



Township of ESQUIMALT Current community newsletter: spring 2022

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Esquimalt Active Transportation Network Plan endorsed by Council

After two rounds of public engagement, Township of Esquimalt council endorsed the Active Transportation Network Plan in early February.

The Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP) takes a wholistic approach to improving how people walk, ride and roll within and through the township.

Providing a list of actions and recommendations based on resident feedback and current best practices, the ATNP identifies high priority improvements over the next 5 years and a long-term roadmap for active transportation improvements.

The plan aims to 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 while improving the quality and experience for people walking, biking and rolling.

Funding would come through the township budget as well as opportunities for external funding partners including other levels of government— B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program, ICBC, Green Municipal Funds to name a few—and the private development process.

Council approved the plan and directed staff to bring forward initiatives for consideration that include budget and capacity implications during the 2022 budget planning process.



"Elephant foot" bike and pedestrian crossing on the E&N.

Quick facts

- From 2011 to 2016, the proportion of work trips made by bicycle increased from 6 to 9 per cent, while commuting by vehicle decreased by 2 per cent.
- The total percentage of commute trips by active travel (walk, cycle, transit) is 36 per cent, which is the second highest active travel mode share in all of Greater Victoria after the City of Victoria.

POLICING SERVICES SURVEY

The 2014 Police Framework Agreement is set for renewal in 2024 and we want to hear your thoughts on the current policing in Esquimalt. Before the end of 2022, The Township of Esquimalt needs to decide whether to renew the agreement for another 10 years.

As part of the decision process, we want to know how Esquimalt citizens and businesses feel about the current conditions of policing in the township and the terms of the current agreement.

The existing policing agreement between the Township of Esquimalt and City of Victoria covers a number of key aspects on police service delivery and governance that impact Esquimalt police service, including:

- shared costs for the amalgamated police force
- dedicated resources for both Esquimalt and the City of Victoria
- budget approval processes
- dispute resolution
- performance metrics

The Township will also be meeting with community, business and stakeholder groups over the next two months to help us determine the level of satisfaction with the current amalgamated service delivery model.

Interested in participating? Information on specific feedback opportunities will be posted to Esquimalt.ca by March 31, 2022.

To learn more about policing in Esquimalt, visit Esquimalt.ca/policing

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

501 Park Place 250-940-4875

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 quarterly 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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Here's a sneak peek at a few of our upcoming events in Esquimalt

Spring Thaw Skate

Archie Browning Sports Centre
| March 26, 2:30 p.m.–4 p.m.

Join us on the Ice for an end of season celebration! There will be music and lots of fun for everyone. FREE admission generously provided by the Victoria Properties Group.

Earth Day Celebration at Highrock Park

Highrock Park | April 20,
10 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

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

Activities include invasive species removal, planting and trail building.

Esquimalt 5km and 1km Kids Fun Run

Archie Browning Sports Centre | April 9,
9 a.m.–12 p.m.

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. Children of all ages are invited to participate in Esquimalt 1K Kid's Fun Run! Register at Esquimalt.ca/recreation.



Easter Egg Hunt

Bullen Park | April 17, 12–3 p.m.

The Esquimalt Lions are bringing back this well-loved event. Find out more at esquimalt.ca/events



Buccaneer Days

Archie Browning Sports Centre | May 13-15

Everyone's favourite celebration off the high seas is back! This fun-filled weekend is loaded with events for all ages! Buccaneer Days has been celebrated in Esquimalt annually since 1966. Details at esquimaltbuccaneerdays.ca

Esquimalt Neighbourhood Party

Esquimalt Recreation Centre | June 4, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Join us to kick off summer with a fun community celebration! esquimalt.ca/events

Fort Macaulay Historic Interpretive Tour

Macaulay Point Park | May 28,
9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Join us for the Sixth Annual Fort Macaulay Historic Interpretation Event. The buildings and gun emplacements at the historic site will all be numbered and indexed to a hand-out with brief historical references to each. Guided tours will take place at 10:30am and 12:45pm led by local historian, Jack Bates.

The event will also feature members of the Victoria-Esquimalt Military Re-enactors Association with their encampment, the Esquimalt Archives, Toad Hollow Photography and others. The Esquimalt Lions will provide a cash only BBQ, serving up their famous hamburgers and hot dogs with proceeds going back into the community.



Navy Run Esquimalt

Esquimalt | June 18, 8:15 a.m.

It's the Navy Run's 16th 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. www.navyrunesquimalt.com



Left, Cst. Kevin Lastiwka ; Right, Sgt. Len Hollingsworth

New rides for VicPD

The Esquimalt Division of VicPD recently took delivery of our new e-bikes! Supplied through one of our local bicycle stores, Marty's Mountain Cycles, the new e-bikes will be primarily used by our two Community Resource Officers, Sergeant, and Officer in Charge.

