

Township of ESQUIMALT Current

community newsletter: spring 2021

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Our Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavilion is currently under construction. The community amenity will offer 6,500 square feet of programmable space with sustainable design features including rooftop solar panels, EV charging stations, rain gardens, a reflection pond, additional parking and Japanese-inspired landscaping. See more images and plans at esquimalt.ca.

The new buildings's progress as seen in early March.



MAKING SAXE POINT MORE ACCESSIBLE- YEAR ROUND!

The trails in Saxe Point Park have recently received an upgrade! Visitors will notice that staff have converted the wood chip trails to gravel-covered trails. This improves the walking surface by making it more suited to wheelchair and scooter users. Wood chip trails break down over time and must be topped up annually. Woodchips are also not suitable for low lying areas; when flooding occurs during wet weather, the trails become boggy, muddy and impassable. Gravel trails are

more permanent and require less maintenance. Feedback from park users has been very positive so far!

The main loop trail, big leaf maple trail and washroom access trails will be walkable year-round now that we have added drainage in some key areas along with the permeable gravel. A new information and educational kiosk complete with a trail map will be installed near the main parking lot as well, thanks to a grant from Seaspan.



Trail improvements at Saxe Point Park

Township contacts

Emergency 9-1-1

Esquimalt Municipal Hall

1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

Municipal hall reception	250-414-7100
Building Inspections	250-414-7103
Bylaw Enforcement	250-414-7161
Corporate Services	250-414-7136
Development Services	250-414-7103
Engineering/Public Works	250-414-7108
Finance	250-414-7100
Parks and Recreation	250-412-8500

Esquimalt Municipal Archives

1149-A Esquimalt Rd (temporarily closed;
call, go online or archives@esquimalt.ca)
1229 Esquimalt Road (mail)
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1 250-412-8540

Esquimalt Recreation Centre

527 Fraser Street
Esquimalt, BC V9A 6H6 250-412-8500

Archie Browning Sports Centre

1151 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3N6 250-412-8510

Public library—Esquimalt branch

1231 Esquimalt Road 250-414-7198

Public Safety Building

2nd Floor, 500 Park Place
Esquimalt, BC V9A 6Z9

Police Department	250-995-7500
Fire Department	250-414-7126

The Esquimalt Current is a tri-annual newsletter published by the Township of Esquimalt and distributed to 8,000 homes and local businesses.

If you have an event you would like to include in The Current, please call 250-414-7122 or email communications@esquimalt.ca.

Sign up for email notification at esquimalt.ca to receive this newsletter by email and for updates on Township news, events and more.

We are committed to environmental sustainability. This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

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Active transportation planning: coming soon!

Use our new web platform to learn & share ideas

Starting late March, the township is launching a public engagement campaign to hear how residents want to see multi-modal transportation in Esquimalt take shape. The active transportation network plan will:

- identify gaps in the pedestrian and cycling network;
- improve the quality and experience for people walking, biking and rolling;
- provide a roadmap for high priority improvements over the next 5–10 years;
- increase the share of trips completed by active transportation and to more broadly reach the greenhouse gas (GHG) targets set out in the Official Community Plan.



We're looking for your ideas on making Esquimalt a more attractive place to walk, roll and cycle.

The made-in-Esquimalt plan will be inclusive, visionary and driven by best practices and the latest design guides to reflect the needs, interests & priorities of the community.

The survey and online tool will launch in late March, so stay tuned!

Memorial banner project

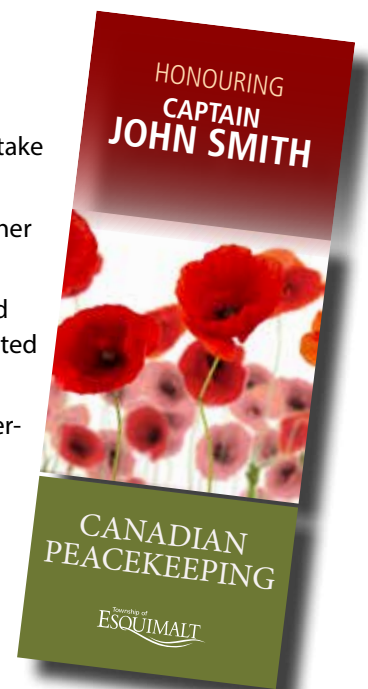
Starting April 9, residents will have the opportunity to take part in a memorial banner program.

The banners will feature their loved one's name and other information on a remembrance-themed design.

The banners will be displayed along Esquimalt Ave and near Admirals Road in fall 2021. The program was initiated by council in 2019 and was paused due to COVID-19.

This year, on the anniversary of Vimy Ridge, people interested in taking part may order their banner.

Visit [Esquimalt.ca/banners](https://www.esquimalt.ca/banners) for more information.



Constance Avenue sidewalk project

What goes into design planning for infrastructure like sidewalks?

In the case of Constance Avenue, we're looking at adding a new concrete sidewalk that will create a continuous pedestrian route from Lyall Street to the path connecting to Admirals Road. **This project will increase the connectivity of Constance Avenue with other locations within the Township.**

We are planning to construct the sidewalk on the east side of the road to take advantage of the even grade and to avoid removing trees, among other factors. If residents have any feedback or questions, please email engineering@esquimalt.ca.

Canada's 2021 census begins this May

Funding the new public safety building

In 2019, residents were asked about how best to spend a portion of the Mcloughlin Amenity Funds, resulting in a new public safety building (PSB) being put forward as one of the priorities.

