

B.C. has 446 new COVID-19 cases; 14 in Island Health

Times Colonist and Vancouver Sun

Another 446 cases of COVID-19 were reported in B.C. on Tuesday, along with an additional nine deaths.

Fourteen of the new cases were in Island Health, bringing the number of known active cases in the region to 185, according to data from Island Health.

Almost two-thirds of the cases — 120 — are in the central Island. There are 35 in the south Island and 30 in the north.

None of the additional deaths were on the Island. A total of 1,019 B.C. deaths have been linked to the novel coronavirus.

The updated numbers for Monday from Dr. Bonnie Henry, the provincial health officer,

and Health Minister Adrian Dix mean active cases in the province are at 5,045 — the lowest figure since Nov. 9.

Most sick individuals are isolating at home, though 368 people are being treated in hospital — an increase of 10 overnight. Seventy-two people are in acute care.

Another 7,238 people are being monitored by public health

teams following exposure to a known COVID-19 case.

There have been 58,553 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the province.

Henry and Dix announced another health-care facility outbreak, at Mount St. Joseph's Hospital, bringing the total number of health-care facilities with outbreaks to 61. Three Island facilities — Chartwell Malaspina

Care Residence in Nanaimo, Hart House in Victoria, and Ts'its'uwat'ul' Lelum in Duncan — have outbreaks.

As of Tuesday, 62,294 British Columbians have been immunized against COVID-19, with the province continuing to focus on residents and workers at long-term care facilities, where infections have been the most deadly.

New SFU centre to help Metro Vancouver cut carbon emissions

The Canadian Press

VANCOUVER — A new centre at Simon Fraser University will help cities across Metro Vancouver develop solutions on urban climate change and to reach goals for reducing carbon pollution.

The university's Renewable Cities program has been named by the federal government to establish a regional Low Carbon Cities Canada Innovation Centre, due to launch in the fall.

The centre is one of five across Canada and a statement from the City of Vancouver says the Metro Vancouver facility will be funded by a \$21.7-million endowment from the federal government.

The money will be used to identify, finance and launch ideas ranging from expanding electric transportation fleets to retrofitting buildings.

Vancouver Mayor Kennedy Stewart says the funding will bolster ongoing innovation as the city reduces carbon emissions from buildings and transportation.

Metro Vancouver board of directors chairman Say Dhalwal says the SFU centre will offer a local venue to develop, test and implement innovative solutions that can be rolled out across the region.

"Metro Vancouver looks forward to working with the ... centre and SFU toward helping us meet our ambitious climate goals and creating a carbon-neutral region by 2050," Dhalwal says in the statement.



The Canadian Coast Guard's John Cabot, an offshore fisheries science vessel, sails out of Victoria Harbour on its way to its home port of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. CANADIAN COAST GUARD

Coast Guard's newest scientific ship, John Cabot, leaves Victoria for East Coast

CARLA WILSON
Times Colonist

The Canadian Coast Guard's new John Cabot offshore fisheries science vessel has sailed out of Victoria toward its home port of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

"It will serve as the primary platform to conduct scientific research, as well as support other Coast Guard programs and services such as environmental response and search and rescue," a Coast Guard official said in a Tuesday statement.

"The CCGS John Cabot is expected to enter into service in spring 2021, when Fisheries and Oceans Canada scientists and crew will have a chance to complete further training on the vessel and its science systems."

Its first science mission is slated for this summer. The 208-foot-long vessel sailed out of Ogden Point on Tuesday. It will stop on the Pacific side of the Panama Canal for inspection and refueling.

It is expected the entire trip will take about 30 days. It is being crewed by members

of the Coast Guard after training and a vessel familiarization period in Victoria. This included frequent trips to sea around Vancouver Island.

"This also gave an opportunity for Vancouver Shipyards (the builder) to address some outstanding work items prior to the vessel's departure," the Coast Guard said.

Painted in the Coast Guard's traditional red-and-white colours, the John Cabot is one of three science vessels built by Seaspan at its shipyard in North Vancouver, ordered under the national shipbuilding strategy.

