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An entire community rallied to search for missing teen in Sooke



by **Mary Griffin**

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The community of Sooke and surrounding areas rallied on Thursday to search for a missing teen who was later found safe. (CHEK News, Feb. 19, 2026).

A community of volunteers from Sooke and the surrounding areas jumped into action with news of a missing 14-year-old.

[RCMP](#) issued a missing person release on Wednesday, the same day the teen was last seen in Sooke.

Up to 100 commun
from across the Isla

After a call went ou
took off.

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and rescue teams

the search then



“Between seven and eight o’clock last night [Wednesday] there was probably over fifty people. By nine o’clock there was over 100-people that were involved in doing the searches,” Nilsson said.

The Facebook page, “Meanwhile in Sooke”, provided search updates including a call for volunteers to help search for the missing teen.

“Good morning Sooke, I’m here at the community hall. This is the conference room,” said Shannon Holly in her video. “If you want to be a part of the search, come down to the community room in the conference hall. Then it helps us muster. Thank-you.”

The updates on Facebook included the areas where people were searching. Every few minutes.

Sooke resident Steve

So he got up early,

“This morning, I saw
that’s a whole part of

He also had a hunch



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y afternoon. And

“I ran away when I was about thirteen years old, in Sooke in that same area. And that’s exactly where he went,” Anderson said.

Just before 10 a.m. Thursday, he found the teen in a vacant home, at the end of a dead end street. Anderson answered the call to help, in addition to dozens of volunteers, multiple search and rescue crews, including a team from Nanaimo, who also came and joined the search.

Victoria Clarke, Coordinator, [Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue](#), said it was the best outcome.

“A huge amount of credit goes to the community members. I was so impressed when we showed up. We went over to meet them at the coffee shop. And I was so impressed by their efforts to date. They had searched extensively. They had a map and they could pinpoint where they had search,” Clarke said.

“Kids are important. Kids are the future. And kids are usually misunderstood. Especially teenagers are misunderstood. And as a guy, I’ll say teenage boys are often misunderstood. I’ll say, sometimes it takes a runaway to find a runaway,” Anderson said.

The teen is back with his family Thursday evening, thanks to a community coming together.

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