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## Esquimalt residents & businesses continue to show remarkable community spirit.

The move to Phase 3 by the Government of B.C. saw the reopening of several Esquimalt businesses. With that reopening came much support and enthusiasm by residents for the continued support of our local business community. Thank you to those who help

keep Esquimalt a vibrant and connected place to live and do business, from shoppers and owners to our Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce.

Township operations continue to service residents and businesses while observing the Provincial Health Officer's rules

and recommendations to keep staff and the public safe.

Everyone's efforts to "be kind, be calm and be safe" are helping the community work together and keep spirits up during these challenging times. Thank you.



### MEANWHILE...

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Provincial declarations of states of emergency, the Township activated a corporate emergency response plan including the standing up of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in March. The EOC's main purpose in this instance is to respond to various provincial orders and guidelines in addition to monitoring the situation to support continued services and planning for reopening.

Through the EOC, information is also provided to the public including links to public health orders and assistance programs along with updates on municipal operations. Throughout the pandemic, the Township continued to deliver essential services and implement measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Some of the actions taken by the EOC included the temporary closure of recreation, sports and playground facilities as well as closing the municipal hall, fire hall and public works yard to the public except by appointment.

#### Here are some of the changes we have made in response to the pandemic:

- Developed and implemented work from home policies to allow employees to continue to work remotely while sustaining most municipal operations;
- Implemented enhanced cleaning and sanitization processes in all facilities to ensure that staff who continued to attend the workplace were kept safe;
- Split the public works crews into shifts to allow maintenance of essential operations and infrastructure; opened a satellite public works yard at Archie Browning Sports Centre to aid in physical distancing of staff;
- Adjusted meeting procedures to allow the public to attend committee and council meetings electronically so that governance and decision-making processes by council remained uninterrupted;

- Developed safety plans for recreation services as they reopened. These plans were created in alignment with WorkSafeBC, Island Health and other related government agencies;
- Installed protective barriers at the municipal hall public counter as well as in work areas as needed;
- Engaged with the Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to help ensure that public information is meeting the needs of the business community;
- Optimized on pool closure to perform maintenance;
- Collaborated with Victoria Police Community Engagement staff to ensure that information regarding bylaw and provincial order enforcement remains consistent and accurate; and
- Enhanced cleaning and garbage pickup in parks.

Now, and since the start of Phase 3, we have been able to resume many of our normal operations. At this point in time, all municipal operations, with the exception of some recreation services, are active with safety modifications as needed.

The Township has prioritized extensive internal and external communications throughout the states of emergency, including regularly updating the website, creating a dedicated COVID-19 resource webpage, sending news releases, posting links to provincial and federal programs, issuing frequently asked questions documents and creating video messaging from the Mayor to the community. If you have ideas about how we can improve, please let us know at [communications@esquimalt.ca](mailto:communications@esquimalt.ca).

We thank all those staff and community members who continue to help us navigate these unusual waters.

## 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
Development Services	250-414-7103
Engineering/Public Works	250-414-7108
Finance	250-414-7100
Parks and Recreation	250-412-8500

### Esquimalt Municipal Archives

1149-A Esquimalt Road (civic)  
1229 Esquimalt Road (mail)  
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1 250-412-8540

### 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

1231 Esquimalt Road  
(behind municipal hall) 250-414-7198

### Public Safety Building

2nd Floor, 500 Park Place  
Esquimalt, BC V9A 6Z9

Police Department	250-995-7500
Fire Department	250-414-7126

The Esquimalt Current is a tri-annual newsletter published by the Township of Esquimalt and distributed to 8,000 homes and local businesses.

If you have an event you would like to include in The Current, please call 250-414-7122 or email [communications@esquimalt.ca](mailto:communications@esquimalt.ca).

Sign up for email notification at [esquimalt.ca](http://esquimalt.ca) to receive this newsletter by email and for updates on Township news, events and more.

