

Township of ESQUIMALT Current

community newsletter: spring 2023

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Image: Champagne and Cake Show at the Esquimalt Gorge Pavilion

Giving local businesses a boost

The physical environment in which we live and work has a great impact on us. A community that is more appealing to the eye gives its citizens a greater sense of place and safety and welcomes visitors. For a commercial property, one of the strongest determinants of the character and quality is its building frontage.

The Township of Esquimalt, in partnership with the Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce, are pleased to offer this program to provide

monetary assistance and design services as an incentive for commercial building and business owners to improve the character and physical appearance of their buildings.

The Business Façade Improvement Program ("BFIP") is intended to improve the physical appearance of commercial buildings, specifically street-facing façades, and retail storefronts.

The objective of this program is to make significant improvements to the appearance of our business corridors, even if it is just one building at a time. Each retail and commercial building within the program area is eligible to apply with a façade improvement estimated at \$2,000 in minimum renovation costs.

Who can apply?

A commercial property or business owner may apply. Details in the guidebook on Esquimalt.ca.

What does the grant cover?

The grant is intended to pay for labour and materials to complete façade improvements on main roads and, for corner buildings, façades on intersecting streets.

Application process

With an extended deadline of April 15, the Project Review Committee comprised of Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce and Township of Esquimalt staff, are tasked with reviewing all applications to confirm their eligibility.

Speed reduction

At the December 12, 2022 meeting, the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that staff, after gathering additional public feedback on the proposed actions, be directed to reduce speed limits on Major Roads to 40km/hr, and all other roads to 30km/hr, with the following exceptions:

1. Colville Rd. between Admirals Rd. & Tillicum Rd. to be 40km/hr;
2. Tillicum Rd. between Transfer St. & Colville Rd. to be 40km/hr;
3. Admirals Rd. between Esquimalt Rd. & Lyall St. to be 30km/hr;
4. Lampson St. between Esquimalt Rd. & Lyall St. to be 30km/hr.

Included was the installation of new speed limit signs by prioritizing new signs over the next 3 years, starting with gateways & major roads.

Why are we doing this?

Speed reduction in key areas was identified on our Active Transportation Network Plan.

Speeds are a major factor in creating a pedestrian and bike friendly environment and reductions to speed limits on township roads can lower vehicle operating speeds, improve road safety and improve neighbourhood livability. Our survey is open until May 2, 2023 to hear your feedback or email council@esquimalt.ca.

Take the survey at EngagingEsquimalt.ca/Speed



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

103-1249 Esquimalt Rd
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P2 250-412-8540
Tues (1-4:30 p.m.); Wed/ Thurs (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

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

501 Park Place 250-940-4875

Fire Rescue Services

1151 Esquimalt Road 250-414-7126

Police Department

1229 Esquimalt Road 250-995-7500

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

If you have a community event you would included in The Current, 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.

 TownshipofEsquimalt

 EsquimaltBC

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Upcoming events in Esquimalt

Esquimalt Farmers Market- Memorial Park

Thursdays starting April 6; 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Esquimalt Farmers Market- Gorge Park

Mondays starting June 19; 4:30-7:30 p.m.
esquimaltmarket.com

Music Bingo at Archie Browning Sports Centre

March 25; 7PM–11PM
Archie Browning Sports Centre; 1151 Esquimalt Rd

Come support Esquimalt Celebration of Lights at Music Bingo! Great game prizes & door prizes. Admission is \$10, plus a non-perishable food item for Rainbow Kitchen and all proceeds go toward supporting the Celebration of Lights parade in Esquimalt.

Michael Dunahee Keep the Hope Alive

March 26; 10:30AM-2:30PM
Esquimalt Recreation Centre; 527 Fraser St

Lion's Easter Eggstravaganza

April 9; 12PM–3PM
Esquimalt Gorge Park (new for 2023)

The Esquimalt Lions are bringing back this well-loved event.

