

Township of ESQUIMALT Current

community newsletter: fall 2020

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Esquimalt is awesome.

It goes without saying that we are fortunate to live in a beautiful and connected community like Esquimalt, now more so than ever.

Thank you to everyone who has remained diligent and to those who continue to help us every day, from teachers to medical professionals to municipal workers to frontline service staff as we move forward through COVID-19.

Township operations continue to service residents and businesses while observing the Provincial Health Officer's rules and recommendations to keep staff and the public safe.

While conditions continue to change, the Provincial Health Officer has ordered that everyone wear a mask in indoor public spaces, including the municipal hall.

More on Esquimalt's pandemic

response and safety plans at esquimalt.ca/covid19.

Everyone's efforts to "be kind, be calm and be safe" are helping the community work together and keep spirits up during these challenging times. Thank you.



IN THE COMMUNITY

The Township of Esquimalt and its CUPE employees will be collecting food items from Esquimalt households as part of the 21st Annual Esquimalt Christmas Food Drive.

We'll pick it up!

- South side: Dec 7-11
- North side: Dec 14-18

Place non-perishable food in bags labelled "food drive." A separate vehicle will pick up your donation.

Drop it off!

Food donations will also be accepted November 25 to December 18 at Township of Esquimalt Public Works Yard and the Esquimalt branch of the public library. **Details at [Esquimalt.ca](https://esquimalt.ca).**

The food drive is running until December 18 and is in support of Esquimalt Neighbourhood House, a multi-service social service agency that provides emergency meals for individuals and families in Esquimalt.



Keep our businesses healthy by SUPPORTING LOCAL IN ESQUIMALT

Esquimalt has several well-established and new businesses including independent restaurants, salons, creative shops and our newly-opened art gallery.

Grab a locally-roasted coffee and take a stroll!

Find local businesses for all your needs at marketplacebc.ca, esquimaltmarket.com or esquimaltchamber.ca.

Plus, the Esquimalt Chamber has a limited edition "shop local" booklet in hard copy so keep an eye out for this handy guide!



[ESQUIMALT.CA/BUSINESS](https://esquimalt.ca/business)

Have your say about Esquimalt's Climate Action Plan!

To learn more about our community's Climate Action Plan and provide your feedback, **visit esquimalt.ca/climate**. Deadline December 18!

Weigh in on Esquimalt's pathway to becoming a low-carbon, healthy and livable community! This informative, game-like public survey is open to all Esquimalt residents, businesses, and others who frequently visit or pass through our community.

Township contacts

Emergency 9-1-1

Esquimalt Municipal Hall

1229 Esquimalt Road
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

1149-A Esquimalt Rd (temporarily closed;
call, go online or archives@esquimalt.ca)
1229 Esquimalt Road (mail)
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1 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

1231 Esquimalt Road 250-414-7198

Public Safety Building

2nd Floor, 500 Park Place
Esquimalt, BC V9A 6Z9

Police Department 250-995-7500
Fire Department 250-414-7126

The Esquimalt Current is a tri-annual newsletter published by the Township of Esquimalt and 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.

We are committed to environmental sustainability. This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

 TownshipofEsquimalt

 EsquimaltBC

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Keeping things festive...from a distance

Vote for your favourite Christmas tree!

For the past six years, local businesses and non-profits have delighted visitors with an array of creative and fantastical Christmas trees set on display at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre and Archie Browning Sports Centre. The public then votes on their favourite trees in a friendly competition. The event garners thousands of visitors every year. This year, the tradition continues but will move to a virtual display.

Community groups and local businesses were invited to decorate their tree in usual festive grandeur. They will then snap a photo and submit it for virtual display and to be in the running for People's Choice Winner. The winner will take home an Esquimalt Recreation prize package valued at more than \$300.

Residents keen to view the trees can do so on the Township of Esquimalt website and the Esquimalt Parks and Recreation Facebook page starting December 2.

Virtual voting will take place through Facebook for a limited time so don't forget to vote! Go to facebook.com/esquimaltpandr on December 2.



We're still open for business!

Most Township services are available online or over the phone.

Common services:

- Please note that masks are now mandatory in indoor public spaces, like the hall.
- Licence payments, along with their remittance slip, can be mailed or placed in our secure drop box.
- Business licences, dog licences and other payments can also be done in person at the hall on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Engineering applications, including requests for traffic calming, parking restrictions or boulevard alterations can be submitted by email to engineering@esquimalt.ca.
- For building or development permits, find information online or contact the Development Services Department with questions, 250-414-7103.
- Tree permits are being processed over the phone. Residents can call 250-412-8513. Permits can also be sent in electronically at trees@esquimalt.ca.
- Some services will be available by appointment only. Residents may call or email the department directly for arrangements or contact general reception at 250-414-7100.



