



PHOTO BY J. CRAWFORD

THE LIFTLINE

CASTLE MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SNOWMAKING FOR DUMMIES

By Steve Motta

Riddle 1 - What falls in the winter and never gets hurt? (answer: snow) But snow doesn't always fall when you need it. So why take chances? Since 2019 CMR has been investing in the reliability of the snow at Castle Mountain with... snowmaking. How much do you know about the investment made? How does it work? Why bother? Castle gets tons of snow... most of the time.

That's the problem. Good snow "most of the time" and in "most places" is not good enough. Sliders are demanding. When the earliest snow flies, they want to play. They've got new equipment, too much spare time, and they want something for everyone. High alpine thrills, speedy groomers and low elevation easy stuff. To cover all the bases, Castle needs to ensure its

scheduled opening date is met with something for everyone.

Snow making on strategic parts of the mountain brings certainty to the published opening date. Kids get jumps. Dad gets to putt putt. Cruisers can tune up their style, and shredders have a way to exit the far north before mother nature fills in the North Road exit. Everybody wins. And not just at the beginning of the season. Should an unspeakable mid-season r**n event occur, a solid (man made) base on the lower mountain will keep everybody smiling.

Snow making can make sliding safer too. Building up a solid base covers early season rocks and snags. And it does the same in the spring time when high traffic south aspect faces melt, leaving rapid deceleration mud pits.

Now, let's talk about how snowmaking works. To make snow you need 4 things; cold, water, electricity and skilled labour. Simple enough... but:

Operating in cold temperatures is challenging. Extreme cold can freeze up equipment and water lines. Warm temperatures can turn



Snow Making pumps can push up to 800 gallons of water per minute - PHOTO BY J. CRAWFORD

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

Opening Day	3
Christmas Day Operations / Ski With Santa	25
First Day of Powder Stage-coach Cat Skiing Operations	28
Night Skiing on Green / NYE Magic Show w/ Christopher Cool	31

JANUARY

Ski Mo Race Weekend	7-9
Alpenland Demo Day	8
AST1 Course w/ My Terrain	15-16
AST1 Course w/ My Terrain	29-30

FEBRUARY

AST1 Course w/ My Terrain	12-13
Night Skiing on Green	19-20
IFSA Big Mountain Junior Event / Provincial Freestyle (Mogul) Competiton	26-27

MARCH

Alpenland Demo Day	5
U16 Provincial Race Series	12-13

Live Music every Friday night and
Trivia Night every Sunday night
in the TBar Pub

Continued on next page →

a stream of fresh snow into a slush pit, and this can all occur without notice, if a cold front or chinook blows through. Thermodynamics is also a factor, the dryer the air, the better conditions are for snowmaking.

Water sounds easy, but the system needs thousands of cubic meters of water available, and it needs to get pumped up the mountain. To ensure supply can meet demand CMR built the Haig Round-up Traverse reservoir in 2018 and added a 9,600m³ frac reservoir at the bone yard to triple its capacity. More than 5 kilometres of pipe connect water intakes at Gravenstafel Creek and the duplex well site to the Haig snow making plant, and 25 snow-making hydrants. At peak output

800 gallons of water per minute can flow.

Next is electricity. The two snow making plant pumps and the 25 water & power hydrants need three phase power (like our lifts) to push all that water uphill then blow it out into the cold. A generator set located at the snow making plant is used to power the water pumps. The power for the snow making machines can come from the snow making plant, the Huckleberry or the Blue chair generators.

So, the whole system runs by itself right? Just flick a switch? Wrong! Operating the equipment requires skilled snow making techs working around the clock. Snow machines have to be positioned and adjusted based on temperature and wind

direction. Water and power need to be connected, and the whole system monitored for health while it is operating. "Stew" happens and problems need to be solved. Late night trips to the top of the Huckleberry lift or the bottom of North Bowl are all part of the job.

When it all works though... it's beautiful, after some more work that is. Man-made snow lands in big un-ski-able mounds of seriously ugly hard pack. Not the kind of snow you dream of. The CMR grooming team to the rescue. They crush the hard pack into chunks, spread it, flatten it, then grind it into plush corduroy. All before you've finished your morning coffee. Thanks CMR. Lucky us.

