

COALDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

42nd Annual
*Awards & Appreciation
& Banquet*

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 3

2024

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Coaldale Chamber of Commerce

Message from the president

Robert Woolf

As President of the Coaldale Chamber of Commerce, I welcome you all to the Coaldale Chamber of Commerce 42nd Annual Awards and Appreciation banquet.

Congratulations to our award recipients, whose outstanding efforts significantly enhance the vibrancy and prosperity of the Coaldale community. This evening has been made special for them by the overwhelming support we received in the form of numerous nominations across various categories this year.

The Coaldale Chamber would like to extend our appreciation to the Town of Coaldale for their effort in co-hosting this event. We would also like to acknowledge the sponsors, as well as event organizers, whose invaluable contributions have played an instrumental role in bringing this event to fruition.

To all the businesses, non-profits, community groups, churches, elected officials, and individuals shaping Coaldale, we notice and value your tireless work.

The Coaldale Chamber of Commerce looks forward to helping our community continue to grow.





Town of Coaldale

Message from the mayor



Jack Van Rijn

On behalf of Town Council, I wish to extend heartfelt congratulations to all the recipients being honored at the Coaldale Chamber of Commerce 42nd Annual Awards and Appreciation banquet.

The Town of Coaldale is delighted to maintain its collaboration with the Chamber in organizing this special event. I express gratitude to both planning committees for their dedication in ensuring its success. Your commitment does not go unnoticed and is genuinely appreciated.

Appreciation is also due to the individuals who took the time to nominate, assisting us in identifying deserving citizens for their noteworthy contributions.

The vibrancy of our community owes much to the shared time and talents of numerous residents, not-for-profit groups, and businesses. Their tireless efforts, often behind the scenes, contribute significantly to making our community the best it can be. Tonight, we are privileged to honor their achievements and acknowledge their exceptional contributions. Once again, congratulations!



Message from

MP Rachael Thomas

As the Member of Parliament for Lethbridge I wish to extend my warmest regards to each of you. This evening's event is one of my favourites and I have always made it a priority to attend. Sadly, circumstances prevent me from being able to participate this year.

In my absence, it is my great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all those receiving an award tonight. Thanks to your intentional efforts, we enjoy a community we can all be proud of. I can't help but think of the countless hours that have been selflessly given by the individuals in the room this evening. Please accept my utmost gratitude.

I trust this evening will be one of great celebration. You deserve it!

In your service,

Rachael Thomas
Member of Parliament for Lethbridge



Honoured Guest

MLA Grant Hunter

Good evening everyone and welcome to you all. I am honored to be here today and extend my sincere gratitude for the invitation to join you tonight. The Coaldale Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Coaldale have truly outdone themselves in hosting this event, providing a platform to recognize the outstanding contributions within this community.

Heartfelt congratulations are in order for those who will be receiving well-deserved awards tonight. Your dedication, hard work, and commitment have not only made a significant impact but also set a commendable example for others to follow. It is through events like these that we come together to celebrate the strength and fortitude of the Coaldale community.

May the spirit of community, gratitude, and achievement continue to flourish in Coaldale, and may we all be inspired by the remarkable individuals and entities that make this town truly exceptional.

With appreciation,

Grant Hunter
Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta



Master of Ceremonies

Wayne Street

Wayne Street has served as an educator and principal in southern Alberta since 1974. Before his retirement in 2005, he was principal of R. I. Baker Middle School in Coaldale and president of the Provincial Council on School Administration. In addition, he was the provincial representative for the Canadian Association of Principals. Street has been described as an excellent leader, who inspired his teachers to perform at their highest level.

In 1996, he was honoured with the Administrator of the Year award by the Alberta Teachers' Association. Street is also a strong supporter of his local community, and he received the Citizen of the Year award by the Coaldale Chamber of Commerce in 1998.

The Coaldale Chamber would like to express appreciation for Wayne's enthusiasm and dedication with hosting numerous events for us. His invaluable connections to the people of this town, including past students, have enriched our community spirit. Wayne's ability to effortlessly weave humor into his stories adds a delightful touch to our gathering. Cheers to Wayne for his continued contributions and uplifting presence!





Balloon Draw Enter For Your Chance

TO WIN!

