



Happy Birthday

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A newspaper for learners

February 2020

Top baby name

Olivia was the most popular baby name in BC in 2019. Oliver was the second most popular name.

BC's Ministry of Health made the announcement on December 31, 2019.

Each year, the Ministry tracks baby names from birth registrations.

Baby Olivia

Olivia was the most popular baby name in the last 10 years. Olivia topped the list seven out of 10 times.

Fewer babies

Fewer babies were born in 2019 than in 2018.

In 2019, 40,978 babies were born. In 2018, 43,844 babies were born.

Adapted from Government of British Columbia • Photo: Mika Inokoshi Photography



This baby is named Olivia.

Top 10 names in 2019

1. Olivia
2. Oliver
3. Lucas
4. Liam
5. Ethan
6. Noah
7. William
8. Benjamin
9. Charlotte
10. Emma

Word of the year

The Merriam-Webster dictionary named "they" as the word of the year in 2019.

People looked up the word more times in 2019 than 2018. "They" had a 313% increase in lookups in 2019.

A new meaning for "they"

The dictionary added a new meaning to "they" in September 2019.

"They" can be used the same as "he" or "she" to describe a person.

"They" is a non-gendered word. It doesn't mean male or female.

Nonbinary gender

"They" is often used by people who are nonbinary.

Nonbinary means not just male or not just female.

Some people:

- are a mix of genders
- have no gender
- move between genders

Adapted from Merriam-Webster.com; CBC News • Photo: Merriam-Webster.com



"They" is word of the year for 2019.

Did you know?

Air Canada changed its greeting to passengers in 2019.

The airline no longer uses "ladies" and "gentlemen."

Now, the crew says, "Welcome everyone." "Everyone" is a gender-neutral word.

Everyone includes he, she and they.

Electric seaplane takes flight

BC has the first commercial all-electric seaplane in the world.

The seaplane made history on December 10, 2019. It flew for three minutes in a test flight over Richmond, BC.



This is the e-plane.

Harbour Air

Greg McDougall flew the bright yellow seaplane. McDougall is the founder and chief executive officer of Harbour Air.

Harbour Air and magniX designed the e-plane. The e-plane runs on large batteries.

It will take at least two more years of testing before the e-plane is approved for use.

Why make an e-plane?

The e-plane uses cleaner fuel than regular planes. It can fly between small airports.

People can take short trips faster and for less money than driving, said Roei Ganzarski, the CEO of magniX.

"It means you can stop driving for hours to get to a destination because there's no other way to get there," he said.



Scan to watch the electric seaplane take flight.

Adapted from CBC News • Photo: Harbour Air Seaplanes

Music

Choir helps Jerry

Jerry did not have a home.

He slept in a car or on his friend's floor.

He did not have enough food.

Jerry joined a choir

Jerry likes to sing. He heard about a choir.

The choir needed singers for an opera.



This is Jerry.

Jerry felt better

The choir practiced at The Kettle Society.

The Kettle helps people.

Jerry got meals. He got help with his problems.

He liked singing in the choir.

“Singing is like medicine,” says Jerry.

Jerry sang

The choir sang on stage with Vancouver Opera.

Jerry sang a song by himself. He sang a solo. People liked his voice.

Now, Jerry gets paid to sing.

He sang in a musical play in Vancouver in 2019.

Did you know?

Singing in a choir can help your:

- brain
- breathing
- stress and anxiety
- sense of belonging



Scan to hear Jerry sing.

Adapted from *Megaphone Magazine*
Photo: The Kettle Society

Country singer wins

Ajaye Jardine is a country singer.

She is from Richmond, BC.

Ajaye won Female Artist of the Year at the 2019 BC Country Music Association award show.

A love of music

Ajaye thinks her love of music helped her win.

She likes to tell stories with her music.

She likes the way music connects her to her community.

Most of all, Ajaye is thankful for the friends and fans she made because of her music.

Ajaye gives back to her fans

Ajaye wants her fans to know she is thankful.

She made a special club for them.

Members of the club can listen to her new music first. They can listen for free.

“Thank you – I wouldn't be here without you,” Ajaye says.

Adapted from *Richmond News* • Photo: Dee Lippingwell



This is Ajaye Jardine at the awards show.

Most popular song

What song do most people know? It is “Happy Birthday to You.”

It is the most famous song in English, says Guinness World Records. It is sung in more than 18 languages.

History of the song

Mildred J. Hill and Patty Smith Hill lived in Kentucky, US. In 1893, the two sisters wrote a song for kindergarten students. It was called “Good Morning to All.”

The sisters shared the song with other teachers.

Rights to the song

The song became popular after the lyrics were changed to “Happy Birthday to You.” By the 1930s, the song was heard on the radio, in movies and on stage.

The sisters said it was their song. If people used the song to make money, they had to pay a fee. In 2016, a court ruled that the song was free to use.