Riddle 2 - What falls in the winter and never gets hurt? (answer: not me)



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ODE TO A CORESHOT

By Graham Czebere

*After the fall and the audible crack,
You peer underneath which reveals a scratch
Down to the core of your new board or ski,
and you think to yourself, Why O Why Me?
But the lesson to take from your product's fresh ding
Is to charge ever harder and not covet thy things.*

PLEASE DO YOUR PART

Managing the Snow on our Roads is Important for Safety and Accessibility.

- Keep fire lanes and fire hydrants clear 24/7
- Don't park between snow dump area signs
- Park in designated community parking areas (Winter Village Map www.skicastle/Villagemaps) or completely on your property's designated spot
- ALL trailers need to be parked/stored in NE Parking Lot.



CMCA'S UPDATE: NEW AT THE HELM

By Julie Heinrich, President, Castle Mountain Community Association

As the bull wheel turns, these are the days of our lives. Ok, so maybe it's not that dramatic, but Kevin Finn has been coaching me on becoming the President of the CMCA for a couple of years now and he's passed down the reins. With just a little healthy fear, I hope to do the board justice in my new role. I am so honoured to be in this role and am forever lifted by kindness and support from our community.

In these still challenging times, we are so looking forward to another great Castle winter. The snow guns have been blowing and some Christmas lights are starting to make their cheery appearance. We hope to continue our work representing and making our communi-

ty better year after year. You might see members making their rounds in the near future with our membership drive. We can't wait to see those new memberships and renewals flying in. Your donations are the bread and butter that allow our volunteer hours to count! There are lots of possibilities that we're looking into with some growing hurdles on our horizon. Insurance and other operational costs are on the rise, but so is involvement from our new homeowners. We're honoured to Welcome Tania to the board, as well as Matt and Russ to our members at large roles. With a team like this, we can all expect to be a part of good things.

YES YOU CAN



Pick up new books at the Little Free Library on the deck of Alpenland.



Assume that the lid was left up accidentally on the dumpster and close it.



Bring in some baked goodies for our staff, dropping them off at the office. They are always grateful. If possible make a note if they are peanut free, GF etc.



Volunteer to be a host in the base area or take guests on a tour of our runs. (For intermediate & advanced groups contact Cole in office)



Sign up for to participate in the SKI-MO event by following the 2022 Castle Mountain link at www.zone4.ca

CMR UPDATE: SMILE IT'S SNOWING

By Brian McGurk, Chair, CMR Board of Directors

Welcome to winter! If you were around Castle this fall, you would have seen a beehive of activity preparing lifts, cats, facilities and of course, commissioning the next phase of the snow making system. Without the dedication of the Outside Operations Team and our enhanced snow making, there would be no snow left in the base area after the 3.5 inches of rain in mid-November.

This marks the third year that we had a limited opening in November! With our additional water storage and snowmaking capacity we plan to be ready to open to the public on December 3rd, despite the fickle local weather. We hosted 6 race clubs from across Alberta and British Columbia, including our very own West-

Castle Ski Club, who were riding the T-bar and training on Whiskey Jack starting November 19, allowing us to test our early season training potential. By all accounts it was a success and we will get more terrain open as we continue to make snow.

Following the AGM where we updated shareholders on the Business Plan, the Board held a strategic planning session to identify short term (0-12 month) opportunities and start aligning them with the Master Development Plan (MDP). Work will continue early in 2022 on linking the MDP, the Business Plan and the short-term objectives. The completed Business Plan has given us visibility into priorities for 3-5 years, which moves us closer to

the vision outlined in the MDP.

Finally, the Inside Operations team and the Board Finance Committee worked hard through late summer and fall to capture a \$500,000 Travel Alberta grant and close the purchase of the Hotel/Hostel and Base Camp Facility. It will be great to have this business under CMR ownership and we look forward to integrating it into our operations.

That's all for now. Pray for snow and we'll see you at Castle opening day.

