

Coaldale Summer Fest to Take Place August 11-12

This year's Summer Fest is themed "Salute to Agriculture".



On August 11 and 12, Coaldale Summer Fest will return with the theme "Salute to Agriculture"

Coaldale Summer Fest is a celebration of and for the community, and this year's Fest is dedicated to celebrating Coaldale's agricultural roots and heritage. "So much of our Town's history is rooted in agriculture and to this day, much of our economy hinges on the continued expansion and success of the agricultural and agri-food processing industries", said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. "We're proud of this history, and proud of our Town for continuing to embrace agriculture as part of its identity, which is ultimately why we decided to give Summer Fest 2023 the theme we did. This year, Summer Fest is all about recognizing and celebrating our Town's connection to agriculture."

Summer Fest will kick off on the evening of Friday, August 11, with a movie in Millennium Park behind the Coaldale Sportsplex. Coaldale Town Council will be serving free pizza and Deez Eats food cart will be on site around 7:00pm to serve popcorn, hot dogs and pop during the movie. The movie will start sometime between 8:30 and 9:00 PM.

Festivities will then continue into Saturday, August 12, beginning with a Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast fundraiser (8:00am-10:00am) and Coaldale's Candy Parade (11:00am). Following the parade, attendees will be able to take in live music and a battle of the bands at the ATCO

Stage, watch a variety of other live performances at the inaugural Town Stage, walk through the Coaldale Custom Cruisers Show & Shine, visit the Domesticated Divas Open Air Market, and enjoy many family-friendly events and activities, including:

- the Kinsmen Beer Garden (10am-11pm);
- a Coaldale Food Bank BBQ (11:30am – 2:00pm);
- a petting zoo (12:00pm – 5:00pm);
- face painting & airbrush tattoos (12:00pm – 5:00pm);
- games (12:00pm – 5:00pm);
- bouncy castles & inflatables (12:00pm – 5:00pm); and
- caricatures (12:00pm – 5:00pm)

Finally, the same fireworks team as last year will return to Coaldale to end the day once again with a bang, putting on a fantastic display of fireworks with choreographed music for the entire community.

For more information about Summer Fest 2023 "Salute to Agriculture", including a full list of activities and their locations, please visit: <https://www.coaldalesummerfest.ca/>.

Coaldale One of the Safest Communities Its Size in the Country

At the end of May, the Town of Coaldale officially released its 2022 Comparative Analysis which compares Coaldale's operational and financial performance to the operational and financial performances of eight other similarly sized and/or neighbouring municipalities: Blackfalds, Drumheller, Edson, Innisfail, Lethbridge, Lethbridge County, Ponoka, and Taber.

Except for the Town's 2019 Comparative Analysis, the Town's previous analyses focused on evaluating these performances across five distinct benchmarks: total revenues & operating expenditures; taxation and assessment; assessment growth; population growth; and executive compensation. This year's analysis, however, introduces two new

benchmarks – one of which is crime severity.

According to Statistics Canada, Crime Severity Index (CSI) scores are based off the number of crimes reported by police in each jurisdiction, as well as the relative seriousness of those crimes. As a result, if a jurisdiction has a high proportion of less serious crimes (which are weighted lower), it will have a lower CSI score. Conversely, if a jurisdiction has a high proportion of more serious crimes (which are weighted higher), it will have a higher CSI score. Canada's CSI score is always 100, which means that municipalities with a CSI score of above 100 are less safe while municipalities with a CSI score of below 100 are safer.

As the data in the analysis reveals, when it comes to crime severity Coaldale stands out for being the safest community among both its peer and neighbouring municipalities. “To control for fluctuations in CSI scores – which can change significantly from one year to the next – we decided we'd calculate a 5-year CSI score average for each municipality in the analysis”, explained Mills. “What we found was that over the last 5 years, both violent crime and non-violent crime in Coaldale have remained, on average, relatively low making it the safest community among both its neighbours and peers. In fact, with an average CSI score of just 52.5, Coaldale ranks as the safest municipality its size in the province, the 3rd safest municipality of its size in western Canada, and the 7th safest municipality of its size in the country. That's good news for our residents and a major selling point for the Town.”

To read the Town of Coaldale's 2022 Comparative Analysis, please visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/ComparativeAnalysis>.

Town of Coaldale Releases Its 2022 Annual Report

The Town of Coaldale has officially released its 2022 Annual Report.

In addition to providing residents, businesses, and potential investors with an up-to-date overview of the Town's financial performance, the report once again goes beyond financial accounting requirements by prioritizing readability and shining a spotlight on the recent completion of Coaldale's new Town Hall.

When it comes to the Town's financial performance, the

report shows that on the whole, 2022 was another successful year. Financial assets totaled \$29.5 million, financial liabilities totaled \$25.3 million, and the Town's accumulated surplus grew by 6.48% - up from \$133 million in 2021 to \$141.6 million in 2022.

“Once again, I'm happy to report that the Town remains in a financially healthy and stable position”, said Kyle Beauchamp, Chief Financial Officer & Deputy CAO for the Town of Coaldale. “Balancing service levels with fiscal responsibility is always a challenge – but this was especially true in 2022. Like individual households, municipalities are not immune from inflation, and 2022 was a year marked by high inflation. With increasing costs for construction, materials, supplies and services, it became all the more difficult to maintain adequate service levels for residents while maintaining fiscal responsibility. But as the report shows, we've largely succeeded in meeting this challenge. Coaldale not only continues to benefit from sustainable growth and investment, but also, to utilize its limited resources in innovative, cost-conscious ways.”

As for the completion of Coaldale's new Town Hall, the report details a number of construction highlights which, taken together, provide insightful context for understanding the building's design and appearance. Designed to have two distinct appearances, the east-side of Civic Square features classic brick and arches, while the west side has a modern look with wood and metal panels. The brick selected has a paper-cut finish, which combined with the regular spaced archways and pilasters give it a more traditional or historic feeling. The contrast between the two sides gives the building a better sense of scale and adds to the visual appeal of a more dynamic downtown. It also serves as a wayfinding tool, a visual cue separating the public side of the building from the business side.

“Civic Square – which was recently given the Blackfoot name Natosooyis ('Sun Lodge') – stands as a testament to our commitment to providing efficient and accessible services to our community”, said Mayor Van Rijn. “It will serve as a central hub for civic engagement, decision-making, and collaboration between our dedicated council members and the residents they represent. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those involved in bringing this project to fruition.”

Coaldale's 2022 Annual Report can be found on the Town's website at: <https://www.coaldale.ca/annual-report>.