



PHOTO BY JAMES HAMMETON

TUNED OUT OR TURNED ON?

By Steve Motta

I'm thinking about writing a horror movie script. It's about a ski resort covered in zombies, and they are all ... AFTER YOU! You see them coming, so you yell a warning. They don't respond, and keep coming. Too bad you left your chainsaw at the cabin. It's too late save yourself ... or is it?

Those zombies are unresponsive not because they're hungry for human flesh. It turns out they just couldn't hear you. They were 'plugged in' and had Taylor Swift turned up full blast.

Where do you stand on riding with music? Me ... I'm 'lukewarm warm' on Taylor Swift, but love riding with music. Here's why:

Music lifts and calms me. Scientists have proven it releases endorphins, increases blood flow, reduces heart rate and blood pressure. It puts Olympic athletes in the zone to perform at their absolute best. It puts some of them on the podium. I'm no athlete, but I can always use a little extra chill. When I'm at the top of Desperado, I know what is coming. A healthy pitch, endless turns and a couple no fall zones.

The more relaxed I am, the better the outcome. For moments like these, Blue Sky from the Allman Brothers Band's Eat a Peach album(1972) is the answer. A lazy pace, chill vocals and a sublime 3 minute tag-team Dickie & Duane solo. Wow quick run ... that was easy.

What's your favourite Castle bump run? For me it's The Q. So how (at my advanced age) could I still love bumps? The answer is musical hot sauce. At a blistering 179 beats per minute, Adrenaline Nightshift from the Japandroids' Celebration Rock album(2012) is magic. Driving guitar and a machine gun snare drum pump- up the speed and unleash backside air off of every bump. Super fun. Time for my nap now.

Imagine 20cms of fresh snow, a bluebird sky, and the angle of the morning sun illuminating 50 billion diamond like reflections on the piste in front of you. At this moment Castle is the most beautiful place on earth-well almost. Try adding finger style guitarists Don Ross and Andy McKee playfully bopping through Dolphins off of

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE	
T-Bar Opens	5
3 rd Annual CMCA Golf Classic Tournament	20
Firesmart Day - Fire Fighting Training Session	21
Minotaur VK*	26
AUGUST	
Sinister D200*	9-14
30 th Annual Huckleberry Festival	22
Drifter Days	29
SEPTEMBER	
Drifter Days	12
Castle Trail Race*	18-20
OCTOBER	
Fall Firesmart Day	3
CMCA AGM	4
Summer Operations Close for the Fall	11
DECEMBER	
Tentative Opening Day	4

*Event races explained on Page 6

T-BAR HOURS	FRI 5 PM - Midnight
	SAT 10 AM - Midnight
	SUN 10 AM - 7 PM

← Continued from page 1

The Thing That Came From Somewhere album (2008). They elevate natural beauty ... beyond.

In bad weather the Red Chair can be awful. Don't just sit there and take it. Plug in Speed Queen from Live, Love, Die (2006) by Perpetual Groove. Turn it up to 10 and fight violence with violence for the next 8 minutes. A wall of screaming guitar and pounding bass provide the adrenaline release required to survive and then thrive. Hey look ... I'm at the top.

Some days, soft groomers are the place to be. And nothing makes a groomer more fun than adding metronomic precision to your turns. Really... carving with a metronome, who does that? I do. Well not actu-

ally a metronome, but I am plugged into Widespread Panic's Ribs and Whisky off of the Earth to America album (2006). Risque lyrics, killer guitar and piano solos over a rock solid 90 beats per minute. Bap, bap, bap, bap, bap... ya!

Riding alone, it sure looks like I have no friends. But, I'm not the zombie you think I am. All the musicians on my iPod are along for the ride. Some have been friends since the 1970's. Well not exactly real friends, but sort of friends. They share their talent and take me places I have never been. How could I not take them out for a few runs at Castle.



Steve Motta

LAUGHING AND LOVING THE CHAOS

By Alex Burova

If someone had told me a year ago that I would spend my next winter organizing ski races and learning the fine art of controlled chaos, I probably would have laughed... and then quietly panicked.

This season at Castle Mountain Resort was my very first experience working in sports events, and to be completely honest, I was nervous. Not just a little nervous. The kind of nervous where you triple-check your emails, re-check them again, and still wake up at 3am wondering if you forgot something important.