NEW this year: dog licences can also be purchased at:

- Shoppers Drug Mart—870 Esquimalt Road
- Bay Street Castle Building Centre—220 Bay Street



From the archives

The Albert Fisher family left the Victoria Figure Skating Club in 1966 to establish the Esquimalt Figure Skating Club.

In 2004, after thirty-eight years, the Esquimalt Club dissolved and club members returned to the Victoria Club whose home ice was now at the Archie Browning Sports Centre.

The club's first production, 'Esquimalt Escapades,' presented in March 1969, featured 'Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs' and 'Salute to Esquimalt.' Rhonda (Burton) MacDonald was the first Esquimalt skater to receive a gold medal for figures.

Archives in Esquimalt

The Archives remains closed to the public due to COVID-19, but we are always interested in donations of photographs, letters and other historic material about Esquimalt.

Help us enrich our collection for future researchers! Contact us at archives@esquimalt.ca or 250-412-8540.

See more of our archival images in our searchable database on esquimalt.ca

Images were taken at the Archie Browning Arena



Branch out Community Stewardship Volunteer Program

What is it? The Branch out Community Stewardship Program provides motivated volunteers with opportunities to restore natural areas within parks.

Volunteers will be provided an orientation session on how to remove invasive species in an effort to make our natural areas more bio-diverse.



Who: We are excited to accept volunteers of all ages and abilities, however you must meet a few criteria before getting started. Self-guided volunteers must:

- complete an orientation with Township staff;
- be able to work outdoors or on uneven terrain;
- have level of physical fitness required and
- work only in approved areas.

Once trained, volunteers can choose how long and how often they volunteer. We will provide all the materials and training.

Where: Saxe Point Park, Macaulay Point Park, Highrock Park, Esquimalt Gorge Park

Visit Esquimalt.ca/branchout for more information.

84%

Percentage of respondents who are very supportive or supportive of legalizing detached accessory dwelling units.

See our complete survey results:
esquimalt.ca/detached-suites

New homes

See our recently completed and new construction in the Township

Under Construction		
622 Admirals Rd. – (The Vista)	Avenir Senior Living	95 rental apartments, 38 condominiums and 48 care rooms for seniors
840 Admirals Rd.	GT Mann	28 rental apartments
1216 Carlisle	Aragon Properties	32 condominiums
955 Colville Rd.	LIDA Homes	10 townhomes
Constance Ave. & Nelson St.	GT Mann	71 rental apartments
505 Park Place	Aragon Properties	Commercial ground floor and 34 rental apartments above
Head St. at Gore and Lyall (Triangle Lands)	Tenfold Projects	Two storey building with commercial ground floor and 8 condominium units above as well as a six storey building with 65 condominiums.
429 Lampson St. - (Oakwoods)	Aragon Properties	227 units, including 6 townhomes and renovation of heritage building
503 Park Place	Aragon Properties	New Esquimalt Library space and commercial office units above
Recently completed		
501 Park Pl.	Aragon Properties	32 condominiums

Want to know more?

Our development tracker posts active development permit applications and ones completed within the last 6 months.

The interactive tool is on esquimalt.ca and features permit information like downloadable site plans.



Thank you, Inspector Lindner!

After being a part of the Esquimalt Division for the past 10 years, Inspector Lindner (above) is hanging up his vest and heading to retirement. Esquimalt staff and residents will miss Keith's easy smile and helpful attitude.

Please welcome Inspector Michael Brown (below) to Esquimalt. Inspector Brown has been a part of VicPD since 1995 and has had several roles. Most recently, he was promoted to Inspector in 2018 as part of the Community Services Division. Michael was born and raised in Esquimalt and is excited to return.



Council meeting schedule

Council meetings

Dec 21, Jan 11 & 25, Feb 1 & 22

Committee of the Whole meetings

Dec 14, Jan 18, Feb 8

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

Esquimalt Municipal Hall closed:

Dec 25 & 26, Jan 1 and Feb 15



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

The app has been recently updated for even faster loading to your phone or computer. Alerts can come via text or voice as well, so you don't need to have a smart phone to take advantage of the service. Go to esquimalt.ca/alert or call 250-414-7122 with questions.