The e-bikes will afford our officers an environmentally-friendly way to efficiently move throughout the Township, responding to calls for service, attending community events and other engagement opportunities with our local residents. The Esquimalt Division plans to use the bikes year-round to minimize our reliance on conventional police cars.



New life for Esquimalt fire truck

Rather than send the retired 1988 Mack firetruck to auction, the Esquimalt Fire Department arranged to hand the keys over to the First Nations' Emergency Services Society of British Columbia (FNESS), based out of Kamloops, B.C.

The department has a history of working with FNESS on other training initiatives and the donation will help bolster training in small Okanagan communities who might not normally have access to the equipment. This is especially helpful as wild-fires continue to take a toll on the region.

The FNESS has a mission to assist First Nations in developing and sustaining safer and healthier communities by providing programs and services.

Kinver Street sidewalk

Public Works crews are adding a new sidewalk on the east side of Kinver Street from Munro Street to Hadfield Ave. The distance is approximately 70m and ties into an existing sidewalk on the north end of this block. The new sidewalk will help increase pedestrian safety on the popular neighbourhood street and beach access point.

At this time, there are over 667 dwelling units under—or just about to start—construction in Esquimalt.

Engineering successfully received grant approval for two speed readers on Lampson Street near Macaulay school. This will support road safety initiatives by helping reinforce speed limits.



Gorge Park welcomes Green Shores

Visitors to Gorge Park will soon be able to see shoreline restoration in action. Improvements will help create a more hospitable environment for native species of plants and animals.

New signage will help the project become a demonstration site to better share details of how the changes are helping the shoreline as well educate about species.

Fire department welcomes Greg Swan as Assistant Chief

AC Swan comes to us from Oak Bay Fire where he had been for his 18-year fire career. He was instrumental in their charitable foundation and also spent time as their Union President.

Greg has a passion for technical rescue, building relationships, continued learning and the community. Please say hello!

Go to esquimalt.ca/events for a list of events or scan



New online features

We've added online payment services to save you time

The Township of Esquimalt is adding another level of service for residents and businesses.

MyEsquimalt is a newly-launched online payment platform that will allow users to access their township accounts 24 hours a day.

Services include applying for, reviewing and renewing business licences and dog licences. Later this spring, residents will also be able to sign up to receive an electronic property tax notice and make a payment online using a credit card.

Users can use Visa and Mastercard for payments and can see their records in one easy place.

Those interested in using the online service start by a simple registration on [Esquimalt.ca/MyEsquimalt](https://www.esquimalt.ca/MyEsquimalt)



Council meeting attendance-welcome back to the hall!

Recent changes to Public Health Office rules mean that council meetings are back open to in-person attendance, no registration required.

Masks are optional pending updates to PHO orders.

Meetings will still be streamed live and residents unable to attend in person may register to provide comments electronically via telephone by contacting the Corporate Officer at corporate.services@esquimalt.ca or calling 250-414-7135 prior to 4:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

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.

Council meeting schedule

Council meetings

March 21; April 4 & 25; May 2 & 16

Committee of the Whole meetings

April 11, May 9 & 16 (5:45 p.m.)

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 15 & 18; May 23

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 4–Tax rate discussion
- April 25–First reading 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](https://www.esquimalt.ca/finance).

CAO retires after 18 years at the township



CAO Laurie Hurst

After over 30 years in local government, and 18 years at the Township, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Laurie Hurst has announced she will be retiring in the fall of 2022.

"CAO Hurst and I have worked together through both my time as Councillor

and the past 14 years as Mayor. As Mayor, I could always rely on her leadership and commitment to the Township and our residents", said Mayor Barbara Desjardins. "She has been an exceptional administrative leader of the organization guiding our Township and 6 different councils through many challenging issues. This is exemplified most recently in the steady approach she used to guide us through the pandemic. Her diligence, keen wit and expertise will be missed. The Councillors and I wish her all the best for this new chapter in her life."

In addition to sitting on several regional committees, including the Regional Emergency Management Partnership, the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) calls on Ms. Hurst frequently to share her experiences as she is a well-respected speaker and an expert on local government. She is featured in many podcasts in the LGMA's Elected-Staff Relationship Toolkit where she provides sage advice on managing the CAO-elected official dynamic. In addition, Laurie has been asked to speak on ethics in local government and also provided mentorship to students in the Master of Public Administration program at the University of Victoria. In 2019, Ms. Hurst was the recipient of a professional Service Award for Leadership from the Board of the LGMA.

Mayor and Council, together with the senior leadership team, thank Ms. Hurst for her exemplary leadership and dedication to her role. Her leadership, commitment, expertise and good humour will be missed.