But what I quickly discovered is that Castle isn't just a workplace. It's a unique and amazing community.

From day one, I felt supported by people who care about what's going on here. They helped with last-minute questions, jumped in

when extra hands were needed, or just showed up with encouragement at the right time. Thanks to this community, my first season felt a lot easier.

My very first major event - IFSA - turned out to be a huge success. Not because everything went perfectly (spoiler: something always goes sideways at events), but because the team worked together. I learned that even when things feel overwhelming, there's always someone nearby ready to step in. Somewhere between the early mornings, bluebird days, radio calls, powder alerts, and endless check-lists, something unexpected happened and I started to enjoy the chaos.

Looking ahead, I'm especially excited for the Huckleberry Festival. It

INVASIVE PLANTS AROUND US

By Wendy Ryan

Here is a snapshot of some of the plants that need to be controlled:



Right to left: Buttercup, Houndstongue, Wormwood sage, Canadian Thistle, Knapweed, Common Tansy, Brome, Bull Thistle, Toadflax - Yellow & Dalmatian, Burdock, Leafy Spurge, Hawkweed - Yellow & Orange, Blueweed, Scintless Chamomile, Oxeye Daisy, Mullen.

The most effective management begins with prevention, early detection and rapid response. Be careful not to park your vehicle on invasive plants and then carry the seed load with you.

The MD office has Invasive Handbooks for anyone interested in learning more.

For more info:

www.abinvasives.ca/invasive-species/

will be my first one but the 30th anniversary for Castle Mountain. That's a big milestone, and while I won't reveal too many secrets just yet, I can promise that we are working on something special to surprise our guests!

If this first season taught me anything, it's that growth rarely happens in comfort zones, but it does happen when you're surrounded by great people, stunning mountain views, and just enough unpredictability to keep things interesting.

And honestly? I can't wait to do it all again!



Alex Burova

events@skicastle.ca
403.627.5101 x 289

CMCA PRESIDENT'S REPORT – SUMMER 2026

By Tim Luke

Welcome to summer at Castle. Yes, the snow is finally melting so that we can get out and enjoy the West-castle Valley. Whether you are hiking, biking, paddling, fishing or just sitting on the deck with a refreshment please remember to be bear aware. There have been sightings of a Momma Bear and two cubs as well as a large male Grizzly.

We have a good line up of events this summer starting with the Golf Classic in support of FireSmart on June 20th followed up with our FireSmart Day on June 21st. Huck-leberry Festival is August 22nd. The CMCA provides the volunteers for Huck Fest so if you can spare a

couple hours please be sure to sign up. Drifter Days are August 29 and September 12. If you cannot join the group but would still like to get out and work on the mountain, please contact Dennis Miller at d516miller@gmail.com. To cap the summer off, be sure to put the CMCA AGM on your calendar for October 4.

The Hiking Trails at Castle are developed and maintained by the CMCA and our dedicated volunteers. The Trail Crew is currently reviewing the trails for any work required this summer. We will not have a specific trail day this summer, but we will be calling on

volunteers once we put out the areas that need work. If you are looking for a family friendly hike close to Castle, one of my favourites is the Syncline Brook Trail. It is a short hike that takes you to the backside of Gravenstafel where you can find a picnic spot among the erratics.

The CMCA runs on volunteers, we are continually seeking new board members and members at large. If you are interested in joining the team or have ideas for the CMCA, please contact me.



Tim Luke

timluke@outlook.com
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CASTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY FILM FESTIVAL SET TO LAUNCH THE 2026-27 SEASON

By Carolyn Armstrong

The inaugural Castle Mountain Community Film Festival (CMCFF) is set to kick off the 2026-27 ski season with a celebration of the people, stories, and spirit that make Castle Mountain special. Designed as the first major social event on opening weekend, the festival will bring the community together to reconnect with Castle friends, share laughs, and get excited for another season on the slopes.

More than just a film night, the CMCFF will showcase the creativity and talent of local athletes, filmmakers, families, and storytellers. From skiing and snowboarding to summer adventures, filmmakers are encouraged to capture the Castle lifestyle both on and off the snow.

