

Town of Coaldale Receives 4.5 Million in Grant Funding for Major Potable Water Infrastructure Project

On Wednesday, June 26, MLA Grant Hunter held a press conference at Civic Square in downtown Coaldale to announce the funding.



As part of the Government of Alberta's commitment to support new road, bridge, community airport, and water infrastructure projects in rural and remote municipalities, the Town of Coaldale will receive 4.5 million in grant funding to build a new potable water reservoir and pump station.

"Supporting vital infrastructure projects like Coaldale's new water reservoir and pump station is key to our commitment to rural Alberta", said Devin Dreeschen, Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors. "This \$4.5 million grant ensures sustainable growth and the well-being of the community."

Member of the Legislative Assembly for Taber Warner, Hon. Grant Hunter added, "Water is the new gold and is key to Southern Alberta for its continuing growth. Projects like this are essential as we must ensure that Albertans and their businesses are having their needs met. I want to thank Minister Dreeschen for this investment into Southern Alberta's future."

In 2021, it was determined that to continue meeting average day demand while ensuring allowances for fire pro-

tection, the Town would soon need to build a new potable water reservoir and pump station.

"On behalf of Coaldale Town Council and our entire Town, I'd like to thank Minister Dreeschen, MLA Hunter, and the Government of Alberta for recognizing the importance of funding water and wastewater infrastructure projects, not just in Alberta's major cities but in small and rural communities across the province, as well", said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. "This grant funding is not just an investment in Coaldale's water infrastructure; it is an investment in the health, safety, and the long-term prosperity of our community. Water is the lifeblood of our Town, essential for our daily lives, for expanding our business community, and for meeting projected demands."

With grant funding now secured, construction of the new reservoir and pump station is slated to begin this July, and is expected to be complete by late 2025.

What's Happening in the Community?

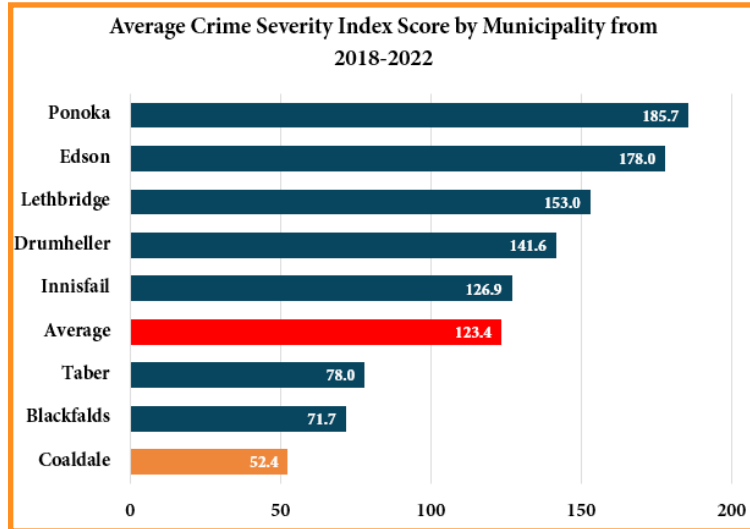
On Wednesday, July 3, the Town of Coaldale will hold a grand-opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the SHIFT Community Recreation Centre. The event is free and will begin at 12:00pm. Following the ribbon cutting, mocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and pizza from Buster's Pizza & Donair will be served.

On Wednesday, July 3, the Town of Coaldale will host the Opening Ceremonies of the 2024 Southern Alberta Summer Games, which will take place in Coaldale from July 3-6. The Opening Ceremonies will begin at 6:30pm, and be followed by a Team Canada walking soccer exhibition match.

On Friday, July 5, the Town of Coaldale will host a multi-genre show-down concert at Stafford Lake Resort. There will be food trucks on site, as well as food and ice cream available at the concession. Entry to the resort will be free beginning at 5:00pm. The concert will take place from 5:00pm-10:00pm.

Town of Coaldale the Safest Municipality Its Size in Alberta

With an average Crime Severity Index score of 52.4, Coaldale ranks as one of the safest municipality between 8,000-11,000 residents in Alberta.



In December of last year, the Town of Coaldale officially released its 2023 Comparative Analysis – an annual report that 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).

In keeping with the Town’s 2022 Analysis, the Town’s 2023 Analysis compares Coaldale to its peer and neighbouring municipalities across seven benchmarks – one of which is crime severity.

“In recent years, crime has become an area of significant interest to our community, and so last year we decided to add crime severity as a benchmark to the analysis”, said Cameron Mills, Deputy CAO and Director of Growth and Investment for the Town of Coaldale. “Our thinking was that by adding this benchmark, we’d be able to provide both current and prospective residents with a better understanding of where Coaldale sits relative to its peer and neighbouring municipalities in terms of the frequency and severity of crime – which we know can have a major impact on where people decide to live or buy property.”

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. 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.

Coming in at 52.4, Coaldale’s average CSI score is 71 points lower than the group average (123.4). This is primarily due to the fact that both violent crime and non-violent crime in Coaldale have remained, on average, relatively low. For the years between 2018-2022, Coaldale saw an average violent crime score of 41.8, which is 57.5 points lower than the group average (99.3). During that same period, Coaldale saw an average non-violent crime score of 56.7, which is 62.7 points lower than the group average (119.4).

“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 52.4, Coaldale ranks as the safest municipality its size in the province, the 3rd safest municipality of its size in western Canada, and the 6th safest municipality of its size in the country.”

To read the Town of Coaldale’s 2023 Comparative Analysis, please visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/ComparativeAnalysis>.