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## Mayor's Message: Busy Times

We've had a very busy summer and it looks like we can expect the same for the fall!

Infrastructure projects are in full swing on Craigflower Road and at the Admirals/Colville intersection. Total investment in these projects is \$11.9 million and will make our community safer and more accessible for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. Our partners in these projects include the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, the Department of National Defence, and Public Works and Government Services Canada. Such a busy construction season can mean traffic congestion and increased commuting time. We thank residents

of Esquimalt for their patience over the next few months as construction continues.

In late August we had an emergency on Craigflower Road that led to several homeowners being evacuated to the Esquimalt Recreation Centre while emergency personnel defused a potentially dangerous situation. I was located at Municipal Hall during the emergency and witnessed the efforts of support staff and emergency responders. Thank you to everyone involved for going the extra distance for the Township of Esquimalt. If you would like to volunteer for Emergency Social Services, which was the key agency coordinating shelter for evacuees from Craigflower Road, see page three for more information.

One look at our Community Calender on page four tells the story: Esquimalt is the place to be this fall. I am particularly excited about Esquimalt's designation as an official route community for the Olympic Torch Relay and look forward to October 30 when this historical event visits our streets. A related event is the Gamestown 2010 initiative. Could Esquimalt be Gamestown 2010? Read more on how you can get involved on page two.

We continue to host open house events at the Municipal Hall to provide residents with up-to-date information and to solicit community input. Two such events were the Craigflower



Mayor Barb Desjardins congratulates Agnes Kalbfleish, winner of a gold medal in bowling at the Special Olympics Summer Games held in Abbotsford last summer.

Upgrade Phase 2 Open House on September 17<sup>th</sup> and the Town Hall Meeting on Policing on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Both meetings were well attended by the public, and the Township received significant public input.

To keep up to date on community events and news, I invite you to visit our website at [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca).

Mayor Barb Desjardins

## Volunteering in Your Community

Are you interested in making a difference in your community? Why not look into a volunteer opportunity with the Township of Esquimalt? Esquimalt's committees serve an important advisory role and make recommendations on a number of issues to Mayor and Council. Dedicated volunteers from the community serve on these committees along with appointed staff and Council members.

For a complete list of municipal committees and how to apply, please visit our website at:  
[www.esquimalt.ca/municipalHall/committees/](http://www.esquimalt.ca/municipalHall/committees/)

## Japanese Garden Re-opens on October 25<sup>th</sup>

Please join Esquimalt's Mayor and Council for the grand re-opening ceremony of the Japanese Garden in Esquimalt Gorge Park on Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. The garden is the oldest Japanese Garden in all of North America and was created by Isaburo Kashida, and was the location of the famous Takata Family Tea House. Come celebrate the return of this very special place.

# Esquimalt Official Route Community for Olympic Torch Relay

The eyes of the world will be on Greater Victoria on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, as it plays host to the launch of the nation-wide Olympic Torch Relay for the 2010 Winter Games. As an official route community, Esquimalt is proud to be a part of the relay's opening day. The Township of Esquimalt and local schools will be working hard to inspire community members to line the streets of Esquimalt, showing the world our Olympic Spirit!

"We are very excited and proud to be a part of the Olympic Torch Celebrations, and that Esquimalt is an official route community," said Mayor Barb Desjardins. "A huge thank-you to local organizers for all of their efforts with this celebration." Organizers are encouraging everyone to come out in their most patriotic red and white attire to take part in the Olympic Torch Celebrations.

Celebration stations are planned at Memorial Park and at L'ecole Brodeur School on Friday, October

30<sup>th</sup> between approximately 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Each celebration station will have music, entertainment, face painting and promotion tables where you can pick up an Olympic Torch Flag. From here, everyone is encouraged to head down to the torch route and get a front row seat to a truly inspirational Olympic moment.

Once the official route is announced, businesses, residents, community organizations, schools and sport teams can sign up to Adopt-A-Block along the Olympic Torch Route. Go to the municipal web site for more information and to sign up for a section of the route.

**The official Torch Route and times will be released two weeks before the Torch Relay begins. This may affect the timing of local events. Visit Esquimalt's municipal web site [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca) for updates and volunteer opportunities**



The torch relay will be taking the long way to Whistler (45,000 kilometres in fact) as it winds its way across Canada and back. The torch will be in Esquimalt on Day 1, October 30, 2009.