The Township of Esquimalt is committed to environmental sustainability. This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

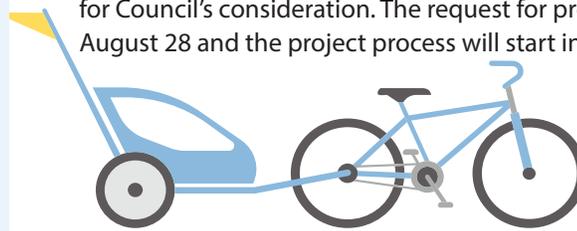
## Upcoming public feedback opportunities

### Integrated resource management

Starting in September, the Township will be going to the public to see if Esquimalt residents and businesses are interested in the idea of integrated resource management as a potential method of reducing waste going to Hartland Landfill. The survey will include questions about technology, cost, future planning and impacts on residents. Look to [esquimalt.ca](http://esquimalt.ca) for details in September.

### Active transportation plan

The Township adopted a new Official Community Plan (OCP) in 2018. In the Transportation section of the OCP, there are objectives for both pedestrian and cyclist movements. To assist in meeting these objectives, the Township is seeking to create an Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP) that will identify gaps in the pedestrian and cyclist network, including suggested projects to carry out in the next 5 to 10 years to address those gaps. As part of the process, the public will be invited to learn about the project and offer feedback on the network for Council's consideration. The request for proposals closed August 28 and the project process will start in the fall.



### Climate mitigation

This fall public engagement will begin on the Township's Climate Action Plan. Residents will be presented with the findings of the greenhouse gas emissions inventory and asked to help prioritize which strategies the Township should be implementing to lower these emissions in order to meet our GHG reduction targets.

### We're still open for business!

Development, road, tree and other permits can be completed online.

We've also adjusted our council and committee of the whole meeting structure to allow you to call in to address council. As always, our meetings are live streamed as well.

We've moved our public hearing application binders to our website, so you can view all the detailed plans quickly and easily.

Some business can be done by appointment only, so call us at 250-414-7100 to enquire.



**Tax payments & home owner grant applications due September 30.**  
Learn more at [esquimalt.ca/tax](http://esquimalt.ca/tax)

