

## Welcome

A warm welcome to the new residents in our neighbourhood! This includes several young families in the past year. We have prepared a welcome letter that can be given to new residents. It summarizes nearby facilities and resources such as schools, bus services and hiking trails. If you know anyone who would like a copy, please email or contact a member of the FCA Executive.

For new parents, there is a Facebook site that can put you in contact with other young families in the neighbourhood. Search for "Falaise parents" within Facebook and a request to join will be answered by one of the parents who moderate the group.

## Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting  
November 13, 2019  
7 pm

## Contact Us

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## Picnic

The annual summer picnic was held in Falaise Park on Sunday, September 15, from 2 to 4 pm. Despite the weather, between 50 and 60 residents and visitors attended. Several tents and a large tarpaulin helped to keep everyone dry during one large shower. There was a wide selection of food, including barbequed hot dogs, samosas, wraps, chips and a variety of desserts. We are grateful to Thrifty Foods for providing us with a \$250 gift card as well as loaning us two tents. We were pleased to have Saanich councillors, Taylor and Mersereau, in attendance. They were able to meet with residents in an informal setting and learn about some of the issues of importance to the community.

## Falaise Community Garage Sale

The annual garage sale was held on Saturday, May 11th. The weather was good and approximately fifteen homes participated. The notice was posted on our website, in the Times Colonist, in the Saanich News, on Facebook, on UsedVictoria and Kijiji. For those who registered, their location was posted on a map of the community to make it easier for visitors to get around.

## Block Watch

The Block Watch captain for the area near, and including, Southover Lane has reported two recent thefts. They involved vehicles, the first occurring on August 3rd and the second in early September.

In both cases, the vehicles had been left unlocked. The captain has reminded the neighbours in his area to make sure their vehicles are locked.

We believe there are four Block Watch captains in the FCA area but we do not

have all their names. Although we have attempted to get them from Saanich police, privacy issues prevent them from releasing the names. Additional information can be obtained at [bit.ly/2nlfgxj](http://bit.ly/2nlfgxj).

An added benefit of being part of a Block Watch group is that several insurance companies offer a reduction on home insurance.

## Falaise Park

In late September, our weeding program returned after a summer hiatus. It will continue weekly through the late fall. There is always lots to do as the English ivy, periwinkle and blackberry are persistent.

These invasive plants have been sprouting again where we planted the shrubs and ferns in the spring beside the playground. These plantings are growing well although the deer found some to be tasty morsels; we are planning to install protective cages to frustrate the deer this winter.

The six Garry oak seedlings planted in the oak meadow survived the hot summer and seem to be established. A plant order for more native trees and shrubs has gone into Saanich to continue with our planting program. This will probably take place in the next year.

If you can spare a couple of hours to help please come out and join our volunteer team on Thursday mornings. We meet at the playground at 10 am. We provide tools and refreshments. For further details, contact Stuart Macpherson at 250-415-1739.

## Crematorium

Residents living near the funeral homes and burial park are sometimes bothered by black smoke, ash and smells. We have some documented evidence of heavy black smoke but we do not have good data on how often this occurs. If this is a problem that bothers you please contact any member of the FCA Executive so that we can get additional information.

## Lot 855 Rezoning

The new owner of 855 Falaise Cr. has submitted a proposal that calls for the rezoning of 855 Falaise Cr. from A1 to RS-10. The property would be divided into two lots, each requiring a variance on the width, and two large homes would be built. Four mature Garry oak trees would be removed.

At its March 4th meeting, Saanich Council asked the developer to produce a revised plan with smaller homes and one that might preserve more of the Garry oak trees. For several months, we heard nothing from the developer or the Saanich Planning Department. In midsummer, we approached the owner when he was mowing the grass on the property and was told that a new proposal had already been submitted.

Saanich Planning did not contact the FCA or nearby residents, as had been done with the original submission. Instead, we were told on short notice that the revised proposal would be considered by Council on September 16th. We were able to get the opinion of an arborist who issued a report stating that it should be possible to save at least the dominant Garry oak on the property.

Members of the FCA Executive, as well as several residents, made presentations to Council. All expressed disappointment with the revised proposal. Council passed a motion that further consideration of the proposal be delayed until there was consultation between the developer and the community association.

We have contacted the developer and she has agreed to meet with the community. We will circulate a flyer once the date and location have been finalized. We encourage all interested residents to attend and express your views on the proposed development.



## Noise Wall

After the March 11 Council meeting, Saanich wrote to the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and local MLAs expressing support for the installation of noise mitigation measures along the highway.

Unfortunately, the letter fell short of the FCA's expectations because it did not request that the Ministry access the Federal New Canada Building Fund grants for such projects. We provided the Mayor with a letter template to make the request and hope that Saanich will soon use it to re-affirm their support for the project with the Ministry.

