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## Council's Strategic Plan & 2009 Budget

SINCE BEING ELECTED in the fall of 2008, Council have been working hard to establish its priorities for the community in 2009 and beyond. These priorities are highlighted in the 2009-2011 Strategic Plan which was adopted by Council on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The 2009 budget allows Council to put its new Strategic Plan's goals in to action, thereby moving the community closer towards Council's vision.

This year Council was faced with a 7.5% tax increase but through careful deliberation was able to reduce it to 5.02%. The police budget itself accounts for 3.8% of this tax increase. With the remaining 1.22% of the tax increase, the municipality will be able to deliver significant benefits to our community.

Some major accomplishments of the 2009 budget are:

- 1. Three major road improvement projects** Craigflower Road Phase 1, Phase 2 and the Admirals-Colville intersection. Esquimalt successfully secured federal and provincial funding to accomplish these major infrastructure projects. The cost of these projects total \$11 million, but only \$500,000 will be paid by municipal taxpayers.
- 2. Allocated matching funding to bring forward three grant proposals** for the British Columbia Building Canada Fund. The proposed

projects include upgrading the Archie Browning Sports Centre, constructing 4.3 km of new sidewalks and a new all accessible playground in Memorial Park.

**3. Introduced funding for sustainability initiatives** to fulfill Esquimalt's commitments to measure, reduce and report its operational greenhouse gas emissions and that of the community (under the BC Climate Action Charter).

Council put in extensive effort to keep taxes as low as possible. This budget allows us to continue to provide a high level of service to our residents and to plan for our community's economical, environmental, and socially sustainable future.

*Mayor Barb Desjardins*



**THANK YOU TO THE ESQUIMALT GARDEN CLUB** who continue their dedicated work of beautifying Esquimalt. This year the club has donated the flower baskets which hang outside the Archie Browning Sports Centre. Pictured above, from left to right: Joan Kerley, Don Kerley, Flo Park, Sheila Hodgson, Bev Hopkins, Kay Grenke, and Mayor Desjardins (May 28, 2009).

## 2009 Property Taxes

In May, 2009 Property Tax Notices were mailed to property owners. If you have not received your notice, please contact the Finance Department at 250-414-7107.

**Property taxes must be paid and Home Owner Grants must be claimed by JULY 2, 2009** or a 10% penalty will be levied on outstanding balances, including unclaimed Home Owner Grants. If you cannot pay your property taxes in full, you can still claim your Home Owner Grant and make partial payments to minimize penalties.

Property tax payments are accepted in-person at the Municipal Hall, at most financial institutions and through telephone and online banking. Home Owner Grant applications can be submitted in person, by mail, or electronically.

**Electronic home owner grants** were introduced in 2008 and was a success with 22% of Home Owner Grants being claimed online.

The Township will be offering the electronic Home Owner Grant again for 2009. Just visit [www.esquimalt.ca/ehog](http://www.esquimalt.ca/ehog). You will require the access code and folio number from your tax notice.

**You may qualify for a provincial tax deferral program**, if you are at least 55 years old, a widow or widower, a person with a disability as defined by regulation, or are currently experiencing financial hardship due to economic conditions (temporary 2009 & 2010 program). Contact the Finance Department at 250-414-7107 or the Provincial Tax Deferral Office at 250-387-0555 for more information.

**Finance Department, call 250-414-7107**

## Municipal Food Services Review Committee



WHAT SHOULD FOOD SERVICES LOOK LIKE IN A MUNICIPAL SETTING?

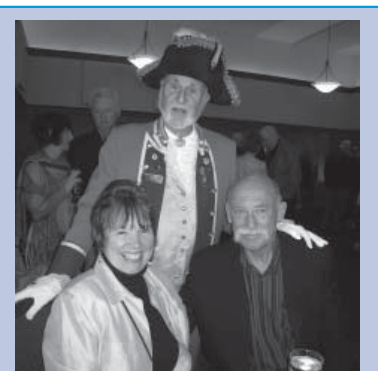
To determine this, Council will hold an open and public discussion on the role of municipal food service operations in Esquimalt.

Council will establish a nine member committee to lead this review. The committee will be comprised of key stakeholders including the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Council, Archie Browning Sports Centre user groups, Recreation Centre user groups, and community members at large.

The goals of the Committee are to:

- Present the Food Services Department's financial picture to users of the Archie Browning Sports Centre and Esquimalt Recreation Centre and conduct a survey to establish their food service needs.
- Research other Food Service Delivery models and compare to Esquimalt's Services.
- Produce a report with recommendations to council by October 2009.

If you would like to have input into the review process or have any questions or comments, please contact **Jeff Byron, Manager of Recreation Services at 250-412-8517 or [jbyron@esquimalt.ca](mailto:jbyron@esquimalt.ca)**.



### VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

Esquimalt Mayor and Council hosted this annual event to recognize the community members who contribute their time and expertise on Esquimalt's Advisory Committees, Commissions and Boards. Over 85 volunteers, guests and staff attended the event. Pictured above: Town Crier - Bob Alexander, with Avrille Gosling and Ben Johns (April 19, 2009).



### 2009 MAYOR'S GOLF TOURNAMENT at Gorge Vale

Thank you to the sponsors and golfers who came out and supported this year's fundraiser for Esquimalt Parks and Recreation. We look forward to seeing Esquimalt supporters and community members out on the course next year! Pictured above: Mayor Desjardins and golfers Bernie LeBlanc, Ed Williams, Linda Williams, and Doug Scott (May 7, 2009).

## Introducing Inspector McLean

A VETERAN POLICE OFFICER with 30 years experience is taking the helm in Esquimalt as the new officer in charge of the Victoria Police Department West Division.



Inspector Darrell McLean

Inspector Darrell McLean assumed command on June 1<sup>st</sup> after moving into his new office at the Esquimalt Public Safety Building located on Park Place.

Inspector McLean is transferring to Esquimalt after a three year assignment as the head of VicPDs Operational Support Services. This highly specialized unit includes the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team, the Victoria Police K9 Unit and the Integrated Mobile Mental Health Crisis Response Unit.

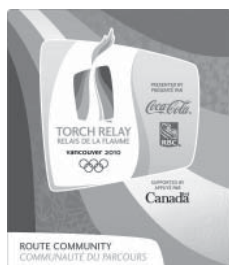
McLean takes over from Inspector Les Sylven, who after 2 years leading the West Division is moving to the department's Human Resource Division in Victoria.

Esquimalt Council thanks Inspector Les Sylven for his dedicated service to the community and welcomes new Inspector Darrell McLean.

## Olympic Torch Relay - Volunteers Needed

THE OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY is a great opportunity for Esquimalt to be highlighted around the world. The Flame arrives in Sidney, BC on the morning of October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and is expected to go through Esquimalt before noon.

As a designated "Route Community" Esquimalt will be forming a committee who will be



organizing an event around the Flame coming through our community. Details about Esquimalt's Olympic Torch Relay Community Celebrations will be coming soon.

If you are interested in volunteering for the committee please contact **Vicki Klyne at 250-412-8511 or [vklyne@esquimalt.ca](mailto:vklyne@esquimalt.ca)**.



### THE ANTI GRAFFITI SYMPOSIUM

ESQUIMALT, in partnership with the Victoria Police Department, will host the 2009 Symposium on October 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort. Event participants include law enforcement, local government, community organizations and businesses. For more information visit [www.togetheragainstgraffiti.ca](http://www.togetheragainstgraffiti.ca).

# Japanese Garden in Esquimalt Gorge Park

WHEN ESQUIMALT GORGE PARK was developed more than 100 years ago, a key attraction was the establishment of Canada's first Japanese Gardens. The Garden and Tea House were designed by Kashita who went on to design Japanese gardens at The Butchart Gardens and Royal Roads. The gardens and tea house were run by the Takata family in 1907 and thrived until 1941 when



The new Japanese bridge crosses over the refurbished ornamental stream at the Esquimalt Gorge Park.

Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry were sent to internment camps. Sadly, few elements of this great Japanese garden remain today.

The Township of Esquimalt has taken the first steps in recreating what was once Canada's oldest Japanese Garden, the original Takata Gardens. A new traditional style Japanese bridge is in place over the refurbished ornamental stream and this summer construction will begin on a Japanese entrance portal. It is a small but a very important step in returning the spirit and soul of this important historical garden back to the community.

The design includes expanded garden areas, a number of ponds and water features, a ceremonial tea house, and a pavilion. These features will honour the spirit and history of the original Takata gardens.

You can help in recreating the spirit of this historical garden by donating funds.

For more information, contact Andy Katschor, Manager of Parks Services, 250-412-8508 or [akatschor@esquimalt.ca](mailto:akatschor@esquimalt.ca).



## Tourism Strategy

THE WEST BAY KIOSK, located at the end of the walkway on Head Street, provides visitors with directions to Esquimalt's attractions; including parks, recreation facilities and retail areas. The kiosk was part of Phase 1 of Esquimalt's Tourism Strategy. Work on Phase 2 is currently underway which will see the development of tourism promotional material. Full funding of this initiative comes from the Union of BC Municipalities' Community Tourism Program.

For more information, contact Barbara Snyder, Director of Development Services, 250-414-7146 or [barbara.snyder@esquimalt.ca](mailto:barbara.snyder@esquimalt.ca).

## New Street Sweeper Keeps Esquimalt Clean

A NEW STREET SWEEPER was recently purchased by the Township of Esquimalt. The timing was right. The Township's 1993 Elgin sweeper that saw duty from 1993 to 2008 was in need of significant repairs and was impairing Public Works' ability to keep the streets clean and free of debris.