Festival categories include U12, U18, Pro/Sponsored, Locals Being Locals, and Open Category. Orga-

nizers are especially excited about the "Locals Being Locals" category, which celebrates humour, lifestyle, culture, friendships, and family stories from the Castle community. The Open Category welcomes creative projects that don't fit elsewhere, including sledding, skijoring, blooper reels, and more. To enter, participants must have ties to the Castle community.

The top three films from each category will be screened live on the big screen in the Castle Mountain Resort day lodge on the first Saturday of the 2026-27 ski season. Filmmakers will have the chance to introduce their work and share the story behind it, while the audience will vote to determine the overall grand prize winner.

With prizes for both filmmakers and attendees, organizers hope the

CMCFF becomes an annual tradition and an unforgettable way to begin the season. Whether you're creating a film or simply coming to watch, the festival promises to be a fun, family-friendly celebration of the Castle Mountain community.

Visit our website at: www.cmcff.ca



THE KING HAS RETIRED – LONG LIVE THE KING!



DEAN PARKINSON

Dean Parkinson, CMR General Manager, announced his retirement, effective April 30, 2026.

In his letter to the Board, Dean shared that “the decision to retire has not been made lightly... it is the right moment for me to step aside and turn my attention to my family and personal affairs,” reflecting the thoughtful and value driven leadership he has demonstrated throughout his ten seasons with Castle.

The Board responded: “His vision, integrity, and steadfast commitment... have allowed for a culture of sustainability for the organization, and we are grateful for his decade of service.” On behalf of the Board, we extend our sincere appreciation to Dean for

his exceptional contributions and look forward to celebrating his legacy as we prepare for Castle's next chapter.

Drumroll Please! Bring out the band, roll out the red carpet!



CHRIS SALHANY - PHOTO BY LIZZIE REIMER

We very much welcome Chris Salhany in the new role of President of Castle Mountain resort.

With more than 25 years of leadership experience in ski resort operations, outdoor recreation, and mountain infrastructure development, Chris brings a deep understanding of independent ski area operations and four-season destination management to the role of President.

Throughout his career, Chris has

led complex mountain operations across a wide range of disciplines including lifts, snowmaking, grooming, ski patrol, guest services, hospitality, facilities, and capital development. He is recognized for building strong operational cultures, leading high-performing teams, and delivering safe, reliable, and financially sustainable resort operations.

Prior to joining Castle Mountain Resort, Chris served as General Manager of an alpine facility, where he oversaw all aspects of resort operations. During his tenure, he directed major capital infrastructure initiatives while working closely with Boards and stakeholders on long-term strategic planning and governance.

Known for his collaborative leadership style and passion for authentic mountain experiences, Chris is committed to supporting Castle Mountain Resort's continued growth while preserving the independent spirit, strong community culture, and exceptional skiing experience that define the resort.

ON THE HILL AND HIKING TRAILS

By Tony Gomes

Good News! Hiking trails to Haig Lake (both approaches) and Paradise Lake are open after the installation of the StageCoach Chair last year. The disc golf course is now set up and discs can be obtained at guest services or the t-bar.

Things to remember when out on the trails:

Be prepared and have adequate food/clothing for your hike, along with a small first aid kit. Take a

trail map or GPS if not familiar with the trail. Let someone else know where you're going and when you expect to be back.

Travel in a group for safety and make lots of noise, the bears don't really want to see you either. An AED is available on the outside of the infirmary near the T-Bar Pub.

Carry bear spray, know how to use it, and be bear aware. Avoid leaving your bear spray in your

hot car - it can be disastrous!

To quell your thirst the Tbar pub is again open on Friday 5- midnight, Saturday 10 am - midnight, and Sunday 10 am - 7 pm.

We still have many noxious weeds in our base area, including mullein and others. Avoid spreading them by driving through them and if pulling them up, place them in a garbage bag, seal and dispose if possible.

FIRESMART, FIREAWARE

By Glenn Armstrong & Carolyn Armstrong

On Sunday June 21, there will be a FireAware/FireSmart Day. Starting at 9 am at the Day Lodge, Pincher Creek Emergency Services will lead residents through a series of interactive demonstrations on the safe and effective use of fire extinguishers, hydrants, hoses, connectors and nozzles. PCES will also be covering issues around smoke and structure safety in the event of a fire, and the proper housing of fire equipment.