## Website & Facebook

The FCA website ([falaise.ca](http://falaise.ca)) serves as a venue for new announcements as well as an historical record of FCA activities. A membership form is available online. Payment can be made using etransfer and several members have taken advantage of this possibility.

Usage varies, but on average we get about 50 unique visitors per month. If you have any suggestions as to how we might improve the website, please send an email to [webmaster@falaise.ca](mailto:webmaster@falaise.ca).

We also have a Facebook presence, which is used primarily for announcing events, such as the annual picnic or Falaise Park work parties.



## Significant Tree Nomination

In August, local resident Stuart Macpherson nominated a huge Garry oak tree on Royalwood Place to be declared a "significant tree" under the Saanich Significant Tree Program ([bit.ly/2oc3ghJ](http://bit.ly/2oc3ghJ)).

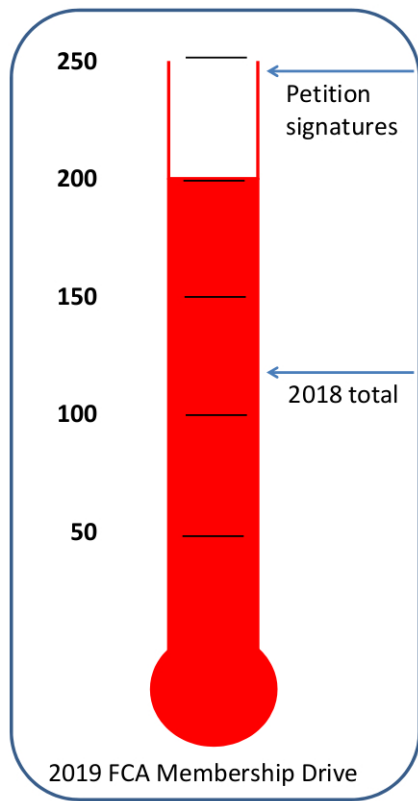
If the adjudication committee accepts the nomination then the tree will be among one of the largest to be registered in Saanich. Stuart says he has measured the giant oak to have a diameter of 133 cm. He says arborists consider any Garry oak tree greater than 100 cm to be an outstanding size and well worth protection under the Tree Preservation Bylaw.

A larger one was cut down in Broadmead Village Plaza two years ago near PharmaSave.

## Funeral Parking

Saanich recently installed several new no parking signs on Falaise Drive near the funeral homes. Unfortunately, with nowhere else to park during large funerals, people ignore those signs and so the signs have done nothing to alleviate the parking issue.





## FCA Membership

This is the second year where membership is by individual rather than by residence. One of the main advantages is to clarify who is eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting or at Special Meetings. The membership fee is \$5.00 and this year we have 200 members.

In addition to the membership fee, Saanich provides a grant of \$1,100 to Community Associations. The funds are used to host community events, publish our newsletter and rent server space for our website, among other things. This fall, we used some funds to hire an arborist to provide professional advice about the trees at risk at 855 Falaise Crescent.

Someone left money in our Registrar's mailbox without their name. If this was your membership fee, please let the registrar know or it will become a donation.

## Annual General Meeting

The FCA Annual General Meeting will be Wednesday, November 13th, 2019 at 7 pm at First Memorial (4725 Falaise Drive).

The AGM agenda has been included as an insert to this newsletter. Important objectives of the meeting will be to review the major initiatives undertaken during the past year and to elect the Directors who will serve for 2020. Directors may have a wide range of interests including local government; negotiation skills; event/social planning; and community outreach. At their first meeting, the directors will elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar from among themselves.

This year, Mayor Haynes will be our guest speaker. Coffee and treats will be provided. If you would like a ride please email [info@falaise.ca](mailto:info@falaise.ca) or call any Director of the FCA.

## New Directors



*Sandrine Lio* joined the FCA board in June 2019. She was born in France but has lived in Canada most of her life. She is a grandmother and a mother of two grown children. When she is not working, she volunteers at the SPCA, as she has a huge passion for the welfare of animals.

Sandrine has enjoyed living in the community for the past 18 years, though she is hopeful that something could be done about the traffic noise that impacts the community.



*Cynthia Hawksworth* joined the Falaise Community Association Executive in July 2019. She moved from Maplewood to the Falaise community in November 2018. Since then she has enjoyed getting to know the neighbourhood.

Cynthia has one adult son. She worked for 33 years for the government of B.C. as a community and regional planner. Cynthia keeps fit by attending Jazzercise classes and hiking with her two rambunctious dogs. Since moving to her new home she has been busy renovating her house and garden. She's looking forward to life in her new community.