

Township of ESQUIMALT Current

community newsletter: summer 2024

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Esquimalt set to meet new housing targets issued by province

The Township of Esquimalt is poised to complete the housing targets set out by the province well in advance of the mandated deadline.

The five-year housing target for the township is 754 net new completed housing units; this is the total minimum number required to comply with the Provincial Housing Target Order issued June 25.

In contrast, Esquimalt currently has just over 1,000 units under construc-

tion. In addition, there are more than 800 units going through rezoning and 1,000 through the development permit process.

Of the approved units, the vast majority are in multi-family buildings. Some of the units are in mixed-use buildings offering a retail component adding to Esquimalt's commercial capacity.

In addition, the township has permitted detached accessory dwelling

units (e.g., carriage houses) since 2023 in order to help bolster available housing.

In order to plan for the current and future infrastructure needs of the township, staff will be beginning a development capacity assessment near the end of 2024. A Sanitary Sewer Master Plan is underway and a Storm Sewer Master Plan will begin in late 2024.

Memorial banners

Our veteran memorial banner program is back! Community members may purchase a banner in honour of a passed loved one. The banners contain the name of deceased service personnel and the conflict they served in. All banners have the same poppy motif.



The banners are placed along Esquimalt, Craigflower and Admirals roads on the existing banner poles. Due to the fixed number of spaces, banners are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The banners are produced locally and the price is set on a cost-recovery basis of \$135. Banners will be mounted for 3 years.

Details at [Esquimalt.ca/banners](https://www.esquimalt.ca/banners).

New murals coming to Saxe Point

Recently, artists and art collectives were invited to apply to create a street mural at Bewdley Avenue and Munro Street. The street corner marks the entry point of Saxe Point, situated at the end of Fraser Street, with pedestrian pathways extending from Munro Street and Bewdley Avenue. This location has recently undergone reconfiguration aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety.

This street mural project aims to build upon these initiatives by further enriching the pedestrian experience. The goal is to create a visually captivating space that mirrors our community's dedication to fostering safe, pedestrian-friendly environments while reflecting the theme of "Nature in the Township." Installation is aiming to take place in September.

New e-bike for Engineering & Public Works

Esquimalt is expanding its fleet of electric vehicles.



In July, council received a presentation and report forecasting how EVs could replace gas vehicles as the existing fleet ages out. A Ford F150 Lightning was added to the Parks fleet in late July as well as an e-bike for Engineering & Public Works. More vehicles will be added as budget and operational needs allow.

The e-bike allows staff to attend site visits and meetings without the need to take up a parking space or contributing to traffic.

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	250-414-7177
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

#101-1151 Esquimalt Road 250-414-7126

Police Department

1229 Esquimalt Road 250-995-7500

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

If you have a community event you would like 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



EsquimaltBC

Council meeting schedule

Council meetings

Sept 9; Sept 23; Oct 7; Oct 28; Nov 4

Committee of the Whole meetings

Sept 23 (5:45PM Special COTW); Oct 21; Nov 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.

Special meeting of Council Oct 16 at 5PM—Victoria Conference Centre

Special Joint Meeting of the Township of Esquimalt Council, City of Victoria Council and the Victoria & Esquimalt Police Board

Esquimalt Municipal Hall closed:

September 2, September 30, October 14; November 11

Join a council committee

Esquimalt's committees serve an important role in advising and providing policy recommendations to Mayor and Council. Esquimalt's Advisory Committees, Commission and Board include:

- Advisory Planning Commission
- Advisory Planning Commission Design Review Committee
- Board of Variance
- Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Environment, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Recruitment for 2025 will take place in August/September. Contact us or check esquimalt.ca for more information & updates on the process.



Be alerted 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 to subscribe—choose what you want to year about (just garbage reminders? No problem!) and how you want to be informed (text, app, email or call).

CONSTRUCTION NOISE BYLAW CHANGES

Permitted hours for construction-related noise in the Township of Esquimalt have changed:

- Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.;
- Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and
- Sundays and statutory holidays (Federal & Provincial) prohibited.

Questions? Contact us.

Taking care of Esquimalt parks

Exciting projects are underway

Green Shores project status

The Esquimalt Gorge Park Green Shores Demonstration Project is part of an ongoing collaborative effort to restore and protect the Gorge Waterway, a crucial ecosystem in the heart of Victoria.

Construction on this shoreline rehabilitation project is scheduled to begin in September 2024 during the summer window when fish populations, including their eggs, juveniles, and spawning adults, are least at risk. Look for new signage in the area coming soon!

National Forest Week (September 22-28, 2024)

The theme is Two-Eyed Seeing: Welcoming all knowledge to sustain our forests. Check Esquimalt.ca in September to see how to participate.

 **Did you know? In the last operational period (Jan 1-Apr 30), Esquimalt Parks staff planted 503 trees!** 

BE FIRE SMART IN OUR PARKS

This season, the ground is very dry. Carelessness with cigarettes or other flammable materials could cause devastation in the parks. Fireworks are prohibited in Esquimalt at any time of year.

Please be fire smart in our parks—this means no smoking and don't leave broken glass that could act as magnifiers for the sun's rays.

If you suspect a fire, please call 9-1-1.

Active transportation project updates

Look for public engagement opportunities for the Esquimalt Road project in late summer/early fall. Information will be posted on Esquimalt.ca, on social media and in township facilities.

CRD bike & pedestrian counter

See the live results from Tillicum Road and other cycling hubs around the CRD with the live bike counter. Open the QR code or go to esquimalt.ca/ActiveTransportation to find the link.



