

Township of ESQUIMALT Current

community newsletter: fall/winter 2022

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Welcome to our new council & CAO

New & familiar faces on council

Local government elections were held in B.C. this October. The township held two advance voting days as well as the option for mail-in ballots prior to the October 15 general election.

Mayor Barbara Desjardins was re-elected for a fifth term. Incumbent councillors Ken Armour, Jacob Helliwell and Tim Morrison were also re-elected.

Esquimalt welcomes new councillors Andrea Boardman, Duncan Cavens and Darlene Rotchford. This council will serve a 4-year term.

Full councillor profiles are posted on esquimalt.ca. Residents are also encouraged to take part in council meetings either in-person or online.

Meetings are streamed live and recorded to give residents several options for staying in the loop.

Residents can also subscribe to receive council agendas in advance through our corporate services department or through esquimalt.ca/subscribe.

New administrative leadership

In early October, Dan Horan began his tenure as Esquimalt's new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

The CAO is the administrative head of the municipality, ensures that the policies and programs of the municipality are implemented; advises and informs the council on the operation and affairs of the municipality; and fills several other roles depending on the township's strategic priorities.

A graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada, Dan served in the Royal Canadian Navy for 21 years, finishing his career in Esquimalt as a senior leader in the Navy's engineering and maintenance program. Since 2016 he has been the Director of Engineering and Public Works at the District

of Oak Bay, where he played an important role in the delivery of an asset management strategy for Council, resulting in a significant expansion of water, wastewater and transportation renewal work. Dan is recognized as an approachable and collaborative leader who emphasizes mentorship and staff development.

The position had been held by Laurie Hurst for 14 years prior as part of her 18-year career at the Township of Esquimalt.



Chief Administrative Officer Dan Horan

23rd annual Township and CUPE staff holiday food drive

We are once again collecting donations for Esquimalt Neighbourhood House.

Every year, the Esquimalt community's generosity provides much-needed provisions to help the Neighbourhood House continue to be a resource for youth, families, seniors and adults.

Food donations can be dropped off at the township's public works yard, recreation centre, municipal hall & Archie Browning Sports Centre from November 24–December 21.

Esquimalt residents can also have their donations picked up:

South side: Dec 5-9 | North side: Dec 12-16

More information at esquimalt.ca



Township contacts

Emergency 9-1-1

Esquimalt Municipal Hall

1229 Esquimalt Rd; Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1
Municipal hall reception 250-414-7100
Building Inspections 250-414-7103
Bylaw Enforcement 250-414-7161
Corporate Services 250-414-7136
Development Services 250-414-7103
Engineering/Public Works 250-414-7108
Finance 250-414-7100
Parks and Recreation 250-412-8500

Esquimalt Municipal Archives

103-1249 Esquimalt Rd (Tues 1-4:30 p.m.;
Wed/Thurs 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.)
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P2 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

501 Park Place 250-940-4875

Fire Rescue Services

1151 Esquimalt Road 250-414-7126

VicPD- Esquimalt Division

500 Park Place
Non-emergency police 250-995-7500

The Esquimalt Current is published by the Township of Esquimalt. It is published online as well as 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.

Sign up for email notification at esquimalt.ca to receive this newsletter by email and for updates on Township news, events and more.

This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

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Welcome back to our Archives!



Postcard of St. Paul's Church, addressed to Oswego, N.Y. & dated 1906 (Image: Esquimalt Archives 016-004-011a)

Our Archives have had an interesting year. Between COVID restrictions and flooding, we have not been able to have visitors to the space formerly occupied near Archie Browning Sports Centre.

We are pleased to have a storefront opening to the public on November 23. This new space is our public-facing archives reference room until our permanent home is built at Esquimalt Municipal Hall. It will be a spot for researchers, students and community members to both share and learn about the municipal history of our community.

Location: 103-1249 Esquimalt Rd (former Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce space)

Hours: 1-4:30 p.m. Tuesday; 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday

Chat with us about our services:

- See if we have a photo of your house, street, or neighbourhood
- Learn about joining the Archives volunteer team
- Donate photographs or letters of a community event, family member or house
- Help us to collect and create an inclusive and diverse collection
- Check out the Esquimalt Archive's online database

We look forward to seeing you there! Esquimalt.ca/archives

Esquimalt Alert

Find out about significant weather warnings, large fire or traffic incidents and other emergency situations with our handy app.

Alerts can come via text or voice as well, so you don't need to have a smart phone. Go to esquimalt.ca/alert or call 250-414-7122.



Join the team!

Staff: we are looking for a range of staff including in our recreation department. We need to fill both permanent and auxiliary positions in a range of jobs like lifeguards, fitness instructors, program leaders and building maintenance staff.

Volunteer: we are looking for volunteers for our Emergency Social Services and Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness program.

Join a high-performing team in a friendly community. Go to esquimalt.ca for more.

esquimalt.ca



On October 29, staff and volunteers planted over 500 native plants in the estuary area of Gorge Park.

Gorge Park getting a little greener

There is a new shoreline restoration project happening in the salt marsh channel that runs near the west side of Gorge Park near Sioux Place.

The salt marsh channel was constructed to increase the shoreline and biodiversity of the creek and riparian areas to encourage access and shelter for birds, fish and wildlife.

As part of the Resilient Coasts for Salmon project, Stewardship Centre for BC and Pacific Salmon Foundation are partnering with the CRD, Esquimalt Parks and Recreation, the Gorge Waterway Initiative, World Fisheries Trust, Gorge Waterway Action Society and the Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation to develop a Green Shores demonstration site along this section of the Esquimalt Gorge Park shoreline.