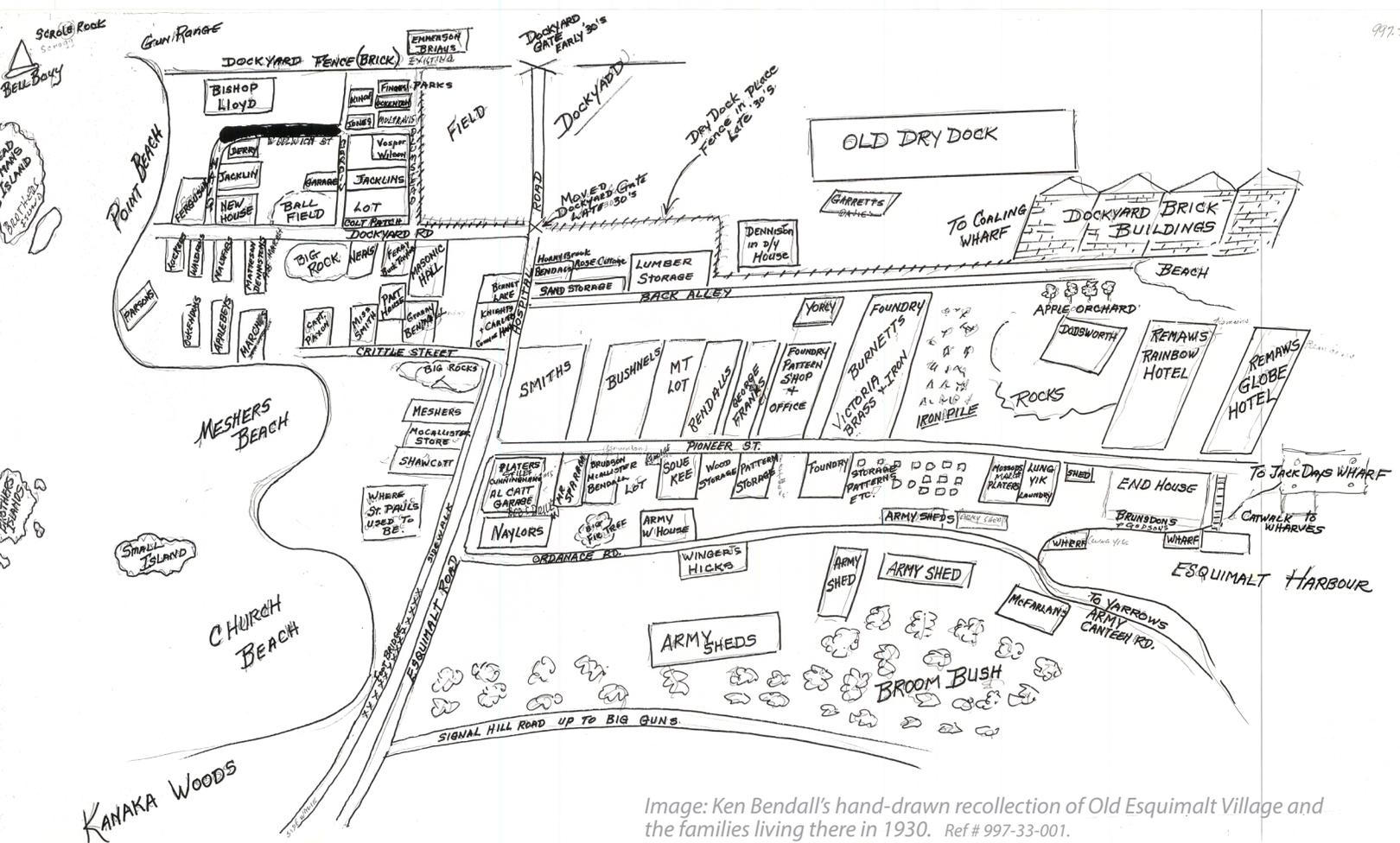


Image: Ken Bendall's hand-drawn recollection of Old Esquimalt Village and the families living there in 1930. Ref # 997-33-001.

# Did you know that Esquimalt's original downtown is now part of HMC Dockyard?

Old Esquimalt Village, a small community of civilians and naval personnel, grew up east of the dockyard in the 1850s. With the establishment of the naval base in 1865, the tiny village began expanding with houses built along both sides of the narrow neck of land between the dockyard and Signal Hill. Businesses opened up on Wharf Street (later Pioneer Street) with the Village in the 1850s becoming the terminus for the San Francisco Steamship Company. It continued attracting companies into the 1930s when Canadian Airways, later part of

Canadian Pacific Airlines, located its passenger terminal in the lower area of the Esquimalt Hotel. The start of WWII prompted an immediate need for an expanded HMC Dockyard. The Dominion Government and the Royal Canadian Navy began expropriating all of the land between the military property at Signal Hill and existing dockyard and by 1943, the Village had been totally absorbed. Council accepted \$6,110 for the township property in the village with settlement made separately for private landowners.

“

I just spent a lovely afternoon photographing flowers in Saxe Point Park and I wanted to thank the gardeners responsible for them. The parks are an unfailing joy, especially during this current pandemic. In fact, they've been essential to our happiness and peace of mind in the last few months.

Yours,  
Wayne and Jane



Cover and above photo credit to Wayne.

# Esquimalt Climate Action Plan: where we are at

Despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19, we have been forging ahead with the important work of climate action in the municipality. In 2019, Council declared a climate emergency and authorized staff to prepare a Climate Action Plan which would address both finding ways for the community to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions (climate mitigation) while at the same time preparing for the climate change that is already locked in due to emissions that have already been released (climate adaptation).

