

Township of ESQUIMALT **Current**

WINTER 2023/24

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Macaulay Point

New fire chief Matt Furlot joins Esquimalt Fire & Rescue Services

Matt joins the team on December 4. He had been with West Vancouver Fire Rescue since 2003 and was most recently the Assistant Chief of Professional Development and Training. Furlot's education includes Fire Officer Level IV through the Justice Institute of BC and the Executive Chief Fire Officer designation from the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs.

Matt also holds many instructor certificates and was a previous training instructor in wild land fire-fighting and urban interface structural protection. He is dedicated to the fire service, sitting on national committees in firefighter leadership and mental health, including Chair of the Greater Vancouver Fire Chief's Association BCCSA Technical High Angle Rope Rescue Program (THARRP).

Matt is passionate about health, both physical and mental. Outside of the Fire Service, he is an instructor at UBC for the Master of Physical Therapy Program and was the medical manager at VANOC during the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

The Mayor and Council of the Township, together with staff, welcome Matt to the region as their new Fire Chief. Furlot's key aim will be to work collaboratively with the neighbouring fire departments and build on Esquimalt's successes, particularly by delivering on the goals and objectives laid out in the Esquimalt Fire and Rescue Services strategic plan.



Lampson-Tillicum project close to completion

From August to November, several key milestones were achieved in the Lampson-Tillicum Active Transportation Project.

The first phase included signal/lighting upgrades at Lampson and Old Esquimalt roads and removing the redundant traffic signal at Head and Old Esquimalt roads.

In the fall, there was paving in several areas to prepare for painting and new bike lanes along the Lampson-Tillicum corridor.

The project is also focussed on improved pedestrian safety and accessibility features. Lighting was upgraded at several intersections, multi-use crosswalks were added and new curb, gutter, sidewalk and ramps were added to various intersections to improve accessibility and safety.

The change in weather in late November

means that paving will be paused due to weather. Paving and pavement markings for Lampson Street will need to wait until temperatures rise. Completion is still expected for spring 2024.

Learn more

Learn more details about this project and the Active Transportation Network Plan at esquimalt.ca/activetransportation



NEW WEBSITE FOR 2024

The Township of Esquimalt's website will be getting a new look in early 2024. The new Esquimalt.ca will offer more intuitive architecture, a fresh layout and improved accessibility features.

Other related online services like our council meeting website (Legistar), online payment platform (My Esquimalt) and social media accounts will remain the same.

Along with the new site, the Township is also refreshing its brand colours and fonts, so keep an eye out for changes!

Please let us know what you think of the new site when it launches- we look forward to ensuring it suits the community's needs.

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	250-414-7177
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
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P2 250-412-8540
Tues (1-4:30 p.m.); Wed/ Thurs (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

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

Police Department 250-995-7500

1229 Esquimalt Road

The Esquimalt Current is a quarterly newsletter published by the Township of Esquimalt and distributed to 8,000 homes and local businesses.

If you have a community event you would included in The Current, 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.

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Keeping up on Council and Township activities

Important decisions and discussions happen at Council and Committee of the Whole meetings but how can you keep track of what's coming up and what work has been done?

Meeting agendas are posted before the council meeting, typically on Wednesdays, and you can review the meeting materials ahead of time. The agenda will outline how you can give feedback on specific items.

You can subscribe to receive an agenda notice to your inbox so that you don't need to remember to check. Sign up at Esquimalt.ca/subscribe.

We welcome you to our meetings in person, but you can also watch online (live) or watch a recorded video of the meeting the next day. Find important reports online:

REPORT	REPORT DETAILS
Period (municipal accomplishment) reports	Three times/year and presented to council; discusses departmental accomplishments for the previous 4 months
Annual report	Every May and made available to the public two weeks before adoption by Council; includes annual financials and corporate accomplishments
Council priorities report	Outlines priority projects for the term and progress
Financial reports	Three times/year and presented to council; discuss status of spending and budget for previous 4 months

Budget process & meeting schedule (highlights)

The annual budget process has several phases- departmental requests, local grant decisions, public input and council decisions. Please check out the full process and meeting schedule on Esquimalt.ca

DATE	MEETING	DETAILS
January 22	Committee of the Whole public presentation—Budget Overview/Challenges Policy Review	Discuss budget challenges and financial plan policies
January 29	Council public meeting—Draft Budget Presentation	Discussion of key budget components and calculated revenue increase
April 8	Council public meeting—Tax Rate Policy Discussion	Consensus on property tax rate policy/tax rates
April 22	Council public meeting— Financial Plan & Tax Rates Bylaws - 3 Readings	First three reading of the bylaws

MyEsquimalt online services are here! Review & renew dog or business licenses online and sign up for ebilling.

Set up your profile at Esquimalt.ca/MyEsquimalt

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

The project team has been adjusting the building design to align with the Township's budget and critical safety needs. This includes a new fire hall, emergency operations centre and administrative offices. The project will be tendered in early 2024 and construction starting in summer 2024.

Project information can be found at Esquimalt.ca/PublicSafety

Events at the Gorge Pavilion

Since opening in 2022, the Esquimalt Gorge Pavilion has been the site of classes, weddings, cultural celebrations, celebrations of life, business mixers and more. The space has movable walls, two serveries and other amenities to make hosting events a snap.

