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## New Council Learn The Ropes

COUNCIL has been busy in their first 3 months! They received orientation to both the municipality and the region. Council attended two New Council Orientation Sessions in late November along with neighbouring councils in Greater Victoria.

The session topics included effective governance for new councils and building better decision-making bodies. This prompted Council's review of Esquimalt's Advisory Committees, Boards and Commissions. As a result, the following advisory bodies were established: Advisory Planning Commission; Arts, Culture and Special Events Committee; Heritage Advisory Committee; Access Awareness Committee; Environmental Advisory Committee; and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Council toured Esquimalt one Sunday with senior staff. They visited municipal facilities, toured neighbourhoods, and noted various issues facing the municipality.

Council also developed its 2009 objectives and priorities and look forward to achieving them this year.

To contact Council, call 250-414-7101 or [council@esquimalt.ca](mailto:council@esquimalt.ca).

## A Message from Mayor Barb Desjardins

THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME for Esquimalt. We have received federal and provincial 'infrastructure' funding approval for two of the largest road projects in our Municipality's history.

I am pleased to have already achieved the Province's agreement to conduct a review of our police services. This review will assist Esquimalt in resolving many of the ongoing concerns that have continued from the amalgamation. Our Police Force and Police Chief work hard on our behalf and this review will assist them in providing the best service in Esquimalt.

In my Inaugural Speech I spoke of improving communication. Esquimalt's new website has been invaluable with many residents taking the opportunity to connect directly with council. We value your input and hope you will continue.

With the new Centennial Committee formed we are ready to start planning toward our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2010. I hope you will all participate in this celebration of Esquimalt.

I look forward to serving my community in the upcoming 3 years and thank you for the opportunity.

*Mayor Barb Desjardins*

## New Fitness Equipment & Classes

RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED to try the eleven new pieces of fitness equipment in the Wellness Centre. The new equipment includes bikes, Octane Elliptical Trainer and the Matrix Power Lifting Station.

Spinning classes are the latest addition to Esquimalt's registered fitness programs. Fitness Programmer, Heather Munro adds, "The energetic instructors use fun music to introduce hills, intervals and sprints. Spin classes provide a great, low impact cardiovascular workout that almost anyone can do."



*Mayor Barb Desjardins with resident Edna Stewart*

### Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Edna!

Do you or someone you know have a milestone to celebrate? Please let us know, at 250-414-7101 or [mayor@esquimalt.ca](mailto:mayor@esquimalt.ca).

## Introducing Police Chief Jamie Graham

ON JANUARY 1, 2009 Jamie Graham officially assumed the office of Chief Constable of the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Department. Chief Graham brings with him over 40 years of dedicated public service and leadership experience, first with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and subsequently with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD).

*"I am honoured to have been selected as Victoria and Esquimalt's Chief Constable. I accepted this position with humility and great respect for the unique history that defines the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Department.*

*I welcome and encourage full transparency and accountability in communicating what our goals are, what it is going to cost to achieve them and how well we are doing in meeting them.*

*My priorities are consistent with those of the Police Board and the community at large – reduce street*

*disorder, suppress violent crime and prevent property crime.*

*I encourage you to provide us with feedback on how you think we are doing. I am looking forward to meeting with many of you over the coming weeks and months at meetings and community events.*

*I am excited to see some of the initiatives taking shape in Esquimalt including our highly successful Crime Free Multi-Housing Program and our two new youth investigator positions that will both be based out of Esquimalt.*

*I am committed to providing Esquimalt residents with the highest standard of policing. I look forward to serving as your new Chief Constable."*

*Chief Constable Jamie Graham*



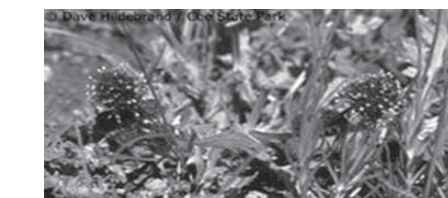
Chief Constable Graham

## Macaulay Point Park: Plant Species at Risk

MACAULAY POINT is a favourite place for Esquimalt residents. Esquimalt Parks and Recreation Services manages Macaulay Point through a license agreement with the Department of National Defence (DND).

Two unique plant species at risk are found in the park: purple sanicle (*Sanicula bipinnatifida*) and dense-flowered lupine (*Lupinus densiflorus*) and are both protected by the Federal Species at Risk Act. This act is a key federal government commitment to prevent wildlife species from becoming extinct and secure the necessary actions for their recovery.

Purple sanicle is threatened by habitat destruction, trampling by humans and dogs, along with



*Purple Sanicle: A unique and threatened plant competition from non-native plants. An estimated 30% of the purple sanicle population of Canada occurs at Macaulay Point.*

Dense-flowered lupine is known from only three populations in Canada and is listed as endangered under the Species at Risk Act. Dense-flowered lupine is threatened by habitat destruction, competition from shrubs and introduced grasses, and trampling by dogs as well. An estimated 40% of the dense-flowered lupine population of Canada occurs at Macaulay Point.

