

# VIFFA NEWSLETTER

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*Serving Vancouver  
Island Firefighters  
since 1932*

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The Vancouver Island Fire Fighters' Association

## VIFFA SPRING TRAINING

We kick 2017 with Spring Training in Mill Bay! Mill Bay Fire Rescue has offered to host the Training Weekend at their hall on the weekend of April 29th and 30th. Fire Chief Ron Beck and his Officers and members are eager to welcome you and assure you of great fire training opportunities.



The Mill Bay Fire Department, as with others on the coast, started in the early 1940s as Civil Defence Guild Fire Halls. Mill Bay was Guild Hall #30.

The Mill Bay Fire Department is responsible for the fire protection, rescue, fire prevention, and First Responder medical services for an area of approximately 20 square miles with an estimated population of 8,000 residents, with the population projected to increase significantly within the next several years. Mill Bay was established in

the 1860s, twenty years after Victoria was founded. The principal industry was lumber and milling. Today, the area also has some agricultural lands and several small marinas.

For accommodations right in Mill Bay, you can choose the Deer Lodge Motel or several B&Bs. Mill Bay is within easy driving distance of Duncan (about 15 minutes), which offers more motels to choose from.

More information about the course offerings for VIFFA Spring Training 2017 will be presented further on in this newsletter.

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*Mill Bay Fire Rescue  
to host VIFFA Spring  
Training*

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## Tax Relief for Volunteer Fire Fighters/SAR

**Federal Income Tax - 2016**

**Line 362 – Volunteer firefighters' amount and Line 395 – Search and rescue volunteers' amount**

You can claim \$3,000 for the volunteer firefighters' amount (VFA) or the search

and rescue volunteers' amount (SRVA), but not both, if you meet the following conditions:

- you were a volunteer firefighter or a search and rescue volunteer during the year; **and**
- you completed at least 200 hours of eligible volunteer firefighting services or eligible search and rescue volunteer services in the year.

### **Note**

The hours volunteered for both search and rescue and firefighter activities can be combined to claim either the VFA or the SRVA. **You cannot claim both.**

However, if you provided services to the same organization, **other than as a volunteer**, for the same or similar duties, you cannot include any hours related to that organization in determining if you have met the 200-hour threshold.

### **Eligible services**

Eligible volunteer firefighting services with a fire department include:

- responding to and being on call for firefighting and related emergency calls as a firefighter;
- attending meetings held by the fire department; and
- participating in required training related to preventing or suppressing fire.

Eligible search and rescue volunteer services with an eligible search and rescue organization include:

- responding to and being on call for search and rescue and related emergency calls as a search and rescue volunteer;
- attending meeting held by the organization; and
- participating in required training related to search and rescue services.

### **Provincial Income Tax -PROPOSED**

Subject to legislative approval, thousands of volunteers throughout the province may soon be eligible for a \$3,000 non-refundable Provincial tax credit, providing a benefit up to \$151.80 each year.

“B.C.’s volunteer firefighters and search and rescue members play a critical role in the safety of British Columbians,” said Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness Naomi Yamamoto. “These local heroes leave the comfort of home to rush out into often dangerous and unpredictable conditions, in every type of environment, to provide a beacon of hope to both those lost and to the families waiting at home. The tax credit announced [February 23rd] is a small token of thanks for their selfless service, and for the incredible contributions these men and women provide to their communities.”