This is the original song.



These people are singing “Happy Birthday to You.”

Adapted from Wikipedia and *The Telegraph* • Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Patty Hill and Mildred J. Hill - Song Stories for the Kindergarten, Shutterstock/Drazen Zigic

February

Calendar

Valentine's Day

In ancient times, Romans held a feast day in February. The day brought people together as couples.

Why is it called Valentine's Day?

Valentine was a Roman priest.

The Roman emperor wanted young men to be soldiers and not marry. Valentine helped people marry in secret.

Valentine was caught and killed on February 14. People remembered him by celebrating Saint Valentine's Day.

Couples celebrated their love on Valentine's Day.

How do people celebrate Valentine's Day?

In North America, people celebrate Valentine's Day with gifts like chocolate or roses.

In Denmark, people exchange handmade cards with white flowers called snowdrops.

In Mexico, it is a day of love and friendship. People give one another cards, stuffed animals or flowers.

In Peru, people exchange orchids.

In the Philippines, hundreds of people marry in the same place. The government sponsors these marriages so people without a lot of money can marry.

In Wales, Valentine's Day is on January 25. On this day, couples exchange handmade wooden spoons.

Adapted from *National Geographic* • Photos: Flickr/mattgriff, Wikimedia Commons



This is a Welsh lovespoon.



Roses are a traditional gift.

Vancouver's First Lady of Jazz

In February, we celebrate Black History Month. We recognize Black Canadians for their achievements.

Eleanor Collins

Eleanor Collins was born in Edmonton in 1919. Her family was musical. Eleanor sang with her family in a choir.

In 1939, she moved to Vancouver. She married and had four children.

In the 1940s, Eleanor began to sing on CBC Radio. She sang in the Swing Low Quartet with her sister and two friends. She also sang on a radio show Canadian soldiers listened to during the Second World War.

In 1954, Eleanor began to sing on television. She was the first woman and the first Black artist to have her own TV show. She was called "Vancouver's First Lady of Jazz."

Eleanor worked through the 50s, 60s, and 70s. She sang on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. She won many awards for her music.

Eleanor's work inspired other artists of color. She is a legend in the jazz music community.

In 2014, Eleanor received the Order of Canada on her 95th birthday.

Adapted from bcblackhistory.ca • Photo: The Governor General of Canada



This is Eleanor Collins.

Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day is February 14. People show their love for one another. They give flowers, cards and other gifts.

Photo: Pixabay

Family Day



Family Day is February 17. Families spend time together. Communities offer free events like ice skating, arts and crafts, and live music.

Photo: Pexels

Pink Shirt Day



Pink Shirt Day is February 27. People wear pink to stand up to bullying. Some students do flash mobs in public places. They wear pink and do dance routines.

Photo: Flickr/Sylvia Currie

Black History Month



Black History Month celebrates the achievements of Black Canadians. People attend talks, concerts and other events.

Photo: Canadian Immigrant

Wonders

The Northern Lights

Have you ever seen the Northern Lights?

In Northern BC, you might see these beautiful lights in the sky between December and April. The lights are so bright that they can be seen from outer space.



These are the Northern Lights.

The lights can be many colours. They might be green, purple, blue or pink. They look like ribbons of bright, coloured lights in the sky.

The lights move and make sounds like fireworks.

What causes these lights?

Sun, wind, and gas create the Northern Lights.

The scientific name for the lights is Aurora Borealis. Aurora comes from a Roman word meaning sunrise. Borealis is the Greek word for the north wind.

Adapted from CBC News • Photo: Unsplash/Lightscape

Stories of the Northern Lights

Vikings feared and celebrated the Northern Lights. Some Vikings believed the lights were the armour of female warriors. Others believed the lights were reflections of their gods.



Some legends say the lights are powerful spirits.

Chinese legends say the lights were from fights between dragons. The dragons breathed fire in the sky. The lights were the colors of the dragons' fire breath.

In France and Italy, people believed the lights were a signal of death or disease.

In North America, some Indigenous people believed the lights were the souls of animals. Other Indigenous legends say the lights are powerful spirits to help guide us.

The Cree believed the lights were the spirits of the dead. Algonquins believed the lights were from a fire built by their creator.

No matter what you believe, the lights are extraordinary to see.

Adapted from CBC News • Photo: Unsplash/Lightscape

Frost flowers

Special flowers are growing on lakes in the Cariboo and Central Interior.

The flowers are made of ice. They are called "frost flowers."



These are frost flowers.

Frost flowers are rare.

Frost flowers only grow when the air is very cold and calm.

The ice on the lakes must be thin.

How do frost flowers grow?

The air is colder than the ice. This makes the ice turn into a gas.

The water from the gas freezes.

This makes beautiful shapes.



The frost makes beautiful shapes.

Adapted from Global News • Photos: Wikimedia Commons/pakku, Candace Copley

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