

In This Issue

Municipal Election November 15	Page 1	Active Communities Grant	Page 2
New Municipal Website	Page 1	Crime Free Multi-Housing	Page 3
Vic West Skate Park	Page 1	Dog and Business License Renewal	Page 3
Secondary Suites Review	Page 2	Official Community Plan Review	Page 3
Property Tax Installment Plan	Page 2	Calendar and Contacts	Page 4

Make Your Mark on November 15

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2008 is election day, and your opportunity to vote for a Mayor, six Councillors, and nine School Trustees.

General voting takes place on Saturday, November 15, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If you are unable to vote on election day, there will be advance polls on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 and Wednesday, November 12, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

All polling will take place at the Esquimalt Municipal Hall (1229 Esquimalt Road).

Registering to vote can be done on-site on voting day. To vote, you will need to show at least two pieces of identification that provide evidence of your place of residence. At least one piece of ID must contain your signature.

If you are a non-resident property elector, you will need to show two pieces of identification and proof that you are the registered owner of the property. If there are two or more owners for the property, you must demonstrate, in writing, that you have the consent of the majority of the owners to vote on their behalf.

For more information, visit www.esquimalt.ca/municipalHall/elections or contact Todd Pugh, Chief Election Officer at 250-412-8560 or Larry Randle, Deputy Election Officer at 250-414-7135.

hosts for ten weeks in the summer could easily have been eaten up in one serious crime investigation.”

Look for the skate park hosts next year and enjoy great season safe skateboarding.

Visit Newly Redesigned Municipal Website www.esquimalt.ca

ON OCTOBER 1, 2008, the Township of Esquimalt re-launched the municipal website: www.esquimalt.ca.

The new website includes updated information and links to municipal services, with improved navigation and accessibility for visitors. New features include:

- Email subscription options for updates
- “Search,” “print,” and “share with a friend” functions
- Font size button on every page

- News and event listings on homepage

The website redesign process began in 2007 and was coordinated by municipal staff and Vancouver-based designers, Graphically Speaking. Usability was a major factor in developing the current design. Esquimalt wanted to be able to make it easier for residents, visitors, and business-owners to find what they were looking for.

Stay in touch with the municipality!
Visit www.esquimalt.ca today.

Welcome Back to Vic West Skate Park

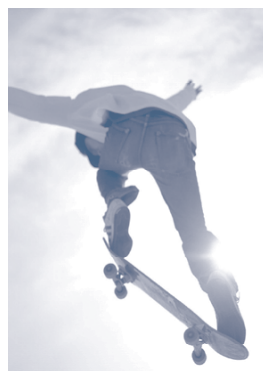
THIS SUMMER A partnership between the City of Victoria and the Township of Esquimalt made a positive change at the Vic West Skate Park. In less than three months, there was a significant reduction in criminal incidents at the park and a rise in overall use.

Two skate park hosts were on site Tuesdays through Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. They talked with skateboarders and bikers providing instruction and setting an example for engaging in recreational activities in a safe and drug-free environment.

According to Victoria Police Department (VicPD), having skate

hosts on site was an overwhelming success.

More young families used the park, and the number of incidents involving violence, intoxication, and theft dropped from 18 occurrences in the summer of 2007 to only two in 2008. According to Inspector Les Sylven, officer in charge of VicPD West Division, “The wages spent on providing skate park



Update: Secondary Suites Review

SINCE HOSTING AN open house in June 2008, Development Services staff have been researching secondary suite policies in other municipalities and drafting regulations for secondary suites in Esquimalt. Later this fall, Esquimalt residents will have an opportunity to review those draft regulations and provide comments.

Currently, the only zones in Esquimalt that allow for secondary suites are duplex zones, which treat secondary suites as the second half of the duplex; however, suites do exist throughout the community's single family neighbourhoods.

The municipality is considering supporting the approval of secondary suites, because they provide an affordable housing alternative, which assists first-time home buyers and allows homeowners with limited or fixed incomes to remain in their homes. Secondary suites also increase the density of neighbourhoods without changing their overall character.



A secondary suite is a self-contained living unit, which is built into or attached to an existing single family dwelling. In addition to a kitchen and bathroom, the suite usually contains one or two bedrooms and a living room. The definition of a secondary suite does not include additional units constructed in a legal two-family (duplex) dwelling.

