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## Eventful Spring in Esquimalt

The Winter Olympic Games are now behind us, and I'm sure all of us will have special memories of this historic event. Here in Esquimalt we can look forward to an active and event-filled spring.



Just have a look at our event calendar on page 4 and you will see what I mean.

This is a very special year for our partners at CFB Esquimalt. It is the 100th anniversary of the Navy in Canada and many special events are planned, including Naval Centennial Day on May 4th. Did you know that as part of the celebrations more than 10,000 sailors from around the world are expected to be here for the International Fleet Review June 9th to 14th? The fleet review coincides with Buccaneer Days here in Esquimalt and it should make for a very exciting time. Watch for Naval Centennial banners flying in our streets in the coming weeks.

Is it too early to start thinking about our own Esquimalt Centennial in September 2012? Not according to members of our Centennial Committee, who are busy brainstorming and planning for our special centennial. A website is about to be launched and other initiatives are planned. I'll keep you posted.

With your input we are working on making our beautiful Township parks even better. We have received feedback from you on Macaulay Point Park and we are in the process of implementing a new management plan as a result. Thank you also to all residents who participated in the Ipsos Reid survey on recreation. Your input will guide planning for future parks and recreation services in the Township.

This spring, why not take advantage of recreation opportunities here in Esquimalt? Visit the recreation centre and sample some arts or fitness classes. Take a stroll along the waterway though Kinsmen Gorge Park, or head out on a themed walking tour to get in touch with Esquimalt history, culture and nature (see page 3 for more information).

Finally, I would like to extend a big thanks to Inspector Darrell McLean and the rest of the Vic PD's West Division for keeping our streets safe with their ongoing traffic safety program. The new online method to report concerns to our police is up and running and is another tool for residents to access assistance. Please stay in touch with Municipal Hall through [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca), and have a wonderful spring.

*Barbara Desjardins*

Mayor Barb Desjardins

## Composting Program: Bins For Sale

Composting is an effective way to manage kitchen waste in your own backyard. Join us during Earth Week for our Composter Bin Sale on **Saturday, April 17, 2010** in front of the Archie Browning Sports Centre. A limited number of subsidized \$50 (Reg. \$80)

Earth Machine Backyard Composters, and \$85 (Reg. \$115) Green Cone Digesters will be available to residents (proof of residency required). You can pre-order your bin by visiting [www.esquimalt.ca/compost](http://www.esquimalt.ca/compost).



In addition, the Township of Esquimalt is happy to host composting and vermi-composting workshops put on by the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre. Composting workshops will be held this spring at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre. For dates and registration, visit our website or contact the recreation centre at 250-412-8500.

*For more information contact Marlene Lagoa, Sustainability Coordinator at 250-414-7114 or [marlene.lagoa@esquimalt.ca](mailto:marlene.lagoa@esquimalt.ca).*

# Secondary Suites: Interest Growing



The Township of Esquimalt now allows secondary suites in most single family homes, and interest from residents is growing: since adoption of the Secondary Suite Bylaw last October, several property owners have registered or are in the process of registering their suites.

Allowing secondary suites provides additional affordable housing units in the community and assists property owners in dealing with the high costs of home ownership. The intent of the new regulations is to ensure that suites are safe for the occupants and meet building code standards.

Anyone interested in adding a secondary suite to their single family residence, or wanting to legalize an existing suite, should contact Development Services at the Township to determine whether the zoning and land area of their property allow for a suite. Staff members are also on hand to discuss what improvements or upgrades may be required to comply with the BC Building Code.

“We invite residents to learn more about the new bylaw, and we have developed a brochure to help them do this,” said Chief Building Official, Bob Haveruk. According to Haveruk, the brochure has been posted to the Township’s website and a printed version will be sent to Esquimalt residents with their tax notices this spring.

“If anyone has specific questions not covered by the brochure, they are welcome to visit us at the Municipal Hall,” said Haveruk, adding that site visits to individual homes can also be arranged if homeowners have questions about existing suite improvements, or need advice about designing a new secondary suite.

#### For more information:

**On the web:** [www.esquimalt.ca/businessDevelopment/zoning/](http://www.esquimalt.ca/businessDevelopment/zoning/)

**By phone:** 250-414-7108 (zoning) or 250-414-7106 (building inspection)

**In person:** drop by Development Services, 3rd Floor, Municipal Hall between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Living with Deer in the Township

In Esquimalt, as in other municipalities of southern Vancouver Island, deer have unfortunately become a problem in some areas, foraging through residents’ gardens and Township parks. As deer become habituated to living in the Township, many are accidentally struck and killed by vehicles. Recently, three deer were killed in front of the Esquimalt Parks Nursery located on Craigflower Road, and two more were killed by motorists at Admirals and Colville.

“I often get calls from Esquimalt residents complaining about the increase in the deer population and the havoc they play in their gardens,” said Andy Katshor, Parks Manager for the Township of Esquimalt. “Residents

should know that deer are protected provincially and that deer management within municipal boundaries is handled by the BC Ministry of Environment’s Conservation Officer Service.” Esquimalt Parks staff has taken to wrapping the trunks of newly planted trees with tree guards to prevent deer from destroying the plants through foraging and rubbing.

According to the Ministry of Environment, some steps homeowners can take against deer damaging their gardens include:

- Use of landscape plants that deer don’t like;
- Use of landscape plants which deer can’t reach;
- Application of commercial deer



repellents;

- Use of motion detecting sound, light or water scare mechanisms;
- Construction of deer-proof fencing;
- Use of browse “barriers.”

