

Coaldale Summer Fest Returns August 6–9 with Theme “Honouring Our Past, Building Our Future”

This year’s festival will feature four days of music, food, family activities, local business promotions, and live entertainment headlined by The Washboard Union.

The Town of Coaldale is pleased to announce the return of Coaldale Summer Fest, taking place from August 6 to 9, 2026, with the theme: “Honouring Our Past, Building Our Future.”

From its inception, Coaldale Summer Fest has served as a vibrant showcase of the Town’s community spirit. This year’s theme reflects both an appreciation for the people, stories, and traditions that have helped shape Coaldale, and a shared sense of excitement for the future the community continues to build together.

“Summer Fest is one of the best examples of what makes Coaldale such a special place to live,” said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. “It brings residents, families, businesses, community organizations, and visitors together for a weekend that celebrates who we are and where we are going. This year’s theme, ‘Honouring Our Past, Building Our Future,’ is especially meaningful because it reminds us that Coaldale’s future is built on the strong foundation created by the generations who came before us. On behalf of Council, I want to thank the many sponsors, volunteers, organizers, local businesses, and community partners who help make Summer Fest possible each year.”

Major Events:

Movie in the Park — Friday, August 7

- Movie in the Park will take place at Millennium Park, north of The Hub. The event will begin at 7 p.m., with the movie scheduled to start at 8 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast — Saturday, August 8

- The Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast will take place from 8 to 10 a.m. on the field south of the old John Davidson School. Proceeds from the breakfast support individuals and community groups within the parish community and beyond.

Candy Parade — Saturday, August 8

- The long-standing tradition of the Coaldale Candy Parade will return beginning at 11 a.m. Parade entries must be pre-registered, and a parade route map is available on the Coaldale Summer Fest website.

Coaldale Custom Cruisers Show & Shine — Saturday, August 8

- The Coaldale Custom Cruisers Show & Shine will return to Coaldale’s Main Street, giving residents and visitors a chance to take in a variety of unique modern and antique vehicles.

Live Entertainment — Saturday, August 8

- Live entertainment will take place throughout the day on the 1st Choice Savings and Credit Union Main Stage, located on the field south of the old John Davidson School. Performances include Bamboo Guppies at noon, Skinny Dyck at 1:30 p.m. Citizen Radio at 3:30 p.m., Jostyn at 5:30 p.m., Ryan Lindsay at 6:30 p.m., and Canadian country favourites The Washboard Union at 8:30 p.m.

Fireworks — Saturday, August 8

- Summer Fest will finish with a fireworks display scheduled for approximately 10:30 p.m. Spectator areas will be available along the canal bank and in the northwest soccer field at The Quads, conditions permitting.

Cowboy Church — Sunday, August 9

- Summer Fest will conclude with Cowboy Church at 3 p.m. in the Civic Square Atrium. The non-denominational service will include music, cowboy poetry, reflections, and refreshments.

More information, including event details, maps, applications, and updates, is available at www.coaldalesummerfest.ca.

Town of Coaldale to Reduce Unposted Speed Limit to 40 Kilometers Per Hour

The change will take effect September 1, 2026, with posted speed limits continuing to apply where signs are in place.

Coaldale Town Council has approved an amendment to the Town's Traffic Control Bylaw that will reduce the Town's default, unposted speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h.

The change will take effect on September 1, 2026, and will apply to roads within Town limits where no speed limit is posted. Roads with posted speed limit signs will continue to follow the posted limit. This means that Highway 3, Highway 845, and 30 km/h playground zones will remain unchanged.

The decision follows a town-wide speed study conducted by the Town's Municipal Enforcement team, which reviewed current vehicle speeds across Coaldale and compared them with speed data collected in previous years. To complete the study, the Town collected more than 326,000 vehicle observations across 16 locations. The results showed that a majority of drivers are already travelling at or near the proposed 40 km/h limit, with two-thirds of vehicles travelling below 50 km/h and roughly 95% travelling within 9 km/h of the current default limit.

"Council's decision is about making Coaldale's streets safer and more comfortable for everyone," said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. "A 40 km/h default speed limit is a practical step that supports neighbourhood safety, especially for pedestrians, cyclists, children, seniors, and families. It also aligns Coaldale with a growing number of Alberta municipalities that have made similar changes."

The safety rationale for reducing the default speed limit is based on the relationship between vehicle speed and collision severity. Research referenced in Administration's report shows that the risk of pedestrian fatality is approximately cut in half at an impact speed of 40 km/h, compared to 50 km/h. The report also notes that after Edmonton reduced its default speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h in 2021, a University of Alberta evaluation found approximately 25% fewer collisions and approximately 31% fewer injuries and fatalities.

"Most local trips in Coaldale are relatively short, so the

practical impact on travel time will generally be seconds rather than minutes — a two-kilometre drive takes about 36 seconds longer at 40 km/h than at 50 km/h," said Dustin Yanke, Director of Infrastructure for the Town of Coaldale. "At the same time, even modest reductions in vehicle speed can make a meaningful difference in how severe a collision is when one does happen. This change sets a safer baseline across Town, and we'll continue monitoring speeds to guide where enforcement and traffic calming are needed most."

To support the transition, the Town will launch a public awareness campaign before the September 1 go-live date. The campaign will include social media updates, a dedicated webpage and FAQ, newspaper advertising, billboards on Highway 3 and Highway 845, and a blanket mail out to Town residences and businesses with a QR code linking to more information.

The speed limit reduction is part of a broader traffic safety approach that will include continued monitoring and the development of a future traffic-calming guideline to help the Town respond consistently to resident traffic concerns.

Residents can learn more about the change, including what "unposted speed limit" means and where posted speed limits continue to apply, by visiting www.coaldale.ca/unposted-speed-limit-reduction.

What's Happening in the Community?

Coaldale Summer Fest will return from August 6-9 with the theme "Honouring Our Past; Building Our Future". For full event details, please visit: www.coaldalesummerfest.ca.

On August 22 from 11:00-1:00pm, My City Care will set up its Back-to-School Pop-Up Shop at the Coaldale Community Centre. There will be a large selection of free gently used clothing and shoes for all ages available. There will also be a free hotdog lunch.