



# CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

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## MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Report from: Mayor Barbara Desjardins

Subject: Sculpture Splash and Sculpture Purchase

Council Agenda: November 2, 2015

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In September Esquimalt Township Community Arts Council (TCAC) hosted Sculpture Splash at Fleming beach. The initial event in 2014 was attended by approximately 3000 people over 2 and a half days. It showed 70 pieces of work by sculptors and artists from around the region.

This year's event had 23 sculptors exhibiting 125 amazing pieces of art. Again many pieces were sold with attendance of over 4000 people this year.

This event involved greater than 40 volunteers and many sponsors from both local businesses and regional partner groups. The event continued to assist with Esquimalt's tourism development and even included harbour ferry service to and from Ogden Point. TCAC invited Phillis Olson, President of the Port Angeles Fine Art Society to attend the Friday night Champagne Gala and assist with Art Award judging, furthering our community to community relationships that were born out of the Celebration of Lights Car Show and RibFest.

The 2015 People's Choice Award was determined through members of the public casting their ballot. A significant number of votes were cast and the winner was: 'Pearl' by Fred Dobbs

From the Sculptor:

*The back story to Pearl's creation started three years ago when I found an abalone shell on Fulong beach in Taiwan. With a small piece of clay in one hand and the shell in the other I combined the two and began sculpting a tiny mermaid into the shell. I thought about the age old question of 'where do mermaids come from' and imagined them being formed in the beautiful interior of an abalone shell. Upon discovering that abalone shells do indeed produce pearls the story was born and the sculpture titled.*

Last year the change from a committee of Council to a separate community arts council was a significant success and this year's events have continued this success. Public art and the purchase of public art have been identified through an Esquimalt Public Art Policy developed in 2002. The Policy is in the process of being updated and is within the strategic work of this Council. It is expected that this Policy will provide clarity of direction for the purchase and funding of public art. With the Public Art Policy review, guidelines for future funding and purchase can be developed and utilized to continue the purchasing of public art for the benefit of Esquimalt and its Community.

In the absence of an updated Policy, as last year, Council may wish to purchase the People's Choice Award as a Public Art piece for Esquimalt.

'Pearl' is a bronze sculpture that sells for \$12,000.00. As a bronze sculpture 'Pearl' can be displayed indoors or outdoors. In the case of an outdoor/public installation the piece would require being pinned into a concrete, stone or a connected metal base for a secure positioning. The sculpture weighs 165 pounds and measures 36" x 24" x 12".

My request of Council:

That Council consider support to purchase the 2015 Sculpture Splash People's Choice Award 'Pearl' and to direct staff to provide a report as to where funding could come from to purchase this piece of artwork.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Barbara Desjardins