For full details on these strategies, see “A Gardener’s Guide to Preventing Deer and Elk Damage” on the Ministry of Environment’s Conservation Officer Service website at:

[http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife\\_human\\_interaction/docs/garden.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/docs/garden.html)



Mayor Barb Desjardins presented Steacy Henry of Esquimalt with two Olympic Games tickets on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at Municipal Hall. The Township won the tickets through the Gametown 2010 contest, in which Esquimalt residents submitted stories about how they thought their community supports sport and healthy living. Steacy won the tickets through an online entry form. Her submission was drawn randomly on Monday, January 25, 2010. "It was great to get the phone message saying I won," said Steacy.

## Township Property Tax Update

### 2010 Property Tax and Home Owner Grants

Your 2010 Property Tax Notice covers the tax year January 1st, 2010 to December 31st, 2010. Tax notices will be mailed out at the end of May and taxes are due in full by 4:30 p.m. on July 2, 2010.

If you are eligible for a provincial home owner grant, you must submit your application by July 2, 2010 or the unclaimed/unpaid balance will be subject to penalty. You can claim your Provincial Home Owner Grant even if you are not making a payment towards your property tax account. In late May, claim your Home Owner Grant online by visiting [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca). You will need your personal access code and folio number from your tax notice.

### Property Tax Installment Payment Plan

The Township offers a tax instalment payment plan for property taxes due for the next year. The monthly payments, which are added to your property tax account, are withdrawn from your account on the first business day of each month. The monthly payment amount can be either a fixed amount selected by you (minimum \$25.00/month) or a calculated amount, which is an estimate based on the previous year's gross taxes less Home Owner Grant, if claimed. Interest is paid on all payments from the payment date to the property tax due date and is added to your property tax account.

To be eligible for this plan, your property tax account must be paid in full at time of application and you must also have chequing account privileges at a financial institution in Canada.

*For more information, please call the Property Tax Department at 250-414-7107.*

## Esquimalt: So Easy to Explore

Why not explore your own backyard on a foot-friendly walking tour this spring? The Township's compact land base makes it easy to get out and explore all of its natural, cultural and historical attractions.

As part of the 2009 Esquimalt tourism strategy, a series of seven Township walking tours were developed—written by local resident and story teller Sherri Robinson—each highlighting a different aspect and area of the community. Walking tours include:

- West Bay Area
- Fleming Beach/Saxe Point
- Old Esquimalt Village area
- Memorial and Highrock Parks
- Lampson Street/Highrock Park
- Gorge Park

- Fleming Beach/Buxton Green/Macaulay Point

Brochures of the walking tours are available at Municipal Hall, or download online versions at [www.myesquimalt.com](http://www.myesquimalt.com).



### Overhanging Branches

It's that time of year when trees and shrubs are actively growing. When growth occurs over a walkway or street, it can create an unsafe condition by hindering visibility and/or access.

The Township of Esquimalt has a bylaw requiring residents to trim back all trees, shrubs, hedges and bushes growing over any sidewalk that prevents free use of the sidewalk or street.

If you see any such overhangs that cause you concern, please call our Parks Operations Supervisor, Shaen McRae at 250-412-8526.



# Community Calendar

**March 6 Paralympic Torch Relay.** Come and participate in this relay that celebrates Paralympic athletes and their remarkable achievements. *For more information call Jeff Byron at 250-412-8507.*

**March 7 LifeMark Health Esquimalt 5K Walk and Run.** With a scenic course running through Saxe and Macaulay Point Parks, this is one event you won't want to miss. *Please visit [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca) for more info, or call 250-412-8502.*

**March 8 to 19 Spring Break Swim Madness.** Everyone is welcome and there's something for everyone. Try out the water walkway or jump on the water trampoline! *For more information, contact Regan Pemberton at 250-412-8506.*

**March 25 to 28 Victoria Curling Classic.** Come to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual VCC in Esquimalt and see some of the best curlers in the world today. *For more information visit the VCC website at [www.victoriacurlingclassic.com](http://www.victoriacurlingclassic.com).*

**April 10 Esquimalt Seniors' Celebration of Spring Tea and Concert.** 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Esquimalt Recreation Centre. *For more information, please contact: 250-412-8556.*

**April 16 Anniversary of HMCS Esquimalt Sinking.** A ceremony will be held to commemorate those lost during the sinking of HMCS ESQUIMALT on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1941. *Please see [www.navy.forces.gc.ca/centennial/](http://www.navy.forces.gc.ca/centennial/) for more information.*

**May 4 Canadian Naval Centennial Day.** The Navy Centennial will be marked in Victoria with a Freedom of the City Parade. *For more information, follow the links at [www.navy.forces.gc.ca](http://www.navy.forces.gc.ca).*

**May 31 to June 6 Bike to Work Week.** Participate in this annual commuter cycling competition and enjoy cycle fitness! *For more information, go to [www.biketowork.ca/](http://www.biketowork.ca/)*

**June 9 to 14 International Fleet Review.** The navies of the Pacific Rim will be featured in the International Fleet Review. Fifteen visiting ships and an estimated 10-12 thousand sailors will be visiting Greater Victoria. *For more information, follow the links at [www.navy.forces.gc.ca](http://www.navy.forces.gc.ca).*

**June 11 to 13 Buccaneer Days and Parade.** Come and enjoy the fun in this annual event featuring a pancake breakfast, Naval Centennial fireworks, amusement rides, live bands, rugby tournament, and more! *Phone Bob McKie at 250-385-0503 for more information.*

## Council Meetings

### Regular Council Meeting

March 15, 2010  
April 6, 2010  
April 19, 2010  
May 3, 2010  
May 17, 2010  
June 7, 2010

### Committee of the Whole

March 8, 2010  
April 12, 2010  
May 10, 2010  
June 14, 2010

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:

Good Friday - April 2, 2010  
Easter Monday - April 5, 2010  
Victoria Day - May 24, 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.