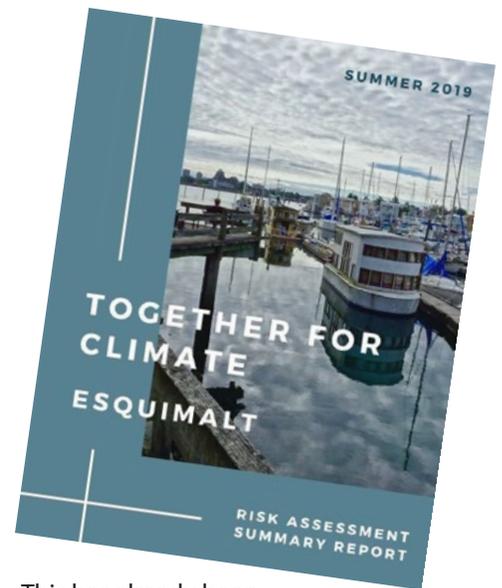
On the climate mitigation end, we have enlisted the help of Community Energy Association (CEA) and their capable staff. CEA has done over 65 climate plans for other municipalities in BC! They are working on a virtual public engagement plan for us and have chosen the Ethello platform for this purpose starting in the fall. We hope you will participate when the opportunity comes.

For climate adaptation, we, and seven other Vancouver Island municipalities, have been working with ICLEI Canada to develop a list of priority actions to help prepare the municipality and the community for the expected changes in climate.

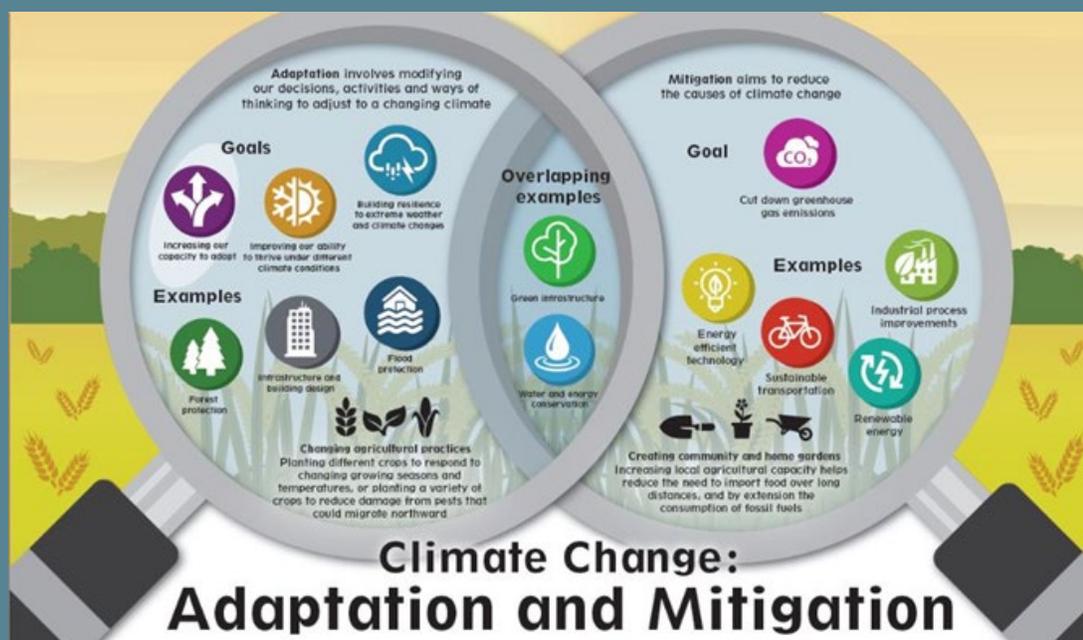
In Esquimalt we have already experienced the summer droughts, wildfire smoke and heavy winter rains that are part of the warming climate.

Other risks we are preparing for are rising sea levels, heat waves and water quality issues due to hotter temperatures. The actions that have been prioritized by our working group will be presented to Council and the public this fall and will be folded into the final CAP with the climate mitigation actions.

Whew! As if that wasn't enough, CEA has also put together a list of things that the Township could consider implementing right away to start addressing the climate emergency.



This has already been presented to Council and is being considered by staff as to how best to implement these. A few of the key proposed actions in this report are to require higher energy efficiency in new buildings through implementing the BC Step Code, making all new residential and commercial buildings install electric vehicle charging stations and encouraging home owners to retrofit their existing homes for low carbon heating and energy efficiency.