FOLLOWING ANY SNOW EVENT

Move your vehicle to a cleared area in the main parking lot

FIRESMART: IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

By Glenn and Carolyn Armstrong



White Rock Lake Fire: Okanagan Lake
COURTESY OF MARILYN MATTHEWS

The concept of FireSmart really hit home this summer, as Carolyn and I had a front row seat to the White Rock Lake Fire burning directly across Okanagan Lake from us. When the smoke lifted for brief interludes, we could see the speed at which the fire advanced and how much ground it covered. Common understanding says that fire runs uphill but we witnessed the exact opposite. Several times the fire moved rapidly downhill destroying homes in its path. Nights were frightening when we could see the flames engulf large sections of the hillside and trees candling. Incinerated tree branches, cones and ash rained down regularly on our prop-

erty but luckily had cooled by the time they reached us. The Community of Adventure Bay, closer to the fire and on evacuation alert, experienced some falling debris that was still hot enough to be a threat. For ten days, in coordination with the Vernon Fire Department, the community kept a constant 24-hour patrol of volunteers prepared to deal with hot spots.

The City of Vernon recently hired a full-time FireSmart Coordinator to provide N. Okanagan homeowners with simple strategies to improve the chances of their homes' survivability in the event of a wildfire. We hosted an education session. It was well received and highly informative. We saw photos of FireSmart homes that survived the White Rock Lake Fire surrounded by homes that did not. One of the most alarming facts we learned was that when firefighters come through an area threatened by wildfire, they quickly assess homes for their defensibility and then spend their

efforts only on the defensible ones. Carolyn and I have been diligently working on our properties with the FireSmart principles in mind. When the Sage Creek Fire threatened the West Castle Valley, Ward, our son, took it upon himself to FireSmart around our cul-de-sac. He removed deadfall from the forest floor, limbed dead branches from trees to prevent "laddering" and removed combustibles from around the cabins. Since we live in an interface zone, an area where forests meet residences, it is critical to create a defensible environment. We'd like to share these principles with our Castle community and CMR, and plan to do a series of articles in upcoming Liftlines. We hope you will embrace this information and take action around your Castle property.

For further information contact Carolyn or myself and check out these websites:

www.firesmartcanada.ca

FireSmartbc.ca

wildfire.alberta.ca/firesmart/

CASTLE CHAMPION: DAN GALLAGHER

By Dennis & Vicky Miller



PHOTO BY VICKY MILLER

Dan, Carrie and their son, Ben, joined the Castle community almost 10 years ago and soon became indispensable members. Dan, as per the Castle tradition, is a character! He stands out with his unrelenting love of skiing, preparing ski slopes and volunteering for every race event.

Dan and Carrie run a large grain farming operation near Rosebud, Alberta, that allows them a lot of time to ski! Ben helps out around the farm by regularly patrolling the operations on his Gator and is

learning to operate equipment.

Dan grew up ski racing, rising to the Alberta Team. This led him on to coaching the Banff Alpine Academy, Alberta Team (including two Westcastle racers) and then the Canadian Team. After coaching he moved into ski slope preparation at the World Cup and Olympic levels. In 2010, at the Vancouver Olympics, Dan was responsible for building and maintaining the race tracks for all four of the men's alpine disciplines. Every November, Dan lends his passion

Continued on next page —

and expertise to Lake Louise for the Winter Start Downhill. We are so grateful to Dan for sharing this level of expertise and help while preparing our own local Nancy Greene and U14 events. With his connections in the ski race world, aided by expanded snowmaking capabilities, CMR is now able to offer early season race training to different ski clubs and teams.

Dan has become CMR's go-to guy for advice on early season ski slope preparation. This has led to improvements in the cat-ski road, snow fencing and general on-hill operations. It has become quite common for Steve, our head groomer, to stop by and pick up Dan at his cabin no matter what the hour. Dan also loves to grab a chain saw and help out with

brushing, run clearing and on Drifter days. He has volunteered countless hours, materials and expertise to on-hill improvements. If you see Dan installing B-netting and dying local race courses to World Cup standards, or pounding hard on pow days, please give him a big thank you – that is if you can catch him!!

