



JANUARY TOWN NEWS

What's Happening

January

- 3 Council Meeting 6:00pm
- 17 Council Meeting 6:00pm
- 24 Committee of the Whole 6:00pm



February

- 7 Council Meeting 6:00pm
- 20 Office Closed for Family Day
- 21 Council Meeting 6:00pm



*We hope all of our residents had a wonderful
Christmas, and we hope your new year brings
nothing but love and happiness.*

From all of us at the Town Office



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Mayor's Message

JANUARY 2023

Happy New Year! I hope you had a good holiday season and that the start of 2023 has been fruitful. I always love the beginning of January.

After spending a few weeks gathering with family, relaxing and rejuvenating, the new year feels like a clean slate where anything is possible. After a few months' break, I am happy to be back with the monthly Mayor's Message, where I update you on the work of Council.

Last spring, our Council had the opportunity to dream big about the future of Coalhurst as we developed a four-year strategic plan. The process was inspiring as we worked together to articulate the work we wanted to accomplish. In November, we held a community open house where residents were invited to attend and provide feedback on the plan. I want to extend my thanks to everyone who took the time to comment via the open house and online.

Last month, Council approved a \$5.7 million operating budget, one that will continue to provide the levels of service that residents of Coalhurst have come to expect. Key areas that Council focused on were recreation, infrastructure, and community and economic development, all objectives of the Strategic Plan. Once the Town receives the property assessments from the Assessor, Administration will be able to determine the 2023 property tax rates. Assessment information is not usually available until March.

Over the next few months, my Mayor's Message will highlight different sections of our strategic plan and showcase the work happening to make it a reality. This month I want to focus on our vision and mission statements.

Often these pieces can seem like "fluff," but I find these sections incredibly inspiring and grounding. As a group of diverse people responsible for the Town's governance, Council needs a deep understanding of where we're going and how we will get there. These parts do just that by articulating what is important to us.

As our plan says, the vision provides a long-term picture of where or what the community wishes to be or become, while the mission answers the question of what business the community is in and how to achieve the vision.

Our vision statement reads:

Coalhurst's strong community comes from generations choosing to build an inspiring future.

Our mission statement is:

By caring for one another and making bold decisions for our future together, Coalhurst is a community of choice for individuals, families and businesses seeking a unique place to call home.

At first glance, these seem like simple statements, right? But I can assure you that immense thought, consideration and debate went into their development. Each of these words was chosen deliberately as the statements underwent many revisions.

As you read these, you'll notice the emphasis on community. With deep respect for the multiple generations who choose to continue to call Coalhurst home, we see these connections as inspiration for what we want our community to be. We must embrace and retain aspects of a strong community as Coalhurst continues to grow and evolve. Knowing your kids will be safe as they bike around or play in the neighbourhood, feeling safe, looking out for neighbours' wellbeing, and embracing the feeling of being home. A strong community is about this; you've shown us it's essential.

We want Coalhurst to continue to be a place where people choose to build their lives and businesses. This means growing in our residential areas while also investing time and resources in developing commercial spaces. Citizens have expressed a desire for more amenities, and we continually have businesses approach the Town about opportunities, but we need more commercial space available within Coalhurst. (Spoiler – one of our goals focuses on incentivizing business development in Coalhurst. I'll talk about this in a future Mayor's Message.)

Finally, if you've ever tuned into our Council meetings, you have likely heard the term "bold decisions" being used. During our deliberations during the strategic plan development, we spent a significant amount of time talking about the future of Coalhurst – should we remain a bedroom community, or should we consider growth and diversification? It was heard loudly and clearly that our community is looking for growth, and we're taking bold steps forward to do this. Our Council is excited to see what we accomplish this year and we want to invite you to join us for the ride.

As always, feel free to reach out to any of our Council members if you have any questions or ideas about our collective future.

Until next month,

Mayor Lyndsay Montana



2022 Christmas House Decorating Contest Winners

629 49 Ave



602 46th Ave

629 49 Ave Close



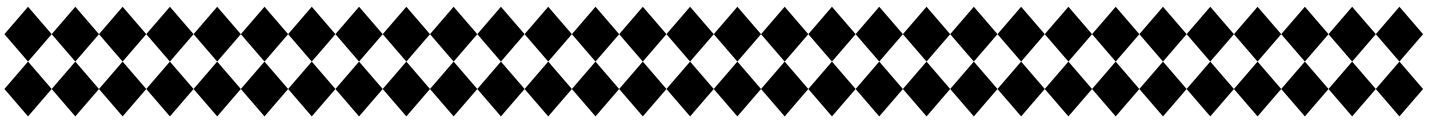


Christmas Tree Pickup

If you have a Christmas tree you need picked up, please call the office at 403-381-3033 and let us know! We will pickup as needed.

