



In this issue: **2** From our Archives **3** Economic Development Strategy **4** Community Events

Mayor's Message

Improvements Everywhere in Esquimalt



Spring 2014 is a time for action. Please consider participating in the **Economic Development Roundtable Forums** this April. Your input will help us to complete Esquimalt's Economic Development

Strategy this summer, a document that will guide the future economy of the Township. I thank you in advance for your commitment to the community!

We also need your participation in the growing **Bloomin' Beautiful Home and Garden Contest**. Everyone can show their creativity and pride in living in Esquimalt. We have added new categories and prizes and of course you get bragging rights, so please join in.

Esquimalt continues to show its **environmental leadership** through the implementation of the new solid waste

management system. We know this is a significant change and I want to thank you all for your patience and energy in our goal to make **Esquimalt the best place to live!**

Improvements are occurring everywhere in Esquimalt: parks and recreation facilities, council chambers, free WiFi access at many locations, and the installation of the "Portland Loo" and water fountains at West Bay Walkway!

In addition to the many events happening this spring in Esquimalt (as outlined on page 4), I also wanted to let you know that I will be hosting an online **Mayor's Open Door** through Twitter on Friday April 25th and a walk-in Mayor's Open Door at the Esquimalt Plaza Serious Coffee on Thursday May 15th. Please watch for details on our website.

Have a wonderful spring!

Barbara Desjardins
Mayor Barbara Desjardins.

WW1 Trophy Guns Being Restored



Township logistics supervisor Mike Reed and Mayor Desjardins.

The two WW1 trophy guns in Memorial Park are being refurbished as part of the Township's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

Mike Reed, logistics supervisor with the Public Works Department, is leading the effort to restore the guns, which came into Township possession in 1920 from the federal Commission of War Records and Trophies.

The restoration project will involve replacing missing parts, repairing damaged and rusted components, and cleaning, coating, and re-painting the guns using the original German colours and pattern. Once refurbished, the guns will be re-mounted in the park with recessed lighting in the summer of 2014.

For more information on the project, go to www.esquimalt.ca

BLOOMIN' BEAUTIFUL

2014 Bloomin' Beautiful Home & Garden Contest

Entry deadline May 19th
Judging May 26th - June 6th
People's Choice Voting: June 4th - 15th
Awards Evening: June 25th

For info on categories, prizes and garden workshops, go to www.esquimalt.ca/blooming

Enter for your chance to win some great prizes...and make Esquimalt Shine at the same time!

New Garbage Collection System Kicks Off

Starting in early March, the Township of Esquimalt began picking up sorted waste—garbage and kitchen scraps—from residents. In addition, waste is now being picked up from the curb, rather than the backyard. Most residents should now have two bins for sorting waste and a third small bin for collecting kitchen scraps under the counter.



Q and A – Solid Waste Collection Program

Q. I am concerned about pests, such as raccoons, getting into my bin. What should I do?

A. *Bungee cords to secure bin lids for both kitchen scraps and garbage are available at Municipal Hall.*

Q. What kind of bags should I use in the bins, and where do I get them?

A. *Standard garbage bags can be used for your outdoor garbage bin. For your outdoor kitchen scraps bin, you can choose to use compostable bags, or to place organics loosely in the bin. The latter approach will likely require rinsing out the bin after each pickup. Compostable bags are available at most grocery and hardware stores. Lining your under-the-sink kitchen catcher is optional. If you choose to line this container you can use newspaper, paper bags or compostable bags. All of these options are acceptable in the kitchen scraps bin (green lid).*

Q. Can I have a second bin for garbage?

A. *If the garbage bin provided by the Township does not meet your needs, you may use your old bin for additional garbage, but a tag is required. Garbage tags can be purchased from Municipal Hall or the Recreation Centre at a cost of four for \$8.*

More Q and A's plus program information available at www.esquimalt.ca/2bins

From our Archives: Colville Road Circa 1942

The expansion of Yarrows Shipyard and HMC Dockyard, to meet wartime ship building demands, brought hundreds of workers to Esquimalt who needed houses. The Dominion government incorporated Wartime Housing Limited to oversee construction and ordered Esquimalt to deed 275 lots to the Crown for \$1 per lot. By 1943, 100 permits, mostly along Colville and Lockley roads, had been issued for construction. Many of these houses, designed by architect P. Leonard James, remain today.