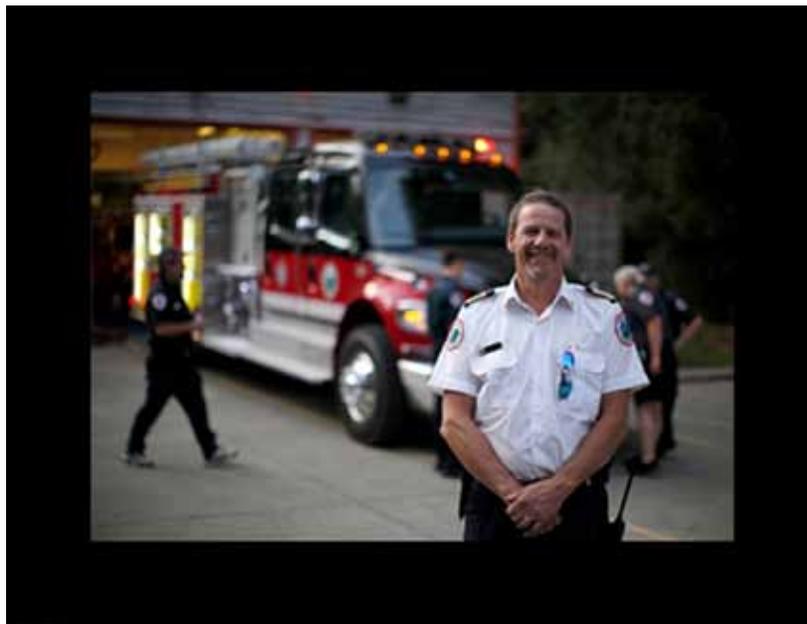
The new tax credit will be available for volunteers who provide at least 200 hours of volunteer service to a volunteer fire department, an eligible search and rescue organization or a combination of both. **The credit will possibly be available for the 2017 tax year.**

*{For those volunteer firefighters who are self employed, it is extremely important to keep track of your earnings, as any accident insurance claim disbursement through WorkSafeBC will be based on past earnings. If you can't prove it, you wont get it!}*

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*Past VIFFA President  
and much-respected  
Malahat Fire Chief  
Rob Patterson dies  
suddenly, January  
2nd, 2017.*

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Rob Patterson, the well-known and much respected Fire Chief of the Malahat Volunteer Fire Department passed away suddenly while on a neighbourly rescue mission to retrieve a stranded ATV in the snowy back country behind the community of Malahat. A strong and vocal advocate for improved safety on the MVI- prone stretch of the Malahat Highway, Rob was often in front of Vancouver Island television news cameras, speaking about the highway carnage his Fire Department members had to attend several times a week. His advocacy for median barriers finally paid off recently with new safety features and roadwork for three kilometers. Never one to rest if the job wasn't finished, Rob was still pushing the Province to complete the safety features for the entire highway corridor at the time of his death.

Rob joined the Malahat Volunteer Fire Dept. nineteen years ago, and became Chief six years ago. He was also a long-serving member of the Vancouver Island Firefighters Association and served several terms as President, stepping down in 2015 for Doug Wells to move up from Vice President.

Rob's family is a fire family, with his wife Tanya Patterson the Deputy Chief and his sons as Firefighters in his department. Tanya has served as a VIFFA Director for many years as well. And of course the Malahat VFD members describe Rob as part of their family too.

Rob was also a hard-working member of the Fire Chiefs Association of BC and was the Zone 1 FCABC Director for Vancouver Island, as well as an active member of the Cowichan Valley Fire Chiefs Association.

In the close-knit community of Malahat, in the close knit family of the Malahat Fire Department, and in our extended community of Vancouver Island Fire Fighters we were all greatly shocked and saddened by Rob's untimely passing. A Fire Service Memorial was held in the neighbouring community of Mill Bay and was attended by Fire Depts. from all over Vancouver Island and beyond, other emergency services, government representatives as well as many people from his home community and others, wanting to offer their support to Tanya and the family, and their respect for Rob as a committed and caring volunteer.