The balance of the day will be used to continue to FireSmart your property and help your neighbours as per the CMR 2025 1.5 meter request: Brushing, branch limbing, tree removal to 1.5 meters and raking of needles and general FireSmart spring cleanup in our community. The FireSmart Focus Group will also be putting up roof sprinklers and hoses for community members that day and removing debris to a burn pile in the afternoon. We will not be doing any tree felling on CMR public ground that day. We hope to do a second FireSmart Day around the CMR AGM for CMR public ground FireSmart work.

The CMCA has a limited number of Sprinklers (\$130.00) and Stainless Steel Hoses (\$60.00) available for sale that we can assist with installation on June 21st. If you are interested, please contact Glenn Armstrong at 403-481-9876 or armstronggs@gmail.com.



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WIND

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Graham Czibere

CALENDAR OF EVENTS RACES EXPLAINED

Jun 26 | Minotaur VK

4km | T/L: 3h | EG: 970m (3182 ft)

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 male and female finishers, along with age group recognition.

Brand new for 2026, the Minotaur VK kicks off the Minotaur weekend with a challenging International Skyrunning Federation–certified Vertical Kilometer course hosted at Castle Mountain Resort. This demanding course climbs high above the resort on a mix of single track, talus, scree, and cat track. It's guaranteed to get both legs and lungs burning, while rewarding participants with stunning views and big bragging rights.

Aug 9-14 | Sinister D200

Western Canada's only 200-miler. The stuff legends are made of... This race represents the culmination

of 25 years of living, playing, and working in the Rocky Mountains.

The route travels through the Castle and Crowsnest region of the southern Rockies, celebrating Rocky Mountain heritage and highlighting sections of the stunning Great Divide Trail. The vision behind the Divide 200 is to keep runners high in the mountains, enjoying the varied terrain of the Continental Divide.

This event is designed for athletes with significant race and alpine experience. The course includes all trail types, along with off-trail sections and some basic route finding, as the terrain is rugged and demanding. Checkpoints will be spaced every 20 to 40 km depending on the section.

Sep 18-20 | Castle Trail Race

Get into fall running mode and

experience the beauty of the Castle Mountain Resort area – a secluded gem that everyone should make an effort to visit.

The Castle Alpine Trail Race (CAT) combines wide open vistas, rugged single track, off-trail running, and plenty of challenging climbs. While not extraordinarily long in distance, CAT is like a schoolyard bully – it roughs you up and never lets up.

This classic trail run covers two mountain summits and one of the most serene alpine valleys in the region. Each stage starts and ends at Castle Mountain Resort, making logistics simple – participants can leave their gear in the staging area and focus on smooth transitions. Leg 1 runs clockwise, Leg 2 counterclockwise, and Leg 3 clockwise.

After the race, Castle Mountain is planning live music and additional celebrations as we close out the mountain for the season.



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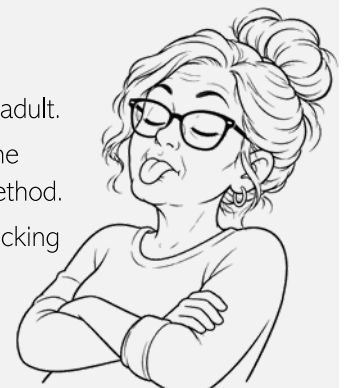
DECISIONS

I officially resign from being an adult.

Decisions will be made using the EENIE-MEANIE-MINIE-MOE Method.

Arguments will be settled by sticking out my tongue.

I'll be at recess if you need me.



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CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF THE FIRST HUCKLEBERRY FESTIVAL

By Karen Harker

The very first Huckleberry Festival, held in August 1995, was much more than a community event — it was a true grassroots celebration powered entirely by volunteers, creativity, and community spirit.

The idea came from a shared vision of creating something special for local children and families. Something that would be a more family friendly version of the annual Pig Roast end of season celebration at Westcastle. From the very beginning, Huck Fest reflected the heart of Westcastle: neighbours coming together to build something memorable with little more than enthusiasm, determination, and a lot of helping hands.

