

Volume 87 | Issue 1
April 2018

VIFFA SPRING NEWSLETTER

*Vancouver Island Fire
Fighters Association*

This is YOUR Newsletter! Additions and photos are always welcome. This is YOUR Association! YOU drive it!

SPRING TRAINING IN APRIL IN CENTRAL SAANICH

VIFFA Spring Training 2018 will be hosted by the Central Saanich Fire Department at their hall at 1512 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton on Saturday April 28 and Sunday April 29.



The Central Saanich Municipality is served by the Central Saanich Volunteer Fire Department consisting of 5 career firefighters and 52 dedicated and experienced volunteer firefighters. The fire department provides the community with Fire & Life Safety Education, Fire Prevention Programs, Hazardous Material Response, First Responder Medical Aid and Emergency Fire & Rescue Response along with Fire Hazardous Material Spill Response. These services are also provided under a servicing agreement to both Tsawout and Tsarlip First Nations Lands which are on the western and eastern boundaries of the community.

*The 2018 VIFFA
AGM will be held
at noon Sunday
April 29th at Spring
Training*

We have a great line-up of courses you requested for this weekend. You will find the Registration Page at the end of the Newsletter. Register early...courses fill up quickly.

Friday, April 27th Evening 18:00 hrs.

Pumps & Pumping

This 2 ½ day course will give you classroom theory, demonstrations, and hands-on training to gain a thorough understanding of vehicle-mounted pumps, piping and accessory systems, appliances, operating pressures and friction loss variables.

Fire Service Instructor 1

This 2 ½ day course introduces the student to the techniques required to deliver a course from a prepared lesson plan. Students will be exposed to training aids, evaluation instruments and methods of establishing a positive learning environment. Students will also explore record keeping techniques. This course is accredited to NFPA 1041 Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications, Chapter 4. Upon completion of this course, the student will receive a Certificate with IFSAC and Pro Board seals

Saturday April 28th 08:30 hrs.

Pumps & Pumping continued

Fire Service Instructor 1 continued

Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Level 1

This is a one-day course instructed by VIERA and is ProBoard Certified.

Emergency Scene Traffic Control

This one-day course is for emergency responders who have responsibility for setting up emergency scene traffic control as a regular or occasional part of their work. Certification through the British Columbia Municipal Safety Authority.

Sunday, April 29th 08:30 hrs.

Pumps & Pumping continued

Fire Service Instructor 1 continued

(Possibly a second Emergency Scene Traffic Control course if there is overflow from the Saturday offering)

VIFFA AGM – Elections for Directors - Meeting at noon during lunch

LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE ON BOTH DAYS, AND A “BURGERS & BEER” SUPPER IS OFFERED BY YOUR CENTRAL SAANICH FD HOSTS ON SATURDAY EVENING. MORE INFORMATION ON THE REGISTRATION PAGE.

Central Saanich FD has suggested 4 local hotels for the weekend:

- **Howard Johnson Hotel & Suites**
- **Quality Inn Waddling Dog**
- **Best Western Emerald Isle**
- **Brentwood Bay Lodge & Spa**

Lots for the family to see and do in Central Saanich area and Victoria...Butchart Gardens, the Royal BC Museum, Victoria Butterfly Gardens, Gowland Tod Provincial Park, Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park, Cideries and Vineyards to name just a few. Make it a family weekend.

PORT HARDY FD VIFFA 2017 FALL TRAINING: WET BUT WONDERFUL!

Not having to worry about sunburn and heat exhaustion is a plus for Fall Training and last Fall's VIFFA Training hosted by Port Hardy Fire Rescue was no exception. Working in misty coastal weather is one of our operational norms and the training weekend of November 3, 4 and 5 was a great success. Heartfelt thanks go to our gracious hosts for organizing the great venues and looking after the attendees. Friendships were made and renewed, and the instruction was excellent.





HORNBY ISLAND FIRE DEPT. GRAND OPENING FEBRUARY 11, 2018

Hornby Island Volunteer Fire Rescue active members, retired members, dignitaries, visiting Fire Chiefs, families, friends and community came together one brisk but sunny February Sunday to parade from the old, cramped and seismically non-conforming fire hall to the bright, new spacious hall that was twenty years in the making from concept to finished building. The traditional ribbon cutting had a definite Fire Service twist: instead of a ribbon and scissors, two new lengths of yellow hose were stretched across the bay doors and ceremonially uncoupled. Retired Fire Chief Gif LaRose was on hand to assist Chief Doug Chinnery at the ceremony and both Chiefs welcomed everyone to tour the new facility and partake of light refreshments.

