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## Esquimalt Village Plan: Imagining our Future



**T**he Esquimalt Village Plan, with several years of planning, public comment, and Council consideration, represents a new vision for the future of Esquimalt. And the plan is moving forward in 2011 with a new focus.

In October, 2010, Council approved a preferred option for the plan, which establishes criteria for mixed-use development on the site, encompassing the old Municipal Hall and Public Works Yard and Town Square, all located in the Park Place area of Esquimalt.

Building design will be contemporary and bold, using large window panels to take advantage of the harbour and distant views. Other building materials will include concrete, brick, wood, cement, and metal panels.

The site will include an eight-storey commercial mixed-use building located between Park Place and Thornton Walk, and a 12-storey residential building located east of Thornton Walk and south of the Municipal Hall. The western building will contain a mix of commercial, institutional and residential

uses while the eastern building will consist of townhomes at ground level with condominiums above.

All parking required by the library and town hall — as well as the commercial, civic and residential spaces associated with this development — will be situated underground.

The three key landscape features of the plan include: 1) the relocation of Town Square to enhance the streetscape of Esquimalt Road, 2) the redevelopment of Thornton Walk to serve as the principal pedestrian connection through the Village, and 3) the development of a pedestrian greenway along the north side of Carlisle Avenue linking the Village to the Esquimalt Recreation Centre and beyond.

Although Council has supported this option of the plan, the changes to the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw must be done by amending bylaws. Staff has prepared the appropriate amending bylaws and will be presenting them to Council for consideration later in the spring of 2011. Visit [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca) for more information on the Esquimalt Village Plan.



## West Division Police Officers Honoured at Awards Ceremony



Inspector Darrell McLean with his Exemplary Service Medal, flanked by Victoria Mayor Dean Fortin (left) and Esquimalt Mayor Barbara Desjardins.

Inspector Darrell McLean of VicPD's West Division was recognized for 30 years of excellent service in a special recognition ceremony held on February 22nd at VicPD Headquarters.

Fellow West Division police officers Constables Chantal Ziegler and Mark Buerfeind received 20 year recognition at the same ceremony. A total of 15 Victoria Police members were honoured at the event.

Canada's Exemplary Service Medals recognize the men and women dedicated to preserving Canada's public safety through long and outstanding service.

The Police Exemplary Service Medal recognizes police officers who have served in an exemplary manner, characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency. Recipients must have completed 20 years of full-time service with one or more recognized Canadian police forces.

"This recognition is a reflection of the hard work and commitment that Darrell, Chantal and Mark bring to our community," said Mayor Barb Desjardins. "On behalf of the community I congratulate them on their excellent service records."

## New Director of Finance at the Township

The Township of Esquimalt has hired Karen Blakely as its new Chief Financial Officer and Director of Financial Services. Karen began her new job on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, taking over from Deputy Director of Finance Mary Turner, who had been Acting Director of Finance since August of 2010.

The newest member of Esquimalt's senior management team is a Certified General Accountant who brings an impressive track record to her new position. Karen has implemented and led accounting departments in industry, government and non-profit organizations.

Most recently she held the position of Director, Finance and Administration for

Our Place, the social service agency in downtown Victoria. Before this, Karen was Controller for the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation from 2000 to 2008. The Township welcomes Karen to her new role.



CFO Karen Blakely

## Esquimalt's Centennial Memorial Walkway



One of the planned legacy projects of the Esquimalt Centennial 2012 is to upgrade the walkways leading up to the cenotaph in 75-year-old Memorial Park. Paving stones with dedications are being offered for sale by the Centennial Committee to be placed throughout the two approaches to the cenotaph. "This is an opportunity to pay tribute to those you hold dear in your family and in your community," said Mayor Barb Desjardins, shown centre with Centennial Committee Chair Janet Jones and Vice Chair Bruce Devitt. "We hope that residents will participate in this historic project so that dedicated pavers can be in place for the centennial year."

