

Esquimalt Village Project Gets Green Light

The Township of Esquimalt has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Aragon Investments Ltd. to proceed with the acquisition and development of the Esquimalt Village Project lands adjacent to Municipal Hall.

Leading architectural firm *D'AMBROSIO architecture + urbanism* has designed a concept plan for the project that includes civic, residential and commercial uses. The village will feature a public square and a through-block art walk.

Teaching and administrative space for the Justice Institute of BC, Canada's leading public safety educator, is planned to be a part of the project, subject to obtaining appropriate approvals. In addition, the project includes the proposed relocation of the Esquimalt Branch of the Greater Victoria Public Library.

"This is a very big deal," said Mayor Barbara Desjardins, who made the

announcement at a Council meeting on March 21, 2016. "We view this project as the catalyst for development in Esquimalt for years to come, and look forward to working with Aragon as a community development partner."

The Township will be preparing the lands for transfer to Aragon Investments Ltd. over the next several months with the assistance of Coriolis Consulting Corp, who also assisted with the RFP process. Construction is expected to commence in the spring of 2017 and be completed within two years. The public will be invited to view and provide comment on project design as part of a thorough public engagement process.

Aragon Investments Ltd. has worked on a number of comparable urban developments throughout British Columbia, Ontario and California.

"Aragon understands the significance of this project both as an economic driver

and as a matter of civic pride," said Lenny Moy, President of the Aragon group of companies. "We hope to achieve an aesthetically pleasing project that residents can be proud of."

The village will include a number of sustainable and progressive initiatives, including:

- alternative management methods for rainwater and energy;
- bicycle and pedestrian-friendly spaces, with easy access to transit;
- maintaining heritage trees on-site; and,
- green building concepts in all buildings and infrastructure.

Visit www.esquimalt.ca/evp for more information on the Esquimalt Village Project, including upcoming public input opportunities.



Township Launches Redesigned Website

The Township of Esquimalt launched a new website at www.esquimalt.ca in mid-March.

The website has a fresh new look and design in line with the Township's contemporary outlook and maritime brand, and includes new navigation features to help visitors access information quickly.

"The focus of this project was to migrate content to a new Content Management System, update the look and feel of the website, and optimize the site for all platforms and devices" said Laurie Hurst, Chief Administrative Officer. "We achieved these three goals— along with many new features that will enhance the users' experience."

The new website includes an improved event calendar, an "I Want To..." jump-search feature, mobile optimization, new drop-down menus, a spotlight section for Parks and Recreation, a

home page Twitter feed, easier access to Township social media pages, Google translator and a reorganized news, events and photo galleries section.

The new Content Management System provides greater flexibility to incorporate new features and emerging technologies, and is an easier and more efficient system to use for staff members involved in authoring and posting web content.

The site was designed and built by local award-winning digital agency Upanup Studios, which has created websites for a number of municipalities across western Canada, including the City of Colwood, the District of Oak Bay and the City of Vernon.

Township staff will continue to revise and test the website over the coming weeks, and will be working to further streamline content and navigation during 2016.

Explore Esquimalt with new Parks and Recreation App

Looking for a new and fun way to explore the Township?

Make *Explore Esquimalt* your tour guide for community parks, points of interest and historical features. The new interactive app, available for free at the iTunes store for download to your iPhone or iPad, features informative maps, engaging audio and eye-popping photographs that highlight natural and historical community treasures.

