

Esquimalt Current

The Township of Esquimalt's Community Newsletter

The Township of Esquimalt has just finalized its 2007 budget and is looking forward to the coming year. The following are some of the reflections of Mayor Chris Clement and Council on Esquimalt's 2006 community successes:

Council Celebrates Success in 2006; Looks Forward in 2007

Barbara Desjardins: "Moving the Official Community Plan forward to completion [in March 2007] was a long process, but we achieved changes, which I feel better reflect Esquimalt's vision for the next 10 years. Council took the objectives of the 2005 Vision Implementation Committee and developed specific initiatives, many of which are already underway and some even completed. The Official Community Plan (OCP) will continue to provide a framework for Council and municipal staff to continue to make Esquimalt a premier place to live in the Greater Victoria Region."

Basil Boulton: "For me as a Councillor, success is Council and Citizens coming together in common purpose. People and traditions make a great community. At a Council meeting the other night, residents started by saying that this is a great community. Newcomers (anyone who has been in Esquimalt for under about forty years) say they chose Esquimalt as a great place to live because of its location, sports facilities, parks, ocean ambience, small-town feel, and walkability.

I have been actively working

in the area of health care rights for children and youth. I believe health services must be provided in the community where people live, work, and play. Children bind a community together. If we provide services for children and families, Esquimalt

will continue to develop a promising future, based on its proud past."

Jane Sterk: "Highlights for the last year include the formation of the Environmental Advisory Committee. The committee put on a forum on sewage treatment in the fall of 2006 and one on climate change in the spring of 2007. The committee was instrumental in getting Council to adopt the Esquimalt Pedestrian Charter. We have also worked hard to find ways to improve safety for bicycling within the municipality. Our current work plan includes a pesticide bylaw, a greenhouse gas reduction challenge, and the development of green building policies for all development in Esquimalt.

In adopting our new Official Community Plan and our strategic plan for 2007, Esquimalt is moving toward a focus on sustainability. These documents, along with the Pedestrian Charter will help us transform Esquimalt into a more walkable, livable, vibrant, and inclusive community."

Chris Clement: "Aside from the final adoption of the new OCP, I think our biggest achievements

In this issue

Looking Forward	Page 1
Esquimalt Village Project	Page 2
Garden Club Recognized	Page 2
Active Communities	Page 3
You Asked: Parks Q & A	Page 3
ETAG Update	Page 4
Community Calendar	Page 4

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



in 2006 were the establishment of the three committees of Council and the community newsletter. The Environmental Advisory, Economic Development, and Cultural Advisory Committees are clearly taking on tasks in their respective areas of interest that will help to make Esquimalt more livable and sustainable in the future. Initiatives of the Environmental Advisory Committee, such as the Pedestrian Charter, proposed community gardens, greenhouse gas reduction challenge, new tree bylaw, and review of potential pesticide and anti-idling bylaws are all excellent strategies for moving Esquimalt into a leadership role at the local government level. The community newsletter will serve both Council and staff well in terms of getting good news stories out to residents and complementing the efforts of local media."

2 Esquimalt Village Planning Underway

Planning for the Esquimalt Village Project is now underway and will be led by consultants Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden and Landeca over the next 18 months.

The goal of the Esquimalt Village project is to create an exciting, lively, and sustainable town centre for Esquimalt, incorporating a mix of uses and community recreation needs.

This project encompasses a central planning area in Esquimalt's town core and takes into consideration several key properties owned by the municipality. These properties include:

- The old Municipal Hall;
- The Archie Browning Sports Centre and parking lot;
- 510 Park Place and the Public Safety Building;
- 535 & 537 Fraser Street and the Recreation Centre parking lot;
- Bullen Park (which is designated and will be protected as a public park/recreation space).

The planning phase of this project is intended to develop, through public consultation and detailed analysis, a vision, a set of

planning principles, and a number of viable alternatives for implementation of the project.

This planning process is grounded in community consultation. Consultants Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden/Landeca



were selected for this project, because of their experience in leading successful and inclusive community engagement processes.

In their own words, they intend "to capture the community's energy and assist in directing it towards the development of a plan for the future of Esquimalt's public assets for the benefit of Esquimalt's citizens."