Thank you,

The Public Works Department



Sidewalk sand is available for residents with bins at the following locations:

- * ***Esso Parking Lot***
- * ***Imperial Meadows Park (parking lot)***
- * ***Recycling Depot (located beside the fire hall on 7th street)***
- * ***Intersection of Sundance Road and Sundance***



*If you notice the bins are empty please call the office at
403-381-3033*



Happy New Year! I hope that 2023 brings each of you many opportunities for happiness, for belonging, and for success (however you define that).

Although December was a month for Staff to focus on year-end work and 2023 preparations, there were some activities of note:

Staff “moving on.”

Sarah – our Development Officer – has accepted a new position with another municipality, west of Edmonton. Her last day was December 31st. Sarah brought many talents and much skill and knowledge to the Town and the Community. Beyond her regular duties, she has also spent time digitizing our development files which has been a long process but will benefit us immediately and in the future. Sarah’s smile, support and personality will be missed in the Office. We wish her the Best in her new endeavor!

Development Services

Given that Sarah is moving on, we will not have a Development Officer in the Office for the immediate future. If a resident or business requires Development Services, they can call ORRSC (Oldman River Regional Services Commission) at 403-329-1344 and ask to speak with Diane. Diane will be covering Development Services until we hire a new Development Officer.

Staff training

Office staff have undertaken some training. Over the week of November 28th to December 2nd, staff participated in the (online) courses offered through the Municipal Affairs Administrators Training Initiative (MAATI) program. Topics ranged from overviews of Bill 21 (Red Tape Reduction) and Municipal Recall to tax recovery, budgeting, and municipal restructuring. Staff signed up for sessions of interest to their area (or of general interest). Some material was valuable; some material was below staff current level of knowledge.

On December 7th, office staff participated (online) in an Unconscious Bias workshop, provided through *Local Government Administrators Association of Alberta* (LGAA). The preparation activities and the workshop emphasized how all of us hold unconscious biases – negative and positive - built into our assessments of others. The objective was to become aware of the biases we hold, and work on strategies to understand and address them.

Housing Needs Assessment

On December 9th, I (virtually) attended a Municipal Information Session on Housing Needs Assessments (Municipal Affairs: Housing Development). Municipal Affairs has created a standardized Housing Needs Assessment tool that will permit the province to understand local housing needs and priorities: in this case, within Coalhurst. While we will start populating the Assessment with the information we have, the Town can work with a Housing Management Body (such as the Green Acres Foundation) to acquire additional information on current housing need, housing inventory requirements, et cetera.

Prior to submitting a Needs Assessment, we will require a “Record of Endorsement” motion from Council. A request for that motion will come later in 2023.

Community Peace Officer (CPO) Application

On December 15th, we submitted our Request for Appointment with the Solicitor General, to make John our CPO. Now ... we wait. While Appointments can take up to three months, we are optimistic that things may proceed quicker given that John just came off an Appointment from another municipality. In the meantime, John is undertaking bylaw enforcement and reviewing our existing suite of bylaws. Additionally, he is working with the Policy Bylaw Risk Review Committee and has been tasked to draft a Community Standards Bylaw.

Coalhurst Fire Department Appreciation

I was honoured to participate – with Council – in showing appreciation for the men and women who volunteer with our fire department to keep our community safe. We met briefly with members to share our “Thanks” and leave some goodies. On behalf of Town staff, thank you to each member of our Fire Department for what you do, for the skills and passion you bring, and for what you give to this region.

Recycling Depot

We recognize that Christmas is a busy time for our recycling depot, especially cardboard recycling. To ensure that everyone can safely and responsibly leave their recycling, the cardboard trailer is emptied twice a week, on Tuesday and Friday. However, when we don’t flatten cardboard boxes (any box, any size), the bin fills quickly and people start leaving loose recycling in the depot yard. The result: on January 3rd public works employees spent about 5 hours cleaning up cardboard in the recycling depot.

To better use staff time and resources (ie: your tax dollars), please:

Flatten all cardboard before placing it in the bin

Do not leave loose cardboard (or garbage) in the depot yard.