Read the full climate report and the risk assessment report for Esquimalt at [esquimalt.ca/climate](http://esquimalt.ca/climate)

See more at [Adaptation.NRCan.gc.ca](http://Adaptation.NRCan.gc.ca)

# Bring it Home 4 Climate Program

Is your home heating contributing to climate change by burning fossil fuels? Do you feel chilly in the winter or too hot in the summer? Esquimalt is now part of the new Bring It Home 4 Climate (Bring It Home) program to help homeowners take action and make their homes more comfortable and climate friendly.

Led by City Green Solutions, the program will engage and support homeowners who are interested in improving the energy efficiency and reducing the carbon footprint of their homes as well as motivate other homeowners to do the same.

Through the program, homeowners will have access to free virtual home energy check-ups with a Bring It Home Energy Expert, up to a \$250 subsidy for COVID-safe EnerGuide Home Energy Evaluation, supplies to reduce the air leakage in their homes, learning opportunities to increase home energy literacy and support do-it-yourself projects.

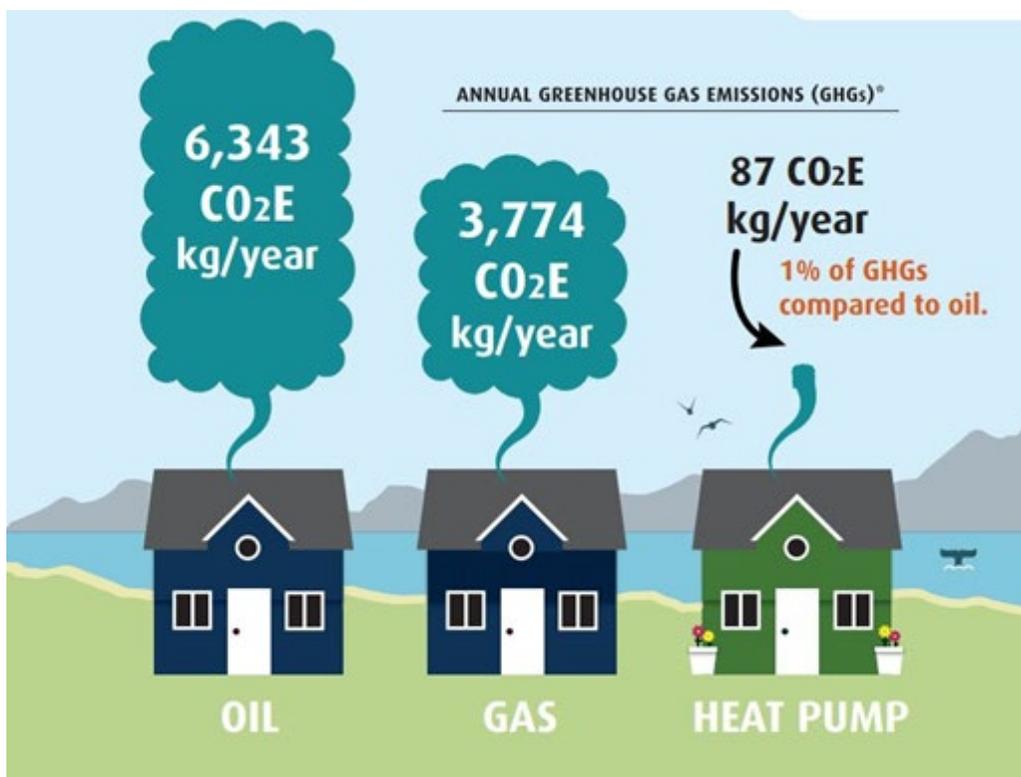
They will also have access to existing provincial and municipal retrofit incentives offered through the Better Homes program, making retrofits more affordable.

Participants can take advantage of what Bring It Home has to offer and join a community of people taking climate action.

Bring It Home is supported by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Transition 2050 project, the Capital Regional District, the District of Central Saanich, the District of Saanich, the Township of Esquimalt and the City of Victoria.

The program will run until December 31 2020.

For more information, visit [bringithome4climate.ca](http://bringithome4climate.ca).



The Greater Victoria Green Team was back in Esquimalt on August 22 for a physically-distanced invasive species pull in Esquimalt-Gorge Park.

