

Town of Coaldale Breaks Ground on Potable Water Reservoir and Pump Station Project

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On Tuesday, August 6, members of Coaldale Town Council were joined by Lethbridge County Reeve, Tory Campbell, and representatives from MPE Engineering and Ward Bros. Construction to officially break ground on the Town's brand-new potable water reservoir and pump station, located just west of Coaldale at the corner of 30th Street and 18th Avenue.

A key priority outlined in the Town's Infrastructure Master Plan (2019), this reservoir and pump station is essential to expanding the Town's growth horizon. Once complete, the Town's water storage will more than double (from its current capacity of 3,400 m³ to 8,300 m³), while its pump capacity will increase to meet anticipated demands and fire flow requirements for the next 25 years.

"Given how undersized the Town's reservoirs are relative to its population and development projections, this project represents the single most urgent infrastructure project identified in the Town's Infrastructure Master Plan" said Dustin Yanke, Director of Infrastructure for the Town of Coaldale. "Once built, this reservoir will give us the ability to approve new developments and maintain adequate storage for fire protection for the next quarter century."

In April 2023, the Town received \$525,045 in grant funding from the province for the engineering and design of the reservoir, and June of this year received another \$4.5 million for its construction. The total projected cost of the reservoir and pump station is just over \$13 million.

"On behalf of Town Council I'd like to once again thank MLA Hunter, Minister Dreeshen, and the Government of Alberta, for recognizing the importance of funding water infrastructure projects not just in Alberta's major cities but in rapidly growing communities like Coaldale as well," said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. "In Council's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, we identify supporting development by enhancing the Town's municipal water infrastructure – and that's what this project is all about. As we continue to grow and welcome new families and businesses to Coaldale, it is imperative that our water infrastructure keeps pace."

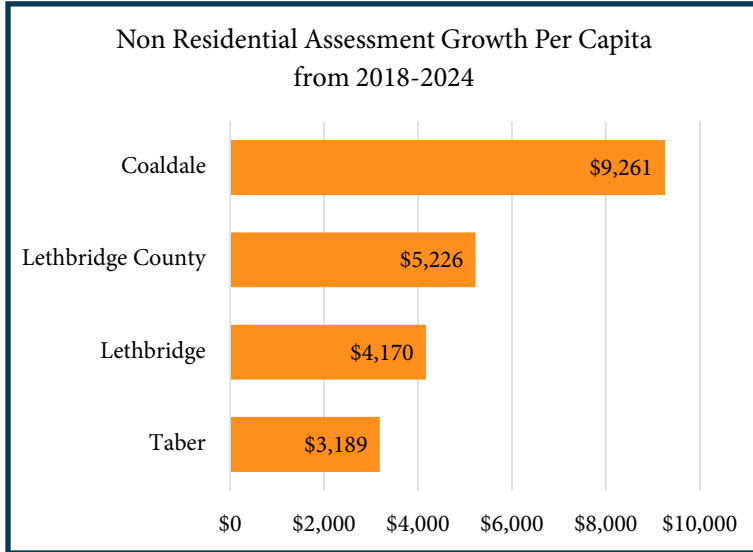
Construction of the reservoir will begin immediately and is expected to be complete by the end of 2025.

What's Happening in the Community?

On Tuesday, September 10th, the Town of Coaldale will hold its annual Fall Community Meetup & Registration. This year's event will feature a pickleball trial courtesy of the Coaldale Pickleball Club as well as a variety of booths, activities, and registration opportunities for various community groups, organizations, and committees. If you are interested in showcasing your group, organization, or committee at this event, please email [mark.mcintosh@coaldale.ca](mailto:mcintosh@coaldale.ca) or call 403-345-1324 to register. Registration is free. The Meetup will take place from 5:30-7:30pm in Eastview Park (1825 10 Street).

Town of Coaldale Continues to Experience Rapid Non-Residential Assessment Growth

Over the past 6 years, the total value of Coaldale's business community has doubled.



In December of last year, the Town of Coaldale officially released its 2023 Comparative Analysis – an annual report that compares Coaldale's operational and financial performance to the operational and financial performances of eight other similarly sized and neighbouring municipalities (Blackfalds, Drumheller, Edson, Innisfail, Lethbridge, Lethbridge County, Ponoka, and Taber).

In keeping with the Town's 2022 Analysis, the Town's 2023 Analysis compares Coaldale to its peer and neighbouring municipalities across seven benchmarks – one of which is non-residential assessment growth.

"Each year we conduct this analysis, we look specifically at the relationship between mill rates and assessment growth in each municipality", said Cameron Mills, Deputy CAO and Director of Growth & Investment for the Town of Coaldale. "Generally speaking, if a municipality's approach to taxation is working, there should be some correlation between how competitive its mill rates are and how much assessment growth it sees - especially when compared to its regional neighbours."

As the data reveals, Coaldale's approach to taxation appears to be paying off. Over the past 6 years, the total value of Coaldale's business community has doubled (jumping from

\$84,385,901 in 2018 to \$168,859,002) making Coaldale a regional leader in per-capita non-residential assessment growth.

As the chart above shows, from 2018-2024 Coaldale experienced \$9,261 in per capita non-residential assessment growth. That amounts to 77% more per capita growth than neighbouring Lethbridge County (\$5,226), 122% more per capita growth than neighbouring Lethbridge (\$4,170), and 190% more per capita growth than neighbouring Taber (\$3,189).

"In Council's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, we identify a number of focus areas related to supporting the business community including creating a collaborative and regulatory environment aimed specifically at attracting new businesses to Coaldale", said Town of Coaldale Mayor Jack Van Rijn. "What this looks like in practice is keeping our non-residential mill rates comparatively low and then saying 'yes' to prospective businesses and investors as we find ways to reduce red tape and help them set up shop in a timely and efficient manner."

To read the Town of Coaldale's 2023 Comparative Analysis, please visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/ComparativeAnalysis>

Apply to Sit on a Municipal Board/Committee!

The Town of Coaldale is currently recruiting for municipal boards, commissions, and/or committees.

DID YOU KNOW?

As a committee/board member you will have direct influence on the formation of Town policy in key areas.

APPLY NOW AT:

<https://www.coaldale.ca/government/committees-boards/application>