## VIFFA 2016 Fall Training



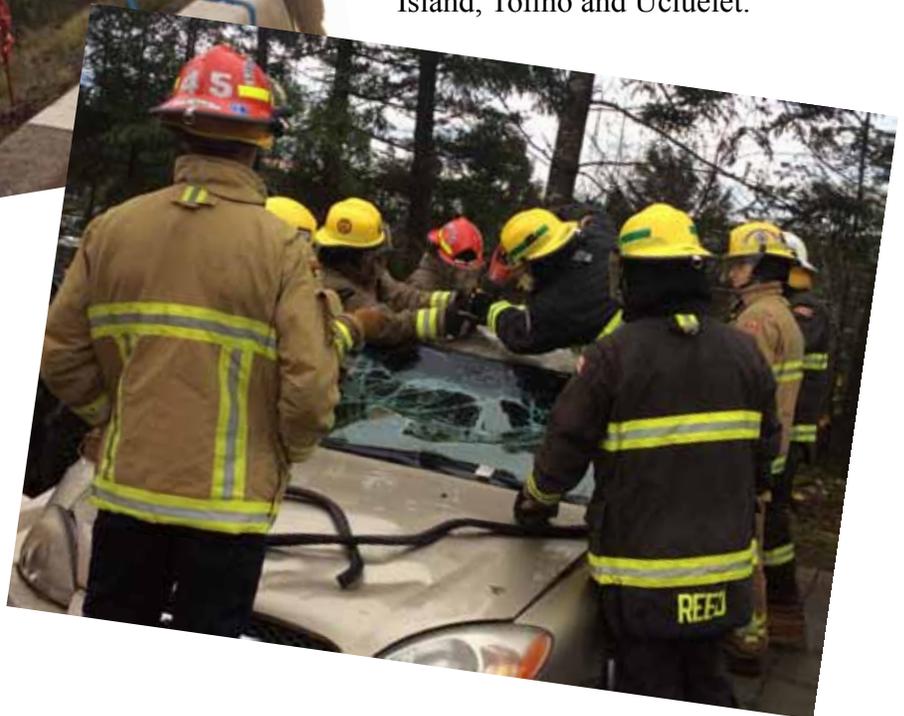
VIFFA Training in Courtenay took place on a weekend of torrential downpours. But that didn't extinguish the fun!

Over the bank Rescue, RIT, Extrication, Fire Scene Management were some of the great courses offered at the Training Weekend, with our incredible hosts, the Courtenay Fire Rescue members, making sure everyone was well-fed and happy.



VIFFA member halls attending were Courtenay, Fanny Bay, Gillies Bay, Malahat, Nanoose, North Cedar, Oyster River, Sahtlam, Ships Point, Thetis Island, Tofino and Ucluelet.

Celebrating our 85th Anniversary, all attendees took home a pink T-Shirt in support of breast cancer awareness.





# SOUND THE ALARM!

## HONEYMOON BAY VOLUNTEER FIRE RESCUE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

### FIREBELLS & FANFARE

### CANADA DAY LONG WEEKEND

Honeymoon Bay Fire Rescue is celebrating our 70th Anniversary this year with a Fire Bells & Fanfare weekend in the community on the Canada Day Weekend. Bring out your Antique Truck and help us celebrate our 70 years of service to Honeymoon Bay and the surrounding area. Everyone welcome!

**Friday June 30th:** - an **Open House** at the Fire Hall

**Saturday July 1st:** - **Fire Apparatus Parade** to the Community Hall, then a static display of vehicles. There will be entertainment throughout the day and CANADA 150 celebrations as well. Saturday evening will be a **Dinner and Dance**.

**Sunday July 2nd:** - In the morning, a **FREE pancake breakfast**. And in the evening our **Fireworks Show**. We will have camping areas for the departments and their families so bring everyone with you to enjoy this special weekend.

*Need more information? Contact Fire Chief Raymond Wear, [hbvfd@cvrld.bc.ca](mailto:hbvfd@cvrld.bc.ca) or (234)594-3474*



## VIFFA EVOLUTIONS 2017

Dates: Friday July 28th, Saturday July 29th, Sunday July 30th

Host Department: Duncan

Venue: McAdam Park

This year's theme is ***PIRATES!***

Bringing back a weekend of camaraderie, competition and socializing. Traditional Events will include Make and Break, Hose Lay and Target, Hose Rolling, Tug of War, and the Mystery Events. On-site camping is available with check-in on Friday evening. There will be a Dinner/Dance on Saturday night.

Let the games begin.

Entertainment for the entire family!!!!!!!!!!

More information will be sent out to the departments as the event nears.

*Contact: Ron Olausen [olaussen.dvfd@shaw.ca](mailto:olaussen.dvfd@shaw.ca)*





### **Spotlight on VIFFA Secretary Julie Wells**

I started with the Mill Bay Fire Department as a dispatcher in 1998. I was very active raising funds for Muscular Dystrophy for many years. My husband Doug and I had twin boys, Hunter and Kyle, and they became permanent fixtures at the fire hall, attending all functions including the first Tour de Rock to come through Mill Bay. They also helped with the Boot Drives, spending many a weekend raising money by looking cute. They even got their picture in the local newspaper!

I was the head cook for the fire hall, making sure the firefighters were well fed after Wednesday night fire practices and Sunday duty crews as well as the fire department training events.

