



FALAISE FOCUS

Fall 2018 Newsletter

Hello Neighbours,

We love being a part of the Falaise Community and especially working towards bringing neighbours closer together and working through issues as a community. This year the Board of Directors has seen many changes and has worked hard to serve our neighbourhood.

In January, our President, Terri Birmingham, and her husband, John, stepped away from the Board of Directors leaving us with a void that was difficult to fill. Bob Lucy graciously stepped up to be the President. At the end of March, Kyla Shauer wandered by our meeting and we recruited her to the board. Luckily, she already had experience working with community associations and knew somewhat what she was getting into.

During this time, Mac Nanton was working at getting a noise barrier put up to help with the highway noise, Carl Ross put together a website for us (page 4), and Stuart Macpherson, our Falaise Park Stewart, began clearing out the invasive species from our park and working with Saanich to keep it beautiful and full of native plants (page 3).

The new constitution and bylaws were also finished this past spring and voted in. Bob and the whole team had worked tirelessly on these for nearly two years (page 4).

In June, we had a start of summer party at the Shauer's home and had to say goodbye to our secretary, Daniel Conti, who started a job in Prince George. Kyla agreed to fill the secretary position until the AGM in November.

In September, we had our annual family picnic. It warmed our hearts that 75 attended over the two hours and that so many had fun with our clown and fellow neighbour Odin, who did such a great job with the balloon animals.

At the picnic, you decided on our new logo. We decided to rebrand and update our look, which is on display in this newsletter. We are quite excited about the future of this community association and we want you to be a part of it.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is Saturday, November 3 at 7pm at the Gateway Baptist Church on Royal Oak Drive (page 4). Please attend as we want to hear your thoughts, we want you to vote on who should be on the next Board of Directors, and we love meeting everyone. We're especially looking for more voices to join us. We'd love to have some younger members on the Board especially people with families and women to create a diverse board that represents our community.

Enjoy the newsletter,
FCA Board of Directors

We have a new logo and look. In early 2018, we put out a call for a new logo. Three new designs were submitted and at the annual picnic our community voted on the submissions or keeping the old logo. The voting was overwhelming in favour of the above design. The winning designer donated her \$200 to the Maasai Conservation Fund.

We're still working on the best way to display the logo. Send ideas to secretary@falaise.ca.

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting
November 3, 2018
7pm - 9pm
Gateway Baptist Church

Board of Directors

Bob Lucy
President/Registrar/Treasurer
president@falaise.ca

Stuart Macpherson
Park Stewart/Director-At-Large
stuartmac@telus.net

Mac Nanton
Director-At-Large/SCAN Representative
mnanton@telus.net

Carl Ross
Webmaster/Director-At-Large
webmaster@falaise.ca

Kyla Shauer
Secretary
secretary@falaise.ca

FCA Annual Picnic



The FCA annual summer picnic was held in Falaise Park in the afternoon of September 9th. Although the weather was not perfect, with showers on and off, a total of 58 adults and 17 children attended the event.

Guests enjoyed a wide selection of food, including barbecued hot dogs with fried onions, samosas, various wraps, chips, squares and cookies. A clown, The Great Odini, entertained the children with juggling, twisting balloons and magic.

Bob Lucy's beehive with glass windows was a hit with both kids and adults. Mayor Atwell, who lives in the Falaise community, welcomed everyone to the picnic. Several other members of Saanich Council also attended, giving residents an opportunity to discuss local issues with their councillors.

Thrifty Foods provided a generous gift certificate and loaned us a tent that helped keep everyone dry. Several volunteers were crucial to the success of the event. Our thanks go out to them. Stew Vinnels provided several tables, Mac Nanton provided his barbecue for the event, and Kyla Shauer's family helped with serving the food and taking photos.



Falaise Park Fence

Late this summer we had a new fence installed between the playground and Falaise Crescent. This was all due to the efforts of Chris and Steph Nelson who repeatedly petitioned Saanich for some added security around the playground. Many residents felt they needed the fence because the road was narrow with no sidewalks and some drivers do not obey the 30 km/h speed limit. Saanich initially refused the fence and so the FCA discussed other options like paying for it ourselves. However, Chris persisted in his efforts and Saanich Parks eventually agreed that the fence was necessary and installed it within two days.





Falaise Park Clean Up

Our keen group of volunteers has continued to clear off invasive plants near the playground. The Scotch broom is all but gone. Ground cover such as creeping English ivy, periwinkle, and blackberry have been removed along the fence line and composted mulch has been spread over the cleared area. This should be completed by late fall. We will then remove the blackberries, Daphne, and English ivy invasives that are spreading under the forest beside the road.

A Saanich Parks crew is slated to remove a tangled blackberry thicket in the bottom (SE) corner. They will also remove some dying cherry trees that were planted years ago under the oak canopy. We intend to replace these by planting Garry oak seedlings. This will gradually increase the oak forest in the park.

