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From: <president@falaise.ca>

Date: Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 3:05 PM

Subject: Proposed Regional Park at 4692 Mountain Road

To:

Cc: <council@saanich.ca>, <mtrdpreservation@gmail.com>, secretary <secretary@falaise.ca>

Dear Colin Plant, CRD Chair, Denise Blackwell, CRD Vice-Chair and CRD Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Falaise Community Association to express our support for the acquisition of the 4692 Mountain Road property as a new regional park. This property is about 50 acres in size and is currently for sale. We are extremely concerned that a new owner may purchase the property for subdivision development and log its magnificent forest. We would like to add our voice of support to The Friends of Mountain Road Forest to preserve this precious property.

The property at 4692 Mountain Road is within walking distance of our Falaise community and offers an outdoor experience different from those in nearby parks. The forest itself is an outstanding example of second-growth Douglas-fir and has a pocket of rare Garry oak forest on a rocky outcrop. Ecologically, the forest is part of the Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem which occurs only on the east coast of Vancouver Island. Many experts will tell you that this ecosystem has been so severely fragmented by logging that the long term survival is threatened.

Representatives of our community recently walked the property and we noted a number of attributes that would make it a wonderful park. There is a noticeable absence of invasive species that allows many different ecological niches to flourish. It is a tall closed canopy forest with a variety of species, including mixed stands of Douglas-fir, western red cedar, amabilis fir, red alder and bigleaf maple.

It already has a well-used network of trails that make for easy walking and viewing. Walking within the forest is strikingly quiet; it is shielded from the sights and sounds of human activity, the urban interface, and traffic noise. As there is already a trail system that is well used, no significant initial development would be required. All-in-all it means the property is a particularly attractive

destination to enjoy a woodland experience within the capital region.

We think the property would make an excellent addition to the CRD regional park program. It offers the opportunity to establish connectivity to the forested area around Prospect Lake and to nearby parks such as Francis King and Thetis Lake.

The Falaise Community Association supports the acquisition of the 4692 Mountain Road property for a new regional park. Purchase by the CRD would a benefit to all citizens in Greater Victoria.

Bob Lucy
President,
Falaise Community Association