Our family moved to Sahtlam in 2010 but I stayed on with Mill Bay as an Auxiliary member until retiring in 2016. I joined the Sahtlam Volunteer Fire Dept. shortly after as an Auxiliary Member and I now cook for them once a month.

## **BBQ Spring Salmon**

**= because it's never too early to BBQ!**

1. Coat your salmon fillet with sea salt.
2. Let it rest for 20 mins. max at room temp.
3. Wipe salt off with moist paper towel.
4. Coat the fillet with brown sugar.
5. Place on BBQ with skin down and cook for approx.. 20-30 mins., depending on size and thickness of fillet.
6. Once fillet has a nice glaze, separate the fillet from the skin.
7. The fish is ready to enjoy!

Pair it with wild rice and a salad or whatever you choose along with your favourite wine choice if you are not on duty. Note: The BBQ will get a little messy, put it sure tastes great!

*Al Anderson, VIFFA Trade Director*

*alan@firepowerplus.com www.firepowerplus.com*



## **VIFFA SPRING TRAINING**

### **MILL BAY FIRE DEPT.**

### **APRIL 28TH 29th & 30TH**

**Friday evening , Saturday AND Sunday (17.5 hours): PUMPS & PUMPING a Pro-Board JIBC/NFPA certified course – only 12 spots available**

**Saturday AND Sunday (14 hours): Playbook TEAM LEADER OFC/VIERA certified**

**Saturday AND Sunday (14 hours): DIGITAL COMMAND (Virtual Fire Ground Command)**

**Saturday OR Sunday (7 hours): HAZMAT AWARENESS**

**Saturday AND Sunday (14 hours): R.I.T. TRAINING – only 10 spots available**

**Saturday OR Sunday (7 hours): GAS AWARENESS**

**SUNDAY: VIFFA MEETING DURING LUNCH**

**LUNCHESES ARE INCLUDED - T-SHIRT FOR THOSE REGISTERED**

## VIFFA SPRING TRAINING COURSE INFORMATION

**R.I.T. Training:** Nathan Pocock, Prepare4 Instructor. Nathan has been a member Vancouver Fire Rescue since 2011 and was with the East Sooke VFD for three years prior to becoming a career fire fighter. This course Prepare4 has designed for the VIFFA Spring Training Weekend will consist of a 4 hours of classroom instruction on Saturday and 3 hours hands on, and the Sunday will have 6 hours of hands on instruction and a 45 minute period where students can write the exam. This course will be restricted to ten students only, with a 1:5 student/instructor ratio to ensure students' skill sets. This NFPA standards Awareness Course level will set you up to take a R.I.T. Technician level course for full NFPA 1407 compliance. Nathan is passionate about bringing RIT standards to a higher level across BC and believes that the course he has developed provides firefighters with the valuable skills and confidence required to fulfil RIT responsibilities.

**Pumps & Pumping:** JIBC Instructors. Through classroom instruction, demonstration and hands-on training, the participant will gain a thorough understanding of vehicle-mounted pumps, piping and accessory systems. The student will operate the pump during a variety of fire ground pumping scenarios. The principles of fire ground hydraulics and friction loss will be introduced in the classroom and reinforced in the field utilizing in-line pressure gauges. Topics covered include: Pump theory; Fire ground hydraulics (nozzle pressure, appliance loss, elevation loss, friction loss etc.); Pump operation and trouble-shooting procedures; Pumping from booster tank & hydrant; Drafting and Relay-pumping (as the Attack Engine or Source Engine in a relay-pumping situation. 12 spots available.

**Digital Command:** This interactive course will focus on managing the fire ground and the corresponding strategies and tactics, through state of the art digital scenarios. Participants will control all aspects of the emergency scene and work together for a successful outcome. This course will cover the following OFC Playbook requirements for Exterior & Interior Team Leader:

- Incident Command and Fire Attack NFPA 1021 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3
- Size-up and Incident Action Planning NFPA 1021 4.6, 4.6.1, 4.6.2
- Fire ground Accountability NFPA 1021 4.6.1, 4.6.2

Prerequisites: 5 years fire fighting experience or qualified fire department officer

