

Dear Neighbours,

Welcome and Happy New Year to you all. We're kicking off the year with a **Family Day Social Event!** This is a great opportunity for new young families to come out and meet each other and for everyone in the community to connect. It is a **free event** at the Women's Institute Hall (4516 W Saanich Rd) from 2 to 4 pm on Family Day February 18th. We will have **snacks and drinks and activities** for both kids and adults. There will also be a play area for smaller kids. To help protect the floors please bring indoor shoes to wear. There is parking available for several cars, and we can arrange to drive those who may not be able to get to the hall. If you have any suggestions, or would like to help out, please contact us at info@falaise.ca and watch the web site (falaise.ca) for updates.

With the start of the new year, it is time again to **renew your membership** to the FCA. The FCA's purpose is to **enhance the lives** of everyone in the Falaise Community. We do this by putting on social events like the Family Day Social as well as working with Saanich on things like a noise barrier (pg 3) to **protect us from the highway racket**. Membership is open to all residents of the Falaise Community 18 years of age or older. The membership fee is \$5 per person. The membership form is included in this newsletter or downloadable from our website. Please return it to Mac Nanton (4613 Royal Wood Crt. or registrar@falaise.ca).

Another program we are starting this year is the **Welcome Home Initiative** for people moving into our community. Moving to a new area can be overwhelming, so we want to let our new neighbours know that we are here to support them. To do that, we are asking you to **let us know when new people move in**. Contact Mac Nanton (registrar@falaise.ca).

This year promises to be both exciting and challenging. **Thank you all for your support last year and we hope to have another great year.**

The Board of Directors

Upcoming Events

Membership Drive
Winter 2019
Contact Mac Nanton for more information.

Family Day, February 18, 2019
Women's Institute Hall
2pm-4pm
All Welcome! Hot Chocolate and goodies will be provided.

Annual FCA Garage Sale
May 11, 2019

Annual Picnic
September 2019

Contact Us

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

Bob Lucy, President
president@falaise.ca, 250-479-6184

Stuart Macpherson, Park Steward
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Mac Nanton, Registrar
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Carl Ross, Treasurer
treasurer@falaise.ca, 778-265-6102

Kyla Shauer, Secretary
secretary@falaise.ca

Stew Vinnels, Director-At-Large
SVinnels@telus.net



LANA POPHAM, MLA SAANICH
SOUTH INVITES YOU TO OUR

ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Please join us for light refreshments,
hot apple cider, and some holiday
cheer!

Lana Popham Open House

We attended the December Holiday Open House hosted by Saanich South MLA and Minister of Agriculture, Lana Popham. In addition to hot apple cider, there was tea, coffee and a range of treats ranging from cheese and crackers to fancy squares. There were perhaps thirty people at the event so it was small enough for Lana to personally meet almost everyone. We reminded Lana about the petition we had submitted regarding traffic noise and options for a noise wall. Lana and her assistant were knowledgeable about the issue. **Lana promised to work with the FCA and Saanich Council to see what options may be available.**



Last year we again expressed concern to Saanich about the **speed of traffic around the park**. We are concerned about cars going too fast on a curved road with poor visibility near the playground and where pedestrians walk in the street to avoid parked cars. To investigate the problem, Saanich police installed a speed monitoring device at the west side of the park. The results are posted on the Saanich police website (saanichpolice.ca under Speed Reports). Unfortunately the monitoring device seems to have included the speed of walkers into the average speed reported (26.7 km/hr). Also, the sign could be seen from the stop sign. Its visibility may have caused drivers to slow down. We have written to the police about this.



In December we met with Mayor Haynes. Although the main focus of the meeting was how to **mitigate the highway traffic noise** for residents and businesses, the 855 Falaise Cres rezoning was also discussed. After reviewing various options, the Mayor proposed that the FCA make a request to appear as a delegation before Council. Such delegations are given 10 minutes to make a presentation and we will use our time to outline the need for noise mitigation, review the results of the petition, and ask Saanich Council to work with Lana Popham and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to get a noise barrier installed. We have requested to appear at the January 21 Council meeting.



Thank you to all the volunteers who worked on the park last year. We continue to make good progress in removing invasive plants and noxious weeds. This past fall we cleared along the eastern fence line and

spread mulch ready for planting with native shrubs. Our native plant order for this has been submitted to Saanich Parks. They will be helping us with the planting in the New Year.