There was no formal budget. Everything was donated or borrowed. Flyers were printed through community support, local businesses contributed supplies, and countless volunteers stepped forward wherever

needed. Friendly loans and donations helped make the impossible possible. Many community members played important roles in those early days. Nevenka Pritchard was the brains of the operation, and she was assisted by several community members who helped do anything that needed doing: organized kids games and activities, cleaned the kitchen and the toilets, and planned all the food. Pulled pork meals, homemade buns prepared by Hutterite women, and cooking done by ski club kids and the Disabled Ski Association volunteers all added to the warm community atmosphere.

The event quickly became packed with unique activities and memorable moments: Camping in the parking lot; truck rides up the North Road to pick berries; largest huckleberry contest; lively corn shucking contests; bonfires, kids' bike races, and hay rides in a Cinderella

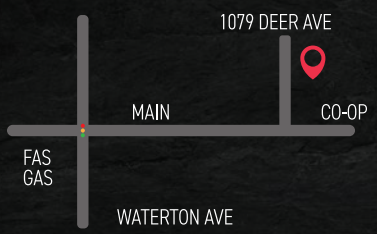
carriage for 50 cents a ride; Cowboy poetry performances; and music, some from "free bands" — which, as organizers joked, said a lot about the quality; and exceptional music from a local singer song writer who was then early in his career - John Wort Hannam. The Pincher Creek parade became an instant favorite, featuring ski club kids on roller-blades handing out Huck Fest pamphlets from Laura, the old Westcastle truck, who was appropriately decorated for the day.

Looking back, the first Huck Fest succeeded not because of money or elaborate planning, but because of the passion and generosity of the people involved. It was, in every sense, a true Westcastle initiative — built by the community, for the community.

Nearly three decades later, the spirit of that first festival still lives on in the friendships, memories, and traditions it created.



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WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO...

By Aynsley Baker

When people ask me what I think the perfect summer weekend in the southeastern Canadian Rockies would look like, I always ask, "how long is your weekend?"

There is so much to do in our little corner of Alberta so that when we have friends and family come to visit in the summer, we have suggestions aplenty.

The Perfect Weekend in the MD of Pincher Creek

We live by Twin Butte, so these mountains have always been part of our everyday life. We work in them, but we also play in them. When we intentionally slow down for a few days and explore the area with visitors, I'm reminded how incredible this corner of Alberta really is. The ideal mix for our guests is hiking, mountain scenery, yummy food, and enough flexibility that still feels like an adventure. If we start in the Castle area (appropriate for this publication), a stop at the Miners Mercantile in Beaver Mines for trail snacks, yummy baking, and cold drinks is paramount. From there, we can make our way to Castle Mountain Resort to hike Haig Lake. It is definitely a family friendly excursion for all ages, fun and manageable yet adventurous enough that it gives everyone a bit of a challenge. The scenery is classic for this area of the province - alpine views, wildflowers, and dramatic vistas in every direction. Arriving at the lake is good timing for a break and a snack before heading back to the resort for a late lunch where we can enjoy the spectacular mountain views. This is Alberta summer at its best.

Day 2 may see a sleep in before heading to North Drywood Falls in the Castle Provincial Park area. This trail has a quieter, more peaceful feeling compared to some of the busier hikes around Waterton and Castle. The drive alone is beautiful, winding through lesser-known parts of this area. There are some great places to pull off, get out of the car, and take some amazing photos of forest as far as the eye can see. No people... just acres and acres of wilderness. North Drywood Falls is a fun and easy hike in, with creek crossings and a waterfall payoff at the end. It usually takes us a couple of hours. After stretching our legs, there's no better way to end the day than dinner at the Twin Butte General Store. A couple of drinks, great atmosphere, and hearty food will put the day to a very good end.

The last day of this 'mini break' suggestion is heading to Waterton starting with coffee and picking up lunches from Switchback Micro-Cafe at the Tamarack. From there, head for Red Rock Canyon and walk the trail to Blakiston Falls.

Again, not a big hike, but a gorgeous one! With wildflowers and amazing views of the Falls, this is a visitor favourite. Lunch at Red Rock is a must - the picnic benches scattered around the top of the Canyon make it an idyllic and unique diversion.

By the end of the weekend, the guests are happily tired, covered in dust, and already talking about which trail they want to do next. That's the thing about summers in the southeastern Canadian Rockies — the adventures never really get old, especially when they are experienced together.



