

Township of ESQUIMALT Current

community newsletter: fall 2021

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Celebrating arts and culture

Our seaside community actively supports arts and culture in the municipality. Both residents of Esquimalt and visitors are treated to installations, events and exhibits year-round.

Public art displays are in several areas of the township, each offering insights to local culture and history. The most recent installations are at the Esquimalt Town Square courtyard or the Township Community Arts Council's pirate-themed sand sculpture that lived at Bullen Field this summer.

As restrictions are lifting with respect to COVID-19, we are seeing both indoor and outdoor events and activities increase in our community.

- The Memorial Park Music Fest features live music on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. until the end of August.
- Exhibits, art sales and classes run all year through the Esquimalt Community Arts Hub in addition to community-wide events like the Esquimalt Mural Festival (August-September).
- Handcrafted goods and local foods are available Thursdays through the Esquimalt Farmers Market.
- Past and present First Nations culture can be experienced first-hand through Explore Songhees for Indigenous cultural and hospitality experiences. This includes a series of tours, cultural learning opportunities and culinary offerings.
- History buffs can take in Esquimalt's military culture through the recently reopened CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum.
- Take one or all of our self-guided walking tours and learn more about Esquimalt. Download a copy of the guide or pick one up at Esquimalt Municipal Hall.

More at www.Esquimalt.ca/Explore

RIBFEST IS BACK!



Join us September 10-12 for an event all about family, community, volunteers, kids and fun! Residents and visitors can look forward to a weekend of BBQ ribs, local entertainment, craft beer, cider and wine, free kids' activities, local arts and vendors.

Net proceeds raised by the Esquimalt Ribfest are returned to the community through the Esquimalt Firefighters Charitable Foundation and the Esquimalt Ribfest Society. Funds go to local charities and school-sponsored activities for our community's youth. More at www.EsquimaltRibfest.com



"Welcome" pole at Esquimalt Town Square



Esquimalt Community Arts Hub

Recreation updates

Construction on the new Gorge Park Pavilion is well under way and we are planning on opening the facility for use early in the new year. Our Recreation Staff are busy putting together a program schedule. If you are interested in providing your input into what types of Programs and events you'd like to see occurring, stay tuned for a Public input survey coming soon.

In addition, parks staff will be developing a new Japanese garden and a cherry tree forest to tie the landscape into the new building. Donation options include trees, lanterns, guide stones, gardens, a torii gate, and a waterfall feature. Contact Rick Daykin at 250-412-8508 if you are interested in contributing to this new landscape.



The Esquimalt Rec Centre swimming pool will be shut down for annual maintenance as of 5 p.m. September 3 and will re-open 5:30 a.m. September 20. These periods of annual maintenance are necessary to make repairs to the pool and operating systems and ensure the pool can run efficiently for the next 12 months.

Join our Branch Out program on September 25! From 9:45 a.m.-1p.m., volunteers and staff will be at Saxe Point Park to plant native trees and shrubs in the forested areas of the park.

If you can't make this event, sign up for a volunteer orientation session in our parks and join us another time. More at www.esquimalt.ca/branchoutvolunteer



Volunteers remove invasive plants from Esquimalt parks under careful supervision.

Deer research project



This September-October researchers expect to treat about 75 per cent of the female deer population with immuno-contraception, conducting up to 100 captures. In fall 2023, we will give these previously IC-vaccinated female deer their booster IC-vaccines.

Fire safety—know our hazards

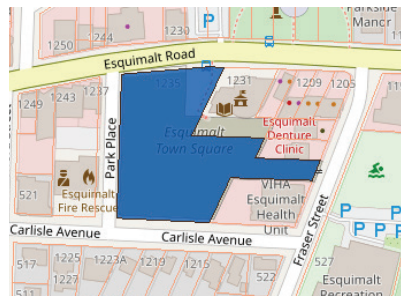


Did you know that a piece of discarded glass can cause a grass fire? Once a fire starts it can grow large very quickly, especially when its hot, dry and windy.

Our fire danger rating is **EXTREME**...be careful and watch out for dangerous situations like discarded cigarette butts and even broken glass.

This August fire was caused by glass and could have been a lot worse!

Development in Esquimalt



See what's happening online

Our development tracker posts active development permit applications and ones completed within the last 6 months.

Find the tool on esquimalt.ca to download site plans, learn about properties and see what's coming to council.