The little white flags along the mulch edge beside the playground are where we have sowed seeds of deer resistant wildflower species. Saanich Parks will be monitoring the success of the seeding. Hopefully we will get good germination in the spring. Work parties will commence in late January and continue through the spring. Check the FCA website for dates. Our next task is eliminating the English ivy and blackberry on the north boundary. Call Stuart Macpherson if interested in helping.



Fire Hall Upgrade

Fire Station #2 is being redeveloped. It is over 40 years old and needs upgrades to continue to provide the best service to everyone in Saanich. The upgrade will include a new training area, a larger building and altering the entrance/exit layout. Right now **you can give your input into the plan** and see the changes being discussed. There is lots more information available on the Saanich.ca website. It is a Department in the Local Government section of the website.

Annual General Meeting

In November, we held our Annual General Meeting; the first since updating our constitution in June. At the meeting we reviewed our finances, set the membership fee at \$5/person, reviewed the year's activities, and elected people to the Board of Directors. In an inspiring presentation from Mike Meagher (Garry Oak Preservation Society), he described how vital the Garry Oaks are to our region, and the need to protect and save them. His main points were about how **Garry Oaks provide necessary vegetation to our ecosystem and reduce stress in our community.** Details of the AGM and Mike's presentation are available on our website. Board members bios are on page four of this newsletter.

Saanich Emergency Program

When disaster strikes, your chances of staying safe, healthy and comfortable **are much better if you are prepared.** The Saanich Emergency Program offers free 90 minute-presentations to give you the information you need to prepare yourself and your family to survive on your own after a disaster. Each household participating in a presentation will receive a free workbook to help with their emergency planning. The next presentation will be at 6:30 PM Tuesday January 29 at Saanich Commonwealth Place. Register for course #19078 by phoning 250-475-7600. For more information go to www.saanich.ca and search for "emergency preparedness presentations".

Website & Facebook

We continue to refine the FCA website (falaise.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.** We have devoted some effort to improving our Facebook presence (Facebook.com/saanich.fca) We have added the new logo and will continue to add new material.

Get Involved

Membership: Join the Falaire Community Association. Any adult living in the Falaire 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.

Welcome Home Initiative: Help us welcome new neighbours by letting us know when people move in!

2019 Board of Directors

Bob Lucy is a backyard bee keeper and grows a variety of perennial food plants in what he hopes will eventually become a food



forest. Last summer he completed a long-held dream of canoeing Great Central Lake and then hiking to Della Falls, the highest waterfall in Canada. This summer he hopes to canoe the Bowron Lakes.



Kyla Shauer joined the board in March 2018. She is a recent UVic grad. When not doing secretarial work to pay the bills, she is writing

a novel and creating functional party decor. She spends her free time with her dogs, her video games, and doing communications for her church.

Carl Ross and his wife, Barbara, moved from Ottawa to Saanich in 2016 to escape the worst of the winter weather. Carl and Barbara



enjoy living in the Falaise area and have been warmly welcomed by the neighbours. Easy access to many hiking trails has been an unexpected bonus. Carl joined the Executive of the Falaise Community Association in 2017 with the hope that something could be done about the traffic noise that impacts the community. He has also established a web site for the Association.



Mac Nanton and his wife Marion have three children and five grandchildren scattered over the globe. Mac has served on

the Board for some years. He is a Retired Professional Transportation Engineer who has worked in a number of provinces, lastly in BC where he worked extensively on the Vancouver Island Highway Project, including the Pat Bay Highway. His second career was in residential realty in Victoria, and he is now retired. He and his spouse have hosted UVic ESL students for the past 25 years which has been a most wonderful and rewarding cultural experience.

Joining the FCA Board in the fall 2018, **Stew Vinnels** and his wife Ann Brydon have four children and eight grandchildren and have lived



on Southover Lane since 1996. While practicing dentistry from 1970 through retirement, Stew has been active, and continues as a principal, of residential and transportation development businesses. Active with the Glendale Lodge Society, for many years, as a Director and Board Chair, Stew guided the 350 then Glendale residents into community based Group Homes while transitioning Glendale into its current high tech role.



Stuart Macpherson joined the board in winter 2018. He is a retired forestry and environmental consultant and was the

executive director of the Managed Forest Council BC. His work took him across Canada and the USA. Prior to moving to the Falaise neighborhood in 2013, he raised his family in Gordon Head. He was a leader at 5th Cedar Hill Scouts. He took on the role of park steward for Falaise Park under the auspices of Saanich Parks and is keen to restore the natural vegetation of the park. He enjoys the variety of walking trails and cycling opportunities in the neighborhood.