

## 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 McIldoon.

Since being elected in the fall of 2008, Council have been working hard to implement its priorities for the community in 2009 and 2010. 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 reflect these commitments.

Council was first faced with a 6.95% tax increase but through careful deliberation was able to reduce it to 3.90%. Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) wage increases alone accounts for 3.0% of this tax increase. With the remaining 0.9% of the tax increase, we will continue 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 during 2010.

### Budget Highlights:

- Replacement of aged aerial fire apparatus with a 105 ft Smeal Ladder truck with significantly enhanced operational capabilities.
- Craigflower Road Phase 2 road improvement project. Esquimalt successfully secured 100% provincial funding of \$4.9 million to accomplish this infrastructure project.
- A major upgrade for the Archie Browning Sports Centre two-thirds funded by the federal and provincial governments.
- Upgrades to the Esquimalt Recreation Centre Pool to improve acoustics and control of humidity on the pool deck, and to increase the facility's energy efficiency.

- Refurbishment of the Arm Street seawall.
- Design and implementation of Phase 3 of the Japanese Garden at Esquimalt Gorge Park.
- Fencing at Macaulay Point Park to address environmentally sensitive areas and protect species at risk.

### Residential Property Tax:

What does the 3.90% tax increase mean for residential taxpayers? An average Esquimalt residential property increased in assessed value from \$393,780 to \$422,680 in 2010. Based on the average assessed value of \$422,680 in 2010, an Esquimalt residential property owner will see a municipal tax increase of approximately \$97.

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's primary goal in this budget was to be sensitive to the global financial stresses of the past two years and their effect on individuals, and to keep taxes as low as possible, while continuing to provide a high level of service to our residents and to plan for our community's economic, environmental, and socially sustainable future.

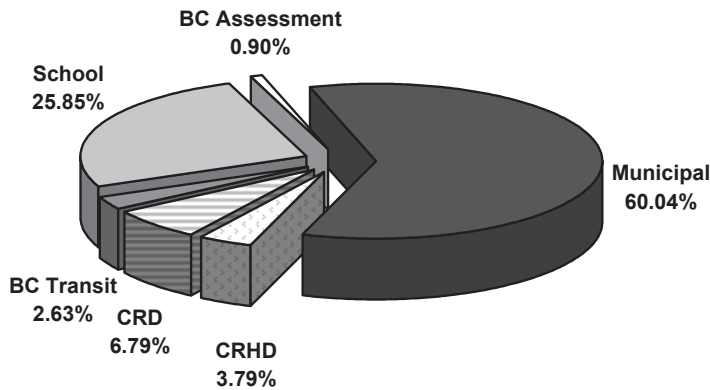


**Barb Desjardins**

See Tax & Budget Information on reverse.

# 2010 Tax and Budget Information

## 2010 Property Taxes by Agency



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

**Your 2010 property tax notice covers the tax year from January 1st, 2010 to December 31st, 2010.** 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.

### You can pay your taxes:

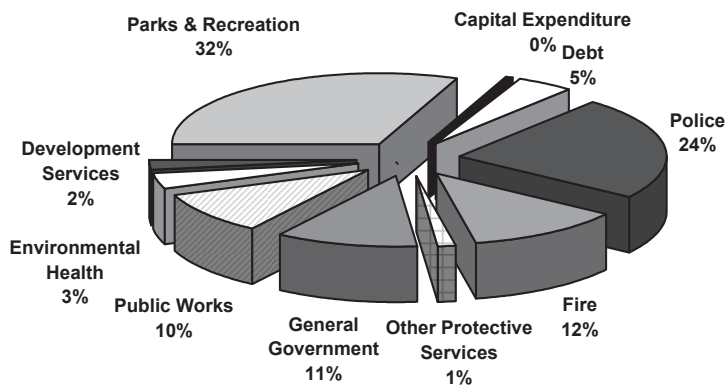
1. In-person at the Municipal Hall (1229 Esquimalt Road) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday by cash, cheque, money order, bank draft, or Interac. Credit card payments are not accepted.
2. By post-dated cheque (post-dated no later than July 2nd, 2010).
3. Via the Municipal Hall drop-box (no 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 23rd, 2010.**

**If you are eligible for a home owner grant,** you must also apply for it by July 2nd, 2010 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 by visiting [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca) and clicking on the home owner grant link. 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 2010 and will be made towards your 2011 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, have a dependant child who is under the age of 18 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.

## 2010 Municipal Property Taxes



The above graph is based on the 2010 approved operating budget and demonstrates where your municipal tax dollars will be spent.

- 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.**

**Property Tax Deadline is July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**