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**Solid Gold!** Sargeant Mike Chicorelli of the Victoria Police Department and chocolate lab Max won three gold medals and one bronze at the World Police and Firefighter Games held July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver. Sargeant Chicorelli is in charge of the Victoria PD K9 Unit and has worked with Max for the past four and a half years. Congratulations team!

## Esquimalt's Got Game

The Township of Esquimalt is reaching out to the community for help in putting Esquimalt on the "GamesTown 2010" map. All community members and organizations are being asked to share their involvement in sport, healthy living, and environmental sustainability through stories, photos or videos uploaded to [www.gamestown2010.ca](http://www.gamestown2010.ca). The deadline for entries is October 31, 2009 — the day after the Olympic Torch will journey through Esquimalt!

"The Olympic Games Spirit is alive and well here in Esquimalt," said Mayor Barb Desjardins. "We have the facilities, the programs, a commitment to community sustainability — and most importantly an active and involved community." Desjardins added that she is looking forward to seeing the stories residents submit to

the Gamestown 2010 website.

GamesTown 2010 is one of ActNow BC's series of programs which give all British Columbians the chance to embrace the spirit of the Olympic Games.

**We Are GamesTown 2010**  
**Let's Prove It!**

Our community could win \$100,000 towards improving a local sport or healthy living facility!

**It's easy!**  
Just go online and tell your story.

How does our community support healthy living and the spirit of the 2010 Winter Games?

Post stories, photos and videos at:  
[www.gamestown2010.ca](http://www.gamestown2010.ca)

It starts with your story.



# Tourism Strategy in Full Swing

## Twenty Tourism Themes Identified in the Township

If you think you know Esquimalt, you may not know of “My Esquimalt.” My Esquimalt is the title of the Township’s recently launched tourism strategy. The new promotional material features stunning photography in the form of a brochure, walking tours and an official tourism website.

“The 2009 strategy is the second phase in developing and promoting tourism in Esquimalt”, said Barbara Snyder, director of development services. “In the first phase in 2008 we did an assessment of our strengths and weaknesses and developed a Tourism Action Plan. “My Esquimalt” is part of the implementation of the 2008 Plan.”

To implement the plan, consultant Gary McCartie was hired to develop the overall approach and the necessary promotional materials, including the website, brochures, walking tour maps, rack cards, and distribution channels for these materials.

At the core of the tourism strategy is a framework of 20 different themes representing what Esquimalt has to offer and why it represents a valuable visitor experience. Being “foot friendly” is one of these 20 themes. To promote this theme, a seven-part series of self-guided walking tours with accompanying brochures was developed. The tours, written by fifth-generation resident and local historian Sherri Robinson, include maps, photos and a historical description of Esquimalt’s past.

Funding for the development of Esquimalt’s tourism strategy came from the Union of BC Municipalities’ Community Tourism Program.

Want to provide visiting friends and family with a great close-to-home tourism experience? Visit [www.MyEsquimalt.com](http://www.MyEsquimalt.com) and plan a memorable outing.

### News in Brief

**THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT** is pleased to announce the initiation of its own Emergency Social Services Program. We are calling for volunteers to join the team. By joining you will contribute to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery in our community. We are building a team of all ages, skills and interests to form the new Esquimalt Emergency Social Services Team. All training is provided and you will be working with a team of committed Esquimalt residents looking to help us all in times of disaster. Please consider joining us. Come out to an Emergency Social Services orientation meeting to find out more.

*For more information contact Keith Davies at:*

*E-mail: [EsquimaltESS@esq-eoc.com](mailto:EsquimaltESS@esq-eoc.com)  
Tel: 250-414-7126*

**AN ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT** has been completed for the Township of Esquimalt. The audit inventoried the existing accessibility conditions in the community, and identified issues and opportunities to improve accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities. The report includes an implementation strategy to help make the community a model for accessibility and inclusiveness. The audit was made possible by a \$20,000 grant from the 2010 Legacies Now Society. The Township contracted the Social Planning and Research Council of BC to conduct the audit and write a report. Township Staff and members of the Access Awareness Committee participated in the project.