The Archie Browning Sports Centre has been included in the Esquimalt Village Project from the start. The planning consultants will work with the community to prepare

and evaluate a list of facilities, amenities, and recreational uses to be considered in the development of Esquimalt Village.

The purpose of the Esquimalt Village Project is to help the community identify and define the features that make Esquimalt unique and to develop a plan to implement optimal, sustainable land uses and a range of public amenities that will serve the long-term needs of the community.

Community consultation for the Esquimalt Village project will begin in June 2007. Please check the website (www.esquimalt.ca) for updates.

For more information about the Esquimalt Village Project, contact Suzanne Samborski, Director of Sustainability and Community Redevelopment by email (ssamborski@esquimalt.ca) or by phone: 412-8560.



Esquimalt Garden Club members Eileen Bennett and Bev Hopkins

Garden Club Recognized

*by Andy Katschor,
Esquimalt Parks*

The Esquimalt Garden Club is a community-based organization that promotes gardening and provides an opportunity for residents to help keep Esquimalt green, blossoming, and beautiful.

The club was founded in 1964 by members of the community and the Esquimalt Parks Department and began organizing regular flower shows and garden competitions.

The club soon began raising funds through plant sales, with space provided to the club at the Esquimalt

Parks nursery greenhouses: an arrangement which continues to this day.

Two annual plant sales are held by the Garden Club at the Archie Browning Sports Centre in May and June. Money raised is given back to the community through the Parks Department. To date, over \$8,000.00 has been donated to the community through the group's hard work and dedication.

The Esquimalt Garden Club provided funding for the purchase of

the first benches at Saxe Point Park, fir trees for reforestation in Gorge Park, and plants for the Recreation Centre. Garden Club funding has also been used to help refurbish the Parks Department's greenhouse.

Thanks to the Esquimalt Garden Club for helping to keep Esquimalt beautiful!

For more information about the Esquimalt Garden Club, please contact: Eileen Bennett at 382-7689.



Active Communities is a provincial initiative aimed at increasing activity levels of British Columbians by 20% by 2010. Esquimalt is proud to be a registered Active Community with the British Columbia Parks and Recreation Association. Active Communities Esquimalt, is pleased to provide support for residents to embrace the challenge of making BC the most active region to host the Olympic Games.

Currently, monthly health education workshops are available to

residents at no cost at the Recreation Centre. The goal of these sessions is to provide residents with education and support for developing healthier, more active lifestyles.

Upcoming sessions include:

- >> June 9th, 10-11am: Stroke Prevention Information Session (presented in partnership with the Heart & Stroke Foundation)
- >> July 7th, 10-11:30am: Healthy Eating 101 (presented in partnership with Danielle Van Schaik, Registered Dietician)
- >> August 4th, 10am-12:30pm: Active Session - A Taste of WaterFit
- >> September 9th, 10-11:30am: Back to School with Healthy Lunches (presented in partnership with Danielle Van Schaik)

Esquimalt Recreation has also partnered with other recreation centres in Greater Victoria and the

Vancouver Island Healthy Authority Prevention Services to launch the “Highway to Health.” Highway to Health is an online activity tracking program that encourages participants to challenge themselves on a virtual journey around Vancouver Island. This fun and interactive program is suitable for all ages and physical abilities. Visit www.fitinfitness.ca to get started!

For more information about Active Communities Esquimalt and related initiatives, including Active Workplace toolkits for Esquimalt business owners, contact Christina Smirl, Aquatics & Fitness Coordinator at 412-8501 or csmirl@esquimalt.ca.



You Asked: Seasonal Q&A from Parks

After a hectic winter, Esquimalt Parks staff have been busy planting trees and are now responding to pruning and pest-related issues. Every spring, various species of caterpillars appear on the trees, with some neighbourhoods and tree species being hit harder than others. Here are some of the questions we’ve been responding to lately:

Q: Why do I see so many trees being planted and why are they planted under power lines?

A: Esquimalt Parks is busy trying to keep up with the ever changing urban forest. Recently, a grant from BC Hydro has allowed Esquimalt to catch-up on its boulevard tree planting. BC Hydro encourages the planting of appropriate species under power lines to avoid unnecessary pruning and disfigurement of tall growing trees. They also assist with

planting tall growing species when possible to offset the impact of power lines on the urban canopy.