1 Balloon for \$10
3 Balloons for \$20



Prize #1
Package



GAME NIGHT
\$1000

\$500 Ticketmaster Gift Card
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ART GALLERY

ART COLLECTION



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First draw
receives first
choice of prize
packages



Coaldale Chamber of Commerce

Business of the Year



Prairie Meats Ltd. - Andrew Anderson

Prairie Meats Ltd, a longstanding establishment in Coaldale since its inception as Coaldale Abattoir in 1972, has undergone transformative changes over the years. The company transitioned to Prairie Meat Processors in 1977, experiencing a significant expansion during the early 80s. In 2002, under the dedicated ownership of Andrew Anderson, a seasoned member who joined in 1989, the company evolved into what it is today.

Over the past 22 years, the company has expanded its offerings, providing custom slaughter, processing, and a range of natural smoked foods. The quaint retail space complements their diverse product line, including the unique "A Dog's Breakfast," Canada's sole human-consumable raw dog food.

Nestled in Coaldale, a vibrant and growing community, the company extends gratitude to local patrons and recognizes its exceptional staff. The nomination for business of the year is a proud acknowledgment of Prairie Meats Ltd's dedication to excellence and community contribution.

Coaldale Chamber of Commerce

Customer Service of the Year

Darrien Tonin - Stop N' Go

In his fourth year at Stop N' Go Esso, Darrien finds enjoyment in his work environment. Under the leadership of his boss, Daryl, and alongside supportive coworkers, he looks forward to brightening customers' days and making connections with regular patrons. Darrien's employment is a part-time gig as he navigates his academic journey, pursuing a Bachelor of Management at university with a focus towards marketing or commerce.

Beyond employment and academic pursuits, he enjoys spending time with friends and family, and likes participating in sports such as hockey and golf to stay active. The family cabin holds a special place in his heart, providing a haven for relaxation. Additionally, he contributes to the family farm, working alongside his dad, Darcel. Reflecting on the past, he proudly reminisces about playing two seasons with the Coaldale Copperheads, a testament to his dedication to sports. He attributes much of his values, including hard work and empathy, to his parents, Darcel and Debbie, lessons that continue to guide him in both his personal and professional life.



Coaldale Chamber of Commerce

Citizen of the Year

Colin Weir – Alberta Birds of Prey Foundation

In March 1982, Colin Weir joined Coaldale Insurance, aspiring to establish a bird of prey rescue facility. By 1984, with MLA Bob Bogle's support, he obtained permission to care for birds in his Coaldale backyard.

In 1988, Weir proposed transforming a flood-prone field into a wetland and stormwater retention pond for the Alberta Birds of Prey Centre. Collaborating with MLA Bob Bogle, the Town secured funding from Alberta Environment for the storm ponds' design and construction. Today, this once flood-prone field stands as a testament to 35 years of remarkable achievements in a small Alberta town.

Supported by the Town, Province, and Federal Government, ordinary individuals created the extraordinary Alberta Birds of Prey Centre. In addition to providing flood relief, the center releases thousands of birds, reclaims urban wetlands, and draws tourists. Coaldale's support makes it an inspiring model for communities across Alberta and Canada, showcasing the impact of grassroots initiatives on a global scale.





Coaldale Chamber of Commerce

Group Citizens of the Year



Coaldale United Church Thrift Shop

The Coaldale United Church Thrift Shop began 25 years ago as a modest space and has grown into a multi-room enterprise within the church hall, fostering community connections alongside offering affordable goods. With a commitment to “Reduce; Reuse; Recycle,” the shop donated \$24,000 since 2019 to various Coaldale organizations, actively supporting local initiatives.

Fueled by the dedication of around 12 volunteers contributing over 90 hours weekly, the thrift store consistently earns acclaim for its cleanliness, organization, and reasonable prices. Prompted by community support, the store participated in the 2023 Town of Coaldale’s Winter Walk in the Park, publicly expressing gratitude for their generosity.

Being recognized as the Group Citizens of the Year-2023 by the Coaldale Chamber of Commerce is a significant honor, acknowledging the collective efforts and positive impact of the thriving thrift community.



Coaldale Chamber of Commerce

Special Tribute of the Year



Myrna Moulton

Myrna Moulton, a Coaldale resident since 1971, raised three children—Jim (Beth), Cheri (Dave), and Char (Lane)—forming a close-knit family with six grandchildren. Myrna along with her extended family, are actively involved in sports such as minor hockey, gymnastics, and softball. Initially a Medical Lab Technician, Myrna shifted to accounting during the family’s farming venture. In 1983, she founded a business under Coaldale Insurance, providing accounting and income tax services for their clients until 2008, when she sold her business. Since 2009, Myrna has focused on income tax services under the CRA umbrella, concurrently running her own tax and accounting business for family and friends.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Myrna serves as treasurer for the Gem of the West Museum, the Senior Centre, and the Advisory Board, finding fulfillment in contributing to her community.