This will help to reclaim the ecological and cultural values of the site, including the restoration of vital nutrient and sedimentary processes that support all salmon species found in this area.

More information at esquimalt.ca/parks



Volunteers play an important role in making our park and shorelines more vibrant and healthy.

Schedule your building inspection on the go with our new online booking tool.
Details at esquimalt.ca.



ETAG returns

Township staff are relaunching this volunteer-based program.

Esquimalt Together Against Graffiti (ETAG) is intended to help both encourage reporting of graffiti in the township and get it cleaned up by the appropriate group. For example, township staff clean graffiti on township property. But what about BC Hydro poles or electrical boxes?

Stay tuned for further details about how to sign up. In the meantime, if you spot graffiti, go to esquimalt.ca/ETAG to find out where to report the vandalism.



Graffiti is destructive to property; it costs both time and money to clean up.

Bike lane designs

Checking our progress



We are close to completing our draft designs on both the forthcoming Tillicum and Lampson street bike lanes.

We'll share those designs with you to check in on how they align with your earlier feedback.

Keep an eye out on our social media pages or sign up for updates at esquimalt.ca/subscribe.

The township conducts its business on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples. We work to be increasingly mindful of our commitment to more inclusive governance with our neighbours.

Esquimalt community events

Christmas Tree Village 2022

- December 3-January 4

Experience the magic of the holidays at our ninth annual Christmas Tree Village.

Join us as we transform the Recreation Centre Atrium and Archie Browning Sports Centre into a holiday wonderland, teeming with twinkling lights and delightful decorations. This event is free to the public to enjoy and runs from December 3 to January 4, 2023.

Voting for "People's Choice Favourite Tree" will take place on our Esquimalt Parks and Recreation Facebook Page Sunday, December 4 to Saturday, December 17.

Pyjama Prance 2022

- Esquimalt United Church, Wheeley Hall
- 500 Admirals Rd
- December 4– 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Come be a part of the 6th Annual Pyjama Prance Fun Run/Walk through the streets of Esquimalt in your PJ's!

There will be a Grab n' Go Breakfast at the finish line, silent auction, medals, swag and prizes! You can choose from a 2km or a 5km distance.

Registration for this event is a minimum of 5 items of food and/or a suggested minimum donation of \$10. Proceeds to the Rainbow Kitchen.

To register, please email pyjamaprance@gmail.com with your name, age category (adult or U-18), phone number and distance (2k or 5k). To volunteer, please email pajamaprance@gmail.com with your name, age and phone number.

Skate with Santa

- Archie Browning Sports Centre
- December 3–2:00PM to 4:00PM

Santa is coming to the Archie Browning Sports Centre! Join us on the ice for a free skate full of music and fun. The Esquimalt Lions' Club will be providing hot chocolate for all the skaters. Sponsored by Victoria Property Group.

2022 Esquimalt Celebration of Lights

- 600 Canteen Road start
- December 4– 5:00PM

Esquimalt's Celebration of Lights is a magical event for the whole family. Lights, Music, Food, Santa and it is FREE to the whole community.

Hope to see you all there for the start of the parade at 5 pm on December 4, 2022 then after at the arena right after for a visit with Santa, a hot dog from the Lions and singing with your neighbours.

It takes a village to put on an event like this, so if you are interested in helping out on the day of the event, please contact esquimaltlights.ca/

Holiday Celebration Lunch

- Esquimalt Recreation Centre
- December 8–12:00PM to 1:30PM

Join us for the annual holiday celebration lunch! Enjoy a traditional turkey dinner without having to lift a finger. This catered event means that all you have to do is sit back and enjoy the delicious food and holiday-themed entertainment.

Lunch is served at noon and the event should run approximately 1.5 hours.

Seats are limited and pre-registration is required. Registration cut-off is December 7 at 2 p.m. so register early to guarantee a seat. Register through Esquimalt.ca/recreation

Jolly Jingle Story Mingle

- Esquimalt Rec Centre
- December 10–7:00PM to 8:00PM

Throw on your PJs, cozy up by the fire, and enjoy a story time! Families can stop by after their swim to relax and enjoy some holiday merriment! Or just come for the stories and singing! Free event.

Photos with Santa

- Esquimalt Rec Centre
- December 17–11:00AM to 3:00PM

Santa is popping into the Recreation Centre for some photo opportunities this year. Please bring your camera or smart phone to take your photo,

or have our friendly staff take the photo for you. Registration is not required but donations for the Rainbow Kitchen are strongly encouraged.

Tree Chipping

- Arching Browning Sports Centre back lot
- January 7 & 8–10:00AM to 4:00PM

The festivities of the holidays have come to a close and it is time to take down the decorations.

Let the volunteers from the Compassionate Resource Warehouse help you dispose of your tree at their tree chipping event. This service is provided by donation and helps subsidize their youth programming.

Council meeting schedule

Council meetings

Dec 5; Jan 9; Feb 6 & 27; March 6

Committee of the Whole meetings

Dec 12 & 19; Jan 16; Jan 23 (special at 5:45pm); Feb 13

Esquimalt Municipal Hall closed:

December 26; January 2

Meetings will still be streamed live. Residents unable to attend in person may register to provide comments electronically via telephone by contacting the Corporate Officer at corporate.services@esquimalt.ca or calling 250-414-7135 prior to 4:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Unless otherwise noted, council meetings take place at 7 p.m. and Committee of the Whole at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers at 1229 Esquimalt Road. Please check the website or call 250-414-7157 to confirm meeting times.

Go to esquimalt.ca/events for a list of events or scan



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