*Download the full accessibility audit report at [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca), or contact Andy Katschor, Parks Manager, at 250-412-8508.*

## Finance Update

### BizPaL Makes Life Easier for Businesses in Esquimalt

In an effort to improve customer service for local businesses, the Township now provides access to BizPaL (Business Permits and Licences Service) through its own website.

BizPaL is a web-based service that allows business clients to easily generate a customized list of the permits and licences they require from three levels of government —local, provincial and federal —by answering some simple questions.

This service is a collaborative effort between the Government of Canada and participating provincial/territorial, regional, and municipal governments.

You can access the BC BizPaL program on our website under “Business and Development” or directly at [www.bcbizpal.ca](http://www.bcbizpal.ca)

### 2010 License Renewals

At the end of December 2009, the Township will be mailing out renewal notices for 2010 business and dog licenses.

Residents and business owners are encouraged to renew their business licenses by January 29, 2010. After that date an additional license fee of 10% (with a minimum fee of \$25.00) will be applied. Failure to renew a business license is an offence under the Township’s Business Bylaw No. 2482, which provides for fines.

A discount of \$5.00 applies for payments on dog licenses received by January 29, 2010. For more information or to report any changes to your license, contact the Municipal Hall at 250-414-7100.

# Community Calendar

**October 17** **Trees for Tomorrow.** You are invited to a planting event along the newly “daylighted” creek which flows into the Gorge Waterway. Your participation will help us improve water quality and habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife. Bring work gloves and a shovel and meet at the parking lot in Esquimalt Gorge Park on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. For more information call 250-412-8508.

**October 21**  
**TAGS 2009: The Anti Graffiti Symposium.** From October 21st to 22nd, Esquimalt will host the 2009 Anti-Graffiti Symposium at the Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort. Please visit [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca) for more info.

**October 24**  
**Open House at Macaulay Point Park.** Esquimalt Parks & Recreation is hosting an open house event at Buxton Green located at Macaulay Point Park. Find out more about the park and share your thoughts on park management. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information, e-mail Parks & Recreation at [parcs@esquimalt.ca](mailto:parcs@esquimalt.ca).

**Japanese Cultural Festival.** Includes cultural performances, demonstrations and food sales. 10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre. For more information visit the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society's website at <http://www.vnccs.ca/>.

**October 25**  
**Re-opening of the Japanese Garden in Esquimalt Gorge Park.** Please see page one for details.

**Harvest of the Arts.** Local artists will be displaying, performing and demonstrating their arts from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre. Drop by and experience the diversity of our arts community at this free event. For more information telephone 250-414-7179.

**October 26**  
**Pumpkin Swim.** Bring your whole family to this fun filled Halloween event. Brave the spooky Halloween games of the pool deck, and take home a pumpkin for Halloween! Regular swim admission, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**October 30**  
**Olympic Torch Relay.** Please see page two for details.

**October 31**  
**Casper's Carnival.** This Halloween Party at Esquimalt Recreation Centre has lots of spooky games as well as cool contests and prizes. Pre-registration is required and admission is \$3.50. Children younger than 8 years must be accompanied by an adult. 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Halloween Bonfire.** Enjoy the huge bonfire while sipping hot chocolate or eating a hot dog. Costume contest for all ages. Back parking lot of Archie Browning Arena, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## Council Meetings

### Regular Council Meeting

October 19, 2009  
November 2, 2009  
November 16, 2009  
December 7, 2009

### Committee of the Whole

November 9, 2009  
December 14, 2009

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 contact the Manager of Corporate Services at 250-414-7135 to confirm meeting times.

### Municipal Hall Closed for Statutory Holidays:

Remembrance Day - November 11, 2009  
Christmas Day - December 25, 2009  
Boxing Day - December 26, 2009  
New Year's Day - January 1, 2010

# Contacts

Emergency	9-1-1
Municipal Hall (Reception)	414-7100
Administration	414-7101
Finance	414-7100
Development & Engineering	414-7108
Public Works	414-7104
Building Inspections	414-7108
Bylaw Enforcement	414-7108
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  
1229 Esquimalt Road  
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)

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

### We welcome your feedback.

Contact Ritchie Morrison, Communications Coordinator, at 250-414-7122 or [ritchie.morrison@esquimalt.ca](mailto:ritchie.morrison@esquimalt.ca). Would you like to sign up for automatic updating of news and events in Esquimalt? Visit our website at [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca).

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