Coaldale has proven to be exceptionally welcoming to her family, and she considers herself blessed to have built so many meaningful friendships within the community.

Coaldale Chamber of Commerce

New Members

- Buster's Pizza & Donair
- Coaldale Spirits & Wine
- Country Kitchen Catering
- Due West Tire Co.
- Epic Trails Ltd.
- Fused Elements Photography
- Heart of our Heart
- KFC Coaldale
- Manik Signs & Graphics
- Oak & Stone Builders
- Pixelboom Media
- Prairie Wide Insurance
- Signature Massage & Reflexology
- Third Ave Barber

Photography Services

Provided by



Catering Services

Provided by







Town of Coaldale

Male Athlete of the Year

Brad Erdos

Brad Erdos, born on April 26, 1990, embarked on his football journey at Catholic Central High School after attending St. Joseph's School. Transitioning to Simon Fraser University (SFU) in 2008, he played offensive line for the SFU Clan, competing in both CIS and NCAA. Drafted 27th overall by the Calgary Stampede in 2012, he joined the team in 2014 after overcoming an injury and completing his degree in criminology with a minor in Kinesiology.

Erdos became a key figure on the Stampede's offensive line, notably at right guard, and winning two Grey Cup victories in 2014 and 2018. However, a patella tendon injury in 2019 led to a season-ending setback. After the cancellation of the 2020 season, Erdos retired from the CFL in February 2021, choosing to pursue a career in law enforcement in Calgary.

Grateful for his football journey, Erdos acknowledges the unwavering support of his wife Amanda, devoted parents Brian and Debbie, and expresses gratitude to the Town of Coaldale for their recognition.





Town of Coaldale

Female Athlete of the Year



Ashley Enns

Growing up, Ashley immersed herself in sports at Kate Andrew's High School—embracing basketball, volleyball, track & field, badminton, and dance at Dance Images. Upon entering college, a void emerged, prompting the initiation of a profound love for the gym. Having transitioned from four bikini shows to powerlifting, she secured a pro card and set numerous records in weight/age categories, including a world record deadlift.

The past year marked a significant chapter in Ashley's fitness journey as she returned to bodybuilding, competing in regionals and securing a victory. This accomplishment propelled her to nationals in Toronto, where a third-place finish added another achievement. The arduous path involved a strict diet, 15km runs six days a week, and focused weight training. Despite the challenges, the hard work paid off, providing a sense of profound satisfaction in her accomplishments. Passionate about this lifestyle, Ashley has ventured into online nutrition and fitness coaching to assist others on their journey to a healthier life.



Town of Coaldale



Arts or Recreation Leader of the Year

Cory Hegland

Jennie Emery Elementary School

Raised in Vulcan County, Cory attended Champion School from kindergarten to Grade 9, followed by County Central High School for Grades 10-12. After high school, Cory pursued higher education at the University of Lethbridge, earning a BA in PE and a BEd in 1989.

Upon completing studies at the U of L, Cory returned to Vulcan and dedicated a decade to teaching, initially at Hazel Cameron Elementary and later at Prairieview Elementary. In 2008, he met his future wife, leading to a transfer to a PE position at Jenny Emery Elementary in Coaldale, where he has been for the past 15 years. Cory and his fiancée relocated to Lethbridge in the summer of 2008 and have continued to reside there.

Their family expanded with the arrival of a daughter in 2010 and a son in 2015. An avid hack golfer and less-than-stellar tennis player, Cory enjoys traveling with his daughter's cheerleading pursuits. The family embraces glamping in the summer, along with boating and surfing. Cory feels honored by the Chamber's recognition and looks forward to ongoing involvement with the town's initiatives.