As stewards of Macaulay Point Park, The Township of Esquimalt is

## Snow Survivors

THANK YOU to all Esquimalt employees who assisted with snow removal this past December. Special thanks to Teresa Janisch, Recreation Centre Reception Leader, who battled the snow every morning (digging her car out at 4:30 am while pregnant) to open the Recreation Centre for our community.

## Donated TV at ABSC

TUDOR HOUSE PUB was kind enough to donate a large screen television to the Esquimalt Curling Club. The television is now located in the upstairs Lounge of the Archie Browning Sports Centre. Thank you to the Tudor House for making Esquimalt a better place for our user groups.

## Junior B. Lacrosse

THE 2009 JUNIOR B., B.C. Provincial Lacrosse Tournament will take place at the Archie Browning Sports Centre from July 31–Aug 3. This high level tournament features the top 5 teams in the province including the Victoria/Esquimalt Eagles Jr. B Lacrosse Team. This is an exciting opportunity for Esquimalt youth to watch a level of lacrosse they could be playing themselves in the not so distant future.

working along with the Department of National Defence on strategies to protect these unique plant species.



Dense-Flowered Lupine: An endangered plant species

# Two Major Road Improvements Planned

## Road work to begin at Admirals/Colville Intersection & Craigflower Road

THIS SPRING, construction will begin on two major road improvement projects. The Admirals and Colville roads intersection will undergo safety improvements to the intersection and the railway crossing. The estimated cost of the project is \$4 million, with 60% of the funding being provided by the Department of National Defense. This funding is part of a program to improve infrastructure around military facilities. The improvements include a traffic light, gates for trains, left turn lanes on Admirals Road and right turn lanes at all four corners of the intersection.

The Craigflower Road Corridor Upgrading project will improve road access and safety conditions and will occur in two stages. Phase 1 includes 1.7 km of Craigflower Rd from Dominion Road to Garthland Road. Construction will begin this April and be completed in the fall. The estimated cost of Phase 1 is \$3 million, which is being funded under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. The Fund is an inter-governmental initiative with the cost of the project being shared equally by federal, provincial and municipal governments.

Phase 2 will be the final 1km of Craigflower road, stretching from Garthland Road to Admirals Road. The estimated cost of Phase 2 is \$4.9 million, which is being fully funded by the federal Gas Tax Fund. The Gas Tax Fund delivers infrastructure funding to local governments for capital projects that lead to cleaner air, cleaner water or reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Preliminary designs for Phase 2 will be presented during Open Houses in the fall. An Open House is an opportunity for the public

### ROAD PROJECT TIMELINES

#### Craigflower Road Corridor

Phase 1: April 2009 - Fall 2009

Phase 2: April 2010 - Fall 2010

#### Admirals/Colville Intersection

Spring 2009 - Fall 2009

to view project design plans and provide input. Construction of Phase 2 will begin April 2010 and will be completed by the fall.

The Craigflower Road Corridor Upgrading project will include bicycle lanes in each direction, continuous sidewalks on both sides, a centre lane for left turns, median islands for traffic calming, improved streetlights, improvements to the Tillicum Craigflower intersection, a new traffic light at Coopers Road, several new pedestrian crosswalks and an improved storm water management and treatment system using a combination of underground structures and rain gardens.

The road construction planned for 2009 and 2010 will result in traffic disruption and delays for residents and commuters. In the longer term, these road upgrades will result in

## 2009 Taxes & Home Owner Grants

2009 PROPERTY TAX notices cover the tax year from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Tax notices will be mailed out at the end of May and taxes are due in full by 4:30 pm on Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009.

If you are eligible for a provincial Home Owner Grant, you must submit your application by July 2<sup>nd</sup> or the unclaimed/unpaid balance will be subject to the 10% penalty. Home Owner Grants can be claimed even if no payment is made towards the property tax account.

