

The Current



Reeve Alfred Wurtele congratulating re-elected Councillor James "Jimmy" Bryant on his fifth consecutive win, along with newly elected Councillor Edward "Ed" DeCosta and re-elected Councillor Vince Rush at the 1958 municipal election.

ESQUIMALT VOTES 2026

Your vote matters

In this fall's General Local Election, residents will choose local leaders to direct the decisions that affect daily life across Esquimalt—from parks, roads, and recreation to community services and long-term planning. You'll vote for one (1) Mayor and six (6) Councillors to guide Township priorities over the next four years. Check online after September 11 to see who's running.

Are you registered to vote?

The Township uses the Provincial Voters List. If you're not already registered, don't worry, you can register at the voting location by showing appropriate identification.

Accessible voting options

We're committed to making voting accessible for everyone.

1. Ballot marking device

Available for voters who cannot mark paper ballots. Features audio-tactile interface, headphones, paddle button, and sip-and-puff port.

2. Curbside voting

Designated accessible parking available. Election officials bring the ballot to your vehicle and will protect voter secrecy.

3. Personal assistance

Assistance can be requested from an election official, or you may be accompanied by an aid for any required accommodations.

Accessibility services are available for all in-person voting options.

THREE WAYS TO VOTE

1. Mail ballots:

Make voting easy!

If you're a qualified elector, you can vote by mail.

Applications to vote by mail ballot are available at Municipal Hall (1229 Esquimalt Rd) and online.

Deadlines and details at esquimalt.ca/elections

2. Advance voting:

- October 7, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
- October 14, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

3. General Voting Day:

October 17, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

ALL IN-PERSON VOTING takes place at Esquimalt Recreation Centre Gym (527 Fraser St).

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	250-414-7107
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.



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Changes to bylaw enforcement & payments

In late June, Esquimalt council voted to update Esquimalt's Bylaw Offence Notice (BON) penalty structure and applicable bylaws and policies.

The changes include updates to fees for a range of bylaw offences, including parking violations, building and zoning infractions, illegal dumping, property maintenance, and other infractions.

Bylaw officers will also be scheduled for Saturdays and during large events to help ensure parking regulations are observed—this encourages spaces to turn over in their designated times and ensures accessible parking is used by those who need it.

Later this fall, the township will introduce online payment options, making it easier and more convenient to pay tickets before additional fees or collection notices are issued.

The Township of Esquimalt's Bylaw Offence Notice (BON) penalties have largely not been updated since the system was adopted in 2014.

These updates are intended to better align penalties with current enforcement practices and regional norms, strengthen deterrence and compliance, and improve payment options for residents and visitors. The bylaw is scheduled for adoption at the September 14 council meeting.

Infrastructure upgrades coming to Esquimalt Road

Construction of **Phase 2 of the Esquimalt Road Active Transportation and Infrastructure Project** has begun. Work will take place from Lampson-Fraser and Admirals-Can-teen. Water works will run between Admirals and Lampson.

The project includes sanitary and storm utility upgrades, refreshed pavement, new crosswalk flashing lights (pictured right), traffic signal upgrades, protected bike lanes and water infrastructure improvements in partnership with the City of Victoria. ([more at EngagingEsquimalt.ca](http://moreatEngagingEsquimalt.ca))

Building on previous public engagement, the focus of Phase 2 was to upgrade important aging underground infrastructure while enhancing comfort and accessibility for those traveling along the corridor. Pairing utility and pavement work with transportation infrastructure upgrades helps save on costs, minimizes future disruptions, and streamlines construction work.

The budget for Phase 2 includes \$3.75M of capital budget which will be offset with \$500,000 from development contributions and \$484,000 from the City of Victoria for their



water infrastructure upgrades. Paving accounts for 50 per cent of the costs, utility upgrades at 15 per cent, crossings/ signals at 22 per cent, bike infrastructure at 8 per cent and pedestrian improvements at 5 per cent (% split excludes water infrastructure costs). Construction will take place until fall with periodic travel disruptions. Stay up to date with significant traffic notifications by signing up to Esquimalt Alert (Esquimalt.ca/alert)

Questions? Contact
engineering@esquimalt.ca



POLICING UPDATE

In 2022, residents told Council that they wanted the Township to explore different models of policing

for two reasons: first, to seek a cost reduction in order to get Esquimalt's costs in line with comparable municipalities, and secondly to support a review of policing governance and service delivery in Esquimalt.

