

Esquimalt activist seeks council seat

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Openness is the key message community activist Ali Gaul espouses as she seeks a position on Esquimalt council.

Gaul, a mother of two, celebrated the launch of her website last weekend, which includes a blog.

“My main goal would definitely be to really open the doors and work toward better communication with residents (and) business owners,” said Gaul.

“I really want to respond and listen and seek out public feedback.”

Gaul is no stranger to politics. She has played an active role in many community political processes.

She co-founded the Esquimalt Residents Association, served on the Archie Browning Sports Centre Facility Audit Committee, and is a member of the Friends of Archie Browning Sports Centre Society. Gaul also volunteers with the township’s environmental advisory committee.

Gaul would like to see the Capital Regional District focus its attention on MacLaughlin Point as a potential sewage site rather than its initial announcement of Macaulay Point. The old oil tank farm, surrounded by industrial facilities, is less intrusive on neighbours, she said.

Gaul said the hauling of sludge from any proposed sewage treatment plant through Esquimalt is unacceptable.

Esquimalt as sitting on the brink of change, said Gaul.

Development is pouring into the neighbourhood as the proximity to waterfront and downtown Victoria rises in value.

The new council needs to prepare for the influx of interest, which includes establishing development cost charges, Gaul said.

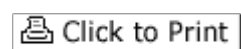
“I think we do have that promising future that everyone is talking about, but I don’t think we have to bulldoze our past to obtain that,” she said.

The municipal election is Nov. 15.

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