Our Public Works staff are aware of this issue, and they work hard to prevent it from happening. However, if you arrive at the depot and the bin is full, then please carry your cardboard home and call 403-381-3033 to advise us. We will call you when the area is cleared.

As a ‘heads up’ ...

Business license and dog license renewal notices were mailed out, earlier this month. If you have one of these licenses, please watch for your renewal notice. You can pay in the Town Office (cheque, cash and debit only) or via e-transfer at payments@coalhurst.ca (please include the license or tag number in the comments box of your e-transfer).

Jeffrey Coffman
CAO (Interim)



What's Happening at FCSS?

January 2023

Parents & Caregivers

Strengthening families in rural Alberta!

Barnwell

Kim at 403-795-7841 or

Lauren at 403-331-1325

Stay & Play ~ Drop-in starting Jan 11th

Wednesdays ~ 9:30-11:30 am

Barons

Maria at 403-795-7561

Stay & Play ~ Drop-in

Wednesdays ~ 9:30-11:30 am

Coaldale

Kim at 403-795-7841 or

Maria at 403-795-7561

* **Stay & Play ~ Drop-in** starting Jan 16th

Mondays ~ 9:30-11:30 am

* **Baby & Me** - Jan 24-Feb 24

Registration Required!

* **Family Night** ~ Jan 26th

Registration Required!

* **Indigenous Crafts & Conversation**

Jan 4, 18, Feb 1 & 15

Contact Jessica at 403-915-7530

Coalhurst

Jackie at 403-732-5470

Stay & Play ~ Drop-in starting Jan 10th

Tuesdays ~ 9:30-11:30am

* **Move It! Move It! ~ Drop-in**

Community Complex

Mondays & Wednesdays

9:30-11:30 am ~ starting Jan 9th

Contact Jess at 403-732-5470

Milk River

Penny at 403-915-4017

* **Stay & Play ~ Drop-in**

Jan 11th & 25th ~ 9:30-11:00am

Nobleford

Susy at 403-915-7136

* **Move It! Move It! ~ Drop-in**

Wednesdays ~ 10:00-11:30 am

starting Jan 11th

* **Stay & Play ~ Drop-in** starting Jan 12th

Thursdays ~ 9:30-11:30 am

* **Infant Massage** - Jan 26-Feb 16

Registration Required!

Contact Jackie at 403-732-5470

Raymond

Myrna at 587-370-4847 or

Janet at 403-795-6962

* **After School Adventures**

Fridays ~ Full

* **Baby & Me** - till Jan 31st

* **Family Night Live** ~ Jan 16th

Registration Required!

* **Lego Club** ~ Mondays ~ Full

* **Move It! Move It! ~ Drop-in**

Wednesday ~ 9:30-11:00 am

starting Jan 11th

* **Open Play ~ Drop-in**

Mondays ~ 9:30 am-3:30 pm

starting Jan 9th

* **Stay & Play ~ Drop-in** starting Jan 12th

Thursdays

~ New 9:30-11:30am

~ 1:30-3:30pm

Fridays ~ 9:30-11:30 am

* **Indigenous Crafts &**

Conversation

Jan 4th - Feb 22nd

Contact Jessica at 403-915-7530

Picture Butte

Susy at 403-915-7136

* **Stay & Play ~ Drop-in** starting

Jan 9th

Mondays ~ 9:30-11:30am

Stirling

Stacey at 403-756-3572

* **Caregiver Café** ~ starting Jan 11th

9:30-11:00am

* **Stay & Play ~ Drop-in**

starting Jan 9th

Mondays & Thursdays

9:30-11:15am

Taber

Lauren at 403-331-1325

* **Stay & Play ~ Drop-in**

Thursdays ~ 9:30-11:30 am

starting Jan 12th

* **Move It! Move It! ~ New Drop-in**

Wednesdays ~ 6:00-7:00 pm

* **Indigenous Crafts &**

Conversation ~ Thursdays

Jan 5th - Feb 23rd

Contact Jessica at 403-915-7530

Vauxhall

Kim at 403-394-8657

* **Stay & Play ~ Drop-in**

Fridays ~ 9:30-11:00 am

starting Jan 13th

Warner

Penny at 403-915-4017

* **Open Play ~ Drop-in**

Jan 11th ~ 9:30-11:00 am

SERVING: Barnwell ~ Barons ~ Coaldale ~ Coalhurst ~ Lethbridge County ~ County of Warner ~ Coutts
Milk River ~ M.D. of Taber ~ Nobleford ~ Picture Butte ~ Raymond ~ Stirling ~ Taber ~ Vauxhall ~ Warner

Check out our website for programming

www.fcss.ca

Youth Centre

Games, snacks & more..