One hundred dollars will reserve a 4"x 8" brick with 3 lines of 18 characters

per line. Two hundred dollars will reserve a large 8"x 8" brick with 4 lines of 18 characters per line. The pavers are tax deductible and the Township will be issuing receipts to purchasers.

To reserve your paver, go to the Township website and follow the links to the Centennial 2012 pages to download and print your order form. Order forms can also be picked up at Municipal Hall, 1229 Esquimalt Road and the Esquimalt Recreation Centre, 527 Fraser Street.



## Plan a Pesticide-Free Lawn & Garden

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, 2008, Esquimalt Council adopted Bylaw No. 2686 to ban the use of non-essential pesticides on residential properties within the community.

The use of these chemical pesticides carries health, safety and environmental risks and Esquimalt has joined the growing trend towards a more environmentally sensitive approach to pest management.

“Maintaining healthy ecosystems, as well as attractive parks and greenways, is our goal. We think residents share this goal when maintaining their lawns and gardens,” said Katschor.

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, exposure to pesticides has been linked to both childhood and adult cancers. Since the application of non-essential pesticides has no health benefit and has the potential to cause harm, the Canadian Cancer Society endorses the use of the precautionary principle, and supports banning their use (more information can be found at [www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca)).

“Esquimalt showed a strong commitment to public health and the environment in passing their pesticide use bylaw in 2008”, says Nancy Falconer, Health Promotion Coordinator with the Canadian Cancer Society. “We definitely encourage residents to explore alternatives, and take advantage of the wealth of tools and resources now available to assist homeowners.”

The Capital Regional District’s website is a good place to start for alternatives to pesticides. Go to [www.crd.bc.ca/gardening/healthygardenguide.htm](http://www.crd.bc.ca/gardening/healthygardenguide.htm) to learn more. The site has fact sheets and tips on maintaining a healthy and beautiful lawn and garden without the use of pesticides. Proper and safe disposal of pesticides can be done at Ellis Recycling, 524 David St. Learn more at [www.ellicerecycling.ca](http://www.ellicerecycling.ca).



## Township Requests Proposals for Policing Services

At a news conference on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Mayor Barb Desjardins outlined the findings of the Esquimalt Policing and Law Enforcement Advisory Panel and the next steps for the Township’s vision of community policing. The Township has issued a Request for Proposals for the Provision of Policing Services to the City of Victoria, the District of Saanich and the RCMP. The RFP comes after several months of work by the Advisory Panel to gather public input and conduct research on Township policing options.

“We value the work that VicPD has done for this community and we continue to value our police officers,” said Mayor Desjardins. “But our residents have spoken and they have told us they want community-based decision-making around policing, the best possible policing for their tax dollars, and a dedicated patrol based in the municipality. Mayor Desjardins added that Council is also unanimous in its support of the process to explore options in the delivery of police services to the community.

The Panel will submit a report to the Solicitor General in the coming months that makes recommendations on alternative service delivery models. **More information:** [www.esquimalt.ca/publicSafety/policeDepartment/policeBoard](http://www.esquimalt.ca/publicSafety/policeDepartment/policeBoard)

## Secondary Suites Update

### Free Legalization for Secondary Suites Ending Soon

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 is the last day to apply for a free building permit to legalize a secondary suite. Applications submitted by this date will receive free inspections and registration for this year.

If you have a suite, this is a great opportunity to protect yourself from possible liability. As a landlord, if your property does not meet minimum safety standards you could be found liable by the courts and lose your insurance coverage for damages caused or injuries sustained by your tenant.

The BC Building Code was enacted to establish minimum standards for buildings and contains a section specifically for secondary suites. Esquimalt’s Building Officials are available to assist home owners in finding ways to meet the standards set by the BC Building Code.

**For more information, please visit Development Services, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Municipal Hall or call 250-414-7108.**



# Community Calendar

**March 19** LifeMark Health Equimalt 5K. Come join the fun! This is an absolute must community event! The LifeMark Esquimalt Health 5K event provides a supportive atmosphere and a ton of fun for all ages and abilities to participate! 8:30 a.m. start at the Recreation Centre. For more info, call Melissa Wight at 250-412-8532.