This year, low growing species such as Amur Maples and Japanese Snowbells have been planted, along with other taller species such as Ash and Katsura trees. In total, 62 new trees have been planted on boulevards throughout the municipality.

Look for our rationale and inspiration for this in the new Official Community Plan and stay tuned for a new Tree Preservation Bylaw.

Q: My tree has caterpillars and aphids. Does Esquimalt spray their trees with pesticides?

A: Unfortunately, many pests can be found in our boulevard trees. “Loppers,” Tent Caterpillars, Leaf Rollers, and Aphids are found mainly in stressed and “overmature”

*by Jeff Rietkerk,
Esquimalt Parks*

trees. We do not spray pesticides to control these insects, but do



encourage good tree health practices like mulching and proper pruning, and use best practices to control them, such as releasing beneficial insects to control pests such as aphids. Contact

the Parks Department for more information on good tree health practices, and check out the following website for information on Integrated Pest Management: www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/ipm/docs/envirowe/default.htm

Drop-off your questions for Esquimalt Parks to the Recreation Centre Administration Office(527 Fraser Street) or email them to Christine Morissette, Esquimalt Parks Manager at cmorissette@esquimalt.ca.

4 Community Calendar

June

8 Seniors' Buccaneer BBQ
Dance to the old time tunes of the Mood Swings Orchestra. 622 Admirals Road, 12 pm, \$5.50. Sponsored by Coast Capital Savings, in partnership with Esquimalt Legion. Register by June 1st: 386-6108.

8-10 Buccaneer Days
Join in the fun with this annual historic event: Pancake breakfast, parade, fair, craft & garden sale, and Saturday night dance. Archie Browning Sports Centre and Bullen Park.

22 Dancezone Middle School Dance Party. Join youth and youth workers for an evening of dancing, contests, refreshments, and fun. Recreation Centre, 7 pm to 10 pm. Tickets \$4 in advance; \$5 at the door.

30 Canada Day Weekend
Recreation Centre open 8 am to 8 pm.

ETAG Update

The ETAG (Esquimalt Together Against Graffiti) program continues to work towards eliminating graffiti in Esquimalt. Key initiatives for 2007 include: continued maintenance of the E&N corridor area as a graffiti-free zone; regular volunteer-led graffiti clean-ups; 3 graffiti block parties; and more graffiti wraps on electrical boxes.



For more information, contact: Mike Reedat 414-7154 (municipal graffiti clean-up); Cst. Mark Buerfeind at 995-7502 (Police Department graffiti liaison); Vicki Grabham at 412-8511 (block party coordinator); Peter Justo at 382-8553 (community volunteering), or David Speed at 412-8509 (ETAG Project Committee).

July

1 Canada Day
Recreation Centre open 8 am to 8 pm.

2 Statutory holiday (Canada Day)
Municipal Hall closed.

29 Esquimalt 8K Road Race
9 am start, Esquimalt Recreation Centre. Call Peninsula Runners (384-4786) or Esquimalt Recreation (412-8500) to register.

August

4-6 BC Day Weekend
Recreation Centre open 8 am to 8 pm. Municipal Hall closed.

September

1-3 Labour Day Weekend
Recreation Centre open 8 am to 8 pm. Municipal Hall closed.

Council Meetings

Regular Council Meeting

- June 4, 2007
- June 18, 2007
- July 3, 2007 (Tuesday)
- August 13, 2007
- September 4, 2007 (Tuesday)
- September 17, 2007

Committee of the Whole

- June 11, 2007
- July 9, 2007 (followed by Special Council)
- August 20, 2007 (followed by Special Council)
- September 10, 2007

**** 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 contact the Municipal Clerk at 414-7135 to confirm meeting times.

Contacts

Emergency	9-1-1
Municipal Hall (Reception)	(250) 414-7100
Administration	(250) 414-7101
Finance	(250) 414-7100
Development & Engineering	(250) 414-7108
Public Works	(250) 414-7104
Building Inspections	(250) 414-7108
Bylaw Enforcement	(250) 414-7108
Police Department	(250) 995-7654
Fire Department	(250) 414-7126
Parks & Recreation	(250) 412-8500
Library	(250) 414-7198
Archives	(250) 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

Esquimalt Branch Library
1231 Esquimalt Road
(behind Municipal Hall)

We welcome your feedback.

Melissa Darou
Communications Manager
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(250) 414-7122



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