In 2011, Seaspan won the rights to negotiate contracts to build non-combat vessels for the Canadian Navy and Coast Guard in a program to renew Canada's fleet. Under the plan, Seaspan anticipates constructing up to 17 vessels valued at \$8 billion.

The agreement has led to a resurgence in shipbuilding on B.C.'s coast, providing education and jobs in what had been a declining and unsteady industry.

Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, officially launched the nearly complete John Cabot in

July, smashing a bottle of champagne at Seaspan's North Vancouver shipyard.

Sea trials started six weeks later. Trials at sea put vessels through various exercises to ensure the ship and its technology are functioning as expected.

The John Cabot follows its sister ships CCGS Capt. Jacques Cartier, delivered June 2019, and CCGS Sir John Franklin, delivered in December 2019.

The ships have been designed to serve as state-of-the-art floating laboratories. Each is equipped with four types of labs.

"These offshore fisheries science vessels are the government of Canada's first-ever vessels purposely designed and built for offshore fisheries research science and monitoring," the Coast Guard said.

"These vessels will enable Fisheries and Oceans Canada to collect key information necessary for the sustainable management of Canada's oceans and aquatic resources for the benefit of current and future generations."

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Search for missing kayaker continues near Sooke

JEFF BELL
Times Colonist

The Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre has suspended its search for a kayaker missing in the Sooke area, though RCMP and volunteers continue to look for Timothy Ross.

The decision to stand down the search by air and sea was made at 5 p.m. Monday, putting the case in the hands of Sooke RCMP.

There had been plans for fixed-wing planes from the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association to fly Tuesday, but weather conditions prevented it, said Vickie Weber, senior search-and-rescue manager for Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue.

Sooke RCMP Sgt. Kevin Shaw said the ground search by the Juan de Fuca group will continue today.

"Our hope is that they're aided by some fixed-wing aircraft," he said. "The forecast looks like it is more hospitable."

The rescue co-ordination centre was contacted about 7 p.m. Sunday when Ross, who had set out around noon from an area near Ella Beach, failed to return from a kayaking



Timothy Ross went kayaking on Sunday and failed to return. VIA SOOKE RCMP

trip. The 38-year-old, an experienced kayaker, was expected back by 4 p.m. A number of witnesses reported seeing a kayaker heading along the

shoreline toward Port Renfrew.

Police said the last sighting was around Shirley.

Weber said her team spent Tuesday in the Port Renfrew area searching along the shore and trying to find anyone who saw anything.

The initial search on Sunday used a Cormorant helicopter and Buffalo aircraft, which flew until about 11 p.m.

The search started again about 5 a.m. Monday and shifted to include the Port Renfrew. The Cormorant and Buffalo were used again, along with a United States Coast Guard boat, three Canadian Coast Guard boats, and the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Team.

Police request that people on the water or in coastal areas watch for Ross. He is described as white, five-foot-eight and 170 pounds with blond hair and blue eyes. He was last seen wearing a black wetsuit and a striped wool maroon t-shirt, and is believed to be in a blue whitewater kayak.

Anyone who sees Ross or his kayak is asked to call Sooke RCMP at 778-290-3791.

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Man injured in Campbell River fire fell from roof battling blaze

Times Colonist

The man injured during a fire early Sunday in his Campbell River home fell from the roof while battling the blaze.

Campbell River Fire Chief Thomas Doherty said he is understanding that people do what they can to save their homes and possessions, "but at the same time it's incredibly dangerous. And it can potentially

create a much bigger issue."

He said it is very fortunate the man didn't fall into the fire given that the roof's structure was compromised.

Such a fall would have greatly changed the dynamics of the situation, Doherty said. "We would have had to have made some sort of an entry into that house, given the unsafe conditions, to try to rescue him."

The injured man was taken to

hospital. He and two other people had arrived at the home on South Island Highway and discovered smoke and fire in the attic.

When firefighters arrived about 3:35 a.m., the blaze had made its way through the roof and was spreading to the one-level home's living areas. Doherty said the damage was quite substantial and could result in the home having to be torn down, given its age.