

### Upcoming Events

Climate Plan Presentation  
November, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Annual General Meeting  
November, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Contact Us

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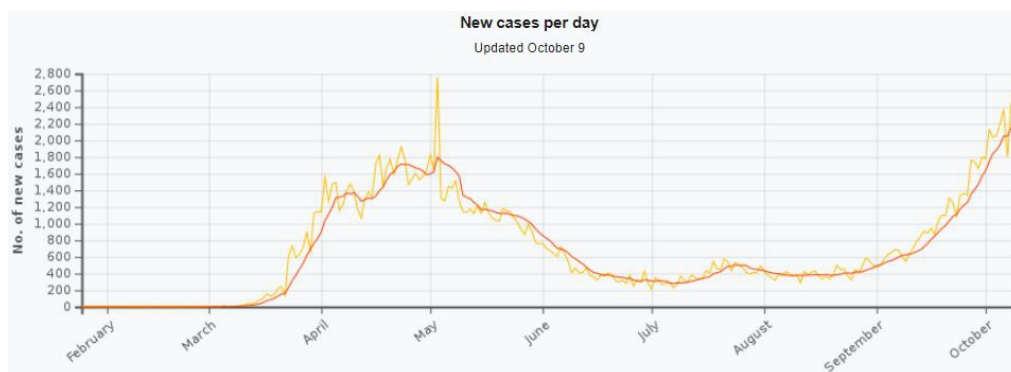
Gary Weeks, Director-at-Large  
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(A brief bio of each Director can be found on the website)

You may see some links of the type bit.ly. Bitly is a service that provides an alias for a link that might otherwise span several lines.

### COVID-19 and Summer Plans

It is now about seven months since the COVID-19 pandemic began to impact Canada. After a fairly strict lock-down, many facilities are beginning to re-open. Compared to other nations, Canada has performed reasonably well. According to one data centre, we rank 29<sup>th</sup> in terms of deaths per million and 80<sup>th</sup> in terms of cases per million. As fall approaches, there is an up-tick in the number of new cases per day as this graph from Wikipedia shows. Our leaders are concerned about a second wave in the fall and winter. It is going to be some time before life returns to the way it was at the beginning of 2020.



COVID-19 has meant the cancellation of all our planned summer events, including the garage sale and summer picnic. The Executive has continued to meet, either socially-distanced outdoors, or via video link. We are now making plans for using Zoom to host the AGM in November. Additional details can be found in a later article.

### Would You Like to Receive Emails?

We have the email addresses of most of the members of the Falaise Community Association. We use your email address to:

- Invite you to attend meetings such as this year's virtual Annual General Meeting (see the AGM article in this newsletter).
- Send you this newsletter by email so you can click on the links.
- Send you information such as a recent CRD article that included an offer of free seeds.

There are a few members for whom we have no email address and a few for whom there is an error in the address and the email bounces back.

If you would like to receive emails, please send an email to our Registrar at [registrar@falaise.ca](mailto:registrar@falaise.ca) and we will add your email address to our mailing list.

# Our AGM will be "Virtual" This Year



This year, because of the pandemic, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday November 18<sup>th</sup>. Please join us at 6:30 p.m. to hear [Dr. Linda Gilkeson's](#) presentation:

## **Where Have All the Insects Gone? [When Will We Ever Learn...?]**

Global insect populations have crashed over the last couple of decades. Learn why this matters for our food supply, for a healthy environment and the future of wildlife. Find out what factors may be causing the widespread declines and how gardeners can help to reduce the harm from some of these factors.

The business portion of the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. when we will receive reports on our activities this year, discuss priorities for next year and elect the people to represent the association in 2021.

An email invitation to the AGM will be sent to all members for whom we have email addresses. This email will include a link for connecting with Zoom. If you are not sure that we have your email address please send an email to [registrar@falaize.ca](mailto:registrar@falaize.ca) and we will add you to the list.

Some of you may be quite familiar with Zoom while for others it may be a technical challenge. We have posted a brief tutorial on our website at <https://www.falaize.ca/upcoming-events/> and we can run a test session with anyone who would like to try it out before the meeting. Just send an email to [president@falaize.ca](mailto:president@falaize.ca).



*Dr. Linda Gilkeson*

## Updates on Our Priority Items

**855 Falaize Cres.:** In June the developer submitted revised plans to Saanich showing how the largest tree on the lot will be protected and where a hedgerow would be planted to provide privacy to most neighbours at the back of the property. A hedgerow is not feasible in one place as the soil is very shallow so the developer is talking to the adjoining neighbour about privacy options in that area.

**Crematoria emissions:** In response to community concerns, Mayor Haynes wrote to MLA Popham requesting the government develop standards for crematoria emissions in urban areas. Ms. Popham apparently indicated that the government is looking into doing that.

**Highway Noise Barrier:** On September 29<sup>th</sup> two FCA Directors met with Mayor Haynes and CAO Thorkelsson to discuss the next steps in getting a noise barrier built between our community and the highway. Mayor Haynes committed to work on getting the project into Saanich's strategic planning process but was very clear that, even if it gets into the planning process, there will be many budgetary hurdles to overcome before the project can be implemented. We committed to help by preparing a position paper for the Mayor to use while promoting the project, to brief/lobby all Councillors and solicit help from our MLA and to help identify possible sources of funding for the project. A history of our efforts to obtain a noise barrier along the highway is on our [website](#).

