

‘It takes a village’: Sooke youth found after community, first responders rally

Published 8:51 am Thursday, February 19, 2026

By Sooke News Mirror Staff



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A missing youth was found shortly before 10:45 a.m. on Feb. 19. (Nikhil Nikhil/Sooke News Mirror)



Sooke RCMP say a 14-year-old boy reported missing on Wednesday has been located “safe and sound.”

The youth, whose Feb. 18 disappearance prompted a wide-scale response from police, search and rescue teams, and community members, was found shortly before 10:45 a.m. on Feb. 19.

Juan de Fuca, Metchosin, Cowichan, Ladysmith, Nanaimo, Peninsula and Royal Canadian Marine search and rescue teams helped Mounties in their search for the boy.

“We’re extremely grateful that he was found safe and returned to his family – the best outcome that we could hope for,” said Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue coordinator Victoria Clarke.

Mounties requested help from Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue around 12:30 a.m. on Feb. 19, while asking locals to scour their properties and yards for any sign of the boy.

Community members began conducting their own searches at 3 p.m. on Feb. 18, and community volunteer Lisa Nilsson said that by 9 p.m. there were over 100 people out looking for him.

“It’s been quite an incredible opportunity for the community to come together and support a family,” she said. “It takes a village to ensure that everything is good.”

The boy was found in an abandoned home by local Steve Anderson.

“I just followed one of the Remax for sale signs up a driveway, found a house that no one was living in,” he said. “If I was a teenage kid, I wouldn’t go where people were living. I’d find some place where no one was living and sure enough, there he was.”

He added that “it is really nice to see the whole community come together so quickly.”

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