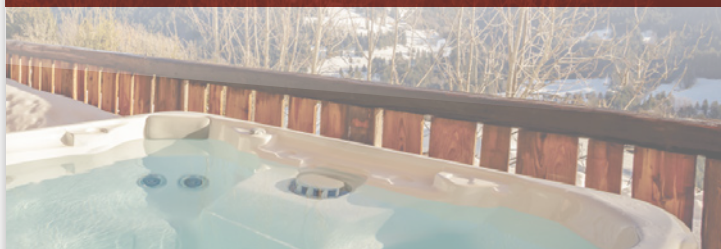
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# CMCA Annual Membership Form – 2020/21



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](mailto:CastleMountainCommunity@gmail.com), and eTransfer your fees and donations to [treasurerCMCA@gmail.com](mailto: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 455 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 20/21 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 \_\_\_\_\_