

Coaldale & District Soccer Association Donates \$50,000 to Shift Community Recreation Centre

The official donation ceremony took place on Wednesday, January 29th, with members of Coaldale Town Council, Town staff, and representatives of the Coaldale & District Soccer Association in attendance.



On Wednesday, January 29, the Coaldale & District Soccer Association officially donated \$50,000 to the Shift Community Recreation Centre as part of the Town of Coaldale's "Coaldale STRONG" fundraising campaign.

Held at the Shift Community Recreation Centre, the donation ceremony marked the culmination of fund raising efforts that date back to the construction of the ITB and Food Market fields in the facility.

"The Coaldale & District Soccer Association has long been a cornerstone of our community's sports programming, and their donation of \$50,000 to the Shift Community Recreation Centre is a testament to their commitment to Coaldale's future", said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. "Their generosity ensures that this facility will serve as a hub for recreation and connection for years to come. On behalf of the Town and its residents, thank you for your incredible support."

"This donation highlights the dedication of the Coaldale & District Soccer Association to enhancing opportunities for sport and recreation in our community", said Russ Tanner,

Director of Recreation & Community Services for the Town of Coaldale "Their contribution will help ensure that the Shift Community Recreation Centre is equipped to provide top-notch programming for all ages and abilities. We deeply appreciate their investment in Coaldale's future."

Launched in the fall of 2021, the Coaldale STRONG campaign is an ongoing fundraising initiative that supported the construction of – and now supports programming at – the Shift Community Recreation Centre. Through partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and residents, the campaign continues to build a foundation for a healthier, more active community.

In recognition for their significant contribution, the Coaldale & District Soccer Association's logo is displayed on the "Coaldale STRONG" recognition wall, the score clock, and sections of the glass boards surrounding the indoor soccer field.

What's Happening in the Community?

On Friday, February 14th, from 12:00-3:00pm, the Town of Coaldale will hold a Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Civic Plaza. The Coaldale Public Library will operate the concession at Civic Plaza and serve free hot chocolate from 12:00-3:00pm and free pizza from 12:30-1:30pm. Speeches will begin at 1:00pm. All are welcome.

On Sunday, February 16th, and Monday, February 17th, the Town of Coaldale will hold its 20th Annual Community Fest. The event will begin on Sunday at 3:00pm with a Family Faith Fellowship Gathering in the atrium of Civic Square, and will continue into Monday beginning with a pancake breakfast at the Coaldale Community Centre from 8:00-11:00am. For a full list of activities and times, please visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/communityfest2025>.

On Friday, March 7, from 2:00-4:00pm, St. Ambrose Church will host a World Day of Prayer event with services prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of the Cook Islands. The theme of the event is "I Made You Wonderful." All are welcome.

Coaldale Town Council Approves Sale of Photo-Radar Van to Coaldale Citizens on Patrol

Established in May, 2023, Coaldale Citizens on Patrol is a volunteer group that acts as extra eyes and ears for local law enforcement.

During its January 13, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, Coaldale Town Council approved the sale of the Town's former photo-radar van to Coaldale Citizens on Patrol (COP).

The decision to repurpose the van stems from the province's recent decision to prohibit photo radar speed enforcement on all provincial highways and restrict its use to school zones, playground zones, and construction zones. Given these changes, it became unnecessary for the Town to continue operating a vehicle dedicated solely to photo-radar enforcement. As a result, Coaldale Town Council determined that rather than sell the van at auction, it should instead be sold to Coaldale COP for a symbolic \$1 – effectively giving Coaldale COP a vehicle for active patrols, while at the same time insulating the Town from taking on any extra risk or insurance liability.

“From the very beginning of our term, our Council has made enhancing public safety a key priority”, said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. “That’s why we approved \$2,500 in seed money to start up a local COP group in May of 2023, and that’s ultimately why we decided to green light giving this van to Coaldale COP during our last meeting. Giving the van to Coaldale COP not only aligns with our commitment to public safety, but also, ensures that this group of dedicated volunteers has the resources they need to contribute to the security and well-being of our residents.”

Once ownership of the van is transferred, Coaldale COP will assume full responsibility for insuring, maintaining, and operating the vehicle. Meanwhile, the Town, in recognition of the value that Coaldale COP brings to the community, will reimburse Coaldale COP for operational expenses such as vehicle insurance, fuel, and oil changes. Coaldale COP will begin using the van for active patrols as soon as insurance is secured.

Established in May 2023, Coaldale COP is a volunteer group that acts as extra eyes and ears for local law enforcement. If something occurs that either appears to be (or sounds like it is) criminal in nature, members of this group

will report what they have either witnessed or heard to the Coaldale RCMP. Currently, the group is actively recruiting new members.

If you would like to join Coaldale Citizens on Patrol, please contact Rod Tilson at **403-394-8131**. Members of Coaldale Citizens on Patrol must have a valid drivers license; must pass an annual criminal record/background check; must spend at least 6 hours on patrols each month; must follow the Alberta Citizens on Patrol Association Reference Manual; and must attend regular meetings and training.

Town of Coaldale Now Accepting Nominations for the 2025 General Municipal Election

The Town of Coaldale is now accepting nominations for the 2025 General Municipal Election.

2025 is an election year and on January 1, 2025, the nomination period for Coaldale's next General Municipal Election officially opened. Prospective candidates are encouraged to visit www.coaldale.ca/2025-municipal-election, where they can find and download a recently updated candidate nomination package.

“Each election cycle, we update and publish a candidate nomination package for residents interested in running for office,” said Lana Antony, Municipal Clerk and Returning Officer for the Town of Coaldale. “In this package, people can find answers to a host of questions including who can run for office, what the duties of a mayor and councillor are, when candidates can begin campaigning, when signs are allowed to be put up, and where these signs can be placed. Essentially, this package is meant to help someone navigate and gain an appreciation for a process they may not be familiar with or know a lot about.”

For more information about registering as a candidate, including about disclosing financial contributes and expenses, please visit www.coaldale.ca/2025-municipal-election or please contact Lana Antony at **403-345-1306**. You can also send an email to election@coaldale.ca