Greater Victoria  
GREEN TEAM

ers Restoring  
systems

sCanada.ca



Find more opportunities to get involved:

[meetup.com/  
Greater-Victoria-Green-Team](https://www.meetup.com/Greater-Victoria-Green-Team)

# Parks & Recreation updates

## Many services are back on track

**We're excited to be welcoming the community back as the gradual return of programs and services continues at Esquimalt Recreation facilities. Here's the latest on your favourite program areas:**

### Fitness

Weight room and select fitness classes are available by advanced registration. Upon entry, guests are provided with their own sanitization kit and are able to enjoy a 1.5 hour session in the weight room or a group fitness class where small class sizes ensure physical distancing can be maintained. To reserve your space, please visit [esquimalt.ca/recreation](http://esquimalt.ca/recreation).

### Day camps

Day camps will be offered to support families with the modified re-opening of schools. Details, once available, will be shared through the Township of Esquimalt website at [esquimalt.ca/camps](http://esquimalt.ca/camps)

### Arena re-opening

The arena ice will be going in at the Archie Browning Sports Centre with activities resuming August 28th for sport organizations, and public skating (by reservation) to resume after Labour Day. Curling remains uncertain, with updates available likely mid-September.

### Pool re-opening

After extensive maintenance, the aquatic facility is opening soon. There will be a soft-reopening September 15-17 that will allow staff to make necessary adjustments to keep everyone safe as the gradual return of guests continues. Learn about new protocols & schedules at [esquimalt.ca/recreation](http://esquimalt.ca/recreation). Reservations for these sessions will open online and by phone (250-412-8500) at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, September 8.

### Additional fall programs

We'll be expanding our recreation programs this fall to offer more

fitness classes, including yoga and Pilates, art and sport programs. It is anticipated additional programming will begin the week of September 28 with physical distancing and additional sanitization standards in place. While this is subject to change, the latest updates will be available through the Township website.

### Reception hours

Our friendly reception team is available 6:30am-6:30pm Monday-Friday and 8:00am-12:00pm Saturday by phone at 250-412-8500 to answer your questions and assist you with registrations.

**We will continue to share updates as more information becomes available. We encourage you to follow us on social media (search Esquimalt Parks & Recreation Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) to see the latest behind-the-scenes photos of work underway or visit [esquimalt.ca/recreation](http://esquimalt.ca/recreation).**



# Taking care of oil tanks

## Heating and spills can be costly but rebates are available

Did you know that oil heating in Esquimalt accounts for about 10 per cent of our community greenhouse gas emissions? Oil heating not only emits more GHG than heating with natural gas or electricity (go electric!), it is also the most expensive and inconvenient for the homeowner.

Furthermore, home heating oil tanks can fail, leading to oil spills in creeks, harbours, shorelines and natural drinking water sources, causing potential health risks or environmental damage that is costly to residents. Once spilled, rain and irrigation water carries oil through the soil into residential perimeter drains and the surrounding environment. Perimeter drains can quickly carry oil into the storm drain systems, which empty directly into creeks, harbours and shorelines.

Oil tanks can expose homeowners to the risk of extremely costly cleanups if the tank ever leaks. Part of Esquimalt's climate action is trying to get as many of these tanks removed as possible. Starting this fall, the Township will contribute \$350 towards the cost of removing oil tanks and furnaces and replacing them with all electric systems which have zero emissions.

Combined with provincial and CRD rebates, you could be eligible for \$3,700 in rebates for installing one of these systems! Not to mention the good feeling from knowing you are helping take care of the planet for future generations.

The Esquimalt Fire Department has records of oil tank installations going back decades. If you are concerned about whether your property had an oil tank installed in the past, you can find out by emailing [oiltank@esquimalt.ca](mailto:oiltank@esquimalt.ca) with your home address and one of our staff will contact you.

## Here are some suggested measures to reduce your risk of a home heating oil spill:

1. Request a copy of the permit
2. Check your home insurance policy
3. Have your tank serviced annually
4. Conduct regular inspections
5. Get a spill kit
6. Report spills
7. Consider converting to an alternate energy source



## Spot a spill?

Call the Esquimalt Fire Department at 250-414-7126 and ask that they come out to assess the severity of the spill.