LIVINGSTONE SKI ACADEMY: The Best Classroom Around

By Jason Clifton



"This is our classroom!" PHOTO BY J. CLIFTON

Another great season is just around the corner for LSA. We begin the season with two weeks of Aquafit and Crossfit, before hitting the slopes at Castle Mountain, December 10th. This year we have 65 student-athletes in the program, including international students from Denmark, Spain and Germany. We have several returning coaches and a few new coaches to complement the ranks. We are very happy to be sharing coaches with both Westcastle Race Club and Castle Mountain Freestyle Club this season. Our new 'Homegrown Coaches' program is underway with seven high school students participating in nutrition, fitness, coach development, avalanche training and ski instructor certification courses. We also have a small

group of high school students enrolled in our new LSA Media Pilot program, allowing them to practice sports photography and videography on the slopes. Livingstone School continues to grow, having added approximately 120 students to the school population since the LSA started just over five years ago. The revitalization of the school has allowed us to expand school programming, resulting in new staff joining the school team. Thank you to Livingstone Range School Division, Castle Mountain and the community, for their continued support in our efforts to create engaged, active, healthy and happy kids. We are currently looking for homestay families to host international students for next year. If you are interested in hosting an international student or know someone who might be, please contact Jennifer Ziebert, our Homestay Coordinator via email: ziebertj@lrsd.ab.ca. If you have any questions regarding the general operations of the LSA or how you can support the program, please contact the program coordinator, Jason Clifton, via email: cliftonj@lrsd.ab.ca.

2021 DIETER AWARD WINNERS

Dennis & Vicky Miller

Applause to these two volunteers who have organized the Drifter Day event for over 20 years. The Drifter Day project expands our skiing possibilities and reduces many hazards on our slopes. Dennis initiated the Dust Control Project in the parking lot and road ways to minimize the dust last year. Of course, we are grateful for their thoughtful Spring Celebration held for many years, that gathers our Castle Community together. They are a great example of how Castle is a family-focused playzone. Dennis & Vicky, their children & their grandchildren are most often found hiking, biking, and/or skiing around Castle. They also call this place home, 12 months of the year.



PHOTO BY D. MILLER

10TH ANNUAL CMR SKI MO RACE

By Brent Harris, CMR SKI-MO Race Director



This year we are celebrating our 10th SKI-MO race here at Castle. On Friday January 7th our first Ski Mo event, The Vertical Race, will be off at a fast pace. This race is a climb up Whiskey Jack and under the Blue chair and finishes at the top of the T-Bar Lift. On Saturday afternoon on Whiskey Jack the Sprint Races are fast paced,

exciting and super spectator friendly. Grab a beer & watch the action from the T-Bar Beer Garden. The individual races occur on Sunday and start at 10am in front of the Green Chair. You can watch the competitors throughout the day, climb to the top of the Red Chair, ski down through the Chutes, then climb up Mt. Haig and race on home to the Lodge. Check out

SKI-MO Canada www.smcc and learn more about the sport.

We welcome local volunteers as timers and course stewards. We will also be hosting a Wrights Silent Auction all day Saturday and it wraps up with the Awards Banquet on Saturday Evening for The Vertical & the Sprints. Give this great sport a try! Contact me for more information: btharris@telus.net

SNOW CLEARING PRIORITIES

Main Parking lot, Westcastle Loop, then Cul-de Sacs.

FROM OUR NEW MD COUNCILLOR

Dave Cox, MD Councillor for Pincher Creek

Greetings,

I appreciate that it is a busy time for your community and the Resort getting ready for the fast approaching opening of the ski season. I'm hoping it is a great one. The first month as the Councillor for Division 3 has been busy for me, getting familiar with what is happening and getting my feet under me dealing with rate-payer concerns.

I want to make myself available to all the groups in Division 3 and the rest of the MD as well.

Some things going on generally;

- The Beaver Mines water/sewer project is progressing
- The weed control program is complete for this year
- The budget for 2022 approved by the previous council is being reviewed by all the new councillors so we can understand what is going to happen in 2022 and beyond.

There has been nothing specific to the resort or its residents as a group that has come to my attention although I had conversations with individuals associated with the Castle Resort community.

I'd be happy to attend any community association meetings as well as respond to individual concerns. You can contact me by email or phone or if you see me on the street.

