

# ESQUIMALT CURRENT

The Township of Esquimalt's Community Newsletter

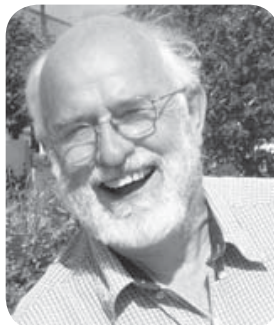
February 2008

## Councillor Boulton Remembered

THIS EDITION OF *The Esquimalt Current* is dedicated to Councillor Basil Boulton, who died suddenly at his home on January 3rd. He will be remembered for his passion and dedication to his work, to the community, and especially to children.

Boulton was a well-respected pediatrician and was serving his second term on Esquimalt Council.

A memorial service celebrating his life was held on January 17th at the Central Baptist Church in Victoria.



Councillor Basil Boulton  
March 6, 1938 - January 3, 2008

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



## Esquimalt Takes The Team Power Smart Challenge

CONGRATULATIONS ELEANOR CALDER and Alan Mclash of Woodway Road, winners of the Esquimalt Team Power Smart draw! Eleanor and Alan will have a free home energy assessment completed by a certified Energy Assessor from City Green [www.citygreen.ca](http://www.citygreen.ca). The assessment is valued at \$250 and will help Eleanor and Alan identify improvements that can be made to increase their home's energy efficiency and indoor air quality.

Eleanor and Alan were two of the 74 residents in Esquimalt who signed up in December for BC Hydro's Team Power Smart to track their home's energy consumption and set an energy reduction target.



The Township of Esquimalt came in 13<sup>th</sup> out of medium sized communities in BC for resident participation in the Team Power Smart Challenge. Courtenay, Port Alberni, and Colwood placed in the top 10 with Campbell River taking the grand prize of a \$20,000 Power Smart makeover of a municipal building.

For more information or to register your home, visit [www.bchydro.com](http://www.bchydro.com) and set an energy reduction target for this year!

**Power Smart Tip:** When replacing household appliances, choose an ENERGY STAR® model, which can cut your energy use by up to 50%!

## Community Coffee Break



Esquimalt Council will be hosting its first informal Community Coffee Break meeting on March 8th.

Join Council members to talk about community issues and initiatives:

Saturday March 8, 2008, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm  
Esquimalt Municipal Hall  
Council Chambers - 1229 Esquimalt Rd.

The next Community Coffee Break is scheduled for July. Contact Donna Dupas, Municipal Clerk at 414-7135 for more information.

## Active Communities Esquimalt Steps It Up

A NEW YEAR often means new resolutions and with that goals to lead a healthier, more active lifestyle.

Log on to [www.fitinfitness.ca](http://www.fitinfitness.ca) to join the Highway to Health and take a virtual journey around Vancouver

Island. This online activity tracking tool is free and fun for all!

A new group feature has just been added! So, get your co-workers, family members, or a group of friends together to swim,

## On the Highway to Health

skate, step, dance your way into a healthier year!



For more information, please contact Christina Moog, Aquatics & Fitness Coordinator at 412-8501 or [cmoog@esquimalt.ca](mailto:cmoog@esquimalt.ca).

ESQUIMALT EATS FOR Health is a nutrition strategy and a food security project for the Township of Esquimalt with a mission to change the current food environment for our community through leadership, education and accessibility to healthier foods.



vending machines at the Recreation and Sports Centres. Look for innovative workshops and education sessions on planting your own vegetables, reading food labels, one pot cooking, and more!

**What does this mean to you?**

Look for healthier food products at Bullen Perk (Esquimalt Recreation's coffee shop) and community events, and in the

**How can you get involved?**

Esquimalt Eats for Health is here for you. Your feedback is welcome. There are several ways to get involved:

- Lead by example and follow

Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating. (Pick up your copy at the Recreation or Sports Centre today!)

- Participate in focus groups and surveys which run throughout the year at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre and the Archie Browning Sports Centre.

Contact Christina Moog, Committee Chair at 412-8501 or email [cmoog@esquimalt.ca](mailto:cmoog@esquimalt.ca) to share your thoughts or to join a mailing list to receive updates on project initiatives and general nutrition information.

**ETAG Program Update**

ESQUIMALT'S TOGETHER AGAINST Graffiti (ETAG) program is going strong as it enters its fourth year of community-based anti graffiti work. This year, ETAG's work will focus on the following issues:

**Graffiti Maintenance:** Graffiti in Esquimalt is an ongoing problem, which we deal with on a daily basis. We have a policy to remove graffiti immediately to discourage more "tagging."

