

Media Release

July 15, 2020

SHOAL Centre welcomes fitness classes and activities in limited re-opening BC 211 and other support services still running

SIDNEY, BC — On July 6th, SHOAL Centre welcomed back members of the community for a few fitness classes and activities. Beacon Community Services, the local charity that operates the centre, appreciates the patience of everyone during the four-month closure.

For the months of July and August, the SHOAL Centre will be running fitness classes, support programs, and foot care. Program expansion/other activities will be re-assessed at a later date, respecting the mandate and recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer and the Town of Sidney COVID-19 Recovery Task Force.

New protocols, policies, and procedures have been put in place to support the safe return of members of the public. Protocols include mandatory hand sanitizing upon arrival, signing in with instructors, and respecting barriers and signs to promote physical distancing. For anyone interested in attending current activities, pre-registration is also mandatory; drop-in activities are not possible at this time. As well, the front doors will remain locked for the summer; patrons are asked to please ring the doorbell at the main entrance so a Beacon staff member can assist them.

Beacon Community Services also continues to be the hub agency for BC 211's Safe Seniors, Strong Communities program in the CRD, including grocery shopping, wellness checks, and meal delivery. Coordinated from the SHOAL Centre, this program matches seniors who need support with non-medical services to volunteers in their community who are willing to help.

At SHOAL Centre, Beacon also continues to provide free income tax filing for people with low to moderate incomes, as well as parking permits for Persons with Disabilities. If anyone is in need of support, please contact SHOAL Centre reception at 250-656-5537 or ring the front doorbell and a staff member will be happy to assist.

"While SHOAL Centre's been closed to the public, our volunteers and staff have been hard at work supporting hundreds of seniors in our community. We've also been creating protocols to safely re-open," said Glenys Cavers, Beacon Community Services' Director of Volunteer and Seniors' Services. "And now we're really excited to be able to have folks back in the centre, and to see life and laughter return."

Stay tuned to the Beacon Community Services website (www.beaconcs.ca) to keep up to date on any changes throughout the summer.

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