

Town of Coaldale Celebrates Grand Opening of New Civic Square Building

Nestled in the heart of downtown, Civic Square is home to Coaldale's new Town Office and Council Chambers.



On June 17, 2023, Coaldale residents, local elected officials, community faith leaders, and several dignitaries from the Indigenous community, came together to celebrate the grand opening of the Town's new Civic Square building.

Nestled in the heart of downtown, Civic Square is home to Coaldale's new Town Office and Council Chambers, and is a testament to functionality, efficiency, and inclusivity. The Town Office boasts spacious and modern workspaces for the Town's administrative staff, allowing them to better serve the needs of Coaldale's residents. The Council Chambers, with its cutting-edge audiovisual technology and comfortable seating arrangements, will ensure a seamless and engaging experience for council meetings and public hearings. Finally, the large atrium –

thoughtfully designed to host community events and gatherings - offers a welcoming atmosphere with a living wall that contains over 2000 living plants and several large black-and-white photos depicting historic scenes from Coaldale's past.

During the grand opening, Mayor Jack Van Rijn gave a heartfelt speech in which he not only expressed his delight in seeing this long-awaited project come to fruition, but

also, spoke passionately about the vision behind the building and what it means for the community, moving forward. "In the process of making Civic Square become a reality, we have seen our community come together, hand in hand, united in a common goal", he said. "We have witnessed the strength that emerges when people set aside personal agendas and work towards a greater good". He went on to state that in this new Town Office and Council Chambers, "we will come together to address the challenges we face as a community. We will engage in thoughtful dialogue, recognizing that every voice matters, and that by working together, we can find innovative solutions to the issues that affect us all. We will forge partnerships with our neighbouring municipalities, with businesses, with our educational institutions, and with community organizations, understanding that by uniting our efforts, we can create a future that is brighter for every citizen of Coaldale."

Now that the building is officially open for business, Coaldale Town Council will move into its new Chambers and begin holding all its regular and special Council meetings in them. "As a Council, we couldn't more excited to start holding our meetings in the new Chambers and hope that Town residents make a habit of coming or tuning in to watch", said Van Rijn.

What's Happening in the Community?

On August 11 and 12, Coaldale Summer Fest will return with the theme "Salute to Agriculture". For more information, check out the new website at <https://coaldale-summerfest.ca> If you are interested in participating in, volunteering during, or becoming a sponsor of Summer Fest, please contact Clayton Varjassy at clayton.varjassy@coaldale.ca or by phone at 403-345-1328.

Groundbreaking Ceremony Marks the Beginning of Construction on Phase 1 of LINK Pathway

Spanning approximately 15 kilometers, the LINK Pathway will weave through the scenic countryside between Lethbridge and Coaldale, showcasing the natural beauty of the area.



On June 13, 2023, elected officials from Coaldale Town Council, Lethbridge County, and the City of Lethbridge came together for a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the official start of construction on Phase 1 of the LINK Pathway.

Spanning approximately 15 kilometers, the LINK Pathway will weave through the scenic countryside, showcasing the natural beauty of the area between Lethbridge and Coaldale. At the same time, it will provide cyclists and pedestrians with a safe and efficient means of travel between the two communities. Phase 1 of the project will see the construction of a 3.5 km section of paved pathway from the Saint Mary's River Irrigation District (SMRID) drainage canal across from 30th Street in Coaldale to an area just before Highway 512.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn, presented a \$100,000 cheque to members of the LINK Pathway Committee to underscore Coaldale's commitment to the project. "As a Council, we could not be more excited about the opportunities that the construction of this pathway will bring to the region, and we look forward to putting Lethbridge, Lethbridge County, Coaldale, and SMRID on the map for coming together to

create a unique greenway that southern Albertans can enjoy for decades to come," said Mayor Van Rijn. "The LINK Pathway will not only provide users with safe access to an idyllic landscape, but also, a chance to learn about the region and local economy as they travel through some of the most productive agricultural land in the country. We firmly believe that travelling along this pathway will become a 'must do' for tourists in the region and a regular recreational activity for Lethbridge, Lethbridge County, and Coaldale residents alike."

"This project has been a dream shared by so many people for nearly a decade and its moving to see it finally get off the ground," said Henry Doeve, the President of the Link Pathway Association. "It's been a long road marked by many ups and downs, and so many people have played a role in moving this project ahead, from volunteers to donors to professional services. It's been an inspiring journey."

With construction of Phase 1 now underway, the LINK Pathway Committee will turn its attention to raising funds for the construction of Phase 2, which will see the pathway continue westward to an area of 43 Street South in Lethbridge. If fundraising and grant applications are successful, the group hopes to see construction of a highway underpass, three canal bridges, and the rest of the asphalt in the summer of 2024, with picnic areas, benches, trees, fences, and educational infrastructure being built in the summer of 2025 or beyond.

"It's important for people to know that this project wouldn't be moving ahead without the generosity of the hundreds of donors who have stepped forward to help fund it. There's lots of ways to give and to leave your name and your mark permanently on the landscape of southern Alberta. We encourage you to check out sponsorship options on the Link Pathway website," said Alvin Fritz, Vice-President of the LINK Pathway Committee.