These historic photographs of houses under construction on Colville Road were recently transferred to the Esquimalt Archives by the City of Victoria Archives.



Visit Esquimalt Municipal Archives at 1149A Esquimalt Road (below McDonald's), Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon. Tel: 250-412-8540. Archivist: Greg Evans.

Blair McDonald Heads New Department of Community Safety Services

Blair McDonald has been hired as the Township's new director of community safety services. Blair heads up a new department that includes



Blair McDonald

emergency preparedness, building inspection and bylaw enforcement. Among his duties, he will be the Township's liaison to the Victoria Police Department, and will work closely with community partners such as the Chamber of Commerce, resident's associations, business associations, and youth groups to improve public safety in the community. Blair commenced his duties on January 13, 2014.

"Working with the community collaboratively to enhance public safety is a focus for me in the position," said Blair. "I'm looking forward to meeting with community members to discuss community safety."

Blair comes to the community from Comox, where he served as Officer in Charge at the Comox Valley Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He has 27 years community safety experience working in leadership roles with the RCMP in both Alberta and British Columbia, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Saskatchewan.

Welcome to Esquimalt Blair!



Free Shaw Wi-Fi is now available at many Township parks and facilities. Choose "Shaw Guest" from the Wi-Fi list on your device to access the internet. Shaw customers can sign on using "Shaw Open."

Economic Development Roundtable Seeks Your Input

After several meetings with local economic sectors over the past year, the Township's Economic Development Roundtable will be seeking wider public input this spring. This input will be sought in community forums being hosted on April 23rd and 26th and through an online survey being made available on www.esquimalt.ca from April 14th to May 10th, 2014.

Information from the roundtable and the community forums will be used to develop an Economic Development Strategy, which Esquimalt Council has identified as one of its strategic priorities.

During 2013 roundtable sessions were conducted with representatives from small business, tourism, development, education/training, shipbuilding and defence, environment/green economy, arts and culture, and health and wellness.

As of January 2014 all eight sector roundtables have been completed. Each sector completed a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis on various issues facing their sector in Esquimalt. At a follow-up meeting, participants provided a series of policies, goals, strategies and actions that they feel would help the sector flourish in the Township. Staff has been summarizing this data for public review and is now looking for input from the community.

"We have spent a great deal of time in discussions with a variety of sectors, getting stakeholder input into our local economy" said Bill Brown, director of development services. "We are now entering a public consultation phase where we want input from the wider community."

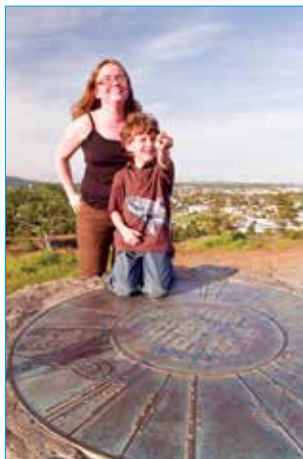
The community forums will consist of facilitated sit-down table top discussions for each of the eight sector topics. Each table top discussion will be limited to 45 minutes of conversation based on the supplied sector background report and survey. No sign-up is necessary. Choose your input opportunity and participate!

Public Input Options: Esquimalt Economic Development

	Community Forum 1	Community Forum 2	Online Forum 3
When	Wednesday, April 23, 2014 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Saturday, April 26, 2014 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	April 14 – May 10, 2014
Where	Lounge, Archie Browning Sports Centre		www.esquimalt.ca
What	Facilitated Table Top Discussions (by sector)		Downloadable backgrounders and online survey.

New Loo at West Bay

West Bay Walkway has a sturdy and attractive new washroom facility. The Portland Loo comes complete with flush toilet, lighting, a fountain and wash station—and enough room to bring in your bicycle if you forgot your lock! It is located at the west entrance to the walkway off of Head Street.



Web Survey Says...

Thanks to everyone who took our online website survey in December 2013. Your input will help us in refreshing and redesigning our website to ensure it meets the needs of both residents and visitors.

Survey highlights:

The most visited sections of the website are:

1. News and events
2. Municipal Hall
3. Parks and Recreation

Most respondents are able to find the information they're looking for (60%), but 40% say they sometimes have trouble accessing specific information.

Some 66% of respondents also follow Township social media pages.

Several suggestions for improvement were provided, including improvements to the mobile site, adding more photo galleries, quicker access to Council information, and online registration for Parks and Recreation Programs.