Along with the Township's other rentable facilities and parks, the pavilion has helped provide stunning venues at competitive prices for events of all types—even as the backdrop for T.V and film productions.

If you are interested in talking with us about booking your next conference, sporting event or celebration, go to Esquimalt.ca or call 250-412-8525.



The Gorge Pavilion at sunset.



(L-R) The upstairs patio overlooking the Japanese garden; Lekwungen Dancers at an outdoor celebration; the 2022 Champagne and Cake Show

Welcome to the 2024 BC Wheelchair, Men's and Women's Curling Championship

January 23 to 28 at Archie Browning Sports Centre

This historic event marks the first occasion where all three championships have been held at the same time in the same venue. A total of 12 Men's teams, 8 Women's teams, and 3 Wheelchair teams will be competing.

Teams had to engage in seven qualifying events held throughout BC during the fall season in order to secure one of the twenty Championships slots.

Come check out this exciting tournament!

Curl BC is proud to partner with Peninsula Co-Op to bring the joy of curling to Greater Victoria schools as part of the BC Curling Championships. Greater Victoria Schools are encouraged to reach out to Curl BC if they are interested in participating.

Become a volunteer!

Calling all curling enthusiasts and community champions! Curl BC invites you to be a part of the excitement at the 2024 BC Men's, Women's, and Wheelchair Curling Championships.

[Ticket and tournament information at www.CurlBC.ca](http://www.CurlBC.ca)

The township conducts its business on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples. Council is committed to building strong and enduring relationships with our neighbouring First Nations governments, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

Taking care of fallen leaves

Leaves pushed into the street from yards and boulevards can block drains, create a slipping hazard and generally add to a messy roadway.

Please dispose of your leaves properly—take them for free to the yard waste drop-off on Canteen Rd, mulch them for your yard or add them to your compost.

We ♥ events in Esquimalt—see what's coming

Our winter/spring program guide is out!

Plan your recreation fun! You can browse, register & pay for programs online with no wait. Check out all our upcoming programming today!



Do you volunteer in Esquimalt? We are updating our volunteer recognition program.

We went out to the volunteer community in Esquimalt to ask what recognition means to them. This feedback will be used to inform Council's decision when considering amendments to the current volunteer attraction and recognition program.

Go to: [EngagingEsquimalt.ca/volunteer](https://Esquimalt.ca/volunteer)

Annual Holiday Food drive

The Township of Esquimalt and its CUPE employees will be collecting food items from Esquimalt households as part of the 24th Annual Esquimalt Holiday Food Drive.

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

How to participate:

Food donations will also be accepted Nov 24 to Dec 20 at Township of Esquimalt Public Works Yard, Archie Browning Sports Centre, Esquimalt Recreation Centre and the Esquimalt Municipal Hall during business hours. Donations can also be picked up. See esquimalt.ca for details.



December 4-January 6: Christmas Tree Village

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. Free event.

Voting for "People's Choice Favourite Tree" will take place on our Esquimalt Parks and Recreation Facebook page December 11 to 22.

December 8: Climate Canvas: A Community Art Project

9AM-4:30PM at Esquimalt Gorge Park

Join us for an empowering opportunity to create a community mosaic for climate. This in-person event is offered by the Resilience by Design Lab with support of Royal Roads, University of Victoria and the Township of Esquimalt. Three 90-minute sessions will be offered throughout the day- registration for this free event is required.

December 8: Holiday Celebration Lunch

Esquimalt Recreation Centre; 12PM-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. Seats are limited and pre-registration is required. Registration is \$20 and cut-off is December 7 at 2 p.m. Please register early to guarantee a seat.

December 16: Photos with Santa

Esquimalt Rec Centre; 12PM-4PM

Santa is popping into the Recreation Centre for some photo opportunities this year. Please bring your camera or smart phone to take your photo. Registration is not required but donations for the Rainbow Kitchen are strongly encouraged.

December 16: Jolly Jingle Story Mingle

Esquimalt Rec Centre; 7PM-8PM

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 to just come for the stories and singing.

New Years Day nature walk

The public is invited to attend the Township of Esquimalt's first New Years Day nature walk at the Westbay Walkway. This year's inaugural event also ties into the 100th anniversary of the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Look for details at esquimalt.ca/events

Council meeting schedule

Council meetings

Dec 18; Jan 15 & 29; Feb 5 & 26; March 4

Committee of the Whole meetings

Dec 11; Jan 22; Jan 29 (special at 5:45pm); Feb 12

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. Details on esquimalt.ca

Esquimalt Municipal Hall closed:

December 25 to 29; January 1

Look for schedule changes on esquimalt.ca and find many of our services available online.

Tree chipping

Archie Browning Sports Centre back lot
January 6 & 7—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 our volunteers help you dispose of your tree at their tree chipping event. This service is provided by donation and helps subsidize community youth programming.

👉 Find our event list at Esquimalt.ca/events or subscribe to our newsletter.

See our calendar at esquimalt.ca/events



Scan for more events