

Town of Coaldale to Celebrate Second Annual Winter Fest

The festival will officially begin on November 28th with the Town's 25th Annual Country Christmas Night of Lights and end on December 20th with a Winter Fest Finale.

Get ready to embrace the magic of the holiday season at Coaldale's second annual Winter Fest! Running from November 28th to December 20th, Winter Fest will once again see downtown Coaldale transformed into a vibrant winter wonderland.

Coaldale Winter Fest will officially begin on November 28th with the 25th Annual Country Christmas Night of Lights – a long running Town-sponsored event featuring the Town's annual Night of Lights Parade. The Parade will start at 7:00pm and include 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, complete with skating and free hot chocolate, all at 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.

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 13th as well as a "Winter Fest Finale" event on December 20th. In partnership with the Kinsmen and Kinette clubs of Coaldale, the Glow Skate event will feature skating at Civic Plaza with a light show and music. There will also be hot chocolate, wagon rides, and fires. 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 Launch Phase 2 of Downtown Redevelopment Engagement Initiative

With the 2025 Municipal Election now in the rear-view mirror, the Town is gearing up to launch Phase 2 of a multi-phase public engagement initiative focused on downtown redevelopment.

Over the past decade, downtown Coaldale has seen significant investment in public infrastructure and streetscape enhancements. As a result, this summer the Town launched Phase 1 of a multi-phase engagement initiative aimed at collecting meaningful input from a diverse cross-section of community members—including residents, business owners, and downtown users—regarding the creation of a comprehensive, long-term vision for the continued evolution of Coaldale's downtown core.

While Phase 1 consisted of a survey designed to gather information about how residents and stakeholders currently experience downtown, Phase 2 will consist of in-person engagement sessions, and opportunities for feedback on draft plan components.

"Anecdotally, survey responses collected during Phase 1 can be characterized as largely positive, with a focus on the cleanliness, landscaping and events/activities in the area," said Spencer Croil, Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Town of Coaldale. "During Phase 2, we'll be sending out a project overview to residents, property and business owners, local organizations and special interest groups within and immediately surrounding the study area, inviting them to contact the project team directly to share their thoughts. Stay tuned!"

Newly Elected Council Sworn in at Annual Organizational Meeting

The 2025 Municipal Election took place on Monday, October 20th, and saw the re-election of all 7 incumbent candidates.

A new Council has been elected and sworn in in Coaldale. On Monday, October 20th, Coaldale voters re-elected all seven incumbent candidates, meaning that the previous Council will serve a second term through 2029. Congratulations to:

- Mayor Jack Van Rijn
- Councillor Jacen Abrey
- Councillor Jason Beekman
- Councillor Bill Chapman
- Councillor Dale Pickering
- Councillor Lisa Reis
- Councillor Jordan Sailer

By the Numbers

- Total voters: 1,900 (out of an electorate of 6,473)
- Voter turnout: 29.4%
- Advance voting dates: Thursday, October 9; Saturday, October 11; Tuesday, October 14; Saturday, October 18
- Recount: Due to a close vote margin between Councillor-elect Jordan Sailer and candidate Eric Berns a recount of councillor ballots was conducted on Wednesday, October 22. While this recount resulted in minor adjustments to vote totals, those adjustments did not alter the outcome of the election.

Swearing-In & Organizational Meeting

On Monday, October 27th, all seven members of Coaldale's newly elected Council were sworn in during the Town's annual Organizational Meeting. Under Alberta's Municipal Government Act, Section 192(1), municipalities must hold an organizational meeting annually no later than two weeks after the third Monday in October.

After being sworn in, Coaldale Town Council set the foundation for the 2025–2026 year by adopting an all-in-one calendar that consolidates Regular Council Meetings,

statutory holidays, and key Town-run events. Following the adoption of this calendar, members of Council were then appointed to sit on a range of local and regional boards and committees. These boards and committees help advance projects, support community services, and provide advice to Council, and include the Barons-Eureka-Warner FCSS Board, Chinook Arch Library Board, Coaldale & District Chamber of Commerce, Coaldale & District Handi-Ride Association, Coaldale Library Board, Gem of the West Museum Board, Green Acres Foundation Board, and the Highway 3 Twinning Development Association, among others.

The Town of Coaldale would like to thank everyone who voted, all candidates who put their names forward, and our election workers for their careful, transparent work throughout voting, counting, and recounting process.

Coaldale Town Council's next Regular Council Meeting will take place on Monday, November 17th, at 5:00pm.

What's Happening in the Community?

On Tuesday, November 11th, the Town will host its annual in-person Remembrance Day Ceremony at Jennie Emery Elementary School. The Ceremony will also be presented virtually via live stream on the Town's Youtube Channel. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 am.

On Saturday, November 15th, the Coaldale Community Wellness Association will cease taking grant applications from non-profit organizations for its fall grant program. For more information, please visit: www.coaldalewellness.com.

On Friday, November 28th, the Town will kick off Coaldale Winter Fest with the 25th Annual Country Christmas Night of Lights - a long running Town-sponsored event featuring the Town's annual Night of Lights Parade. To register a float in this year's parade, please visit: <https://www.coaldalewinterfest.ca/parade-application>.