

# Galt No. 8 Mine



*The Galt No. 8 Mine site can be seen at the top of the picture, just right of the C.P.R. High Level Bridge*  
City of Lethbridge Archives

The buildings of Galt No. 8 Mine, seen here across the river, just right of the C.P.R. viaduct, have been familiar landmarks since 1935. The mine's water tower and tibble stand like exclamation points on the western horizon.

Galt No. 8 Mine got its start in 1934 when the Canadian Pacific Railway sunk the first shaft. Work crews dismantled the tibble from the recently closed No. 6 Mine and brought it over to the new site by rail. No. 8 stayed in operation until 1957. It was the last mine to close in the Lethbridge Coal Field. Between 1874 when the first mine in the district opened, and 1957 when Galt No. 8 closed, almost 24 million tonnes of coal had been taken from the ground.

Although the mine closed in 1957, the red shale being used today on many of Lethbridge's pathways and baseball diamonds is a bi-product of the Galt No. 8 Mine. During the mine's operating years, waste products such as rock and impure coal were dumped over the edge of the bank into the coulee. Ignited by spontaneous combustion this material has burned for many years. These fires created the red shale found in city parks and the sports' fields today.

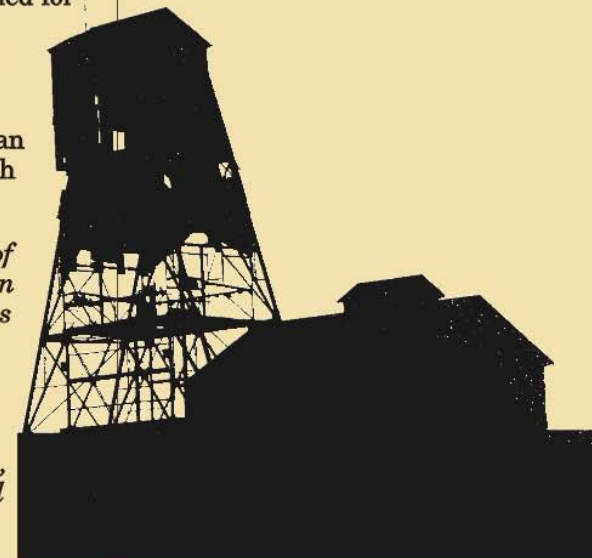
While the remaining mine buildings are striking landmarks, they are also symbols of an industrial heritage that saw coal mines flourish in grain country for over 80 years.

*"The Galt No. 8 Mine site represents one of the most important abandoned coal mines in Canada... the headframe of the shaft mine is the last remaining structure of this type in Canada... the brick buildings are also a valuable heritage resource because of their distinctive architecture and their good condition" – Larry Christmas, Past Chairman, History and Heritage Committee of the Coal Association of Canada.*



*Head frame of Galt No. 8 Mine, 1935*

City of Lethbridge Archives



*The most visible signs of the once important coal mining industry are the remains of the tibble and the water tower at Galt No. 8 Mine shown here in silhouette.*

Photo credit: C.R. Stewart

Assistance for this project provided by:



Lethbridge Community Foundation



GALT #8 MINE HISTORIC SITE SOCIETY