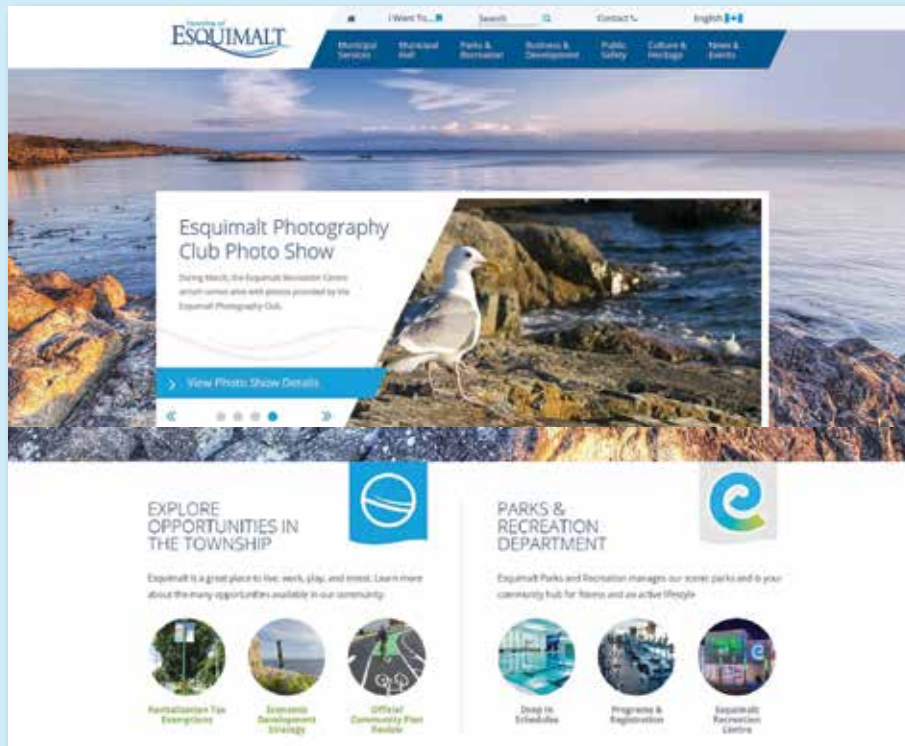


"There are so many things to see and do in Esquimalt, and this is a handy and informative tour guide to explore and experience our community," said Mayor Barbara Desjardins. "It complements our walking tour brochure series and I am sure it will become very popular with residents and visitors alike."

The easy-to-use app provides handy interactive maps of Esquimalt parks where users can select an icon to view relevant parks images. Nine points of interest, from the Japanese Gardens at Gorge Park to historic Macaulay Point Park, are featured in the app with slide shows and narration.

Download the app on iTunes by searching Explore Esquimalt. It will be made available for Android devices later in 2016.

**For more information, please contact:
Christina Moog, Recreation Coordinator
Tel: 250-412.8501**



**For more information, please contact:
Ritchie Morrison, Communications Coordinator
Tel: 250-414-7122**

Fraser Street Adventure Park Construction Going Ahead in 2016



Council has given preliminary approval for the Township to proceed with the development of a Children's Adventure Park located next to the Esquimalt Recreation Centre on Fraser Street.

The public was asked to vote for their preferred playground equipment from four different playground suppliers. Six playground options were on display during the month of February at the Recreation Centre and an online survey

was made available for people to cast their votes for their favorite options. A design presented by Suttle Recreation Ltd was the clear winner with 38% of the votes. Over 1100 votes were received.

The park will include two separate playgrounds for children aged two to five and five to 16 with pour-in-place rubber surfacing for wheelchair accessibility. Additional features in the park will include a spray park, a washroom/

change room facility, picnic areas, landscaped gardens and a rain garden to filtrate the water from the entire park. The adventure park will integrate the existing outdoor fitness park, and as part of the redevelopment of the site, the former Teen Centre building will be demolished. Teens will have access to the newly developed multi purpose space in the Recreation Centre.

The Lions Service Club has donated \$50,000 and a drinking fountain towards this community project.

At its special meeting on March 22, 2016, Council provided preliminary approval of the capital project and a tender will soon be issued to solicit bids for construction. Upon adoption of the final budget, construction will begin and is expected to take approximately eight months with the spray park available for use in the spring of 2017.

**For more information, please contact:
Rick Daykin, Manager of Parks & Facilities
Tel: 250-412-8529**

Official Community Plan Review in Full Swing

Survey Results

Thank you to residents, business owners and visitors who completed the Official Community Plan kick-off survey last fall. A total of 539 responses were received from the public. The results will help staff identify community priorities and future public engagement opportunities. The top three community priorities identified by survey respondents were parks trails and recreation; economic development; and community health and safety. Two additional key findings included: 1) the majority of people preferred to provide input online as opposed to attending an open house; and 2) Esquimalt's community vision statement (last updated in 2003) could benefit from an update. For complete survey results, visit www.esquimalt.ca.

Looking Forward Forum

Do you have ideas that will move Esquimalt forward over the next 10, 20 or 30 years? Join us at 7 p.m. on May 4, 2016 at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre for our "Looking Forward Forum." The forum is an opportunity for your community-based ideas and dreams to be heard by members of Council and senior municipal staff. Your input will be used to develop new policies in the following areas: arts, culture & heritage; community health & safety; economic development; the environment; parks, trails & recreation; planning & development; and transportation & infrastructure. An online survey will also be available in May for the public to provide input.

