

Upcoming Events

Tree Love Town Hall
7-9 pm April 27, 2019
Horticulture Centre of the Pacific
See our website and facebook for more information.

Annual FCA Garage Sale
May 11, 2019

Annual Picnic
September 2019

Please let us know when new people move into the neighbourhood so we can welcome them to our community.

Contact Us

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

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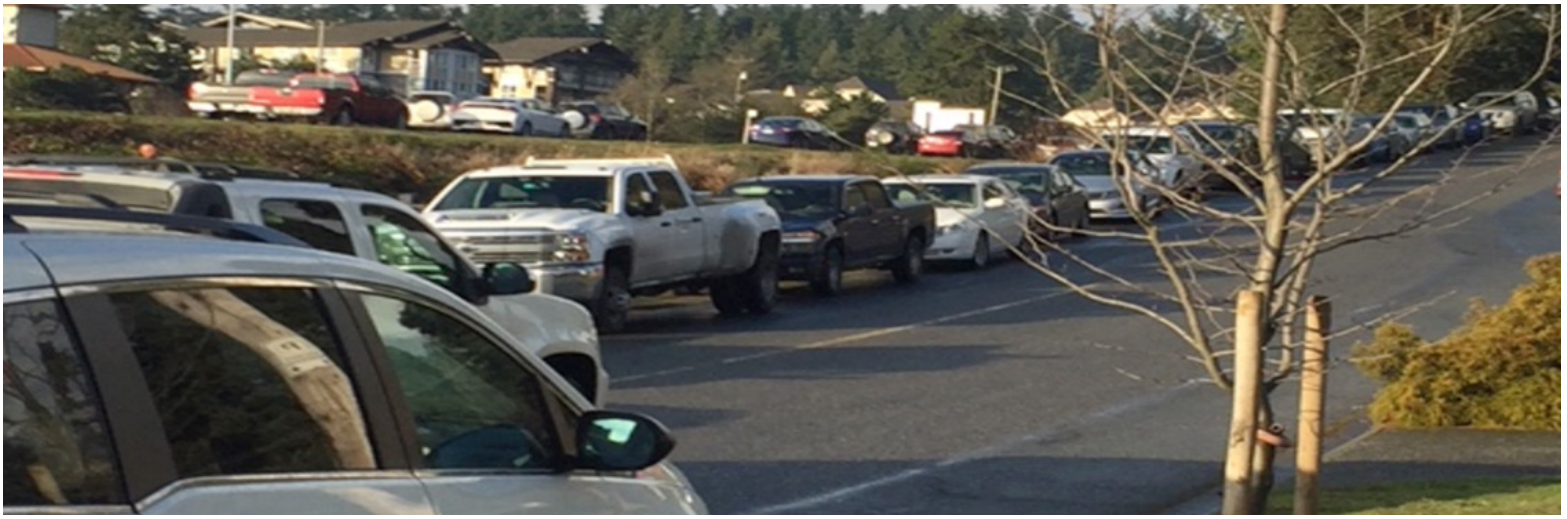


Thanks to everyone who came out to our inaugural FCA Family Day Social. It was a wonderful time of food, friends, and fun.

On Monday, February 18, 2019, the FCA hosted the inaugural Family Day Social. It was a lovely event with activities for children and adults. Special thanks to the Royal Oak Women's Institute for hosting us as well as Starbucks Broadmead for donating the hot drinks.

Save the Date
May 11, 2019
Falaise Community Garage Sale

All you need to do is gather and organize your items on your own driveway or in your garage. We take care of the advertising and signs. We'll post a map on our Facebook and on Used Victoria showing the participating homes. All FCA members can participate in the sale for FREE. Please contact info@falaise.ca to let us know that you will be participating.



Highway Noise and Funeral Parking Problems Proposal

On March 11th Saanich Council voted unanimously to write to the Provincial Government to support the installation of noise mitigation measures along the Pat Bay Highway near Falaise Dr.

In February the FCA wrote to Saanich Council proposing a funding solution to solve both the highway noise and funeral parking problems our community experiences. On March 11th we presented our case at a Saanich Council meeting and Council voted to support our request.

Because the highway is physically close to Falaise Drive with its funeral parking problems, we thought the funding solution to both problems might be the 2014 New

Canada Building Fund (NCBF). This fund provides money for projects that “improve the environment and support stronger, safer communities”. We believe our issues fall into this category and, because Saanich does not appear to have previously accessed this fund, we thought this might be a good project for Saanich to support. Saanich will likely contribute to the project by widening parts of Falaise Drive to improve street parking; a project that might be paid for by accessing the Gas Tax Fund.

With Saanich’s support, it is now up to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to prioritize the application to the NCBF. Our MLA, Lana Popham, has previously promised to help us with this issue and we expect she will be working with her colleagues to get this done.

Help get this project moving by contacting the Ministry of Transportation and our MLA Lana Popham with your support of this application.

Corporate Members?

Almost a year ago, when we amended our constitution, we chose to continue to allow only residents of the Falaise Community to be members of the Association. Is it time to re-visit that decision? Our community is home to three large corporations related to funeral services, and perhaps as many as six smaller, home-based, businesses. What do you think of the idea of amending our constitution to open membership up to corporations?

Please let us know what you think by emailing president@falaise.ca. We’d like to hear your thoughts on the subject.

Falaise at Royal Oak Intersection Updated

By now you will have noticed the new lights and wider sidewalk at Falaise Dr. and Royal Oak Dr. They were installed in response to the Falaise Community Association asking Saanich to improve safety for pedestrians crossing Royal Oak. Now pedestrian walk signals do not coincide with left turn signals for vehicles and accessibility has been improved for mobility-impaired pedestrians and people in wheelchairs.