The municipality is considering allowing secondary suites in most Single Family Residential zones provided the suites meet health and safety requirements. Before new regulations are approved, there will be opportunities for public input. Please check the website (www.esquimalt.ca) and the local newspaper for notices about upcoming public meetings about secondary suites.

For more information, contact Barb Snyder, Director of Development Services, at 250-414-7146 or bsnyder@esquimalt.ca.

Property Tax Installment Plan Available

THE TOWNSHIP OFFERS a tax instalment payment plan for property taxes due in 2009.

The monthly payments, which are added to your property tax account, are withdrawn from your account on the first business day of each month. The monthly payment amount can be either a fixed amount selected by you (minimum \$25.00 per month) or a calculated amount, which is an estimate based on the previous year's gross taxes less Home Owner Grant, if claimed. Interest is paid on all payments from the payment date to the property tax due date and is added to your property tax account.

To be eligible for this plan, your property tax account must be paid in full at time of application and you must have chequing account privileges at a financial institution in Canada.

For more information, please phone the Property Tax Department at 250-414-7129.

Esquimalt Parks & Recreation Receives Active Communities Grant for Bike Racks

THANKS TO A \$4500 grant from the BC Parks and Recreation Association (BCRPA), 24 new bike racks will soon be installed in Esquimalt parks and at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre. The grant was awarded in recognition of Esquimalt's participation and success in the BCRPA Active Communities program.

Active Communities Esquimalt is a part of the provincial strategy aimed at increasing activity levels of British Columbians by 20% by 2010. Active Communities Esquimalt encourages residents to engage in active transportation, using alternative modes of transportation whenever possible.

According to Mark Fenton, world-renowned Active Transportation Specialist, "We need to recognize that any way we can get people physically active is an answer to the biggest health problem we are facing on the North American continent."

Esquimalt Parks and Recreation hopes the bike racks will encourage more people to cycle in Esquimalt. On top of the great health benefits of cycling, it's one of the most environmentally-friendly transportation options, second only to walking.

The BCRPA grant will help encourage cycling to Esquimalt parks and facilities.



Staff during 2008 Bike to Work Week

For more information on Active Communities Esquimalt, visit www.esquimalt.ca or contact Christina Moog, Aquatics/Fitness Coordinator, at cmoog@esquimalt.ca.



Crime Free Multi-Housing: A Case Study

Then: IN 2005, 822 ESQUIMALT Road was a known haven for drug trafficking and criminal activity. In 2005 alone, there were 98 calls for service to this building, which contains only seven units, and the impact on the adjacent community was profound.



In late 2005, Victoria Police initiated an undercover operation. On November 18, 2005, over 60 officers assisted in the execution of several search warrants at 822 and 826 Esquimalt Road.

As a result of this police investigation, 17 people were arrested and eight of these individuals were charged with offenses related to drug trafficking.

An inspection by the Esquimalt Integrated Service Team was conducted on November 22, 2005 at both 822 and 826 Esquimalt Road. In June 2006, Esquimalt Council revoked the business license for 822 Esquimalt Road and ultimately

From a presentation by Derek Tolmie, Victoria Police

secured a court injunction for the building to be vacated.

In October 2006, the building joined the Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Program.

Now: IN 2007, THERE were 19 calls for police service to 822 Esquimalt Road, reflecting a significant reduction in suspicious activity in and around the building. In fact, there has been an 81% reduction in calls for police service from 2005 to 2007.

In 2008, there have been six calls to date for police service.

The building achieved full CFMH certification in July 2008, and remains an active participant and an inspiring example of what can happen when building owners, property managers, and tenants collectively take ownership of their building and their neighbourhood.

For more information about the continuing success of this program in Esquimalt, contact Constable Derek Tolmie, CFMH Program Manager at 250-995-7318.

Esquimalt To Review Official Community Plan

IN MID-SEPTEMBER, Esquimalt Council directed staff to review the Official Community Plan (OCP), because recent development applications for new multiple family residential buildings far exceed the heights and densities recommended in the 2007 OCP.

The Esquimalt OCP sets the maximum building height for multi-family residential buildings, including those that have commercial space on the lower floors, at 10 stories and recommends a ratio of floor space to parcel area of no more than 2:1. This height and floor space ratio was intended to allow some densification



of residential areas, while maintaining pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use neighbourhoods.