Age-Friendly Assessment

This spring the Township will be undertaking an age-friendly assessment to ensure older adults in the community are supported to live active, socially engaged, and independent lives. The assessment, funded by UBCM's Seniors' Housing & Support Initiative, will include a survey and a community workshop at 1 p.m. on April 28, 2016 at the Archie Browning Sports Centre. The assessment will provide age-friendly goals, objectives and policies for the Township's Official Community Plan Review.

The review of the official community plan is a two-year process scheduled to be completed in 2017.

**For more information please contact:
Marlene Lagoa, Community Development
Coordinator , Tel: 250-414-7114**

Community Calendar

All event & meeting details available at www.esquimalt.ca/events

Esquimalt Life Mark 5K Run

April 9, 5K start time 9:30 a.m.

The event is known as the most scenic 5K route in the region journeying through Saxe and Macaulay Point Parks. All levels welcome.

HMCS Esquimalt Commemorative Ceremony

April 16, 11 a.m. Municipal Hall West Lawn

A military ceremony to mark the anniversary of the sinking of the HMCS Esquimalt on April 16, 1945.

Earth Day Celebration at Highrock

April 20, 9:45 a.m. – 2 p.m., Highrock Park

Annual community clean-up and planting event at Highrock Park.

Esquimalt's Gigantic Garage Sale

April 23, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Archie Browning

Sports Centre

Clean out your garage, get rid of your unwanted stuff and make a few dollars!

Age-Friendly Workshop

April 28, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Archie Browning Sports Centre

Are you interested in making Esquimalt more age-friendly? Attend this engaging workshop and provide your input.

Looking Forward Forum

May 4, 7 p.m., Esquimalt Recreation Centre

Do you have ideas that will move Esquimalt forward over the next 10, 20 or 30 years? Join us and be heard!

Move for Health Day

May 10, 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Esquimalt Recreation invites you to get moving on May 10th with \$2.00 admissions all day long at the Recreation Centre.

Buccaneer Days - NEW DATES!

May 12 -15

This festival of fun includes a parade, dance, Lions pancake breakfast, midway rides and games, food booths, craft show and more.

Esquimalt Farmers Market

May 26 - September 15, Thursdays from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Local produce, live music, food trucks and artisans at Esquimalt Town Square. More information at www.esquimaltmarket.com

Neighbourhood Block Party

May 28, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Fraser Street in front of

Esquimalt Recreation Centre

Creating safe and welcoming neighbourhoods is what Block Watch is all about - and hosting a block party can do just that!

Kick off to Memorial Park Music Fest Series

June 21, 5 p.m., Memorial Park

Launch your summer with what is now an Esquimalt tradition – Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy in concert to open the 2016 Memorial Park Music Fest, June 21–July 26.

Memorial Park Music Fest - Soul Shakers

June 28, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Welcome the irresistible energy of the Soul Shakers back to the 2016 Music Fest.

Memorial Park Music Fest - Bobby Dazzler Band

July 5, 2016, 6 pm

We welcome Bobby Dazzler – a seven-piece powerhouse band of music teachers – as they make their 2016 Music Fest debut.

Color Vibe

July 10, 2016

Be a part of the most colourful 5K in the region! Discount tickets at the Esquimalt Rec Centre front desk or register online <https://colorvibe.webconnex.com/victoria2016>

Memorial Park Music Fest - Deb Thomson Band

July 12, 2016

Fill your evening with fun and dance as local favourites the Deb Thomson Band make their 2016 Music Fest debut!

Council Meeting Schedule

Council Meetings

April 4, 2016
April 18, 2016
May 2, 2016
May 16, 2016
June 13, 2016
June 27, 2016

Committee of the Whole Meetings

April 11, 2016
May 9, 2016
June 20, 2016

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 call 250-414-7135 to confirm meeting times.

Municipal Hall Closed for Statutory

Holidays:

Victoria Day - Monday May 23, 2016
Canada Day - Friday July 1, 2016

Township Contacts

Emergency	9-1-1
Municipal Hall (Reception)	414-7100
Finance	414-7100
Development/Engineering	414-7108
Public Works	414-7104
Building Inspections	414-7108
Bylaw Enforcement	414-7161
Police Department	995-7500
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 (civic)
1229 Esquimalt Road (mail)
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)



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

Questions or comments on The Current? Reach us at communications@esquimalt.ca. Sign up for e-mail notification at www.esquimalt.ca for updates on Township news, events and more.

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

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