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**Mayor's Message**

**Much to Look Forward to in Esquimalt this Spring**



As the days get longer and the flowers begin to bloom we all awaken to the new possibilities before us. I look at spring as the most optimistic of seasons. And there is good reason for

optimism in Esquimalt.

As you will see in these pages, there are many exciting projects moving forward. Our Westside Solutions wastewater treatment project has completed its first phase of engagement and research. This initiative is being welcomed by the public and we will soon be developing options for the community to review.

Multi-modal transportation has long been a Council priority and I am happy to say that the Admirals Road Corridor Improvement Project has now been tendered and work will begin this spring. This initiative makes the corridor safer, more efficient for all modes of traffic, and improves overall infrastructure. See our update on page two.

The Archie Browning Sports Centre refurbishment will be making great strides this spring now that the entranceway steel infrastructure is in place. Take a look at the architectural rendering on page three for a preview, along with an update from the department.

If you own a business along Esquimalt Road, or have an interest in improving the corridor, you will want to read about the Revitalization Tax Exemption initiative (page three), which provides tax exemptions as an incentive for façade improvement and beautification along the corridor.

Are you ready and set for the 5K event on March 28th? If you haven't run this beautiful course along our south shoreline, I encourage you to do so. It's also a great warmup event for the TC 10K and other running events through the spring and summer. You will find our full event calendar on page four. Enjoy your spring in Esquimalt.

**Westside Solutions Wraps Up Phase One**

Westside Solutions, which has been working on wastewater treatment and resource recovery options for westside communities, has completed the first phase of public engagement, which included hosting six open houses in westside communities, and the development of information boards, fact sheets, a website and a public survey.

Over 200 people attended the open houses, held in the westside communities of Langford, Colwood, View Royal, the Songhees First Nation, and Esquimalt. In addition, 345 people

completed the wastewater treatment survey, both online and at the open houses. Thank you to everyone who spent the time to share their comments and opinions.

Staff members have collated and summarized information received from the public, which will be combined with technical information that Westside Solutions has requested from the consulting community to develop preliminary options.

Summarized public input has been posted to the Westside Solutions

website, and will inform the next steps in public engagement. This input will ultimately assist in developing wastewater treatment options that will best meet the needs of the community. The framework for Phase 2 public engagement is currently being developed.

**Visit [www.westsidesolutions.ca](http://www.westsidesolutions.ca) for information updates.**



## Welcome to our new Fire Chief and VicPD West Division Inspector

### A warm welcome to two new community members!

Chief Chris Jancowski joins the Township as its new Fire Chief on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. For the past six and a half years Jancowski has been the Deputy Fire Chief for the City of Port Alberni. Before this, he was the Fire Chief/Emergency Program Coordinator for the Town of Qualicum Beach.

In 2013 he was recognized as Fire Training Officer of the Year by the Fire Training Officers' Association of BC. Chief Jancowski has also been an active leader provincially through his involvement with the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC where he mentors newly appointed fire chiefs. He began his firefighting career in Colwood.



Inspector Colin Watson joined the Township on March 1<sup>st</sup> as its new West Division Inspector. Inspector Watson has served with the Victoria Police Department for over 18 years and brings to the Inspector's position significant operational, administrative and supervisory experience in patrol and traffic operations, tactical operations, dignitary protection and internal and external training to sworn and civilian staff.

Inspector Watson has a long history of community service and volunteerism. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Victoria, a little league softball coach and a former Parent Advisory Committee member, Tour De Rock rider, Reserve Constable, CoPS volunteer, and volunteer at numerous community events.

## Admirals Road Corridor Improvement Update



The Township of Esquimalt has issued a Notice to Tender for the Admirals Road Corridor Improvement Project. Once the project is awarded, the successful contractor will likely begin construction in the spring of 2015 with substantial completion in the fall.

The project will improve the busy commuter route between Maplebank Road and Lyall Street with the addition of bike lanes, a two-way left turn lane, median islands, and upgraded street lighting and sidewalks.