**Kiosk Anti-Graffiti Wrapping:** The municipality is continuing to wrap electrical kiosks in a graffiti-proof vinyl laminate with scenic photos from local parks, which makes the removal of any tagging easy. The municipality wrapped nine kiosks in 2007 and will continue to wrap new kiosks this year.



Wrapped electrical kiosk

**ETAG Volunteer Recruitment:** The strong commitment of our volunteer group, headed by Peter Justo, is one of the components that makes ETAG so successful. The program is supported by individuals and groups such as the ROADS gang. Peter will be recruiting more volunteers for the program and will be making an anti-graffiti presentation at the Economic Development Committee's mixer this spring.

**Corporate Sponsorships:** The ETAG program relies on corporate sponsorships and will see an 100% increase in anti-graffiti funding for Esquimalt from BC Hydro in recognition of the work that is being done to keep BC Hydro's kiosks and poles clean.

**ETAG Program Awareness:** ETAG members were invited to make a presentation at an Anti-Graffiti Forum hosted by the City Of Duncan and their Chamber of Commerce in January. With the Cowichan Valley region hosting the 2008 North American Indigenous Games, there is an interest in establishing an anti-graffiti program in the area modelled after ETAG.

For more information about ETAG, please contact Mike Reed at 414-7154 or [mreed@esquimalt.ca](mailto:mreed@esquimalt.ca)

**2008 Property Tax Updates**

YOUR 2008 PROPERTY TAX notice covers the tax year from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Tax notices will be mailed out at the end of May and taxes are due in full by 4:30 p.m. on July 2, 2008.

If you are eligible for a provincial home owner grant, you must submit your application by July 2, 2008 or the unclaimed/unpaid balance will

be subject to penalty. You can claim your provincial home owner grant, even if you are not making a payment towards your property tax account.

Esquimalt offers a pre-authorized payment plan for property taxes, which allows property owners to make 10 equal monthly payments for property taxes. Payments on the plan begin in August 2008 and will

be applied towards your 2009 property taxes.

Application forms for enrollment in the program are available at the Municipal Hall.



For more information or to request these forms, please contact the Municipal Hall at 414-7100 or visit [www.esquimalt.ca/finance](http://www.esquimalt.ca/finance).

## Positive Youth Services Programming

THE YOUTH SERVICES team in Esquimalt works hard all year to develop and implement positive activities for the youth in our community. Recently, youth participating in our programs guided the youth services team to change the name of Archie's Teen Centre to the Esquimalt Teen Centre or **etc.** The name change was accompanied by a new logo, which is now prominently and proudly featured on the Teen

Centre (535 Fraser Street). The name change and new logo have put a fresh face on the foundation of our youth programs.

Another outstanding youth program, unique to Esquimalt, is our Youth Only Friday (YOF) Nights. Every Friday night from 8 pm to 11 pm, the entire Recreation Centre is reserved for youth. Teens ages (13 – 18) pay a \$2 drop-in fee and have access to the pool, fitness



centre, gym, and atrium. Youth can participate in organized activities or just hang out with friends and listen to music in the atrium. All of the staff that work during YOF's – from front desk staff, aquatics and our youth workers – have created such a positive, engaging atmosphere for the youth. Come and check it out. You won't be disappointed!

## Esquimalt Gorge Park Creek Daylighting Two Years Later

ESQUIMALT'S GORGE PARK Creek Daylighting project-- a project to "daylight" or re-establish the Gorge Creek channel and the estuary habitat of the creek-- has been successful and since 2005, Esquimalt Parks staff have planted hundreds of native trees, shrubs, and wetland plants to fulfill the wildlife habitat, pollution control, and passive recreation functions of the creek. A loop trail around the creek connects it with the rest of Esquimalt Gorge Park and today local residents and visitors come to walk and view the birds and wildlife that call Gorge Creek home.

Dabbling and diving ducks are commonly seen in the creek: a testament to the fish that are colonizing the brackish water. Stickleback and herring have been seen in the upper reaches of the creek, with perch and even cutthroat trout present closer to the creek mouth. River Otters commonly cruise the creek at higher tides,



Kayaker in Esquimalt Gorge Creek

competing with Kingfishers, Great Blue Herons, and Mergansers for the fish. At higher tides, kayaks or canoes enter the creek from the Gorge or the kayak launch area at the end of Sioux Place for an interesting paddle.

The planted trees are still small; however, Cottonwood and Alder grow quickly, and will soon help to perform the other role that the creek plays: passive treatment and remediation of runoff contaminants that flow into the creek.

The main outfall at Craigflower Road collects runoff from storm drains upstream. Contaminants settle into specially designed ponds;

percolate through rock weirs, where algae and native plants such as cattails and sedges absorb them into root and leaf structures; or evaporate in shallow sections, where sunlight helps to disperse hydrocarbons or oils. Some contaminants still reach the Gorge, but this is an improvement, because before the re-establishment of the creek, they flowed directly into the waterway without any remediation.

