

## A Message From Mayor Barb Desjardins

Greetings from Mayor Barb Desjardins and Councillors Meagan Brame, Randall Garrison, Alison Gaul, Lynda Hundleby, Don Linge, and Bruce McIlldoon.

Since being elected in the fall of 2008, Council have been working hard to establish its priorities for the community in 2009 and beyond. This Council is committed to improving the economic, environmental and social sustainability of Esquimalt. The actions in the Township of Esquimalt 2009 - 2011 Strategic Plan reflects these commitments.

Council was first faced with a 7.5% tax increase but through careful deliberation was able to reduce it to 5.02%. The police budget itself accounts for 3.8% of this tax increase. With the remaining 1.22% of the tax increase, we will be able to deliver significant benefits to our community. We are excited to share with you a few of the projects we will be able to achieve with our 2009 budget.

### Budget Highlights:

- Three major road improvement projects Craigflower Road Phase 1, Phase 2 and the Admirals-Colville intersection. Esquimalt successfully secured federal and provincial funding to accomplish these major infrastructure projects. The cost of these projects total \$11 million, but only \$500,000 will be paid by municipal taxpayers.
- Allocated matching funding to bring forward 3 grant proposals for the British Columbia Building Canada Fund. The proposed projects include upgrading the Archie Browning Sports Centre, constructing 4.3 km of new sidewalks and a new all accessible playground in Memorial Park.

- Established specific funding for sustainability initiatives in order to achieve the municipality's commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter.
- Provided funding for increased recreational opportunities for adults and youth.
- Supplied funding for the continued operation of the Archie Browning Sports Centre and for new bus shelters, storm sewers and traffic signals.

### Residential Property Tax:

*What does the 5.02% tax increase mean for residential taxpayers?* An average Esquimalt residential property slightly increased in assessed value from \$393,108 in 2008 to \$393,780 in 2009. Based on the average assessed value of \$393,780 in 2009, an Esquimalt residential property owner will see a municipal tax increase of \$105.

The information on the reverse side of this notice provides a breakdown of where your property taxes are going and details important property tax payment information.

Council put in extensive effort to keep taxes as low as possible. This budget allows us to continue to provide a high level of service to our residents and to plan for our community's economical, environmental, and socially sustainable future.

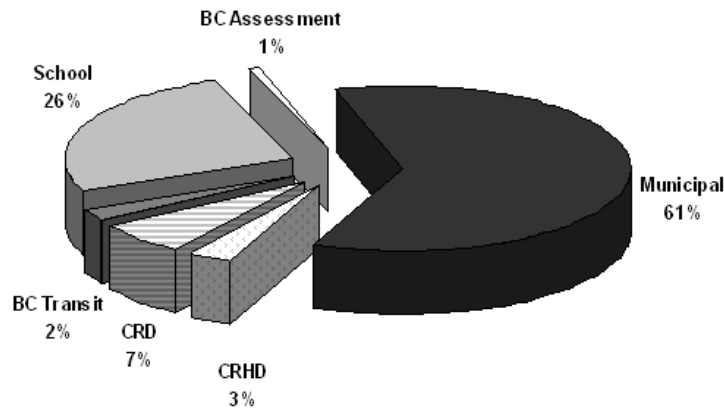
**Barb Desjardins**  
Mayor



See Tax & Budget Information on reverse.

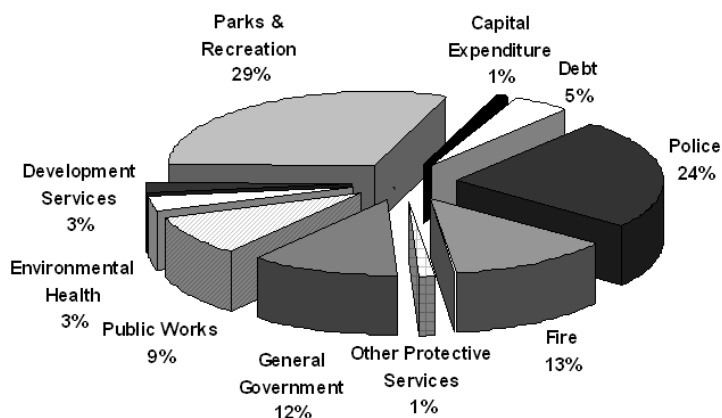
# 2009 Tax & Budget Information

## 2009 Property Taxes by Agency



A significant portion of the property tax levies are collected on behalf of and transferred to other taxing authorities.

## 2009 Municipal Property Taxes



The above graph is based on the 2009 approved operating budget and demonstrates where your municipal tax dollars will be spent.

- Capital Expenditure projects shown here are only those paid from current operating revenues. Budget figures do not include transfers to reserve funds or contingency.
- Other Protective Services include animal control, bylaw enforcement, emergency planning, and building inspection.
- Debt charges are for the Recreation Centre revitalization program and sewer upgrade program.
- Environmental Health includes both sewer and garbage services.

**Please visit our website ([www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca)) for more tax information or to claim your Home Owner Grant online.**

**Your 2009 property tax notice covers the tax year from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.**

To balance the operating budget, Council must raise revenue from property taxes. The amount required is converted to a rate, which is then applied to the taxable assessment of each property, to determine the taxes payable. In addition to collecting the municipal portion of property taxes, the Township also collects levies on behalf of other taxing agencies.

**Taxes are due in full by 4:30 p.m. on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009.**

### You can pay your taxes:

1. In-person at the Municipal Hall (1229 Esquimalt Road) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday by cash, cheque, money order, bank draft, or Interac. Credit card payments are not accepted.
2. By post-dated cheque (post-dated no later than July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009)
3. Via the Municipal Hall drop-box (no cash)
4. At most financial institutions or by online or telebanking (set up through your bank)
5. By mail. To avoid a late penalty, **your payment must be postmarked no later than June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.**

**If you are eligible for a home owner grant**, you must also apply for it by July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 or the unclaimed/unpaid balance will be subject to penalty. You can claim your home owner grant, even if you are not making a payment to your property tax account.

**\*\* Home owner grants may be claimed electronically at [www.esquimalt.ca/ehog](http://www.esquimalt.ca/ehog). You will require your folio number and access code from your tax notice.**

**Esquimalt offers a pre-authorized payment plan for property taxes.** Payments on the plan begin in August 2009 and will be made towards your 2010 property taxes. Application forms for enrolment in the program are available at the Municipal Hall. Please contact the Municipal Hall at 250-414-7107 to request these forms or for more information.

**You may qualify for a provincial tax deferral program**, if you are at least 55 years old, a widow or widower, a person with a disability as defined by regulation, or are currently experiencing financial hardship due to economic conditions (temporary 2009 & 2010 program). Contact the Municipal Hall Finance Department at 250-414-7107 or the Provincial Tax Deferral Office at 250-387-0555 for more information.

**PROPERTY TAX DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2009**