My email is CouncilDiv3@mdpincer creek.ab.ca

My phone is 403-627-8164.

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NEWS FROM CASTLE PROVINCIAL PARK & CASTLE WILDLAND PARK



What has been going on lately? Well, quite a lot! There is a new equestrian campground, a new bridge along the Barnaby trail, new outhouses and information kiosks at 5 Designated Camping Areas, new Interpretive signs are heading Castle way and some significant restoration work along the Castle River is in progress. Beaver Mines Lake Boat Launch Day Use, Syncline North, Syncline South and Carbondale Staging areas will be plowed with outhouses open and maintained to support activities such as ice fishing, cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Snowmobiling is open in the designated tracked OHV trail system, and there are nearby winter camping opportunities (electric sites) at Beauvais Lake Provincial Park. After November 30th, the O'Hagen road will be gated and only open to tracked OHV users, as it is part of the designated motorized trail system during the December 1 - April 30th winter season.

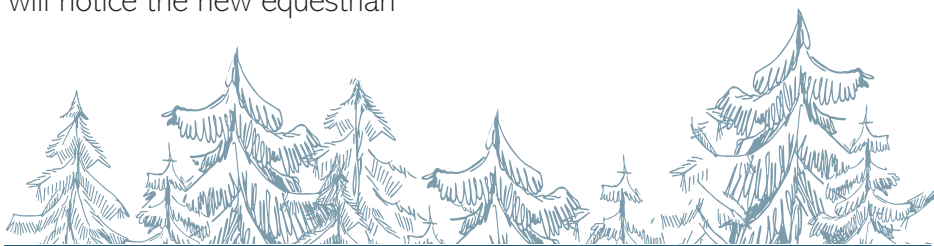
This winter at Syncline South, you will notice the new equestrian

campground. It was developed in cooperation with the Alberta Equestrian Federation. This campground has 8 campsites, 5 horse pens, a high line and a water well (non-potable water for horses). Visitors are reminded that the Syncline Trail System is available for nordic skiing, hiking and snowshoeing December 1 to April 30 and equestrian, hiking and mountain biking May 1 – November 30. Syncline Castle Trails Association (SCaT) has been a great support ensuring the trail system is accurately mapped and enjoyed. Please consider joining SCaT if you are interested in the Syncline Trails. The warming hut and campfire pit at Syncline South will be open this winter and is a great spot to enjoy lunch or a hot beverage.

Please share this information with family and friends and we hope to see you out and about! Happy winter, stay safe and have fun!

For more information visit:

www.albertaparks.ca/parks/south/castle-pp



CMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Julie Heinrich	Treasurer: Glenn Downey	Director: Tara Garratt
Past President: Kevin Finn	Secretary & Membership: Judy Clark	Director: Ray Bussey
Vice-President: Tania Janse	CRC representative: Glenn Armstrong	
Van Rensburg		

ARE YOU AWARE?

The new bridge on the Resort's southside was a joint initiative between the Castle Mountain Community Association (CMCA) and Castle Mountain Resort (CMR). It allows for safe passage to our multi-use and XC ski trails. Thanks to you for your financial support of CMCA and watch for our fundraising drive!

STAY IN THE S'KNOW

If you love Castle, The Lifeline keeps you up to date with what's going on here.

Send your name and email to: castlemountaincommunity@gmail.com and receive a digital copy of all Lifeline editions. Also consider becoming a CMCA member.

**LOOK FOR THE
NEXT EDITION
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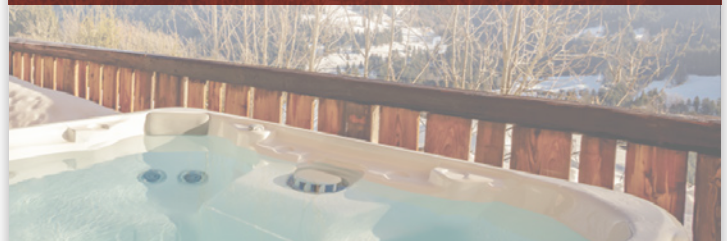
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CMCA Annual Membership Form – 2021/22



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 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 _____