PHOTO BY AYSLEY BAKER

Aynsley Baker is a long-time Castle skier who lives with her family just north of Waterton Park. She and her family own Tamarack Outdoors. In the Summer, you'll find her (when not at work!) exploring the trails of the area with her family.

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CASTLE MOUNTAIN GOLF CLASSIC TOURNAMENT SUPPORTING THE FIRESMART PROGRAM

By Dave Clement

Now that skiing is wrapped up, we turn our attention to summer activities! For example, golf!! The 3rd Annual CMCA Golf Tournament is planned for Saturday June 20th at Waterton Lakes Golf Club. It is a fun Texas Scramble format that promises no golf stress and lots of fun.

There are still a few spots left for those that would like to play and can be booked through our website: cmacagolfclassic.com. Funds raised this year will again be used

to support our ongoing efforts to make our community more defensible against the threat of wildfire.

Not a golfer? You can still support our Firesmart Fundraiser. We are in need of a few volunteers. If you have the time and would join in our fun day then please reach out to me at the contact info below. We would also welcome support through sponsorship of a hole (\$250) or prize donation (\$100).

Both of these options are available on our website as well - cmcagolfclassic.com.

Again, please reach out to me directly if you have any questions. We are looking forward to another great day with our Castle Mountain friends at the beautiful Waterton Lakes Golf Course.

403-831-2037
dclemen1@its.jnj.com

PERRY FAMILY FARM

Adapted from the article in the Western Producer by Greg Price

The Perry Family Farm was founded in 1909 near the hamlet of Chin on Highway 3 between Coaldale and Taber. It is currently in its fourth generation under brothers Chris and Harold Perry and their families. The Perrys' farm has been growing potatoes for Pepsico brand Lay's for more than 45 years, and McCain's. They also grow green peas, seed canola and varieties of wheat and barley.

As a result of their farming innovations and sustainability practices, the Perry Farm has been awarded Farmer of the Year 2025, as well as the Canada National Environmental Award Winner in 2011. Other awards include McCain's Top Potato Grower and Frito-Lay's Canadian

Supplier of the Year. In 2013, the Perry Farm designed and constructed the GrowTEC Biogas Plant, which produces over 4,000 MWh of renewable electricity per year from manure and organic waste — enough energy to power 1,000 homes. They have also spoken at the Paris Accord and Berlin Energy

Transition Dialogue about their sustainable agricultural practices.

The Perry's have been an integral part of Castle Mountain for generations, working, playing, competing and contributing to the Castle community as it turns over from one generation to the next.



PHOTO FROM THE WESTERN PRODUCER GREG PRICE ARTICLE

NEWS FROM THE MD OF PINCHER CREEK

By Dave Cox, Councillor MD of Pincher Creek

Greetings,

Spring has arrived a bit later than usual which makes me appreciate it more.

We've had some moisture and the Oldman Dam is near 93% full.. There is still a very low water table with big demand continuing on the MDs standpipes due to wells going dry.

The work load of the MD is progressing with road maintenance ongoing. Summer projects are beginning.

Pincher Creek Emergency Services Commission is continuing with promoting both the fire guard and fire-smart. The planning is ongoing with most concepts accepted by the many government agencies involved. The next step is to submit this proposal to FRIAA (Forest

Resource Improvement Association of Alberta) for approval.

The irrigation projects in the MD are progressing. The Province has issued several more permits and by their report all of the irrigation allocation for the area around the Oldman Dam has been asked for.

We had Coffee with Council for Division 3 at the Coalfields School April 21. There was a small number of residents who attended. The notes from that meeting are available on the MD website.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 403-627-8164 or at CouncilDiv3@mdpincercreek.ab.ca



Dave Cox



THE OL' TRUCK AT THE SHENTON RANCH



Julie Heinrich, Artist

JKH.Watercolour

Julie Heinrich's art and commissions are available at the Lebel Mansion in Pincher Creek, the Beaver Mines' Mercantile, Alpenland at Castle Mountain Resort and online at JKH.Watercolour on Instagram.



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EARLY DECEMBER 2026

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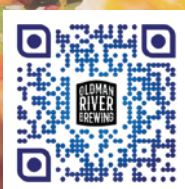
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