

Lethbridge City Mine



The City of Lethbridge power house operated on coal from the Lethbridge City Mine until it was converted to gas in 1941.
City of Lethbridge Archives



Westminster School (top) and Central School were two of the schools heated by coal from the city Mine.
City of Lethbridge Archives

In 1909, the city of Lethbridge got into the coal mining business. It opened a mine on the east bank, close to where the present Sixth Avenue bridge crosses the Oldman River.

Eight men and one horse produced about 23 tonnes of coal each day. Most of the coal went to the city power plant located close by in the river valley. The coal cars ran straight from the mine to the power plant. The coal was dumped automatically, elevated into hoppers, and fed to the fires. Public buildings including schools, city offices and the fire hall got coal from this mine too. The city also distributed coal from the mine to needy families.

The Lethbridge City Mine was abandoned in 1941 when the city converted the power plant to gas. Over 345,000 tonnes of coal had been taken from the mine. Cracks and slumping on the ground above the mine are the only evidence of the underground activity that once kept Lethbridge warm and bright.



Firehall No. 1 with first city offices in small building on left.
City of Lethbridge Archives



City Hall with Police Station in the rear. Situated on the northwest corner of 4th Avenue and 7th Street South, it was formerly 'The Chinook Club'. Note the early traffic signal...
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