Esquimalt 5km & Kids 1km Fun Run

April 15; 9AM–12PM
Archie Browning Sports Centre; 1151 Esquimalt Rd

A community-minded 5K open to all ages and abilities. Touted as one of the nicest 5K routes, come and enjoy a beautiful course that takes you through some gorgeous Esquimalt parks. This is an excellent race to put your training to the test before the spring and summer run series gets into full swing.

Earth Day Celebration at Highrock Park

Highrock Park | April 19
10 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Parks staff will be coordinating an Earth Day Celebration, working with local schools & community members to help raise awareness about keeping our local parks & urban forests safe and healthy.

Activities include invasive species removal, planting and trail building.

Gigantic Garage Sale 2023

April 29; 9AM–1:30PM
Archie Browning Sports Centre; 1151 Esquimalt Rd

Clean out your garage, get rid of your 'stuff' and make a few dollars. Household items, kids' stuff, books, clothes and sporting equipment are only

some examples of what you'll see at our sale. This event does not include wholesale or retail vendors, so it is a great opportunity to swap and shop with other community members.



Esquimalt Buccaneer Days 2023

May 12 at 3PM to 9PM on May 14
Archie Browning Sports Centre; 1151 Esquimalt Rd

AHOY all you buccaneers!! Join us for Buccaneer Days: a non-profit/community groups fundraising event! This fun community & family event with something for all ages.

Fort Macaulay Interpretive Event

May 27; 9:30AM–2:20PM
Macaulay Point Park

The Eighth Annual Fort Macaulay Historic Interpretation Event will take place at Macaulay Point Park. The buildings and gun emplacements at the historic site will all be numbered and indexed to a handout with brief historical references to each. The interpretive tour will take place at 10:30 a. m. led by local historian, Jack Bates.

Neighborhood Party

June 3; 11AM–2PM
Esquimalt Recreation Centre; 527 Fraser St

Esquimalt Recreation is ready to kick off the summer season with a huge party and we want you to bring your neighbors and join us!! Esquimalt is working hard on building a strong, resilient community and it has been proven that communities that celebrate together are safer and more enjoyable to live in.

Navy Run Esquimalt

Esquimalt | June 17
It's the Navy Run's 17th annual race! The Navy Run - 10K, 5K, and Kids Fun Run is a family-oriented, inclusive community event and is hoping to run both an in person and virtual race this year. This event is open to everyone whether you are part of the DND community or not. Come out and get to know your Navy.
navyrunesquimalt.com

See our calendar at esquimalt.ca/events



Scan for more



Restoration at Esquimalt Gorge Park

The Esquimalt Gorge Park Green Shores Demonstration Site (GSDS) is an exciting new project that aims to restore and enhance the natural shoreline habitat along the Gorge Waterway.

The GSDS is a unique and innovative project that uses green infrastructure solutions to address the impacts of climate change, such as erosion and flooding, while also improving the health of the local ecosystem. The project will remove and regrade the hardened estuarine shoreline and create a more natural shoreline to protect against erosion, enhance salt marsh habitat, and naturalize upland riparian areas. These features will not only improve the resilience of the shoreline to climate change impacts but also provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife.

The project is in a preconstruction phase at the moment. Staff are currently working on attaining the correct permits from various levels of government. As part of the work, the existing swing set will be moved away from the shore and a new one placed on the opposite side of the playground.

Construction of the Gorge Park Green Shores Demonstration site is expected to begin in September 2023, subject to permitting approvals. The project is an important step forward in the ongoing effort to restore and protect the shoreline of the Gorge Waterway.

This project is a collaboration between the Township of Esquimalt, the Stewardship Centre for BC, Capital Regional District and the Pacific Salmon Foundation. It is being implemented through a project called Resilient Coasts for Salmon. Funding for the project is provided by the Provincial Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, the Township of Esquimalt, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the Capital Regional District.

The collaborative effort of the funding partners and the innovative green infrastructure solutions being used make this project an exciting model for other shoreline restoration projects in Canada and beyond.