Recently, staff members have corrected several issues with the mobile site, and have also added new social media share buttons to each page, and rotating banners for both visual interest and to provide one-click links to news, events and Township initiatives.

Did you know...

- that esquimalt.ca received 222,018 visits in 2013?
- that 24.8 % of these visits were from mobile devices?
- that mobile visits to esquimalt.ca increased by 37% in 2013?

Would you like to receive information updates from www.esquimalt.ca? Sign up for e-mail notification on our home page. You can also follow us on Twitter (@[esquimaltbc](https://twitter.com/esquimaltbc)) and Facebook (TownshipofEsquimalt).

Spring Community Calendar

April 8 Bloomin' Beautiful Home and Garden Contest Our 2014 contest kicks off. Help Esquimalt Shine! *More info at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre or www.esquimalt.ca/blooming.*

April 20 Lion's Easter Egg Hunt at Esquimalt Gorge Park Join the Esquimalt Lions from noon to 3 p.m. for entertainment, food, crafts, face painting and, of course, the Easter egg hunt! *Call Vicki at 250-412-8511 for more info.*

April 22 Earth Day at Highrock Park Celebrate Earth Day at Highrock and help clean up our valuable Garry oak forest. *Call Vicki at 250-412-8511 for more info.*

April 26 Gigantic Garage Sale Clean out your garage, get rid of your unwanted stuff and make a few dollars at Esquimalt's Gigantic Garage Sale. Free admission to the public. *9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Archie Browning Sports Centre. For more info and to book your table, call 250-412-8500.*

May 3 Coast Capital Savings Free Swim Free admissions to the pool 2 - 4 p.m. Race on water, play some water basketball, or relax in the steam room. *For more info call 250-412-8500*

May 10 World Move for Health Day Drop in admissions only \$2 at Esquimalt Recreation Centre all day long. *For more info call 250-412-8500*

May 25 1st Annual Esquimalt Cycling Festival Powered by community spirit and just in time for Bike to Work Week. *11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Meet at Archie Browning Sports Centre. Contact Eunice Martel at esqbikefest@gmail.com*



Like us on Facebook:
TownshipofEsquimalt



Follow us on Twitter
@esquimaltbc

May 31 The Block Bash with VicPD and Esquimalt Parks and Recreation A great way to celebrate and get to know your neighbours. Learn more about the Township's Block Party initiative and the Block Watch Program. *See www.esquimalt.ca for more information, or call Vicki at 250-412-8511.*

June 13-15 Buccaneer Days Esquimalt's summer fun fest is back. Featuring a parade, pancake breakfast, midway rides, games, food booths, craft show and more. *Visit www.esquimalt.ca for more info, or call Vicki at 250-412-8511.*



Spring/Summer
2014 Active
Living Guide
Available Now.

Meeting Schedule

Council Meetings

April 7, 2014
April 28, 2014
May 5, 2014
May 26, 2014
June 9, 2014

Committee of the Whole

April 14, 2014
May 12, 2014
June 16, 2014

Unless otherwise noted, Council Meetings take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers at 1229 Esquimalt Road. Please check the website or call 250-414-7135 to confirm meeting times.

Municipal Hall Closed for Statutory Holidays:

Good Friday - April 18, 2014
Easter Monday - April 21, 2014
Victoria Day - May 19, 2014
Canada Day - July 1, 2014

Township Contacts

Emergency	9-1-1
Municipal Hall (Reception)	414-7100
Finance	414-7100
Development & Engineering	414-7108
Public Works	414-7104
Building Inspections	414-7108
Bylaw Enforcement	414-7161
Police Department	995-7500
Fire Department	414-7126
Parks & Recreation	412-8500
Sports Centre	412-8510
Library	414-7198
Archives	412-8540

Municipal Hall

1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

Archives

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

Recreation Centre

527 Fraser Street
Esquimalt, BC V9A 6H6

Archie Browning Sports Centre

1151 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3N6

Esquimalt Branch Library

1231 Esquimalt Road
(behind Municipal Hall)



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The Esquimalt Current is a tri-annual newsletter published by the Township of Esquimalt and distributed to 8,700 homes and local businesses.

We welcome your feedback.

Contact Ritchie Morrison, Communications Coordinator, at 250-414-7122 or ritchie.morrison@esquimalt.ca. Sign up for e-mail notification at www.esquimalt.ca 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.



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