In addition to changing the character of neighbourhoods with increased height, larger buildings put greater demands on infrastructure, including roads, water, sewer, and storm drains, as well as parks and schools. The municipality needs to ensure that additional units do not result in such an increase in demand that the delivery of municipal services and the ambience of the community are adversely affected.

Development Services is preparing terms of reference for this

2009 Dog & Business License Renewals



AT THE END of December 2008, the Township will be mailing out renewal notices for 2009 Business and Dog licenses.

Residents and business owners are encouraged to renew their business licenses by January 30, 2009. After that date an additional license fee of 10% (with a minimum fee of \$25.00) will be applied.

A discount of \$5.00 applies for payments on dog licenses received by January 30, 2009.

Failure to renew a business license is an offence under the Township's *Business Bylaw No. 2482*, which provides for fines ranging from \$500.00 to \$2,000.00.

For more information or to report any changes to your license, contact the Municipal Hall at 250-414-7100.

review of Section 2 of the Official Community Plan and will be issuing a call for proposals to consultants in the near future. In addition to reviewing the OCP, the municipality will also look at the possibility of establishing Development Cost Charges (DCC's) to ensure that new developers pay the full costs of extending services to new developments and that those costs are allocated fairly and consistently.

Public input into the OCP review will take place in early 2009.

For more information, contact Barb Snyder, Director of Development Services, at 250-414-7146 or bsnyder@esquimalt.ca.

Community Calendar

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

General Voting: November 15
Advanced Polls: November 5 & November 12
 8 am to 8 pm
 Esquimalt Municipal Hall
 1229 Esquimalt Road

November 15 Children's Puppet Show. Join us as Manuela and Bretzy's talking hands perform a puppet show for the whole family. Recreation Centre, 10:30 am to 11 am, \$3.50.

29 Movie and Swim. Join us on the pool deck for a movie and a swim! Recreation Centre, 6:30 pm to 9 pm, Regular Admission.

29 Food for Thought Day. Join Esquimalt Eats for Health in their quest to promote healthy food choices in the community. Free workshops, information booths, food samples, and sustainable lunch. Recreation Centre, 10 am to 2 pm. Lunch tickets \$15 in advance; Other activities FREE. For more information contact Christina Moog at 250-412-8501.

December 2 Celebration of Lights. Parade and light-up of Esquimalt Plaza, Memorial Park, Municipal Hall, and the Library sponsored by various community associations. Public skating 6 pm to 7 pm (numbers limited). Entertainment and refreshments, Archie Browning Sports Centre, 3 pm to 9 pm, FREE.

14 Lions Skate with Santa. Join Santa on the ice for skating, games, and fun. Lunch provided by the Lions Club. Archie Browning Sports Centre, 1 pm to 4 pm, \$2 + non-perishable donation to food bank.

25 Songs of the Season. Join us for Christmas song and a toonie swim.

Recreation Centre, 1:30 pm to 4 pm, \$2.

January 1 Polar Bear Plunge. Start the New Year off with a chilly dip in the pool with games and prizes to start off 2009. Recreation Centre, 1:30 pm to 4 pm, \$2.

17 Ready, Set, Learn. Esquimalt's schools invite you to bring your 3 and 4-year old children and their siblings to discover the path to education. This fun family event includes Kindergym, face painting, lunch, and refreshments. Recreation Centre, 9:30 am to 12 pm, FREE.

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

Council Meetings

Regular Council Meeting

- November 3, 2008
- December 8, 2008 (Inaugural)
- December 15, 2008

Committee of the Whole

- November 10, 2008

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

Visit the website or contact the Manager of Corporate Services at 250-414-7135 to confirm meeting times or check the 2009 Council meeting schedule.

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

Municipal Hall Closed:

Remembrance Day - November 11, 2008
 Christmas Day - December 25, 2008
 Boxing Day - December 26, 2008
 New Years Day - January 1, 2009

Recreation Centre Open:

November 11, 2008 - 5:30 am to 10:30 pm
 December 24, 2008 - 5:30 am to 4 pm
 December 25, 2008 - 1:30 pm to 4 pm *
 December 31, 2008 - 5:30 am to 4 pm
 January 1, 2009 - 1:30 pm to 4 pm *
 * \$2 admission

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)

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.

Phone the Municipal Hall at 250-414-7100, email info@esquimalt.ca, or visit www.esquimalt.ca.

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

