

Town of Coaldale Breaks Ground on Phase 3 of Civic Square Project

Phase 3 of the project will see what is now vacant land behind the Town's newly completed Civic Square building transformed into a year-round outdoor gathering place.



On Monday, September 11, members of Coaldale Town Council were joined by MLA Grant Hunter and MP Rachael Thomas to officially break ground on Phase 3 of the Town's Civic Square Project.

Phase 3 of the Town's three-part Civic Square Project is a multi-faceted recreational and economic development project situated in the heart of Coaldale's downtown core. Funded in part by the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF), Phase 3 of the Project will see what is now vacant land behind Civic Square transform into a year-round outdoor gathering place capable of facilitating enhanced community programming and events for decades to come.

Once complete, this outdoor space will include natural gas fire pits, a concession, picnic tables, public bathrooms, and a large concrete pad where community events such as farmer's markets, concerts, movie nights, and festivals – including Coaldale's ever-growing Summer Fest – can be held. This pad will also have refrigerant lines built into it so it can turn into a fully functional outdoor skating rink during the fall and winter months.

"It's great to finally see this project get off the ground", said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. "For over a year, our Council has been reviewing detailed designs of the

space and we're confident that, once completed, this space will not only become a year-round community living room for our residents, but also, put downtown Coaldale on the map. I want to thank everyone who has been involved thus far, but especially Shift Real Estate Investments, Dennis Dirtworx, ATCO Gas, and Telus, all of whom have made either cash or in-kind contributions to the project. I also want to thank the Yip Family, who generously donated the lot next to our Civic Square building to make the project possible. Finally, I'd like to thank our federal partners at the CCRF for providing \$750,000 of grant funding for the project, which was instrumental in helping us contend with inflationary pressures during the tendering process."

With construction of the outdoor space now underway, the Town's three-part Civic Square Project is one step closer to being completed. Once the outdoor component of the project is complete, the Town will turn its full attention towards completing the last phase of the project, which consists in the further development of up to 10,000 square feet of additional commercial space along Coaldale's Main Street.

What's Happening in the Community?

On Wednesday, October 18, the Town of Coaldale will hold its annual "Open House" in the atrium of Civic Square. The event will take place from 7:00-9:00pm and will provide residents with an opportunity to discuss Town projects and to provide input on municipal issues facing Coaldale.

On Saturday, October 21, the Gem of the West Museum Society will host its annual Harvest Treasures Auction at 5:30pm. To purchase tickets, please stop by the museum or call 403-345-1377. You can also email gem@coaldale.ca

On Friday, October 27, the Town of Coaldale will hold its annual Halloween Family Dance at the Gem of the West Museum from 5:30-8:30pm. For more details, please visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/halloween-2023>.

Town of Coaldale to Host the 2024 Southern Alberta Summer Games

The 2024 Games will take place from July 3-6 and feature both individual and team sporting events in and around Coaldale.

The Town of Coaldale is pleased to announce that it has been chosen to host the 2024 Southern Alberta Summer Games (SASG).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the SASG were either halted or scaled back. The 2024 Games will therefore mark a return to normalcy and be the first since 2019 that offer full programming. They will also mark the 51st annual grass-roots multi-sport games.

“We could not be more excited about the Town of Coaldale hosting the 2024 Southern Alberta Summer Games,” said Kara Brake, Chair of the Southern Alberta Recreation Association (SARA). “It has been unfortunate that we have not been able to host a Games in the past 4 years, so we are really looking forward to the 51st Southern Alberta Summer Games this upcoming summer!”

The 2024 Games will take place from July 3-6 and feature both individual and team sporting events in and around Coaldale. It is expected that nearly 2000 athletes and coaches will participate in the Games.

“This spring, the Town of Coaldale’s brand-new multi-use recreation centre will open and I can’t think of a better way to showcase the facility than by hosting a major sporting event like the Southern Alberta Summer Games,” said Russ Tanner, Director of Community Services for the Town of Coaldale. “On top of that, we’re proud to be the first community to host the Games since the Town of Pincher Creek in 2019. The Southern Alberta Summer Games began over 50 years ago and the Town of Coaldale is ready to bring them back to life after a 4-year hiatus. I can’t wait to welcome all of the coaches, athletes, and fans who come to participate.”

“In Council’s 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, we identify supporting major recreational events driven by the community to attract visitors, enhance community pride, and provide fuel to our economy”, said Town of Coaldale Mayor Jack Van Rijn. “So when we were presented with the opportunity

to host the Southern Alberta Summers Games – and right on the heels of opening a brand-new recreation centre – we jumped on it. This is exactly the kind of sporting event that our new rec centre was designed to facilitate and that our community can rally around. It’s going to be an amazing experience for everyone involved.”

Moving forward, the Town will begin recruiting volunteers to help organize and facilitate tournaments for the following sports:

- 5/10KM Run
- Athletics (Track & Field)
- Ball Hockey
- Baseball
- Badminton
- Swimming
- Equestrian
- Lacrosse
- Flag Football
- Archery
- 3 on 3 Basketball
- Mountain Biking
- Pickleball
- Waterskiing/Water Sports
- Cribbage
- Mini Soccer
- Soccer
- Beach Volleyball

If you would like to volunteer for the 2024 SASG, please contact the Town’s Community Services department by email at clayton.varjassy@coaldale.ca or by phone at 403-345-1328.