

Town of Coaldale Snow Plowing and Removal Based on a Route Priority System

High priority areas include all routes by emergency vehicles and roads that provide access to local schools.

With winter weather now upon us, Coaldale Town Council is encouraging Town residents to take a few moments to familiarize themselves with the Town's Snow Removal Policy.

Last revised in February, 2021, the policy specifies exactly when and where residents can expect to see Town crews operating snow plow and snow removal equipment through the 2022-2023 winter season. "The reason we have this policy is essentially to demystify a process that each winter, many residents have questions about but aren't necessarily aware of", said Justin MacPherson, Director of Operational Services. "When large snow events occur, people naturally want to know why some roads are plowed before others and some not at all. This policy answers those questions and keeps residents in the loop about when and where they can expect to see our crews in the hours and days following a large snow fall."

According to the policy, after "large snow events" (where approximately 10 centimeters (4 inches) of snow has fallen), snow plowing will commence on a prioritized basis. Priority 1 routes are routes used by emergency vehicles and include 16th Ave, 20th Ave, Land O' Lakes Drive, 23rd Ave, 24th Street, and Cottonwood Drive. Priority 2 routes are routes that provide access to local schools and include 8th Street, portions of 11th Street and 22nd Ave, a portion of 19th Street, 21st Street, and 30th Street. Finally, priority 3 and 4 routes consist of industrial roads and arterial and collector roads, as well as drifted intersections, blocked streets, and other designated areas.

"From a governance perspective, it's important to have policies that shine a light on operational processes that directly affect our residents and businesses", said Town of Coaldale Mayor Jack Van Rijn. "This way, Town residents can rest assured that no one is arbitrarily deciding which roads get plowed first and which ones last, and that the Town's resources are being used in a strategic well-thought-out manner."

To read the Town's Snow Removal Policy in full, and to download detailed maps of priority snow plowing routes and pathway snow removal routes, please visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/SnowRemoval>. The policy also outlines the conditions under which sanding will occur, where snow fences will be placed, and what sidewalks will be cleared by the Town.

What's Hapening in the Community?

The Coaldale Winter Walkin-the-Park returns for its fourth year at the Kin Picnic Shelter Park. Opening night will be Saturday, December 3rd, from 5:30-8:30pm. The park will be open every Saturday and Wednesday between 5:30-8:30pm in December, excluding Dec 24 & 31. For more information please visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/Winter-Walkin-the-Park>.

The Kinette Club of Coaldale, Timber-Tech Truss Inc., and the Coaldale United Church Thrift Shop, have sponsored free public skating at the Coaldale Arena. Come skate for free on Saturdays from 3:30pm- 4:30pm (Kinette Club of Coaldale), on select Sundays from 3:30pm - 4:30pm (Timber-Tech Truss Inc.), on Dec 24 from 9:00am -12:00pm (Coaldale United Church Thrift Shop), and on Dec 31 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm (Coaldale United Church Thrift Shop). For details on free skating dates please visit <https://www.coaldale.ca/coaldalearena>.

Now that Christmas is just around the corner, the Town would like to invite residents and business owners to participate in its 4th annual Country Christmas Best Decorated Holiday Home and Best Decorated Business Contest. Help light up Coaldale by decking out your homes and businesses in Christmas lights & decor! For more details, please visit <https://www.coaldale.ca/country-christmas-contests> or call (403) 345-1324.

Get ready to GLOW! Join us on Saturday, December 10 from 12:00pm - 3:00pm at the Coaldale Arena for our Glow in the Dark Christmas Skate. For more details, please visit <https://www.coaldale.ca/glow-christmas-skate-2022>.

The Coaldale Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Town of Coaldale, is now accepting nominations for its 41st Awards and Appreciation Banquet on January 28, 2023. The deadline for nominations is December 10, 2022 at 4pm! For full details please visit <https://www.CoaldaleChamber.com>.

Coaldale Town Council Looking for Volunteers to Help Establish a Local Citizens on Patrol Group

The group will work in conjunction with the local RCMP to keep watch over Coaldale streets and neighborhoods.

As part of its commitment to enhancing public safety, Coaldale Town Council is looking for volunteers to help establish a Coaldale-based Citizens on Patrol group.

In its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, Council identifies public safety as a key priority and, as a result, has remained focused not only on ensuring strong collaboration between the Town's Community Peace Officer Program and the RCMP, but also, on exploring opportunities that will empower Town residents to play a constructive role in helping local law enforcement keep the community safe.

One of the opportunities currently being explored is the establishment of a Coaldale-based Citizens on Patrol group that, much like Citizens on Patrol groups in other Alberta municipalities, will work in conjunction with the local RCMP to keep watch over Coaldale streets and neighborhoods. "When we look around the province at what other municipalities are doing to enhance public safety, we see that a lot of them have established Citizens on Patrol groups", said Town of Coaldale Mayor Jack Van Rijn. "These groups are made up of residents who volunteer for the RCMP and act as an extra set of eyes and ears in the community. If something appears to be criminal in nature, or is unusual, these volunteers will notify local law enforcement and report what they've seen or heard."

For its part, Coaldale RCMP welcomes the idea. "The Alberta RCMP is committed to combining efforts with volunteer associations such as Citizens on Patrol", said RCMP Staff Sgt. Mike Numan, Commander of the Picture Butte/Coaldale Detachment. "The contribution of Citizens on Patrol associations to Alberta's law enforcement is evident, and the dedication of those who volunteer for these groups is reflected through their efforts to help promote crime reduction within our communities. In fact, this is one of the reasons why the RCMP recently adopted the RAVE alert-mass notification system," added Numan. "This system will enhance communication between the RCMP and these citizen-led groups, both of which share the goal of creating safe communities. I look forward to building on the RCMP's

partnership with Alberta Citizens on Patrol in Coaldale."

At the November 14, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, it was revealed that Coaldale's crime severity rate remains comparatively low. Data from Statistics Canada's Crime Severity Index (CSI) shows that in 2021, Coaldale's CSI score was 44.5 (22.9 lower than that of neighboring Taber (67.4), 65.5 lower than the national average (100), and 104.4 lower than that of neighboring Lethbridge (148.9)). Even so, Council believes that having a low crime severity rate only adds to the case for setting up a Coaldale-based Citizens on Patrol. "By and large, Coaldale is a safe place to live – especially when compared to municipalities like neighboring Lethbridge", said Mayor Van Rijn. "But establishing a Citizens on Patrol group is a great way to ensure that Coaldale stays this way – and without having to spend extra money on policing costs. Many of our residents may not know this, but Coaldale is the only small town in Canada that has to pay 100 per cent of the costs for RCMP policing," explained Van Rijn. "Right now, we're in the process of working with the Minister of Justice and his team on trying to change that, but in the meantime, we've been trying to think of cost-effective ways to enhance public safety. We think setting up a Coaldale-based Citizens on Patrol group is one of those ways and will further our efforts as a Council to put Coaldale on the map as a safe place to live and raise a family."

If you are interested in joining a Coaldale-based Citizens on Patrol group, please email tom.anderson@coaldale.ca or contact the Town office at **403-345-1374**. Prospective Citizens on Patrol members must be at least 18 years of age and pass a criminal record/background check conducted by the RCMP.

To learn more about Alberta Citizens on Patrol, please visit: <https://acopa.ca/>.