Work parties will continue through the winter. They will be scheduled alternately on Thursdays or weekends. Notice of dates and times will be sent out in advance to those interested in joining. This fall and winter we will begin our program of planting native plants in the areas where invasive species have been removed. The native plants are being supplied to us free



of charge by Saanich Parks. We intend to make this a community-planting event. The first of these will be likely in November to tie in with Saanich Parks 60th Year Anniversary celebration. We will make a community announcement once the date is known. If you want to join us next time, call Stuart Macpherson at 250 479 4244.

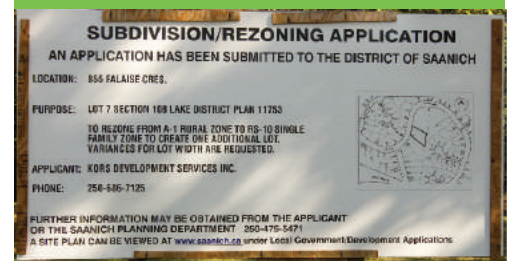
Help Us Collect Acorns

The Garry Oak Meadows Preservation Society (GOPS) has established a Garry Oak Seedling Nursery at north Saanich. They have put out a call out for people to collect acorns for the nursery. Ripe acorns are now falling off Garry oak trees around our neighbourhood. If you are interested, the "how to" is explained on the website: <http://www.garryoak.info>

Subdivision Proposal

The owner of 885 Falaise has applied to Saanich to rezone and subdivide the property. The plans call for removing the existing house, dividing the lot into two side-by-side lots and building two 3730 sq. ft houses each with five bedrooms and 5.5 bathrooms. Four mature Garry oak trees would be removed to build the houses.

The FCA's response to the proposal expressed serious concerns about the the removal of trees from a protected Garry oak meadow and the potential parking issues generated by this subdivision. Saanich will be taking our comments into consideration as they look at this proposal. Due to the upcoming municipal election, we will probably not hear back about this proposal until a new mayor and council are elected. Much more information is at www.falaise.ca/lot-855/ or email Mac Nanton (mnanton@telus.net).



Highway Noise Barrier

Almost one year ago, Lana Popham attended our AGM, during which residents raised the issue of traffic noise from the Pat Bay Highway. Lana encouraged us to draft a petition and the results, which showed overwhelming support for a noise barrier, were transmitted to Lana last spring. She proposed

that she would meet with Saanich Council to discuss how to proceed. In a recent email, Lana's office has stated that they are actively pursuing options and that once the new Saanich Council is sworn in, Lana Popham's office will facilitate a meeting between the new Council and the FCA.

Annual General Meeting

The FCA AGM will be Saturday, November 3, 2018, from 7 to 9 pm, in the Fireside Room at the Gateway Baptist Church. (898 Royal Oak Ave.)

One of the objectives of the meeting is to elect the directors who will serve for 2019. Ideally, six+ directors will be elected, although the constitution allows for a minimum of three. At their first meeting, the directors will elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar

from among themselves. We also want directors with interests in party planning, young families, and welcoming new neighbours.

Mike Meagher of the Garry Oak Preservation Society will speak about their efforts to preserve the Garry Oak ecosystems in the CRD. He will also answer audience questions.

Coffee and treats will be provided. If you would like a ride to and from the AGM, please email info@falaize.ca or call any member of the FCA.



Constitution & Bylaws

We have a new constitution. Changes to the BC Societies Act required some changes to how community associations are organized and report on their affairs. Rather than modify the existing constitution to reflect these changes, the Executive decided it would be easier and more transparent to draft a new version. Meetings were held in June 2018 to vote on the new constitution. The membership approved the constitution, subject to one amendment and the correction of some typographical errors. The final version is now

registered with the BC government. The new constitution, as well as background material on the changes is available at falaize.ca

Website & Facebook

We continue to refine the FCA website (falaize.ca) and add material. The membership form is available there, as well as contact information for the FCA Directors and a list of upcoming events. We also are developing a history section and would welcome new material or photos. Follow us at facebook.com/saanich.fca.

Contact Us

www.falaize.ca info@falaize.ca
facebook.com/saanich.fca

Get Involved

Membership: Join the Falaize Community Association. Any adult living in the Falaize Community is eligible.

Volunteer: Join the crew clearing invasives from the park or help us put together one of our events during the year or become part of the Board of Directors.

Sharing your voice: Let us know how things are going or share any concerns about the neighbourhood.

Gathering history: Help us preserve history by sharing your stories, pictures, and mementos from this neighbourhood's past.

Joining in events: It means a lot when people come out to any event. Please come and say hi.

New residents: Help us welcome new neighbours!