In 2024, Council voted unanimously for staff to evaluate what would be needed to establish an Esquimalt

Police Department with contracted services. This would be similar to other municipal community policing models where some services were contracted out. Work undertaken by staff and consultants over the next year identified major operational, governance and financial challenges with the various models. This review provides Council with valuable information to help with decision-making about the next potential steps in assessing police service delivery for Esquimalt residents.

In addition, the new leadership team at VicPD and the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board have been col-

laborating on improving governance matters, Esquimalt-focused performance measures, and the budget process.

At the July 20, 2026 Council meeting, Council directed staff to include a comprehensive orientation and strategic discussion about policing with the 2026-2030 Mayor and Council.

The Township will continue working toward Council's long-term goal of regional policing while improving the current service model.

[Read the staff report and learn more about the project at Esquimalt.ca/police.](#)

What's economic nutrition?



What if your customers could see the local impact of every dollar they spend?

The Economic Nutrition initiative helps businesses measure and share how spending supports local jobs, suppliers, services, and community prosperity.

Similar to a nutrition label on food, it provides a simple way to communicate the economic value created through local purchasing.

The Township of Esquimalt is participating in a regional cohort to explore this approach and help businesses showcase their contribution to a stronger, more resilient local economy.

Info: email terese.finegan@esquimalt.ca

Council meeting schedule

Council meetings

September 21; Sept 28 (with 6PM Special COTW); Nov 2 (inaugural); Nov 16

Committee of the Whole (COTW) meetings:

November 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.

Spirit Awards- thank you to our volunteers Mike Miller and Carolyn McIsaac!



Spirit Awards are given to those showing exemplary volunteer spirit in Esquimalt.

Learn more about our award recipients and how to nominate someone from the community at Esquimalt.ca.

We respectfully acknowledge that we are gathered on Lekwungen territory.

Upcoming events in Esquimalt

Gorge Farmers Market

Mondays (4:30-7:30PM)

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. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Full dates at esquimaltmarket.com

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.

Esquimalt Farmers Market

Thursdays (4:30-7:30PM)

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. Full dates at esquimaltmarket.com

OUTDOOR MOVIES

Aug 14-Kung Fu Panda

Aug 21-How to Train your Dragon

Aug 28-Shrek

FREE! JOIN US AT BULLEN PARK STARTING AT SUNSET.

Ribfest

Sept 11-13: 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. More at EsquimaltRibfest.com

Esquimalt Lantern Festival

Sept 18; 5:30-9:30PM

Esquimalt Gorge Park

Bring a lantern, dress up, and join us to experience a unique, magical evening unlike anything else in the township. There will be music by local musicians, handmade lanterns, large scale puppets, and interactive art installations through the park. Come celebrate all things weird and wonderful!

Esquimalt Story Festival

Sept 19; 12:00-2:30pm

Memorial Park

Help us celebrate the 21st year of Esquimalt's Story Festival with another awesome line-up of great story tellers. The Lion's club will be serving a by-donation lunch, sponsored by the generous Country Grocer. All donations go to help fund the Macaulay literacy program

Mayor's Open Door

September 25, 9-11AM

Esquimalt Municipal Hall

Chat with Mayor Desjardins at her final open door event!

Stop by the municipal hall to discuss what's important to you. No appointment necessary, first come, first served.

Social Saturday: Pub Quiz w/ Benji Duke

Sept 26; 6:30-10:30pm

Archie Browning Lounge

Benji Duke breaks the mold of everyday trivia nights and provides an evening of excitement and high energy with great showmanship, engaging visuals and a soundtrack that keeps the audience rocking. This isn't your typical trivia night! 19+ event.

2026 LOCAL ELECTIONS

ADVANCE VOTING

- October 7 8AM-8PM
- October 14 8AM-8PM

GENERAL VOTING DAY

- October 17 8AM-8PM

Vote at the Esquimalt Rec Centre

Social Saturday: Paint & Wine Night

Oct 17; 6:30-9:30pm

Archie Browning Lounge

Prepare to be led through a fun and creative painting experience of a Glow in the Dark Octopus while enjoying a glass of wine. Dive into the neon colors that shine by day and glow by night! No experience needed-just bring your creativity and have a blast. Pre-registration is required. *19yrs +

Senior's Appreciation Tea

Oct 21; 12:00-1:30pm

Jubilee Hall

Join us for complimentary coffee, tea and light snacks to celebrate the wonderful seniors in our community. This event is reserved for our guests who are 50 yrs+ and pre-registration is required.

View our up-to-date online calendar



or go to esquimalt.ca/events



Township of
ESQUIMALT