Town of Coaldale to Celebrate Third Annual Winter Fest

Festivities will officially begin on Friday, November 27, with the Town's 26th Annual Country Christmas Night of Lights.

Get ready to embrace the magic of the holiday season as Coaldale Winter Fest returns for its third consecutive year!

Festivities will officially begin on Friday, November 27 with the 26th Annual Country Christmas Night of Lights. This longstanding community tradition will welcome families downtown for an evening of holiday cheer, highlighted by the annual Night of Lights Parade. Featuring floats adorned with Christmas lights and decorations, the parade will bring a festive glow to Main Street and mark the beginning of nearly four weeks of seasonal celebrations.

"Winter Fest is becoming a wonderful holiday tradition in Coaldale, bringing families, friends and neighbours together to celebrate the season," said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. "Residents and visitors have told me many times that coming to Coaldale during Winterfest feels like stepping into a Hallmark movie. That's a wonderful compliment to everyone who helps make this time of year so special in our community. We look forward to welcoming residents and visitors back to downtown Coaldale to partake in all of the activities!"

Another highlight of this year's festival will be the Town's annual glow-in-the-dark skating event ("Glow Skate"), which will take place from 5:30-8:30 pm on Saturday, December 12, at Civic Plaza (located at 2007 19 Street). Sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Coaldale, this family-friendly event will bring music, colourful lights, and outdoor skating together for a festive evening in the heart of downtown.

Last but not least, the Town's Civic Plaza Winter Series will once again see local businesses and community groups host holiday-themed gatherings throughout December and into January. These

"Winter Fest is about giving people a reason to come downtown, spend time together and enjoy everything our community has to offer during the holiday season," said Clayton Varjassy, Community Experience Manager for the Town of Coaldale. "Our local businesses, community groups and volunteers help make that possible. We look forward to working with them again this year to bring Civic Plaza to life and create opportunities for people of all ages to celebrate."

Community groups, organizations and local businesses interested in hosting a Civic Plaza Winter Series event are invited to complete the Civic Plaza Host Application form at https://www.coaldalewinterfest.ca/host-application.

To learn more about Night of Lights and Coaldale Winter Fest, visit https://coaldalewinterfest.ca.

What's Happening in the Community?

On Wednesday, 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 be held at Jennie Emery Elementary School and begin at 10:30am.

On Sunday, November 15, the Coaldale Community Wellness Association will close its fall granting program. Apply today at https://coaldalewellness.com/.

On Sunday, November 8, from 3:00-6:00pm at St. Joseph School, St. Ambrose Parish will hold its first annual Turkey Dinner Fundraiser. Attendees are welcome to eat in or take-out. Cost is $15/person or $45/family. Tickets will be sold at the door,

On Friday, November 27, the Town of Coaldale will kick-off Winter Fest by hosting the 26th Annual Country Christmas Night of Lights. For information about entering a float in the Night of Lights Parade, contributing a light display, volunteering or supporting the festivalm please visit: https://coaldalewinterfest.ca.

On Saturday, November 28, from 8:00am-1:00pm, Rehoboth Garden Centre will hold its Annual Pancake Breakfast, Poinsettia, & Bake Sale. Breakfast is by cash donation. For more information please call 403-345-5199.

Town of Coaldale Holds Annual Open House Event

The event gave residents an opportunity to learn about municipal projects and services, share feedback with Council and staff, and enjoy an early start to Halloween festivities.



On Tuesday, October 20, the Town of Coaldale held its annual "Open House" event in the atrium of Civic Square, bringing residents together for an evening of community engagement and family-friendly Halloween fun.

Held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the event provided residents with an opportunity to learn about how the Town operates, discuss current and upcoming projects, and share feedback directly with members of Council and Town staff.

The evening began with an RCMP community policing presentation from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session. Residents were then invited to visit information stations staffed by representatives from each Town department, as well as a dedicated station for Council.

"Our annual open house gives residents an opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and have conversations with Council and staff about the things that matter to them," said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. "Whether we're discussing a major infrastructure project or an idea for a new community program, hearing directly from residents helps us better understand their priorities and make informed decisions."

Departmental displays highlighted the range of work involved in maintaining and improving the community. Infrastructure staff shared information about Coaldale's drinking water system and regional stormwater management efforts through the Malloy Drain project, including the Town's partnership with Lethbridge County and the St. Mary River Irrigation District, to reduce flood risk. Residents were also invited to identify locations where they felt less safe walking, cycling, or driving.

Recreation and Community Services highlighted its responsibilities for local facilities, parks, pathways, programs, and special events. Staff also shared early plans for the future Prairie Winds North sports fields, being developed in collaboration with Palliser Schools, and invited suggestions for new community programs.

Operations showcased how Coaldale's roads, water, sewer, and stormwater networks have expanded as the community has grown. Residents had an opportunity to discuss waste collection, recent recycling updates, and the transition to Circular Materials.



Municipal Enforcement highlighted its work in school and pedestrian safety, traffic enforcement, bylaw compliance, and collaboration with the RCMP. Residents were encouraged to share whether they felt safe in Coaldale and identify any concerns they would like the Town to address.

The Town's annual Open House event reflects the its ongoing commitment to transparent communication and meaningful public engagement, giving residents an opportunity to learn about their local government and contribute to discussions about Coaldale's future.

This year's open house also offered families an early trick-or-treating opportunity. Parents were invited to bring their children in costume, with candy available at each station as they made their way through the event.