

Township of ESQUIMALT Current

community newsletter: fall/winter 2025

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Mary Lim, the first female welder at Yarrows Shipyard



As the Victoria Daily times reported, "it's women's war, too - women work alongside men in western Canadian shipyards" (April 10, 1944).

Mary Lim became the first qualified female electric welder in the Blacksmith shop at Yarrows Ltd. Yarrows' president praised her as "one of the best welders we have". She started her welding career in November 1942, when the yard first began employing

women workers.

At its peak during World War II, Yarrows employed about 480 women. Her skills played a vital role in selecting her for launching the frigate HMCS Capilano from Yarrows Yard No. 01 on April 8, 1944.

This archival photo shows that Ms. Lim carries a bouquet and a bottle of Champagne to launch the ship.

A photo print of Mary Lim (025-143-099) from Yarrows' collection, donated to the Esquimalt Municipal Archives in 1994, reveals many facets of history. She symbolizes the history of female shipyard workers and skilled female workers in Esquimalt's maritime history.

Her ethnic background highlights the cultural diversity of Esquimalt and represents a memorable chapter in the inclusive history of the area.

- Dr. Dulma Karunaratna, Archivist,
Esquimalt Municipal Archives

PARKING UPDATE

The Township recently made updates to side street parking in the core area of Esquimalt. These changes aim to improve parking availability and better support local businesses, based on community input and engineering best practices.

Please keep an eye out for signage indicating the new one or two-hour time-limited parking spaces.

LOCAL VICPD OFFICERS

School Police Liaison Officers (SPLOs) returned to Greater Victoria School District No. 61 (SD61) in November reinforcing a commitment to student safety and providing proactive support for students and staff.

The SPLOs working in 3 schools in the township include Constable Stacey Fuller, Constable Ian Diack, and Constable Gord Magee.

Renew dog & business licences the easy way by going to Esquimalt.ca/MyEsquimalt

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

250-995-7500
1229 Esquimalt Road

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

Jan 12; Jan 26; Feb 2; Feb 23; March 2

Committee of the Whole meetings

Jan 19; Jan 26 (5:45PM Special COTW); Feb 9; March 9

* 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 250-414-7177 to confirm meeting times.

Esquimalt Municipal Hall and Esquimalt Archives closed:

Dec 29-Dec 31; February 16

Financial planning & budget meetings

Staff present a draft budget to Council and the public for feedback and adjustments in the spring. Budget meetings are scheduled in late 2025 so that residents know when to expect budget information and input opportunities.

The annual budget outlines both operational needs and capital projects. Council takes council priorities into account when approving the budget to ensure initiatives are responsibly funded. The resulting Five-Year Financial Plan provides funding for core services as well as the Council Priorities Plan.

Council invites feedback from the public about spending priorities as they consider the 2026 budget and resulting taxes needed to implement the budget.

Check Esquimalt.ca/budget for documents and meeting information.

Short Term Rentals in Esquimalt

Short-term rentals are currently prohibited in Esquimalt without special rezoning and owners complying with legacy “Bed and Breakfast” regulations.

The township is working to update its bylaws to better reflect the nature of modern short-term rentals.

As a first step, we’d like to better understand resident and business views on the potential impacts of short-term rentals like Airbnb – both positive and negative.

Your feedback will inform a Short-Term Rental Options Report that will go to Council in early 2026, with opportunities to provide additional input.

• Online open house Nov 19–Dec 17 at www.EngagingEsquimalt.ca/rentals



Esquimalt Road Active Transportation project update

Esquimalt Road saw new pavement in several areas from Dominion to Lampson streets.

New and upgraded cross-walks at Macaulay, Dunsmuir and 848 Esquimalt Road took shape in November along with line painting and protected bike lanes.

There will be further renewal of our underground utilities through full replacement and/or pipe lining to help maintain important infrastructure in the coming months.

Questions? Contact engineering@esquimalt.ca



Work along Esquimalt Road.

GET READY FOR STORM SEASON

For the fall and winter season in Esquimalt, residents should prepare for potential storm related flooding from heavy rains and possible snowfall. It is also important for all residents to have emergency plans and kits for self-sufficiency, as storms can cause power outages.

Here's how you can help when storms hit:

During periods of heavy rain, please clear leaves and debris away from storm drains near your home to allow excess water to drain rather than pooling on streets and properties.

After a snowfall, please do your part to keep the township safe and accessible by clearing snow and ice from the sidewalk along your property, business, or home. This is a requirement under the Streets & Traffic Regulation Bylaw.

Holiday Food Drive

26th ANNUAL

Township of Esquimalt

**HOLIDAY
FOOD
DRIVE**

SUPPORTING ESQUIMALT NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

FIRE SAFETY from EFRS

Holiday safety tips

- Keep live trees watered.
- Turn off tree lights before leaving or going to bed.
- Don't overload light strings—check manufacturer instructions.
- Use lights that are listed for use for indoors.
- Replace worn or damaged light strings



Looking for fire and emergency safety tips for your building?