The corridor improvement will also help to protect local waterways with the installation of stormwater treatment devices and the separation of combined manholes for storm and sanitary collection systems.

Crews will make every effort to minimize impacts during construction, but some impacts such as noise, dust, and traffic delays will be unavoidable at times. Advance notice of potential construction impacts to residents and commuters will be made whenever possible.

*Improvements to the Admirals Road corridor will enhance safety and access for all modes of transportation. The project is proceeding thanks to a \$2.8 million contribution from the Government of Canada through the Gas Tax Fund for municipal infrastructure priorities.*

**For more information, please contact**  
**Jeff Miller, Director of Engineering and Public Works**  
**Tel: 250-414-7108**

## Bloomin' Beautiful 2015

Bloomin' Beautiful is back for 2015! The Township will again be hosting the Bloomin' Beautiful Home and Garden Contest through its Parks and Recreation Department. The contest officially starts on May 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through to June 20<sup>th</sup>. Entries will be accepted May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup> and judging will take place June 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Contest categories include: large garden, small garden, environmental practices, curb appeal, artistic garden, people's choice, and new for this year, the neighbourhood challenge!

Contest details and a photogallery of last year's entries and winners can be found at [www.esquimalt.ca/blooming](http://www.esquimalt.ca/blooming).

**For more information, please contact:**  
**Christina Moog, Recreation Coordinator**  
**Tel: 250-412-8501**



## Sports Centre Upgrade Nearing Completion



After several months of renovations Archie Browning Sports Centre will soon be sporting a new look. The upgraded centre will include a new outdoor plaza area, a modern steel façade with a glass curtain wall, as well as a redesigned lobby, board room and office space.

The new outdoor plaza area has been designed as a public performance area, as well as a community space for relaxing and socializing. Once the office space is completed, the majority of Parks and Recreation administration staff members now located at the Recreation Centre will move to the Sports Centre. Office space will be open concept with "break out rooms" for meetings.

The upgrade was not without its hiccups. "We ran into unsound wooden beams in the front of the building early in the renovation process," said Parks and Facilities Manager Rick Daykin. "This meant that we had to redesign the entranceway using steel structural materials, which resulted in some delays, but we will have a much stronger building." The project is expected to be completed by late spring.

**For more information on the Sports Centre upgrade, please contact:**  
**Rick Daykin, Parks and Facilities Manager, Tel: 250-412-8500**

## Revitalization Tax Exemption Open House

The Township will be hosting an open house to gather community input on a proposal to create a Revitalization Tax Exemption Program. The open house will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Municipal Hall.

The recently approved Economic Development Strategy identified a number of strategies and actions for promoting economic growth in Esquimalt. One of those strategies is the revitalization of Esquimalt Road through façade improvements and beautification using revitalization tax exemptions as an incentive.

The *Community Charter* provides municipalities with the authority to establish a revitalization tax exemption program bylaw that will exempt approved properties from a portion of their property taxes. Properties currently being considered are commercial, mixed use and multi-family buildings (with four or more units) located between Dominion Road to Canteen Road and within 150 meters of Esquimalt Road.

The open house will be both educational, providing examples of revitalization tax exemption programs, as well as engaging, asking for businesses' input on what type of incentives would appeal

## Esquimalt Village Project Update

After the completion of several background studies and a market study, Council has asked the Township's Development Services Department to draft a *Request for Expression of Interest* for the Esquimalt Village Project. This draft document will be presented to Council in the late spring for its consideration.

If approved by Council the Township will issue the Request and begin the process of finding a partner to develop the site, envisioned to be a lively and sustainable town centre, incorporating a mix of uses including an education institution and a new library.



**For more information on the Esquimalt Village Project, please contact:**  
**Bill Brown, Director of Development Services,**  
**Tel: 250-414-7146**

to them. All residents are welcome and a survey will be available online for those who are unable to attend.

Input received will assist staff with the analysis in order to make a recommendation to Council. Staff will be preparing a draft bylaw to present to Council later in the spring. Establishing a bylaw does not in itself guarantee a tax exemption. Owners of eligible property must first make an application to Council and be approved.