**Team Leader:** This interactive 2-day course is in compliance with the new Office of the Fire Commissioner's Playbook for the Interior Team Leader requirements. The Team Leaders will be introduced to the concepts of critical decision-making skills during high risk, low frequency emergency situations. The students will be rotated through simulated structure fire scenarios (both in the classroom and hands-on) to allow them the opportunity to practice the concepts learned in the classroom. Interior Leaders will be required to:

- conduct a 360° size-up with the Incident Commander (IC)
- participate in developing an Incident Action Plan with the IC
- use Incident Command System (ICS) to supervise all personnel assigned to him or her
- check in fire fighters that are assigned to his or her group/division while operating interior
- continuously monitor and size-up interior conditions
- provide situation reports to the IC as required
- make critical tactical decisions based on interior fire behaviour injects as supplied by an Course
- Scenario training to reinforce classroom theory
- Critical decision-making skills during high risk/low frequency emergency events (recognition primed decision-making, situational awareness)
- Training fidelity – the ability to make simulations realistic

- Modern fire behaviour (ventilation limited fire regimes, heat release rate, flow paths, PPE imitations, PPA/PPV)
- SLICER-RS/RECEO-VS
- ICS – with a focus on Groups and Divisions
- Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT)
- Incident action planning
- Scenario training to reinforce classroom theory

**HAZMAT Awareness:** NFPA 472 Requires written exam for certification

This course is offered as a one-day classroom setting course designed around classroom lectures, group interactive exercises. This course is designed for anyone who, in the course of their work, may be faced with a hazardous materials incident. This course provides the information necessary to recognize, identify and the notification of a hazardous materials incident. The modules of this course include:

- Detecting the Presence of Hazardous Materials
- Surveying the Incident from a Safe Distance
- Collecting Hazard Information
- Initiating Protective Actions
- Initiating the Notification Process

Prerequisites: None

Reference Manual: Jones and Bartlett Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations recommended

**Gas Awareness:** At the time of printing, information was not available for this course offering. However, it will comply with OFC/Playbook requirements for NFPA 1001, LNG, LPG.

PLEASE REGISTER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO SECURE A PLACE IN YOUR DESIRED COURSE.  
CLASS SIZE IS RETRICTED ON SOME COURSES.



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**PROVINCE  
OF BC TO  
ADD  
BREAST,  
PROSTATE  
AND  
MULTIPLE  
MYELOMA  
CANCERS  
TO CANCER  
COVERAGE  
FOR  
FIRE  
FIGHTERS**

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**The Province intends to move ahead with an amendment to the Firefighters Occupational Disease Regulation under the Workers Compensation Act to add presumptions for breast cancer, prostate cancer and multiple myeloma as occupational diseases for firefighters.**

A presumption means if a professional or volunteer firefighter develops one of the listed cancers after a certain period of employment, it is presumed that the cancer arose from their employment. The firefighter is then eligible for workers' compensation benefits without having to provide evidence that the cancer is work-related.

The Province first recognized certain cancers as occupational diseases for firefighters in 2005. Cancer presumptions for firefighters are already recognized for:

- Brain
- Bladder
- Colorectal
- Kidney
- Ureter
- Testicular
- Lung
- Esophageal
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Leukemia

As well, in 2014 the Province fulfilled its commitment to restore heart disease and heart injury as a workers' compensation presumption for firefighters.

Photos from the announcement can be viewed here: <https://flic.kr/p/RtGYfz>

**Quotes:**

Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, and Minister Responsible for Labour –

*“On the job, firefighters are exposed to very real hazards and their work saves lives and keeps our communities safe. That is why we’re enabling regulatory changes to support three new cancer presumptions for them. This change is a meaningful step that acknowledges the tremendous risks firefighters take any time they are called to duty.”*

Gord Ditchburn, B.C. Professional Firefighters Association president and board chair –

*“I would like to thank Premier Clark, Minister Bond and the B.C. government for supporting our efforts to add breast, prostate and multiple myeloma cancer to the list of cancers recognized as an occupational disease for firefighters. The addition of these presumptive coverages will benefit firefighters in every region of British Columbia, including the families who are often the ones left to navigate the claims process with WorkSafeBC. Firefighters are exposed to toxic environments that greatly contribute to increased cancer risks, more than double that of the general population.”*

