

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2026

IN THIS ISSUE:

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

June 22, July 6, July 20, September 21

Committee of the Whole meetings

June 15, July 13

* 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.

The Esquimalt Municipal Hall and Esquimalt Archives are closed on statutory holidays. Check Esquimalt.ca for updated service schedules.

Financial planning & 2026 budget

Staff present a draft budget to Council and the public for feedback and adjustments in the spring. The budget was adopted by council this May.

The annual budget outlines both operational needs and capital projects. The resulting Five-Year Financial Plan provides funding for core services as well as the Council Priorities Plan. Details about planned spending, including capital projects and department plans can be found in the 2026 Budget Book. This report gives an overview of township financials and a detailed list of revenues and expenditures.

Check Esquimalt.ca/budget for budget reports and information.

Community Satisfaction Survey & results

In early 2026, the Township launched its first community satisfaction survey in recent memory.

Community satisfaction surveys, especially when created to be randomized and statistically significant, aim to allow municipalities to hear from residents in a meaningful way, to make data-driven decisions, to prioritize projects and to build more effective communication mechanisms that reflect the needs of the community.

Surveys, when done on a regular basis, also help with benchmarking. Council and staff can see how the preferences and priorities of the community evolve and adjust over time.

The 2026 survey addressed large themes as well as service-specific questions to help inform Council and staff in decision-making and shaping service priorities.

Read the full survey and see the results on Esquimalt.ca.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

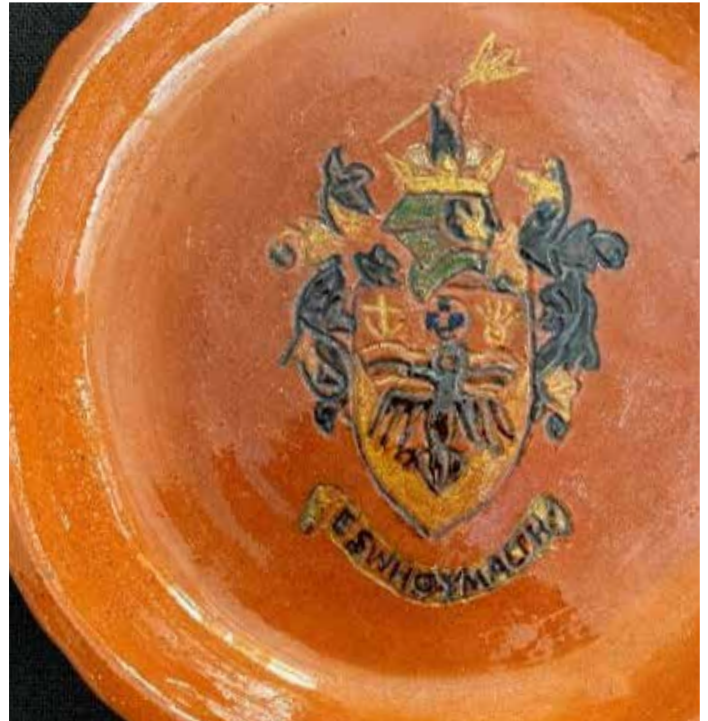
- » **96% Quality of life in Esquimalt is good or very good**
- » **97% Esquimalt is a good place to raise children**
- » **89% Esquimalt is a good place to retire**
- » **19% The most important issue facing Esquimalt is the traffic, transportation and parking**
- » **12% The most important issue is housing affordability**
- » **11% Traffic, idling and vehicle emissions were the most important environmental concerns facing Esquimalt**
- » **45% Nature, parks and the waterfront are the most desirable things about living in Esquimalt**
- » **93% Satisfied with the services and program provided**
- » **77% They receive good value for the municipal taxes paid**

Souvenir plate crafted from Esquimalt clay has deep history

The Souvenir Plate, presented to Mr. Alfred Charles Wurtele, Reeve of the Township of Esquimalt upon his retirement in 1965, was donated to the Esquimalt Archives (026-001-001) by his daughter Betty Sherwood. He graduated from the Royal Canadian Naval College and was captain of HMCS Stadacona in Halifax, NS. Mr. Wurtele served as Reeve for 14 years (1952-65) and was a member of Council from 1946 to 1981. In 1987, he was the first to be awarded the Freeman of Esquimalt.

The plate's center shows the engraved Township of Esquimalt Municipal Coat of Arms, introduced during Alfred's Reeve era, with the motto 'ES WHOY MALTH'. "CH Victoria 1965, Esquimalt Clay, from the Sea, and (*E Mare [sic] Merces*)" is marked on the back of the plate. 'CH' at the top, along with 'Victoria,' could indicate the artist's identity as a clay artist from Victoria. The year '1965' probably indicates when the plate was made, as it was presented on December 30, 1965. The intriguing aspect of the inscription is the Latin phrase "*E Mari Merces*," which is commonly seen on ceramic objects in Halifax, NS, as it is the motto of the Halifax Regional Municipality (*E Mari Merces*). Both phrases symbolize wealth from the sea. The clay plate also bears the inscription 'From the sea,' suggesting Esquimalt's identity with maritime history.