If the spill enters municipal roads or waterways call Esquimalt Public Works (office hours: 250-414-7108 or emergency after hours: 250-995-7654).

If you are unable to reach a municipal official, call Emergency Management BC at 1-800-663-3456. You must also notify your neighbour if the spill leaks onto their property.

**You can find out more at [cleanbc.gov.bc.ca](http://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca) or at the [bringithome4climate.ca](http://bringithome4climate.ca) website which will provide even more assistance with your home energy needs.**

*A home heating oil tank leaked oil into both the ground and the storm water system near Gorge Creek in January, 2020. Esquimalt staff and contractors worked over evenings and weekends on cleanup and monitoring until the situation was deemed safe by municipal, provincial and federal standards.*

# Hi neighbour!

## United Way Greater Victoria works with Esquimalt residents

This summer, a partnership between Seaspan Victoria Shipyards and United Way Greater Victoria has Esquimalt residents brainstorming how to provide support to residents and build community during COVID-19. The "Hi Neighbour" program asks local residents and businesses this question: "If you had \$500 to make an impact in your community, what would you do?" Ideas that help support social connection during this challenging time are funded with "Local Love" micro-grants to put these grassroots initiatives into action.

Two projects are currently in the works, and others are lined up to implement before the end of September. One project will create five more mini-libraries for the Esquimalt area in partnership with the Esquimalt Mini Library Group. This idea was submitted by an employee at Seaspan Victoria Shipyards, and the mini-libraries will be built at Seaspan by employees who are volunteering their time, talent and supplies. The libraries will be installed in September during Literacy Month.

Another project is creating and donating face masks for adults, children and seniors who might not otherwise be able to afford them. Requested by the Esquimalt Neighbourhood House Society, the goal is to create and distribute 500 face masks to those in the Esquimalt community later in August. If anyone is inter-

ested in helping sew face masks, please contact the Hi Neighbour community builder, Kelly Binette, at [community-builder@uwgv.ca](mailto:community-builder@uwgv.ca).

The Township of Esquimalt has been a strong supporter and partner in the "Hi Neighbour" program, as has the Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce and local community organizations and businesses.

In fact, the Township of Esquimalt has been a generous supporter of United Way Greater Victoria for 26 years. Over that time, more than \$200,000 has been contributed to United Way by township staff represented by CUPE Local 374 and IAFF local 4264 and by management.

"Hi Neighbour" was created in response to COVID-19 with the goal of providing support and critical services to neighbourhoods needing extra support during this pandemic, particularly to vulnerable populations like seniors, single parents and those living in poverty.

Funding for this program comes from a \$600,000 donation from Seaspan and Southern Railway of British Columbia, with The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation and is aimed to support Esquimalt and several neighbourhoods in in the Lower Mainland..

**For more information about the project, visit [uwgv.ca/hineighbour](http://uwgv.ca/hineighbour).**



**Sara Jansen, Deputy Emergency Program Coordinator, is leaving the Township to pursue another employment opportunity.**

Sara has worked with numerous people and organizations throughout the Township and the CRD. Many of you have had the opportunity to work with Sara on various projects.

The Township of Esquimalt and all who worked with her will miss Sara's boundless energy, her expertise and her willingness to pitch in regardless of the task at hand.

Best of luck in the future and with your new role Sara!

## Council meeting schedule

### Council meetings

Sept 14, Sept 28, Oct 5

### Committee of the Whole meetings

Oct 19

*Unless otherwise noted, council meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers at 1229 Esquimalt Road. Please check the website or call 250-414-7157 to confirm meeting times.*

### Esquimalt Municipal Hall closed:

Nov 11, Dec 25 & 26 and Jan 1



Left to right: Barb Desjardins, Mayor of Esquimalt, Mark Breslauer, CEO, United Way Greater Victoria, and Joe O'Rourke, Vice President and General Manager, Seaspan Victoria Shipyards, drop off postcards about the "Hi Neighbour" program.

Township of  
**ESQUIMALT**

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