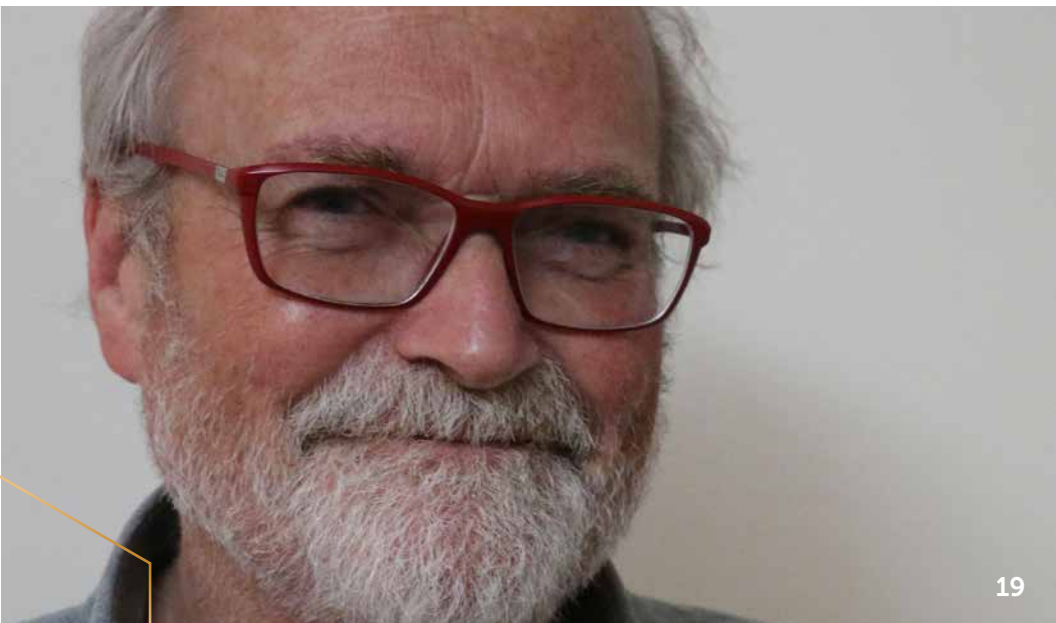
Town of Coaldale

Community Artist of the Year

Vincent Luykenaar
Desert Spring Bronze Art Gallery

Vincent, born in 1947, married Mirjam in 1972, celebrating nearly 52 years together. After earning an MD from Erasmus University in Rotterdam, he served as a medical practitioner in the Royal Navy for eight years. Relocating to Canada in 1982, Vincent worked as a flight surgeon at the Canadian Forces Base in Cold Lake, later settling in Coaldale for a remarkable 34-year tenure at the Campbell Clinic.

While attending university, Vincent began drawing and painting as a hobby, eventually selling his artwork at the Campbell Clinic. His artistic journey deepened through friendships with notable figures like the late Corne Martens, a renowned bronze sculptor, and the late Don Frache, a nationally recognized watercolorist and oil painter. Collaborating with Judith Nickol, a premier watercolorist in Southern Alberta, they showcased their art at numerous exhibitions, with Judith's influence shaping Vincent's watercolor pursuits. Now in retirement, Vincent has established an art gallery at home, providing an ideal space to dedicate himself to painting.



Town of Coaldale

Environmental Excellence of the Year

2Point0

2Point0, Fuel the Future, is a pioneering force in Alberta, revolutionizing waste management and landfill diversion with a commitment to environmental stewardship. Rooted in the natural resource sector, the company excels in processing problem materials like glass and styrofoam into low-carbon fuel, reducing the landfill carbon footprint. Collaborations with municipalities showcase a broader impact, creating a network for responsible resource development. Actively engaged in community initiatives, 2Point0 integrates into local life, emphasizing that responsible resource development and community engagement go hand in hand.

Noteworthy for diverting over 5.5 million kilograms of waste in less than a year, 2Point0 exemplifies environmental leadership. Their innovative solutions to challenging materials reflect a dedication to staying at the forefront of sustainable practices. The company envisions an expansive future across Alberta, aligning with the values of the Environmental Excellence of the Year award. This nomination recognizes 2Point0 as a torchbearer for responsible resource development, celebrating its achievements, collaborations, and forward-thinking vision.





Town of Coaldale

Youth Citizen of the Year



Gavin Besaw

Meet Gavin, a dedicated young man committed to making a positive impact. Over the past four years, he has actively volunteered for various town and school events, showcasing a remarkable willingness to take on diverse challenges. Teachers praise Gavin's invaluable support, expressing a wish for more students with his dedication.

As a key member of the Skate Park Working Group, Gavin has contributed to planning a new park in town, and his efforts were recognized with the Youth Community Builder Award from Rachael Thomas in October. Looking forward, Gavin aspires to become the Mayor of Coaldale, highlighting his long-term commitment to community leadership.

Gavin's story reflects determination, kindness, and a genuine passion for positive change. His impactful contributions make him a deserving candidate for recognition this year, with a promising journey ahead as a dedicated volunteer and community builder.



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