This 60-year-old plate remains in excellent condition and is crafted from Esquimalt clay, showcasing local craftsmanship and sourced natural resources. It emphasizes local craft traditions and the importance of regional natural materials.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

Esquimalt Municipal Archives would be happy to preserve your memories and include your history in the municipal history of Esquimalt. Archives preserve materials so we can continue to educate, inspire, and serve the community. **Please reach out to archives@esquimalt.ca or 250-412-8540 for details.**

Development Capacity Study & June 11 open house

The township is analyzing a number of variables including land use, sanitary sewer, water, electricity, traffic, transit, recreation and parks, tree canopy, and emergency services in order to provide Council, committees, residents, businesses, and staff with a clear understanding of the development capacity of the township. This study looks at how these variables may constrain future residential development both temporarily and spatially.

Identifying these constraints will help Council in its decision-making processes and will help guide the spatial distribution of residential land uses in the new Official Community Plan.

The open house is June 11 from 3-7PM at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre. More at [EngagingEsquimalt.ca](https://engagingesquimalt.ca)

2025 Annual Report and Financials

The 2025 Annual Report was published June 1. The full-colour report contains highlights from all departments, project progress updates and audited financial statements.

Find it at Esquimalt.ca/reports

Esquimalt Road Active Transportation

Thank you to those who took our survey and joined the Esquimalt Road Active Transportation & Underground Improvement open house this spring. You can view the staff report, including the results of the public engagement work, at esquimalt.ca/projects. Questions? Contact engineering@esquimalt.ca

Property tax payments can be done online by going to Esquimalt.ca/MyEsquimalt

Upcoming events in Esquimalt

TWO NIGHTS OF FARMERS MARKETS EACH WEEK!

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS

Esquimalt Farmers Market 4:30-7:30PM on Thursdays at Memorial Park

Peruse an amazing selection of local businesses, pick up a delicious dinner from one of our hot food vendors and enjoy twice nightly musical performances while the kids run wild in the onsite playground. Stay for the fantastic selection of artisans and crafters yielding everything from soap to jewelry and more. esquimaltmarket.com



June 11: Development Capacity Study open house 3-7PM

Esquimalt Recreation Centre

Learn about the results of our Development Capacity Study and discuss the findings with the project team. We want to hear your questions, what you think is missing and any concerns you may have.

Mayor's Open Door

June 12, 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.

June 13: Neighbourhood Party

11AM-2PM at Bullen Park

Esquimalt's biggest block party is back! The rec centre parking lot is taken over for the afternoon and filled with local vendors, music, and games for kids. Don't leave without stopping by Bullen Park for the bouncy castle and other kid-friendly activities.

Gorge Farmers Market

June 15-Sept 7 on Mondays (4:30-7:30PM) at Esquimalt Gorge Park

Often referred to as Victoria's most picturesque farmers market customers can enjoy shopping, twice nightly musical performances and a rotating selection of food trucks each night. There is plenty of space to spread out on the field on a picnic blanket with the whole family. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. esquimaltmarket.com

July & August: Memorial Park Music Fest

6-8PM on Tuesdays

Outdoor live music at Memorial Park is a summer staple. Bring a chair or blanket to enjoy this free event. Food trucks will be available! More at townshiparts.org for the musical lineup.

July 4: Urban Arts Tour

11AM-4PM in Esquimalt

This annual self-guided tour brings together local artists and garden hosts to celebrate creativity, connection, and the beauty of Esquimalt's outdoor spaces. Visitors stroll through neighbourhood gardens discovering art in unexpected and inspiring settings.

OUTDOOR MOVIES THIS AUGUST

Aug 07-Brave

Aug 14-Kung Fu Panda

Aug 21-How to Train your Dragon

Aug 28-Shrek

BULLEN PARK STARTING AT
SUNSET!

July 13: Teddy Bear Picnic

11AM-12:30PM

Captain Jacobson Park

Grab your favourite stuffed animal and picnic blanket and join us for some crafts and story time! Parent/caregiver supervision is required.

August 10: Play Time!

11AM - 12:30PM

Memorial Park

Join us at the park for some fun outdoor activities. We will have lawn games, light sports equipment, etc. Come spend some time with us in the fresh air and sun! Parent/caregiver supervision is required.

Sept 11-13: Ribfest

Bullen Field

Ribfest is a three-day event packed with fun for people of all ages and abilities. Our mission is to host a fun, family event and raise charitable money for Esquimalt. Free entry into Esquimalt Ribfest for the whole family.

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