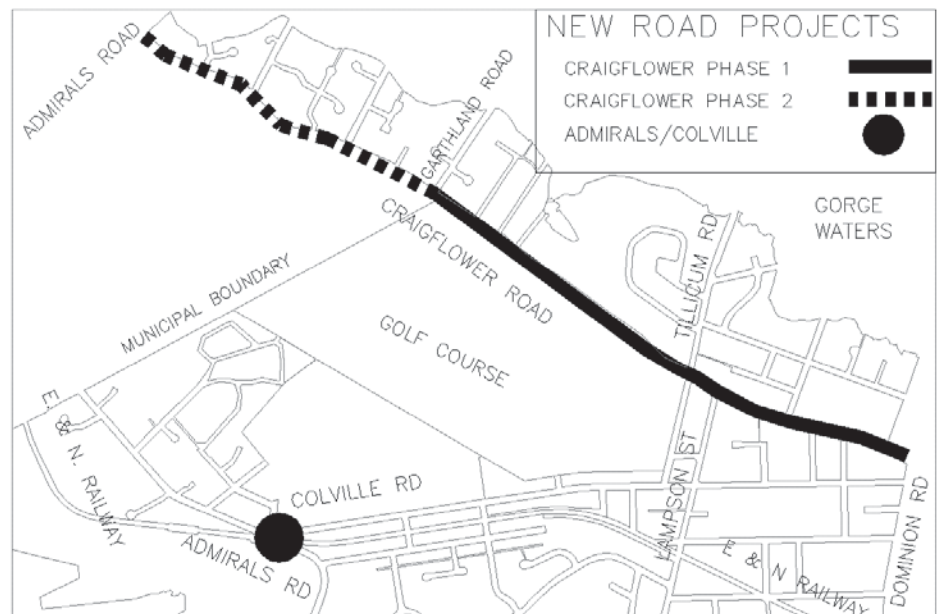
In late May, Home Owner Grants can be completed online by visiting [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca). You will need your personal access code and folio number from your tax notice.

Esquimalt offers a tax instalment payment plan for property taxes. Please contact us for more details.

**For more information, please call 250-414-7100 to speak with the Financial Services Department.**

improved, safer and more accessible roads in Esquimalt.

**For more information, contact Gilbert Côté, Director of Engineering & Public Works, 250-414-7147 or [gilbert.cote@esquimalt.ca](mailto:gilbert.cote@esquimalt.ca).**



# Community Calendar

**March 8** LifeMark Health Esquimalt 5km Fun Run & Walk. Race route includes Saxe Point Park, Macaulay Point Park, and the following streets: Fraser, Lyall, Grafton, Admirals, Munro, Clifton Terr. and Lampson. Information available online or call Heather Munro at 250-412-8502. Recreation Centre, 8:30 am Race Start, \$15. Call 250-412-8500 to register.

**March 11** Integrated Resource Management (IRM) & Sewage Treatment in the CRD. This public presentation will address the financial and non financial impacts of IRM versus traditional sewage treatment. Municipal Hall, 6 pm to 9 pm, Free.

**28** Esquimalt's Gigantic Garage Sale. Clean out your garage, get rid of your 'stuff' and make a few dollars. Recreation Centre, 9 am to 12 pm, \$15/table. Call 250-412-8500 to register.

**April 1** FitinFitness \$20.10 Pass. The pass provides access to all drop in services at the Recreation Centres of Greater Victoria in April. On sale at the Recreation Centre in March for just \$20.10.

**4** LIFE Swim. Coast Capital Savings Sponsors these FREE swims for everyone! Recreation Centre, 12 pm to 1:30 pm, Free.

**5** Spring Thaw Skate. Join us for our FINAL skate of the year! Archie Browning Sports Centre, 5 pm to 7 pm, Regular Admission.

**12** Esquimalt Lions Easter Egg Hunt. Esquimalt Gorge Park, 11 am to 2 pm, Free.

**May 7** Mayor's Golf Tournament. Enter individually or as a team for this annual fundraiser. **Entry deadline: April 27<sup>th</sup>.** For sponsorship opportunities contact Dan

Henderson at 250-412-8507. Gorge Vale Golf Club, Golf & Dinner: \$160 or Dinner only: \$40. Call 250-412-8500 to register.

**May 11-17** Bike to Work Week. [www.biketoworkweek.ca/victoria](http://www.biketoworkweek.ca/victoria).

**June 5** Eat For Heart Health. FREE Nutrition workshop. Recreation Centre, 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm, Free.

**6** LIFE Swim. Coast Capital Savings Sponsors these FREE swims for everyone! Recreation Centre, 12 pm to 1:30 pm, Free.

**7** Rivers and Oceans Day Festival. Come to Gorge Park to see, touch, taste and feel the wonders of the ocean and it's surrounding environment. Esquimalt Gorge Park, 1 pm to 4 pm, Free.

## Council Meetings

### Regular Council Meeting

- March 16, 2009
- April 6, 2009
- April 20, 2009
- May 4, 2009
- May 19, 2009 (Tuesday)
- June 1, 2009
- June 15, 2009

### Committee of the Whole

- March 9, 2009
- April 14, 2009 (Tuesday)
- May 11, 2009
- June 8, 2009

>> 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 Manager of Corporate Services at 250-414-7135 to confirm meeting times.

### STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

#### Municipal Hall Closed:

Good Friday - April 10, 2009  
Easter Monday- April 13, 2009  
Victoria Day - May 18, 2009

# 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	414-7126
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)

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 Marlene Lagoa, Manager of Communications and Sustainability at 250-414-7122 or [marlene.lagoa@esquimalt.ca](mailto:marlene.lagoa@esquimalt.ca).

THE TOWNSHIP OF Esquimalt is committed to environmental sustainability. This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