Engineering & public works recent projects

- Design and construction of Constance sidewalk, Lyall surface improvements, and Kinver (Munro to Hadfield) sidewalk
- Repair of Westbay storm manhole
- Construction of Saxe point force main
- Replacement of various underground pipes (storm and sanitary)
- Master plan completion for inflow and infiltration program
- CCTV inspection of underground storm and sanitary pipes
- LED streetlight upgrades
- Development of Active Transportation Network Plan
- Repainting crosswalks
- Vegetation removal along curb/sidewalk interface
- Pump station maintenance
- Street sweeping
- Repair of trip hazards
- Pothole repair at various locations
- Road structure repairs at various locations
- Purchase of various fleet units

Construction updates

Under construction		
622 Admirals Rd. – (The Vista)	Avenir Senior Living	95 rental apartments, 38 condominiums and 48 care rooms for seniors
937 Colville Rd. (Azure)	Lapis Homes	6 townhouses
687 Admirals Rd.	Westurban Developments	48 apartments
Constance Ave. & Nelson St.	GT Mann	71 rental apartments
Head St. at Gore and Lyall (Triangle Lands)	Tenfold Projects	Two storey building with commercial ground floor and 8 condominium units above as well as a six storey building with 65 condominiums.
429 Lampson St. - (Oakwoods)	Aragon Properties	227 units, including 6 townhomes and renovation of heritage building
632 Drake Avenue	Dimma Pacific Properties Ltd.	7 townhouses
503 Park Place	Aragon Properties	New Esquimalt Library space and commercial office units above
Recently completed		
955 Colville Rd.	LIDA Homes	10 townhomes
505 Park Place	Aragon Properties	Commercial ground floor and 34 rental apartments above

Esquimalt has reached the next phase of its first Active Transportation Network Plan

After the first round of community consultation in early 2021, an initial report has been published to share the feedback staff have heard so far. Thank you for your participation in this important process!

The plan's purpose is to:

- identify deficiencies in the pedestrian and cycling network,
- identify gaps in the pedestrian and cycling network,
- develop the vision and goals for the network to address the deficiencies and gaps, and
- create an implementation plan to identify the critical projects needed in the short-term (1-10 years) and the longterm (10+ years) to increase the share of trips completed by an active mode and more broadly reach the greenhouse gas (GHG) targets set out in the Official Community Plan.

We are returning to the community in September with a second survey that will ask for feedback on the draft options, vision, and goals.

[Read the What We Heard Report at EngagingEsquimalt.ca](https://www.esquimalt.ca/engaging)



Find out about significant weather warnings, errant cougar sightings, large fire or traffic incidents & other emergency situations with our app.

Alerts can come via text or voice as well, so you don't need to have a smartphone to take advantage of the service.

Go to [esquimalt.ca/alert](https://www.esquimalt.ca/alert) or call 250-414-7122 with questions.

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 (limited hours; 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

1231 Esquimalt Road 250-414-7198

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 tri-annual 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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Council meeting schedule

Council meetings

Sept 27; Oct 4 & 25; Nov 1, 8, 15

Committee of the Whole meetings

Aug 23, Oct 18

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:

Sept 6 & 30, Oct 11, Nov 11

In-person attendance

As we move into the fall, we will continue to offer residents the option to join council meetings virtually as well as limited in-person.

Any changes to in-person attendance due to COVID-19 will occur in conjunction with public health recommendations and we'll continue to share updates on our website.

Know what's upcoming

You can subscribe to receive our council meeting agendas via email so that you are kept in the loop about upcoming council decisions as well as are able to review past resolutions.

[Esquimalt.ca/subscribe](https://www.esquimalt.ca/subscribe)

Election signs on municipal property

As we approach the federal election on September 20, keep in mind that election signs shall not:

1. Be placed upon municipally-owned parcels of land such as the municipal hall, recreation center or public parks;
2. Be placed upon municipal road allowances immediately abutting municipally-owned parcels of land or a public school;
3. Be placed within landscaped medians or traffic islands located within municipal road allowances;
4. Exceed 0.37 square metres (4 square feet) in size when placed on a municipal road allowance.

Go to [esquimalt.ca](https://www.esquimalt.ca) for complete details on the township's policy regarding election signs on municipal property.



NEW! Dog licences and business licence renewals can be paid online starting late 2021.

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.

We are committed to building stronger working relationships with both Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.

Apply for your home owner grant before September 1, 2021 to avoid the penalty: www.gov.bc.ca/HomeOwnerGrant

The Province is now entirely responsible for the home owner grant program.

To learn more about the program, call the provincial office at 250-387-0555 or visit their website [gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](https://www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant)