Coalhurst
Community
Centre

January 12 & 26
February 9 & 23
March 9 & 23

Ages 7-12

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Ages 13-18

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Absolutly **FREE** for youth to attend

Contact Trinity for more info

(403)394-8101 or trinity.walker@fcss.ca



The Royal Canadian Legion Coalhurst Branch 273

5205 6 Street Coalhurst Alberta

January 2023

Wednesday: Dart League

Thursday: Pool League and Dart Sharks League

Burgers and Chips: Jan 12&26, \$6.00, 5-6:30pm.

Kids get a free pop with meal.

Friday: Meat Draws: 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00.

King Draw: 7pm

Friday: Jitney Darts: 7:00 start

Saturday: Free pool tables

Steak Dinner \$20: Jan 28 sign up Jan 25

Jam Session: Jan 7, 1-5pm

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

This year we will be working Sunday afternoon Bingo's, some Saturday afternoon Bingo's, and a few Tuesday evenings.

Please call Wendy to volunteer 403-634-5262.

Jan 7, Jan 29, Feb 26, Mar 7, Mar 26, Apr 17, May 20, May 28, June 10, June 25, July 17, July 30, Aug 17, Aug 27

We have complimentary rooms for non-profit organizations. We also have room rentals for private events. Please call for bookings

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!



Members don't forget to claim your free birthday drink the week you celebrate your birth.

Remember 2023 memberships are due this month. Lapsed membership numbers will be removed from the membership draw at the end of January.

Come out and chase the King of Clubs. You could win half of over \$4400. If you don't catch him, you still win 20% of the nights sales if your number is drawn.



Come out and play Jitney darts on Fridays. All levels of experience can play and will be welcomed.



Young and old "Jammers and Singers" wanting a place to plug in and let it go should show up on the first Saturday of the month from 1-5

Thank you to all our members who make this Legion such a great community. Here's to making another great New year!

Hours of operation

Wednesday - Thursday 5:00 until close

Friday 4:30 until close

Saturdays 3:00 until close

We will remain open if there are Patrons

Closed: Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday

403-381-3080



Through your donation to the Legion Poppy Fund, the Legion provides financial assistance and support to Veterans, including the Canadian Armed Forces and their families who are in need. Donations accepted at any time.

Veterans who need assistance can send an email attention Service Officer at legionbm273@gmail.com



DON'T BECOME A VICTIM!

With more of our special memories and day-to-day activities taking place through phone calls and online, there is also an increased risk for frauds to occur. The Alberta RCMP would like to offer some tips and reminders to keep your life fraud-free!

PHONE SCAMS | EMAIL & ONLINE FRAUD | SECURITY BREACHES | UPFRONT PAYMENTS

Protect your computer

Watch out for urgent-looking messages that pop up while you're browsing online. Don't click on them or call the number they provide.

Watch out for emails with spelling and formatting errors, and be wary of clicking on any attachments or links. They may contain viruses or spyware.

Make sure you have anti-virus software installed and keep your operating system up to date.

Protect your online accounts

Protect your online accounts by creating strong passwords with a minimum of 8 characters including upper and lower case letters and at least 1 number and a symbol. Don't reuse the same password for all online accounts.

Don't be afraid to say no

If a caller tries to get you to buy something or to send them money right away, say "no" or just hang up.

Do your research

Verify organizations are legitimate before taking any action. Check a company's official website for contact information and call them to confirm their phone call to you was valid.

If you receive a call about a family member in trouble, talk to other family members to confirm the situation.

Don't give out personal information

If you didn't initiate the call, you don't know who you're talking to. Beware of callers asking for personal information including your name, address, birthdate, Social Security Number, banking information and credit card number.

Beware of upfront fees

There are no prize fees or taxes in Canada. If you won it, it's free.

Many scams request you to pay fees in advance of receiving goods, services, or a prize. It's illegal for a company to ask you to pay a fee upfront before they'll give you a loan.

➤ **If you feel you may be a victim of fraud, contact your local police to file a report.** ➤

To learn more about fraud, visit: <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/cyber-safety>

 @RCMPInAlberta
 @RCMPAlberta
 @rcmpalbertagrc



Kids' Stuff

(color me)