The Tillicum & Lampson corridor project featured new sidewalks, improved pedestrian crossings and protected bike lanes to create a safer active transportation network through Esquimalt.

Waste collection

To aid in access for our garbage collection, please remember to park mindfully and ensure intersections and turn arounds/dead ends remain clear on collection days.

Parking vehicles off-street (where possible) also helps reduce access issues for our crews.

Boulevard maintenance

Plants are growing fast this time of year. **This is a reminder to keep your boulevard tidy and sidewalks clear of overhanging branches and grass.**

Doing so helps pedestrians travel comfortably, keeps weeds at bay and lowers the chance of fire risk.

Completed projects	Projects in progress	Upcoming projects
Tillicum & Lampson corridor active transportation improvements (June 2024)	Munro Sidewalk – Plaskett to Kinver sidewalk complete, Kinver to Lampson (later in 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kinver/Heald/Swinford Sidewalk—complete connection of Munro St to Bullen Park (late 2024) Review/design of (Esquimalt) crosswalks along Craigflower Rd. for upgrades in 2025 New crosswalk at Wollaston and Dunsmuir (2024)

Upcoming events in Esquimalt

SUMMER STORIES IN THE PARK

“Crow Helps a Friend”

Saxe Point Park
Aug 15; 10-11:30 AM

“Going to Nanoose Bay”

Macaulay Point Park
Aug 22; 10-11:30 AM

Esquimalt Farmers Market— MEMORIAL PARK

Thursdays 4:30-7:30 PM

GORGE PARK

Mondays 4:30-7:30 PM

esquimaltmarket.com

East West Mural Festival

August 18-Sept 2

The festival incorporates hands-on workshops, mural painting, and lots of opportunities to get involved in community-based art. Take a look below for 2024 programming, muralists and mural sites, calls for artists and more! More at www.ECAH.ca

Memorial Park Music Fest

Aug 20 & 27; 6 PM

Check out live music in Memorial Park. Pack a picnic or grab food from one of the nearby restaurants. With a playground and lots of lawn to sit on, this event is fun for all ages!

Ribfest

Sept 6-8; Bullen Field

Fri 11 AM-10 PM | Sat 11 AM-10 PM |

Sun 11 AM-9 PM

A weekend of BBQ ribs, local entertainment, craft beer, cider and wine, free kid's activities, local arts, and vendors. Net proceeds 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.

View our
up-to-date
online
calendar



Mayor's Open Door

Sept 12; 9-11 AM

Esquimalt Municipal Hall

Stop by the Municipal Hall to chat about what's important to you with Mayor Barbara Desjardins. No appointments are necessary and your 15 minutes with the Mayor will be on a first-come, first-served basis, starting at 9 am in the Mayor's Office.

Esquimalt Lantern Festival

Sept 13; 6-10 PM

Esquimalt Gorge Park

The magic of lantern-fest returns to Gorge Park! Visit Gorge Park for a magical adventure through the forest full of lanterns, lights, and other surprises. You won't want to miss this fun event.

Story Fest

Sept 21, 10:30AM-1 PM

Esquimalt Town Square

Storytelling provides a platform for growth and development. We hope your family will join us in celebrating. This year's theme is Great Adventures! Donations are gratefully accepted and go to help fund the Macaulay literacy program.

Social Saturdays- Music Bingo

Saturday, Sept 28, 6-11 PM

Archie Browning Lounge

Open to those 19 years+, drop-in for a beverage and enjoy a game of Music Bingo! The Lounge opens at 6:00 p.m., Music Bingo starts at 7:30 p.m. Bring your friends and meet new ones! *Pre-registration required; \$15 fee.

South Island Powwow

Sept 30; gates open 10 AM

Royal Athletic Park, Victoria

September 30th marks National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The annual South Island Powwow is an opportunity to recognize Survivors and their families in the spirit of reconciliation. Traditional Indigenous cultures and resiliency are celebrated through song and dance.

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your inbox for early reading!

www.esquimalt.ca/subscribe

SUMMER OUTDOOR MOVIES

Aug 14- Onward (Gorge Park)

Aug 21- Curella (Bullen Park)

Aug 28- Jumanji (Gorge Park)

Senior's Appreciation Tea

Wednesday, Oct 2, 10:30 AM-12 PM

Esquimalt Rec Centre

To celebrate National Seniors Day, Esquimalt Recreation Centre is hosting a tea for those 50 and better. Join the Parks and Rec team in the Atrium of the Recreation Centre for tea and light refreshments. Students from Macaulay Elementary will be performing at 11:30AM. This event is free, but please register. Choose online, by calling 250-412-8500, or in-person at the Esquimalt Rec Centre.

Social Saturdays—Trivia!

Saturday, Oct 19, 6-11 PM

Archie Browning Lounge

Open to those 19 years+, drop-in for a beverage and enjoy a game of Trivia! The Lounge opens at 6:00 p.m., Trivia starts at 7:30 p.m. Bring your friends and meet new ones! *Pre-registration required

Halloween Skate

Sunday, Oct 27, 4-5 PM

Archie Browning Arena

Join us for a spooky everyone welcome skate! Kids in FULL costume get in for FREE!

Halloween Fire Hall Spooktacular!

Thursday, Oct 31, 5-9 PM

Esquimalt Fire hall

Join Esquimalt Rec and the Esquimalt Firefighters for a night of Halloween fun! Visit inside the truck bays for spooky sights, awesome activities, and more Halloween fun. The Esquimalt Lions will have the concession open for hot dogs and other snacks for purchase.

See our calendar at

esquimalt.ca/events for full details.

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ESQUIMALT