**For more information on revitalization tax exemptions, please visit [www.esquimalt.ca/businessDevelopment/](http://www.esquimalt.ca/businessDevelopment/)**

# Spring Community Calendar

Event details at [www.esquimalt.ca/events](http://www.esquimalt.ca/events)

## Spring thaw free skate

March 21, 1 to 2:50 p.m.

Come down to the Archie Browning Sports Centre during spring break for this afternoon of FREE fun for the whole family!

## Montreal Canadians Alumni Charity Hockey Game

March 27

The Montreal Canadiens Alumni Tour presented by Canadian Tire comes to Esquimalt. Doors open at 6 p.m.

## Lifemark Health 5K and Kid's 1km Fun Run

March 28

Join us for the Esquimalt 5K and 5K Kid's Fun Run presented by Lifemark Health. For registration info and route map, go to [www.esquimalt.ca/5K](http://www.esquimalt.ca/5K).

## Lions Easter Egg Hunt at Esquimalt Gorge Park

April 5

The Esquimalt Lions Club hosts their annual Easter Egg Hunt at Gorge Park. Entertainment, food, crafts, face-painting, bouncy castle and, of course, hunting for Easter eggs.

## Earth Day at Highrock Park

April 22/23

Celebrate Earth Day by participating in an invasive species removal and tree planting at Highrock Park.

## Esquimalt's Gigantic Garage Sale

April 25, doors open at 9 a.m.

Clean out your garage, get rid of your 'stuff' and make a few dollars. Book your booth early to avoid disappointment!

## Emergency Preparedness Workshops

May 2 and June 6

Learn how to get prepared for an emergency!

## Emergency Preparedness Week

May 3-9

Watch for Township events promoting emergency preparedness.

## Esquimalt Farmers Market

Thursdays starting May 21

The Esquimalt Farmers Market will be open Thursdays from May 21 to September 3, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Esquimalt Town Square. Please visit [www.esquimaltmarket.com](http://www.esquimaltmarket.com)

## Esquimalt Cycling Festival

May 24, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Powered by community spirit the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Esquimalt Bike Festival will inspire you to get on your bike just in time for Bike to Work Week. Info: [esqbikefest@gmail.com](mailto:esqbikefest@gmail.com).

## Neighbourhood Block Party

May 30

A great way to celebrate and get to know your neighbours while increasing sense of community and safety where you live. Find out more at [www.esquimalt.ca/blockparty](http://www.esquimalt.ca/blockparty).

## Buccaneer Days

June 12-14

Come join the fun at this annual favorite! Buccaneer Days features a pancake breakfast, parade, fair, craft & garden sale and the Saturday night dance at the Archie Browning Sports Centre. And much more!

## Memorial Park Music Fest

Tuesday evenings June 23 to July 28

Presented by the Township Community Arts Council.



See [www.esquimalt.ca/5k](http://www.esquimalt.ca/5k) for race information.

## Meeting Schedule

### Council Meetings

April 13, 2015  
April 27, 2015  
May 4, 2015  
May 25, 2015  
June 1, 2015

### Committee of the Whole

April 20, 2015  
May 11, 2015  
June 15, 2015

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 - Friday April 3, 2015  
Easter Monday - Monday April 6, 2015  
Victoria Day - Monday May 18, 2015  
Canada Day - Wednesday July 1, 2015

# Township Contacts

Emergency	9-1-1
Municipal Hall (Reception)	414-7100
Finance	414-7100
Development & Engineering	414-7108
Public Works	414-7104
Building Inspections	414-7108
Bylaw Enforcement	414-7161
Police Department	995-7500
Fire Department	414-7126
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 (civic)  
1229 Esquimalt Road (mail)  
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)



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The Esquimalt Current is a tri-annual newsletter published by the Township of Esquimalt and distributed to 8,700 homes 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). Sign up for e-mail notification at [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca) for updates on Township news, events and more.

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



Township of  
**ESQUIMALT**