

Town of Coaldale to Celebrate First Annual Winter Fest

The festival will officially begin on November 29 with the Town's 24th Annual Country Christmas Night of Lights and end on December 21 with a Winter Fest Finale.



Get ready to embrace the magic of the holiday season at Coaldale's inaugural Winter Fest! Running from November 29 to December 21, this brand-new festival will bring together community spirit and holiday cheer, as well as see downtown Coaldale transformed into a vibrant winter wonderland.

The festival will officially begin on November 29 with the 24th Annual Country Christmas Night of Lights – a long running Town-sponsored event that will once again include the Town's annual Night of Lights Parade. The Parade will start at 7:00pm and feature floats adorned with Christmas lights and decorations. If rumors are true, Mr. and Mrs. Claus will also make an appearance.

Coaldale Winter Fest will then continue on into December with local community groups, businesses, and organizations hosting a series of holiday-themed events, from holiday markets to live performances, at the Town's brand-new Civic Plaza.

Located in the heart of downtown Coaldale, Civic Plaza is more than just an outdoor gathering space. Designed to be Coaldale's "community living room," it offers an inclusive

environment with seating areas, green spaces, and pathways, welcoming people from all walks of life. The Plaza is also designed to accommodate community groups and organizations, providing essential amenities such as a concession and restrooms.

"When we started planning for Winter Fest, we knew we wanted to use Civic Plaza for a majority of the programming," said Clayton Varjassy, Community Experience Manager for the Town of Coaldale. "First of all, the Plaza has an outdoor ice rink which, weather permitting, should be ready for skating on just in time for the beginning of the festival. On top of that, there are gas fire pits and a concession available for community groups to use and serve hot chocolate out of. Finally, the Plaza will serve as a perfect location for many of the Christmas displays that were previously part of the Town's annual Winter Walk in the Park at the Kin Picnic Shelter Park. Our vision is to transform downtown Coaldale, along with the Plaza, into a true winter wonderland that residents and visitors can enjoy throughout the holiday season."

In addition to events put on by local businesses and community groups, Coaldale Winter Fest will also include a "Glow Skate" event on the evening of December 7 as well as a "Winter Fest Finale" event on December 21. The Glow Skate event will feature Santa and skating at Civic Plaza with a light show and music. There will also be hot chocolate, wagon rides, and fires. The Winter Fest Finale, meanwhile, will take place both in the Civic Square Atrium and at Civic Plaza and include skating, fires, photos with Santa, a hot chocolate bar, cookie decorating, wagon rides, and live music.

For more information, including on how to enter a float into the Night of Lights Parade or how to host a holiday-themed event in Civic Plaza, please visit: <https://www.coaldalewinterfest.ca/>.

Town of Coaldale to Participate in Province's New Golf Cart Pilot Project

The five-year project allows interested municipalities to pilot the use of golf carts on select public roads.



On October 24, 2024, MLA Grant Hunter, Parliamentary Secretary for Agrifood Development, travelled to Coaldale to officially announce the creation of a five-year pilot project that will allow interested municipalities to pilot the use of golf carts on select public roads.

“The creation of this pilot project comes as welcome news to the Town of Coaldale”, said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. “Just over 2 years ago, our Council found itself in the position of having to rescind the Town’s long-standing golf cart bylaw because it was in non-compliance with Alberta’s Traffic Safety Act. Thanks in large part to MLA Hunter and Minister Dreeshen, however, we’ll now be able to pass a new golf cart bylaw that once again gives residents living near our local golf course the ability to drive their carts to and from the course – without having to fear being ticketed by local law enforcement. It’s a win for everyone involved – Coaldale residents, municipal enforcement officers, our local golf course, Coaldale Town Council, and the Government of Alberta.

“Transportation does not stand still, and Alberta must be ready with forward thinking ideas on how to test new transportation-related solutions or activities”, said Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors. “Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and e-bikes have been popular with Albertans for years, and pilot projects like this

one hold the key to unlocking new modes of transportation for everyone.”

“This is a commonsense approach to dealing with the use of golf carts in our communities”, said MLA Hunter. “Many jurisdictions have been allowing golf carts to travel on roads without any concerns.”

To learn more about the province’s new golf cart pilot project, please visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/golf-carts-on-public-roads>.

What’s Happening in the Community?

On December 1, compost pick-up will change to a bi-weekly schedule. This bi-weekly pick-up schedule will continue throughout the winter until February 1.

The Coaldale Senior Curling League (ages 50 and over) meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 1:00pm at the Coaldale Curling Club. As the League is organized around a drop-in format, no team commitment is required. For more information please contact Wayne at 403-359-0352 or Joe at 403-317-3987.

This winter, the Town of Coaldale and FCSS are piloting a new Snow Angels Program. Residents in Coaldale who need help shoveling snow (due to a condition or disability) can apply for assistance through FCSS. For more information about this program or to apply, please contact FCSS at 403-795-4627.

On Monday, November 11, The Town of Coaldale will host an in-person Remembrance Day Ceremony that will also be presented virtually via live stream on the Town’s YouTube Channel. The Ceremony will begin at 10:30am and will take place at Jennie Emery Elementary School.

On Sunday, November 24, St. Ambrose Parish will hold its second annual turkey dinner “Build a Hall” fundraiser. The fundraiser will take place in St. Joseph School Gym from 3:00-6:00pm. Tickets are \$20/person, \$15/senior & youth, and \$50 for immediate family. Tickets will be sold at the door. Eat in or take out will be available.

On November 29, the Town of Coaldale will kick off its first annual Winter Fest by holding the 24th Annual Country Christmas Night of Lights. For more information, please visit: <https://www.coaldalewinterfest.ca/>