Find out about significant weather warnings, errant cougar sightings, large fire or traffic incidents and other emergency situations with our handy app. Go to esquimalt.ca/alert or call 250-414-7122.



New faces in Esquimalt

Community members may have noticed VicPD motorcycles and some new faces coming to and from the Esquimalt Division off Fraser Street. In January of 2023, the Victoria Police Department implemented a new structure for its operational divisions. The Traffic Section, which includes 1 sergeant, 3 constables, and 2 collision-reconstruction experts, now reports to the Esquimalt Division. The section serves both Victoria and Esquimalt.



Property tax online info

Are you looking for property account information? Find it now online!

MyEsquimalt is an online payment platform that will allow you to access your township accounts 24 hours a day.

Sign up to receive an electronic property tax notice (e-billing) and review your accounts.

Find it at www.online.esquimalt.ca



Deer on alert

Between May and July, most does give birth to one or two fawns. And like any mother, she has a strong instinct to protect her young from harm.

You may not see yourself as a threat. But from the doe's point of view, you might be. Especially if you have a dog with you. She may turn toward you and stare directly at you. She may even take a few steps toward you, or follow you for a distance.

It can be unnerving. Is your safety at risk? Will the deer attack your dog? What should you do? **Our friends at the Urban Wildlife Stewardship Society have some tips at www.UWSS.ca.**

What is under construction

See totals from O1 2023

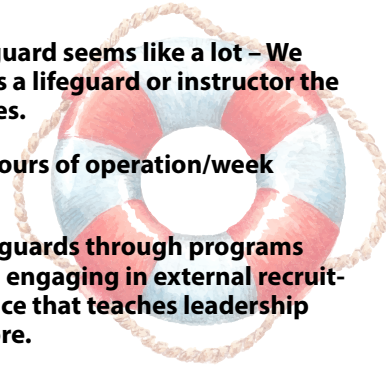
Application Type	Number of Rental Units	Number of Owner Units	Number of Institutional Units	Total Number of Units
Rezoning	309	302	0	611
Subdivision	2	2	0	4
Development Permit	520	177	0	707
Building Permit	631	440	48	1109
Completed (from January 2020)	181	204	0	385
Total	1643	1125	48	2816

Our online development tracker shows rezoning applications, development permit applications and variance permit applications—both in progress and those completed in the last six months.

Our aquatics center & staffing...did you know?

- Esquimalt currently has open lifeguarding and instructing positions and offers competitive wages. Contact Seth at seth.jerome@esquimalt.ca for more information.
- The 114 hours of training to be a certified lifeguard seems like a lot – We are here to help. If you see yourself working as a lifeguard or instructor the Township offers in house training opportunities.
- Our aquatics facility has an average of 104.5 hours of operation/week (regional average is 103)

The township is actively working to train more lifeguards through programs with Esquimalt High, training up existing staff and engaging in external recruitment efforts. Lifeguarding is a rewarding experience that teaches leadership and a number of other skills. Talk to us to learn more.



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

Council meeting schedule

Council meetings

April 3 & 24; May 1 & 15

Committee of the Whole meetings

Apr 17, May 8 & 15(5:45pm); Jun 12

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 7 & 10 ; May 22

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 remaining schedule is:

- April 3–Tax rate discussion
- April 23–Three readings of tax rates

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

Parking zones- what are the rules?

Residential Parking Zones and Limited Time Parking Zones have been created to avoid the residential streets bordering on commercial and industrial zones or near high density buildings from being congested by vehicles parked for the day.

Within Residential Parking Zones, only a resident, guest, or trades person of any home located on the abutting street can park. RPO zones do not mean that only a resident may park in front of their address.

The Bylaw Management Officer enforces compliance with the requirements of these parking zones only when a resident registers a complaint.

The township is revamping its Parking Bylaw, including integrating input from last fall's public engagement campaign, and On-Street Parking Strategy.

Both will be going to Council for review this spring.