

The McCain Foundation Donates \$200,000 in Support of the Town of Coaldale's New Recreation Centre

Donations to the Coaldale STRONG! Capital Campaign help ensure that Coaldale's new multi-use recreation centre is fully stocked with equipment required to facilitate full programming upon opening in spring, 2024



Thanks to a generous \$200,000 donation from the McCain Foundation, the Coaldale STRONG! Capital Campaign is getting closer to reaching its goal of generating \$2 million in philanthropic support for Coaldale's new multi-use recreation centre.

Established in 1993, the McCain Foundation is a philanthropic organization that focuses on improving the lives of people in communities where McCain Foods employees live and work. In 2000, Coaldale was fortunate enough to become one of these communities and has benefited ever since. The McCain processing plant, which is located just outside of Coaldale, now employs over 200 people – many of whom reside in Coaldale.

“The McCain Foundation believes accessible, recreation opportunities are fundamental to healthy living, and especially needed in

rural communities like Coaldale,” said Linda McCain, Chair of the McCain Foundation. “We are happy to be among the many supporters of Coaldale's new multi-use recreation centre.”

Once operational, Coaldale's new recreation centre will stand as a centrepiece for recreation, sports, and special events in Southern Alberta. It will also serve as a hub for the local community. Programming will be designed to attract participation from all ages and will consist not only of activities directed towards enhancing people's quality of life, but also, of activities directed towards growing Coaldale's economic prosperity.

“For over two decades, McCain Foods and the McCain Foundation have supported the Town of Coaldale. McCain Foods continues to bolster the local economy by providing jobs for our residents, while the McCain Foundation continues to support the community by providing funds for projects like McCain Park and now, our multi-use recreation centre,” said Coaldale Mayor Jack Van Rijn. “We are extremely thankful for the McCain Foundation's donation, which will help ensure that we can hit the ground running as soon as the rec centre opens and offer full programming to the community.”

What's Happening in the Community?

The Town of Coaldale is still accepting applications from residents to become members of various municipal boards and committees. If you are interested in having a direct influence on the formation of Town policy in key areas, please submit an application. Applications are available at the Town Office or on the Town website at <https://www.coaldale.ca/government/committees-boards/application>.

On Sunday, October 9, from 10:00-11:00am, the Coaldale Seniors' Advisory Committee will hold a “Coffee & Donut Presentations” event at the Coaldale Hub. This event will feature a presentation called “AHS Fall Prevention.”

On Friday, October 28, @ 7:00pm, the Town of Coaldale will hold a Halloween Family Dance at the Gem of the West Museum. The event promises to be a fun-filled evening with prizes, crafts, and spooky surprises. Halloween costumes are encouraged! All are welcome!

Coaldale Town Council Approves Funding for Liner Replacement & Select Upgrades at Coaldale Pool

The funding will allow the pool to remain operational while plans are finalized and funding is secured for the construction of a new aquatic facility.

During its September 26, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, Coaldale Town Council voted to approve funding for a pool liner replacement and select upgrades including a waterslide, deck furniture, and a new access ramp for patrons with mobility issues at the Coaldale Pool.

Built in 1972, the Coaldale Pool remains a popular Town amenity that many residents look forward to swimming and cooling off in each year. In recent years, however, the pool's liner (installed in 2003) has deteriorated to a point where, according to several independent contractors, it is now beyond repair.

Accordingly, during its September 26, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, Coaldale Town Council voted to approve \$495,000 in funding for a pool liner replacement and several other upgrades so that the pool can remain an attractive, well-used amenity while plans are finalized and funding is secured for the construction of a new aquatic facility.

“Don't get me wrong – I fully recognize that many residents want a new pool,” said Coaldale Mayor Jack Van Rijn. “But the fact is that finalizing plans and securing funding for a new aquatic facility is could take up to 10 years. This is why Council, in addition to approving funding for a pool liner replacement, also approved funding for a waterslide, deck furniture, and ramp. While the planning process for a new pool plays out and as funding is secured, our residents will still have access to a local facility for swimming lessons and other family program-

ming. Finally, I think it's worth mentioning that because the waterslide can be relocated to the new pool once it's built, approving this funding can be seen as Council having made an investment not just in improving the status-quo, but in paving the way for the future, as well.”

For its part, the Waves & Blades Sportsplex Innovation Working Group - a community group whose goals include building a new pool and to which the Mayor himself belongs - couldn't agree more. “The general feeling from the Waves & Blades Working Group is an overwhelmingly positive one,” said Carley Campbell, speaking on behalf of the group. “The upgrade to the existing pool liner and area is not only necessary for the operation of the pool, but will provide a much-needed facelift to the current facility for the short term. This upgrade will also give the working group time to discuss and collaborate with the residents of Coaldale to create a facility that will benefit the Town of Coaldale in the future.”

Now that funding has been approved for the liner and upgrades, Town staff will work quickly to hire a contractor so that the liner can be replaced in time for next summer. During budget deliberations this fall, Council will also consider adding a few more upgrades to the pool including a climbing wall and beach volleyball court for a combined cost of \$105,000.

What's Happening in the Community?

On Saturday, October 29, from 1:00-4:00pm, the Animal Welfare Committee of Coaldale, supported by the Kinsmen Club of Coaldale, the Coaldale Pet Clinic, and the Town of Coaldale, will hold a Halloween themed, dog friendly, information sharing event at the Coaldale Community Centre. The event will focus on educating residents about how to keep their dogs safe in Coaldale. Activities will include a gift basket draw and a Halloween costume photo booth (for dogs). Everyone is welcome. All dogs must be accompanied by a handler over the age of 18 and must be leashed at all times.

On November 5, 2022, the Gem of the West Museum Society will host its annual Craft and Hobby Show. Vendors interested in showcasing their products can contact Myrna at 403-345-4521. The cost per table is \$25.