Since then, staff have initiated a process to proceed with the construction of a new PSB taking several steps thus far including the formation of an advisory committee, contracting a project manager, a feasibility study, contracting an architecture firm which produced preliminary construction drawings, review by the Advisory Planning Commission and Design Review Committee meetings, as well as initiating a rezoning/OCP amendment process for the land upon which the new PSB will be situated.

The total budget amount estimate is \$42 million. There are numerous costs associated with a project of this nature; demolition and abatement of the old PSB, construction of the new PSB, outfitting and equipping the building, temporary police and fire facilities and consultant costs, to name a few. There is \$7.1 million in amenity funding dedicated to the PSB project. The remaining funding shortfall is approximately \$35 million. This amount exceeds the township's threshold to borrow without seeking public approval therefore, there is a legislated requirement to seek that approval.

At the March 1 council meeting, council passed two resolutions. They approved first, second and third readings of Loan Authorization bylaw and subsequently gave staff authorization to proceed with an alternative approval process (AAP) should we receive statutory approval of the bylaw. The AAP is a form of approval that allows electors to indicate whether they are against a local government proposal moving forward. This process is outlined in legislation and must meet specific criteria in terms of timing and transparency.

Full details about the process, building information to date and the rezoning process are at esquimalt.ca/PublicSafety.



View from the corner of Esquimalt Road and Park Place

The township conducts its business on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples and works to be increasingly mindful of its commitment to more inclusive governance with our neighbours.

We are committed to building stronger working relationships with both the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.

Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has granted approval to Esquimalt's Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw. This bylaw will require retailers to charge for checkout bags in the municipality and will ban most use of plastic checkout bags. The bylaw will not be in effect until 60 days after it receives final approval from Esquimalt council this spring.

Look for updates on esquimalt.ca. Please provide feedback to corporate.services@esquimalt.ca.

EV-ready new construction

Did you know that by 2040, all new cars sold in the Province of B.C. will be electric?

The BC Zero Emissions Vehicle Act mandates the sale of electric vehicles by dealerships. Some car companies are already stating that they will only be selling electric cars even earlier than that. However, one of the barriers to owning an electric vehicle is being able to charge, especially those who live in apartments or condos. To make it easier to make the switch, Esquimalt has introduced a bylaw to require all new residential construction to have 100 per cent EV charging capability.

After July 1, 2021, any new buildings with residential units will be constructed with the electrical capacity for a Level 2 charger in each parking stall. New single family homes are included in the requirement. **For those who are interested in retrofitting EV charging in their home or apartment, there is help available.**

PlugInBC.ca is the best resource to find out about getting help and accessing rebates to install EV charging in homes and workplaces.

Detached accessory suites update

Council has now given first reading to a bylaw which would legalize detached suites in the township for certain properties. Development Services staff are in the process of contacting all affected property owners to ensure they are aware of the changes. After this, council will be presented with the bylaw again and any public feedback that has been gathered.

For more information on what is being proposed and which properties are considered eligible, please check out Esquimalt.ca/housing



Example of a detached home.

New homes

See our recently completed and new construction in the township

Under construction		
622 Admirals Rd. – (The Vista)	Avenir Senior Living	95 rental apartments, 38 condominiums and 48 care rooms for seniors
937 Colville Rd. (Azure)	Lapis Homes	6 townhouses
687 Admirals Rd.	Westurban Developments	48 apartments
955 Colville Rd.	LIDA Homes	10 townhomes
Constance Ave. & Nelson St.	GT Mann	71 rental apartments
505 Park Place	Aragon Properties	Commercial ground floor and 34 rental apartments above
Head St. at Gore and Lyall (Triangle Lands)	Tenfold Projects	Two storey building with commercial ground floor and 8 condominium units above as well as a six storey building with 65 condominiums.
429 Lampson St. - (Oakwoods)	Aragon Properties	227 units, including 6 townhomes and renovation of heritage building
503 Park Place	Aragon Properties	New Esquimalt Library space and commercial office units above
Recently completed		
840 Admirals Rd.	GT Mann	28 rental apartments
1216 Carlisle (The Arbutus)	Aragon Properties	32 condominiums



Esquimalt firefighter displaying the Moose Hide pin

Moose Hide 2021

The Moose Hide Campaign is a grass-roots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards women and children. Wearing this moose hide signifies your commitment to honour, respect, and protect the women and children in one's life and to work together to end violence against women & children.

On February 11, 80,000 people tuned in for the livestreams, fasted for the day or joined one of the many workshops. Members of the Esquimalt Fire Department took part in a workshop opportunity and found it an enriching and informative experience.

Staff and council took part in the campaign by wearing the namesake pin and learning about the movement. The recordings of the many workshops are posted on the campaign's event website.

2021 home owner grant changes

The Province is now entirely responsible for the home owner grant program. All home owners will apply for the grant directly to the Province online or by phone. Municipalities can no longer accept applications.

To learn more about the program, including eligibility and how to apply, visit gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or call the provincial office at 250-387-0555.



Council meeting schedule

Council meetings

April 12 & 26; May 3 & 17

Committee of the Whole meetings

April 19, May 10 & 17, June 21

Unless otherwise noted, council meetings take place at 7 p.m. and Committee of the Whole at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers at 1229 Esquimalt Road. Please check the website or call 250-414-7157 to confirm meeting times.

Esquimalt Municipal Hall closed:

April 2 & 5; May 24

Budget & tax meetings

While the public can provide input into the budget at any time (via email, for example) and at any public meeting, there are important meetings coming up in advance of this year's budget approval. The schedule is:

- April 12 – Review of tax rates
- April 26 – Approval of bylaw

Our budget overview documents are online or contact us if you require a hard copy. Learn more about the process at esquimalt.ca/finance.