With the introduction of the new sweeper, the municipality is able to improve the level of service for street sweeping for more consistency and to carry out street cleaning five days a week. The new street sweeping program will ensure that arterial roads will be swept twice a week and collector roads will be swept every week. All other residential roads will be swept once every three weeks.

This new initiative was developed for a couple of reasons, one of which is a more thorough approach

to keeping the streets clean and creating a more aesthetically pleasing landscape void of weeds and dust. However, keeping city streets clean is more than a matter of keeping up appearances; it has important health benefit as well. Fine road dust, which comes from worn asphalt, rubber tires and brake dust, could be a health risk for some people.

Furthermore, the new sweeper is environmentally-friendly and equipped with several of the latest



Esquimalt's new Elgin Street Sweeper is a more powerful sweeper with a smaller environmental footprint.

clean-air technologies. It utilizes ultra-low-sulphur diesel fuel, combined with an electronically controlled Clean Diesel engine. The unit is also equipped with up-to-date exhaust emission reduction technology. The new sweeper can accomplish heavy duty work, without the heavy duty emissions.

Esquimalt has always had a reputation as being a clean municipality. However, with the improved level of street cleaning service combined with the new technology of the Elgin sweeper, residents can be assured that Esquimalt will remain one of the cleanest and greenest areas in the region.

For more information, contact Trevor Kushner, Manager of Public Works, 250-414-7158 or [trevor.kushner@esquimalt.ca](mailto:trevor.kushner@esquimalt.ca).

# Community Calendar

## PROPERTY TAXES & HOME OWNER GRANTS

**DUE JULY 2, 2009 BY 4:30 PM**

*For more information see front page*

Esquimalt Municipal Hall  
1229 Esquimalt Road

**June 12-14** Buccaneer Days. Come and join the fun in this historic annual event; pancake Breakfast, Parade, Fair, Craft & Garden Sale and the always-entertaining Saturday night dance. Archie Browning Sports Centre.

**27** Lifeguard Competition. Have you always wanted to be a lifeguard but never knew what was involved? Come and spectate at Esquimalt's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Lifeguard Competition. Teams from across the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island will be competing and practicing their skills in fitness, first aid, water rescue and triage. Recreation Centre, 10 am to 5 pm.

**July 5** Triathlon of Compassion. The annual triathlon raises funds for the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre. For more information on registration and the race routes visit [www.islandtriathlon.ca/toc](http://www.islandtriathlon.ca/toc). Esquimalt Recreation Centre and various roads, 6 am start.

**11-12** Co-ed Hockey Tournament. Join us for the 3rd Annual Summer Co-Ed Hockey Tournament! You are guaranteed 3 games and the price includes a Saturday Night BBQ, with an on-site bar the night of the BBQ. Call 250-412-8500 to register, teams must be registered by June 19. Archie Browning Sports Centre, 8 am to 6:30 pm, \$650/Team.

**19-26** National Drowning Prevention Week. Stop by the pool to Roll - Tread - Swim, in the Swim to Survive Challenge! Esquimalt Recreation Centre, regular admission.

**26** Esquimalt 8k. The run is hosted by Freedom and Peninsula Runners. For more information on registration and the race route visit [www.peninsularunners.com/events/esquimalt8k.htm](http://www.peninsularunners.com/events/esquimalt8k.htm). Esquimalt Recreation Centre, 9 am start.

**July 31-Aug. 3** Junior "B" Provincial Lacrosse Tournament. The weekend-long tournament is sponsored by Esquimalt Firefighters Association (Local 4264 IAFF) and Esquimalt Lions. For game times visit [www.velax.com](http://www.velax.com). Archie Browning Sports Centre, entry by donation.

## SUMMER HOURS (July 3 - September 4)

**Municipal Hall Open:**  
Monday - Friday from 8 am to 4 pm

## Council Meetings

### Regular Council Meeting

- June 15, 2009
- July 6, 2009
- August 17, 2009
- September 8, 2009 (Tuesday)
- September 21, 2009
- October 5, 2009

### Committee of the Whole

- July 13, 2009
- September 14, 2009
- October 13, 2009 (Tuesday)

>> **Council Summer Recess: No Meetings July 20 - August 14, 2009.**

>> **Unless otherwise noted, Council Meetings take place at 7 pm 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.**

## STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

### Municipal Hall Closed:

Canada Day - July 1, 2009 (Wednesday)  
BC Day - August 3, 2009  
Labour Day - September 7, 2009  
Thanksgiving Day - October 12, 2009

# Contacts

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Emergency                  | 9-1-1    |
| Municipal Hall (Reception) | 414-7100 |
| Administration             | 414-7101 |
| Finance                    | 414-7107 |
| 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 Marlene Lagoa, Manager of Communications and Sustainability at 250-414-7122 or [marlene.lagoa@esquimalt.ca](mailto:marlene.lagoa@esquimalt.ca).

THE TOWNSHIP OF Esquimalt is committed to environmental sustainability. This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