**March 31 - April 3** Victoria Curling Classic. The Township of Esquimalt is proud to be a community partner in the 2011 Victoria Curling Classic at the Archie Browning Sports Centre. For more information go to the Victoria Curling Classic website at [www.victoriacurlingclassic.com](http://www.victoriacurlingclassic.com).

**April 9** Esquimalt's Gigantic Garage Sale. Book early to avoid disappointment! Tables are \$15 each. No wholesale or retail vendors. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. for the public. No early birds please. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**April 23** Easter Eggstravaganza. What would Easter be without the Esquimalt Recreation's Eggstravaganza? The Easter Bunny will be on deck! Saturday, 12 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information, call the Recreation Centre at 250-412-8500.

**April 24** Lions Easter Egg Hunt at Esquimalt Gorge Park. Entertainment, food, crafts, face-painting, judging Easter bonnets and, of course, hunting for Easter eggs. Sunday, 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

**May 1 - 8** Youth Week. Communities throughout the Capital Region celebrate the spirit of youth with special events. For more information, contact Vicki Klyne at 250-412-8511. See [www.youthvictoria.ca](http://www.youthvictoria.ca) for a full listing of events.

**May 10** Family Fit Day. As part of World Move for Health Day, come join us for a 1.5 hour family fitness event to introduce your entire family to Aquatic Fitness! For more information, call 250-412-8500.

**June 5** Rivers Oceans Day Festival at Esquimalt Gorge Park. Bring your family and friends to experience the Gorge Waterway Education Centre. See, touch and feel the wonders of the ocean environment. Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 250-412-8511.

**June 10-12** Buccaneer Days. Esquimalt's premier summertime event -- pancake breakfast, parade, fair, craft and garden sale and much, much more, including the Saturday night dance. See [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca) for more information.

## Meeting Schedule

### Council Meetings

March 21, 2011  
April 4, 2011  
April 18, 2011  
May 2, 2011  
May 16, 2011  
June 6, 2011

### Committee of the Whole

April 11, 2011  
May 9, 2011  
June 13, 2011

Unless otherwise noted, Council Meetings take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers at 1229 Esquimalt Road. Please check the website or call 250-414-7135 to confirm meeting times.

### Municipal Hall Closed for Statutory Holidays:

Good Friday - April 22, 2011  
Easter Monday - April 25, 2011  
Victoria Day - May 23, 2011

# Contacts

Emergency	9-1-1
Municipal Hall (Reception)	414-7100
Administration	414-7101
Finance	414-7100
Development & Engineering	414-7108
Public Works	414-7104
Building Inspections	414-7108
Bylaw Enforcement	414-7108
Police Department	995-7500
Fire Department	414-712
Parks & Recreation	412-8500
Sports Centre	412-8510
Library	414-7198
Archives	412-8540

**Municipal Hall**  
1229 Esquimalt Road  
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

**Archives**  
1149-A Esquimalt Road  
1229 Esquimalt Road  
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

**Recreation Centre**  
527 Fraser Street  
Esquimalt, BC V9A 6H6

**Archie Browning Sports Centre**  
1151 Esquimalt Road  
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3N6

**Esquimalt Branch Library**  
1231 Esquimalt Road  
(behind Municipal Hall)

The Esquimalt Current is a tri-annual newsletter published by the Township of Esquimalt and distributed to 8,700 residents and local businesses.

### We welcome your feedback.

Contact Ritchie Morrison, Communications Coordinator, at 250-414-7122 or [ritchie.morrison@esquimalt.ca](mailto:ritchie.morrison@esquimalt.ca). Would you like to sign up for automatic updating of news and events in Esquimalt? Visit our website at [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca).

The Township of Esquimalt is committed to environmental sustainability. This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