As an added bonus, a traditional “wetting down” ceremony for the newly delivered Tender was performed, although there was some initial confusion in the crowd when the breeze appeared to change the announcement over the speakers from “wetting down” to “wedding gown”. That certainly kept everyone’s attention!



The wetting down and hand rolling of new apparatus back into the hall stems from the time when horse-drawn engines were used in the Fire Service. After an emergency run, the horses were uncoupled from the pumper, the pumper was washed down, and then firefighters pushed it backwards into the bay to be ready for the next fire response. It was great to witness this continuation of tradition as a respectful nod to all firefighters who have come before us.

Congratulations to Hornby Island Fire Rescue on your new hall and apparatus!



Gabriola Fire Department Memorial Service

On February 2nd the Gabriola Fire Department held a Memorial Service for one of their own, tragically killed while jogging the morning after fire drill night.

Hornby Fire Service members were on-scene at the incident within minutes but their friend and colleague could not be saved. The standing-room only crowd heard stories of FF Jay Dearman's contributions to the Gabriola department and his community, his passion for service, his devoted family ties and his irrepressible and irreverent humour. Jay had recently completed his NFPA Level 1 and 2 Fire Fighter courses through VIERA and the Department was able to award Jay's widow with his diploma. The Cowichan Valley Honour Guard kept watch throughout the moving service. Many fire department members from the region also attended in solidarity and respect for Jay and Gabriola Fire Rescue.



For the first time in the city's history, on March 20th the Victoria Fire Department launched an unmanned aerial drone equipped with a thermal camera. Thermal imaging allows fire crews on the ground to see hot spots in real time, and better predict which way the fire may move. Drone technology is being widely adopted by first responders on southern Vancouver Island. Langford Fire and Rescue has used drones to help located missing hikers on Mount Finlayson, and Saanich Police are using computer programed drones to map vehicle crash scenes. *CTV News*



Campbell River Fire Chief Ian Baikie will retire at the end of June, and Deputy Chief Thomas Doherty will take on the responsibilities of Chief. Chief Baikie started as a volunteer firefighter in Campbell River in 1985, became a career FF in 1989 and moved through the ranks to Chief in 2012.

DON'T FORGET! Tax credit for volunteer firefighters.

Volunteer **firefighters** who perform at least 200 hours of volunteer **firefighting** services in a year can claim a 15% non-refundable **tax credit** based on an amount of \$3,000 (\$450).
(This includes carrying a pager for operational response)

Line 362 – Volunteer firefighters' amount

IT'S BACK! IT'S BIGGER! IT'S BADDER & BETTER! *EVOLUTIONS 2018*

Did you foolishly miss VIFFA EVOLUTIONS last year in Duncan? Do you remember where you stored your tent for the winter and have patched up your air mattress? Are you ready for the 2018 EVOLUTIONS weekend in Mill Bay on August 17th and 18th, hosted by Mill Bay Fire Rescue and Malahat Fire Department! Competition and Camaraderie is the motto, and the theme this year is HAWAIIAN. So dust off your grass skirt, get your make-and-break skills honed, and watch for more information about this fun-filled family weekend. Let the Games begin!





Spring Training 2018

HOST DEPARTMENT – Central Saanich
Registration Form

A - Fire Service Instructor April 27 - 29 - \$180.00

B – Pumps & Pumping April 27-29 - \$350.00

C – RIT April 28 - \$225

D – Emergency Traffic Train the Trainer – April 28 - \$170.00

(Note: there will possibly be another D course on the Sunday if the Saturday course fills)

VIFFA will cover the cost for coffee/lunch & T-Shirt

Registration needs to be completed by April 13, 2018

SEATS ARE LIMITED – REGISTER EARLY

Department:

Mailing Address:

City Postal Code:

Phone:

Participant Name	Saturday	Sunday	T-Shirt Size	Phone Number
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Please scan or email to hillbillies@shaw.ca

Any questions or concerns please call Tanya @ 250 888-0265