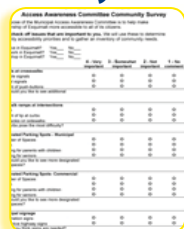
Recent challenges for maintenance in the park include visiting deer that damaged trees during their 'rut' this past winter, as well as vandalism by two-legged visitors.

Planting and maintenance of the creek continue, and the next steps will include installing woody debris into the deeper pools and suitable sections of the creek to provide more habitat for fish and aquatic plants. Visit the park regularly and watch it grow!

### Access Awareness Survey

Please complete the enclosed Access Awareness Committee community survey.

Let us know what your priorities are for improving accessibility in Esquimalt. Deadline: March 31, 2008



### Spring Parks Programs



Esquimalt has some of the most beautiful and diverse parks in the region.

This spring, join Esquimalt Parks and Recreation staff for **NEW programs in our parks!**

For updates, visit the Recreation Centre or [www.esquimalt.ca/recreation](http://www.esquimalt.ca/recreation).

### Secondary Suite Policy Review

This spring, residents will have a chance to provide input on draft policies and regulations for legalizing secondary suites in Esquimalt.



Visit our website or phone Development Services at 414-7108 for more information.

**March**

**6** Weekender Fashion Show and Tea. Enjoy tea and see Weekender's new Spring line. Fashion coordinator, Sandie Ferguson, will be present to answer questions. Esquimalt Silver Threads (at Esquimalt Recreation), 1:30 pm to 3 pm, \$5.

**8** Osteoarthritis and Exercise Workshop. Learn the components of a healthy exercise program and get helpful hints for common activities from a Physical Therapist. Esquimalt Recreation, 10:30 am to 11:30 am, FREE.

**15** Esquimalt's Giant Garage Sale. Clean out your garage, have fun, and make a few dollars. Esquimalt Recreation Centre, 9 am to 12 pm, \$15/table. Register in advance: 412-8500.

**24** Easter Eggstravaganza. Join a Fun Leader on the pool deck for an Easter egg hunt, games, face painting, and prizes. Esquimalt Recreation, 1 pm to 3 pm, Regular admission.

**25-31** March is Nutrition Month. Visit the Recreation Centre to enjoy food samples and receive healthy eating tips and nutritious recipes all week long.

**April**

**2** Pushing the Envelope: A Panel of Emerging Artists in the Capital Region. Part of the Land Marks lecture series on public art. Victoria City Hall (Ante Chamber), #1 Centennial Square, 7 pm, FREE. For more information, call 361-0358.

**6** Coast Capital Life Swim. This FREE community swim is sponsored by Coast Capital Savings. Esquimalt Recreation, 12 pm to 1:30 pm, FREE.

**6** Spring Thaw Skate. Join us for the

last skate of the year! Enjoy fun and games and a barbeque on the ice! Archie Browning Sports Centre, 5 pm to 7 pm, Regular admission.

**13** Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Bundle up for an easter egg hunt, face painting, and crafts sponsored by the Esquimalt Lions Club and Esquimalt Recreation. Hotdogs, pop, and popcorn available for sale. Esquimalt Gorge Park, 1 pm to 3 pm, FREE.

**19** Olympic Fever. Join potential olympic athletes for autograph signing in the Rec Centre and take part in an afternoon of games in the pool to get you in the Olympic spirit. Esquimalt Recreation, 12 pm to 2 pm, Regular admission.

**May**

**4-10** Youth Week. Join Esquimalt and other communities in the Capital Region for special events that showcase the talents, spirit, and passions of youth in our communities. For more information, visit [www.youthvictoria.com](http://www.youthvictoria.com).

**Council Meetings**

**Regular Council Meeting**

- March 3, 2008
- March 17, 2008
- April 7, 2008
- April 21, 2008
- May 5, 2008
- May 20, 2008 (Tuesday)
- June 2, 2008

**Committee of the Whole**

- March 10, 2008
- April 14, 2008
- May 12, 2008

>> Unless otherwise noted, Council Meetings take place at 7 pm in the Municipal Council Chambers at 1229 Esquimalt Road.

Please check the website or contact the Municipal Clerk at 414-7135 to confirm meeting times.

**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	995-7654
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  
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)

**We welcome your feedback.**

Melissa Darou  
Communications Manager  
[mdarou@esquimalt.ca](mailto:mdarou@esquimalt.ca)  
(250) 414-7122

**STATUTORY HOLIDAYS**  
Municipal Hall Closed:  
Good Friday: March 21, 2008  
Easter Monday: March 24, 2008  
Victoria Day: May 19, 2008  
Recreation Centre Open:  
8 am to 8pm on holiday weekends

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