Falaise Park Restoration Update

We have continued to make progress, thanks to two work parties. In late January we planted the native plants (notably Oregon grape, ferns, salal and flowering shrubs) along the eastern boundary fence near the playground. This was before the late snowfall so hopefully they survived the cold snap and will bud out soon in the spring warmth.

We also planted six Garry oak seedlings on the slopes of the Garry oak meadow (near the park sign). You'll notice them in their protective wire cages. Saanich Parks will be watering them regularly during the summer.

In late spring, watch for the flowering of camas lilies under the oak trees in the meadow. One of our long term goals is to weed out all the invasive orchard grass that is crowding out the camas lilies so that the flowering can become even more spectacular.

Our work parties will be continuing though until June. The dates will be posted on the FCA website. Our weeding efforts will focus on pulling the English ivy and blackberry under the trees on the north boundary beside Falaise Crescent and around the perimeter of the playground.



Paul, one of the many contributors to the beauty of Falaise Park, shows off a Garry oak seedling planted late January in the oak meadow.

Volunteers are needed! If interested, call Stuart Macpherson, Park Steward, 250-415-1739.

Subdivision Postponed

The Lot 855 proposal was on the agenda of the March 4th meeting of the Committee of the Whole of Saanich Council. Several residents gave five-minute presentations while the FCA Executive was permitted to make a ten-minute presentation.

Some were concerned about the loss of the Garry oak trees, while others were not happy with the large size of the proposed houses. They considered them to be out of character with the neighbourhood and would likely lead to significant on-street parking in that area. No one spoke in favour of the rezoning and subdivision.

Council voted to support a motion to postpone a decision on the rezoning and asked the developer to come back with a new proposal that would be more acceptable to the community. It was suggested that this might include saving more Garry oaks and building smaller houses.

The Mayor commented on the large turn-out from the community which he saw as an expression of neighbourhood concern. He pointed out that, if the property is not rezoned, a monster house of up to 10,000 square ft could be built on the property.

We will add any new information on the status of this application to the website as it becomes available.

Subdivision Background

Recently, a new owner bought 855 Falaise Crescent, which shares a common boundary with Falaise Park. The owner is proposing to rezone and subdivide the lot into two narrow lots. The developer submitted detailed plans to Saanich Council which include cutting down four large Garry oak trees and building two large houses.

The FCA, as well as local residents, prepared written submissions regarding the plans.

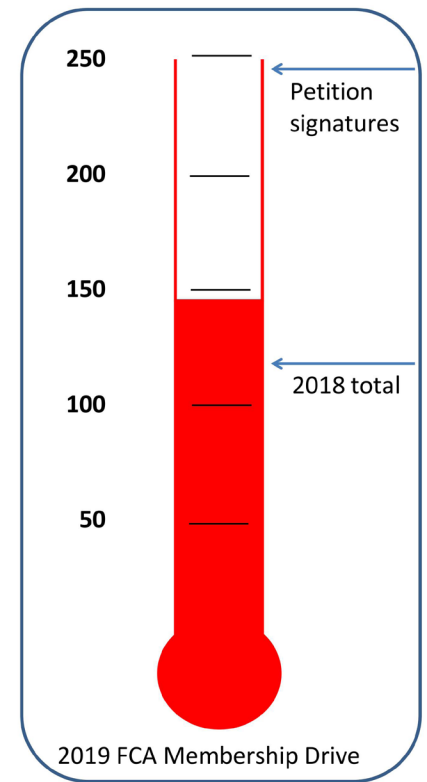
More detailed background information can be found at www.falaise.ca.

Become a Member

Directors Mac Nanton and Stuart Macpherson are making a concerted effort to visit every household and encourage residents to renew their membership or become members of the FCA. They are using the opportunity to tell you about the challenging issues we are dealing with, such as the rezoning of 855 Falaise Crescent, traffic noise from the Pat Bay Highway and parking along Falaise Drive. It is also a chance for you to provide feedback on what you think about the FCA, what we are doing well and how we can improve.

Last year we had 118 members without a door-to-door membership drive. Feedback has been very encouraging and residents appreciate the diligent, methodical and measured approach of the FCA Executive. We have almost reached 150, with several more homes to visit.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please support your community by becoming a member now. Membership is open to all residents 18+, living on Falaise Drive, Falaise Crescent and the adjoining cul-de-sacs. The fee for 2019 is just \$5. A membership form and instructions are available on our website. Feel free to contact any director if you require assistance.



Website and Facebook

The recent presentations to Saanich Council have generated new material for our website at www.falaise.ca. We have included links to some of the media coverage arising from these events. The latest updates to all the activities we are involved in will be on the website. Check back frequently to stay up to date.

Several members have taken advantage of the online membership renewal form and the option of using e-transfer to pay their dues. Under "Breaking News" on the Home page we maintain links to up-coming activities and information of interest to the community.

Facebook can be useful for quick posts and the option of community feedback. Our page can be reached at facebook.com/saanich.fca. We have updated the logo, added some pictures from Family Day and announced the garage sale. We will be adding more material in the coming weeks.

Join Block Watch

Block Watch is a program whereby neighbours work together to enhance security in their neighbourhood. Many insurance companies offer a discount on house insurance for those who participate.

Saanich police have a web site that provides some background on the program and describes how to get involved (<https://www.saanichpolice.ca/index.php/crime-prevention/block-watch>).

If you would be interested in either becoming a member of a block watch group or training as a captain, please contact us at info@falaise.ca. Although there is no requirement to work through the FCA, we could help in defining blocks and providing a venue for captains to discuss common issues.