Esquimalt Fire Rescue Service members can visit your condo or apartment community to provide practical safety talks and tips for residents.

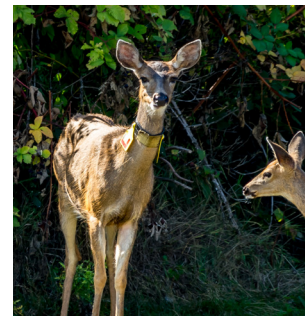
Learn about fire prevention, emergency preparedness, and what to do in case of an incident. Please contact the Fire Department for information at fire@esquimalt.ca



Deer study wrapping up

Since 2021, the township has undergone a study that examined the efficacy of immunocontraception on deer.

The final report for the deer study will be available in late 2025. This will include the results of the study and potential next steps for council's review.



We are once again collecting donations for the Esquimalt Neighbourhood House.

Every year, the Esquimalt community's generosity provides much-needed provisions to help Neighbourhood House continue to be a resource for youth, families, seniors and adults.

Food donations can be dropped off at the Township's public works yard, recreation centre, municipal hall & Archie Browning Sports Centre from November 24 – December 15.

ESQUIMALT RESIDENTIAL DONATION PICK UP:

South side: Dec 1-5 | North side: Dec 8-12

[More at Esquimalt.ca/FoodDrive](https://www.esquimalt.ca/FoodDrive)

Upcoming events in Esquimalt

ESQUIMALT INDOOR FARMERS MARKET

THURSDAYS UNTIL DEC 18!

Christmas Tree Village

Dec 2-Jan 2; Esquimalt Recreation Centre Atrium

Experience the magic of the holidays at our tenth annual Christmas Tree Village.

Join us as we transform the Recreation Centre Atrium and Archie Browning Sports Centre into a holiday wonderland, teeming with twinkling lights and delightful decorations.



Mayor's Open Door

Dec 5; 9-11AM

Esquimalt Municipal Hall

Chat with Mayor Desjardins at our open door event! Stop by the municipal hall to discuss what's important to you. No appointment necessary, first come, first served.

Celebration of Lights

Dec 7; 3-7PM

This community event brings people together to celebrate the holiday season with lights and festivities. Musical performances start at 3PM at Archie

Browning with the parade starting at Admirals Road at 5PM heading back to the sport centre. The evening will include a visit from Santa, snacks and Christmas carols.

Jolly Jingle Story Mingle

Dec 19; 7-8PM

Esquimalt Rec Centre

Throw on your PJs, cozy up by the fire, and enjoy story time! Families can stop by after their swim to relax and enjoy some holiday merriment including stories and singing!

Free Music Jam Christmas Sing-along- everyone welcome

Dec 23; 6:30-8:30PM

Esquimalt Rec Centre

Join us for a FREE Christmas Sing-along in the Esquimalt Recreation Centre! Music Jam members will lead the sing-along & everyone is welcome to join in. You can bring an instrument and play along too if you would like to!

New Years Day Levée

January 1; 1-3PM

As part of the community's New Year's Day Levée tradition, admission to the Recreation Centre is free. Take the opportunity to meet and connect with members of Esquimalt Council as well! Start the New Year with a free swim on January 1st at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre. Mayor and Council will be welcoming residents in the Atrium. Drop by for a chat and enjoy some light refreshments as we celebrate the year ahead together.

Tree Chipping

Jan 3 & 4; Archie Browning Sports Centre (back lot)

10AM-4PM

The festivities of the holidays have come to a close and it is time to take down the decorations. Let us help you get rid of your tree for good cause!

This service is provided by donation and helps subsidize a local charity.

SOCIAL SATURDAYS

Jan 17 – Music Bingo

Jan 24 – Date Night – Wine & Paint

Feb 28 – Pub Quiz w/ Benji Duke

Mar 28 – Murder Mystery Night

Family Day Celebration

Feb 16; Esquimalt Rec Centre
10AM-1PM

We have all sorts of excitement in store for our Family Day event. Join us for Kinder gym, Lions Club BBQ, swimming, as well as a variety of activities that you can do as a family – and do it all for FREE. All of the free activities planned will be posted closer to the event – esquimalt.ca/events or follow us on Facebook.

Family Day Music Bingo

Feb 16; Esquimalt Rec Centre
2:30-4:30PM

Get ready for a musical blast! Join Esquimalt Recreation and Original Music Bingo for an exciting, family-friendly Music Bingo Event at Jubilee Hall!

Pre-registration is required for all participants, so grab your spot and get ready to bingo!

Family Day Skate

Feb 16; Archie Browning Sports Centre
2:30-3:50PM

Celebrate Family Day with us at this free community skate!

*Skate rentals are not included

We respectfully acknowledge that we are gathered on Lekwungen territory.

View our up-to-date online calendar



or go to esquimalt.ca/events



Township of
ESQUIMALT