



New Volunteer Opportunity

Are you looking for an interesting and challenging volunteer experience?

Would you like to make our community even better?

Opportunities exist to volunteer in the new Saanich Community Safety Office, opening this Spring at the Uptown Shopping Centre.

Whether you are a young adult considering a career in law enforcement, a retiree looking to give back, a recent immigrant wanting to meet new people, the Saanich Police Department has volunteer opportunities in our Community Safety Office where you can reach these goals while supporting the Saanich Police to reduce crime and enhance public safety.

Join a team of dedicated volunteers and work with the Saanich Police Department to assist others by sharing information and connecting people to community resources and partners they might need. The shifts vary from as few as 4 hours per week. Start-up training and support will be provided.



COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICE

If interested, please review the minimum qualifications, the volunteer description and application located on the website,

[CLICK HERE](#)

Or go to saanichpolice.ca and follow the link from the home page.

For questions, please contact us at :
blockwatch@saanichpolice.ca

Initial closing date for volunteer applications is **February 5, 2021**.

Please be advised that a work environment review will be taking place prior to opening, to ensure the working environment is meeting all Covid-19 safety measures

COVID Crime Prevention



Unfortunately, when there is a time of uncertainty or crisis, there are those who will step in to take advantage of it. COVID has been no different.

While we don't have some of these specific crimes in Saanich or even on the Island, it's good to be aware of them, know what to look for and take steps to ensure that we're still

protected and safe. Scams and fraud are happening on a regular basis and these are the cornerstone of these particular crimes.

Protecting ourselves and our community is not a part time job, and even in dealing with a pandemic, we find ourselves having to keep an eye out for those criminals who will exploit a gap in our attention.

While some types of crime have gone down, others have gone up, but there are ways you can protect yourself. First it's good to know what's going on.

There are currently three main types of crime occurring, most involve fraud.

Cybercrime: With many more people staying at home and especially working from home, there is a heightened risk of security breaches, hacking, and fraud. There are even fraudulent web sites and apps posing as coronavirus trackers which are in fact phishing attacks or scams. Authorities also report phone fraud where criminals call victims pretending to be clinic or hospital officials, who claim that a relative of the victim has fallen sick with the virus and request payments for medical treatment. Do not send any payments to anyone you do not know and verify all the information you receive through phone or online. Follow the Crime Prevention advice following this article to make sure you are protected.

COVID Crime Prevention

Fake cures and medicine: There is no known cure for COVID-19 at the moment. Several vaccines are being distributed, but only by health authorities. Do not buy anything sold as any type of medicine or remedy against coronavirus as it is fake. There are reports of thousands of seized counterfeit pharmaceuticals and medical devices seized as well as thousands of web sites taken down.



Organized property crime: It has been reported in some countries that perpetrators gain access to private homes by impersonating medical staff providing information material or hygiene products or conducting a “Corona or COVID test” with the intention of theft and robbery. Remain vigilant and do not let anyone you do not know in. Thankfully this is not and has not occurred on Vancouver Island.

Along with all the regular scams that are out there, these COVID specific ones are good to know, because once you know what they are, you can avoid them. Locking down your computer and online presence is a great way to start, please see the following page for some tips on how and what to do.

If you have been a victim of fraud or a scam, don't be ashamed. This happens to millions of people every day around the world. Report it, and learn from it. If an older adult in your life has been a victim of a scam, be supportive and sensitive. They are doing their best to adapt to an online world that can move very quickly and without a lot of instruction. Educate everyone in your life about scams and social media fraud. As people change their way of communicating, the scammers are also adapting.

**INCREASING
SCAMS AMID
THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC**



Avoid Getting Scammed

There are a few key ways we can help prevent getting scammed. First of all don't engage with conversation with on the phone with anyone calling unsolicited. Secondly, be aware of what you're clicking on while you're online.

There are a lot of websites that are encouraging you to order items that they don't have, they tell you there is a long waiting time for delivery and then simply don't deliver while they keep your money.

Some scammers send emails that look very authentic purporting to be from the government, or a utility company, they'll ask you to confirm your log in details or tell you your account has been frozen until you release it. These are scams.

Make yourself even safer by simply tuning up your online tools and actions. Some suggestions are below. The key to staying safe is awareness and education. Stay current on what the newest scams are on a regular basis; a simple google search will give you more information than you could ever need but it will give you a broad overview of what to look out for.

MAKE YOUR HOME A CYBER SAFE STRONGHOLD



- Wi-Fi: always change the default router password
- Install antivirus software on all devices connected to the internet
- Review your apps' permissions and delete those you don't use
- Choose strong and different passwords for your email and social media accounts
- Back up your data and run regular software updates
- Secure electronic devices with passwords, PIN or biometric information
- Review the privacy settings of your social media accounts

Online shopping safety tips

Buy from **reliable** online vendors and check individual ratings

Think twice: if an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is

Use **credit cards** when shopping online for stronger customer protection

Check your bank account often for **suspicious activity**



Saanich Police Department
Block Watch Office
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www.saanichpolice.ca