**Elk Lake Rd. Development:** On October 7<sup>th</sup>, Saanich's Advisory Design Panel heard a presentation from the developer of a proposed 242-unit, multi-family project on Elk Lake Dr. across the Pat Bay Highway from Adeline Pl. The panel passed a motion that the development be approved. The proposal will now go before Saanich Council for consideration. To learn more about the development, you can view the recording on Saanich's [website](#). The presentation starts at about the 1 hour

## Get Involved!



Are you interested in serving your community as a Director on the FCA Executive? Or perhaps you have some ideas for our community and would like to volunteer some of your time? We would love your help! Please nominate yourself at the AGM or by sending an email to [secretary@falaize.ca](mailto:secretary@falaize.ca).

# 4692 Mountain Road

A 49-acre lot on Mountain Road is for sale. It is largely forested and a trail system has been used by local residents for many years. A group, referred to as "The Friends of Mountain Road Forest" has been formed with the objective of having the property purchased as a CRD park. They contacted the FCA to inquire if we would be prepared to write a letter to the CRD supporting the proposal. Several FCA directors toured the property in late August and concluded that the existing trail system and lack of urban noise made it worthy of consideration as a park. A letter of support was sent to the CRD and copied to other interested parties. Further details can be found on our website at <https://www.falaise.ca/mountain-road-park/>.



## Membership

Our membership drive got off to a good start and 100 residents renewed their membership before our door-to-door campaign had to stop because of COVID-19. We were able to renew door-to-door canvassing in late summer and 194 residents have joined our community association. This number is just short of the 200 members we had in 2019.

Note that you need to be a member in order to vote at the upcoming AGM. If you would like to join it is not too late!

A membership form is available on-line at [www.falaise.ca/get-involved](http://www.falaise.ca/get-involved). You can complete and submit the form on-line or print it and then deliver it to the address below. Membership fees remain \$5 per person and may be submitted as cash, a cheque made payable to Falaise Community Association, or by e-transfer to [treasurer@falaise.ca](mailto:treasurer@falaise.ca). Note that no security question is needed for an e-transfer.

Printed membership forms and cash or cheque payments may be taken to:

Mac Nanton, Registrar, 4613 Royal Wood Ct. Email: [registrar@falaise.ca](mailto:registrar@falaise.ca).

## Invasive Species in Falaise Park

There are several invasive plants found in our park. If they are not kept in check they can quickly crowd out and suppress the naturally occurring vegetation that grows in a Garry oak meadow. Our volunteer efforts to remove invasive plants from the park began in 2010. They focussed on Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry. Beginning in 2018 we redoubled our efforts to rid the park of these persistent invasives. Although it looks like we might have been successful the job is not finished as germinants keep popping just when we think "we have them on the ropes". We have also beaten back the pervasive English ivy and periwinkle under the trees and laid down a layer of mulch to suppress any regrowth. We still have invasive grasses to deal with as well. If we keep at it we will win the battle.

The most dangerous plant we have had to deal with is Daphne Laurel (scientific name: *Daphne laureola*). This plant is highly toxic and something we don't want in and around the park, particularly near the playground area.

The flowers appear in the early spring, followed by small, black berries. However, most of the year, no flowers or berries may be visible. Poisonous toxins are concentrated in the bark, sap, and berries. You can be poisoned through skin contact with the sap or by eating the berries. Our volunteers, wearing protective gloves, are especially diligent in looking for this weed and eradicating it.

The Daphne Laurel is popular for its attractive foliage and fragrant tubular flowers. If you do have some in your yard you may





## Picture Gallery



*Mystery chairs that appeared in the park this summer*



*Yellow Montane violet*



*Proposed development on Elk Lake Dr. across from Adeline Pl.*



*Crematorium emissions continue to be a concern*

## Let's Do Our Part To Avert The Impending Climate Disaster

We hear a lot about COVID-19 these days. This news tends to overshadow the other, much bigger, emergency we face - the climate emergency. Tornadoes, hurricanes, heat waves, flooding, fires and the terrifying news of "The last fully intact ice shelf in the Canadian Arctic has collapsed, losing more than 40% of its area in just two days at the end of July. . . ." [Reuters Aug 6, 2020](#).



That news isn't made any better when we read that the "CRD 'not even close' to meeting its climate targets". [Times Colonist. Aug 11, 2020](#).

The [Sustainable Saanich](#) website provides information on climate change, Saanich's 2020 Climate Plan and some really good information about what you can be doing to help avert the catastrophe as well as information on resources and rebates to help you.

Within the community several people drive electric cars. Several others use mechanical or electric lawn mowers. At least one person has solar hot water and solar electric panels. Other people have taken less visible steps to green their homes with Energy Star® windows and appliances, draft proofing, insulation and high efficiency heat pumps. Not sure where you should start? We'll be hosting a Zoom presentation on **Saanich's Climate Plan: Updates and Opportunities for Residents** at 7 p.m. on November 9<sup>th</sup>. If we have your email address, we will send you an email invitation. Also, check out Saanich's [Residents' Climate Action Guide Book](#) or a free [Virtual Home Energy Check-up](#).

How "green" are you? Find out with the help of Saanich's carbon calculator: <https://bit.ly/3kT65fo>. If you take the challenge, be brutally honest and then send your results to [info@falaize.ca](mailto:info@falaize.ca); we'll report how our community is doing in a future newsletter.

## Block Watch



The Block Watch program is one more way we can help ensure the safety and security of our homes, families and neighbours. It may also get you a reduction on your house insurance. As far as we know, there are only two active Block Watch groups within the Falaize community. If you would like more information about establishing a Block Watch group or joining an existing one, send an email to [info@falaize.ca](mailto:info@falaize.ca).