

Upcoming Events

~~Garage Sale~~
~~Cancelled~~
May 16th, 2020

Summer Picnic
September 13th, 2020

Annual General Meeting
November, 18th, 2020

Contact Us

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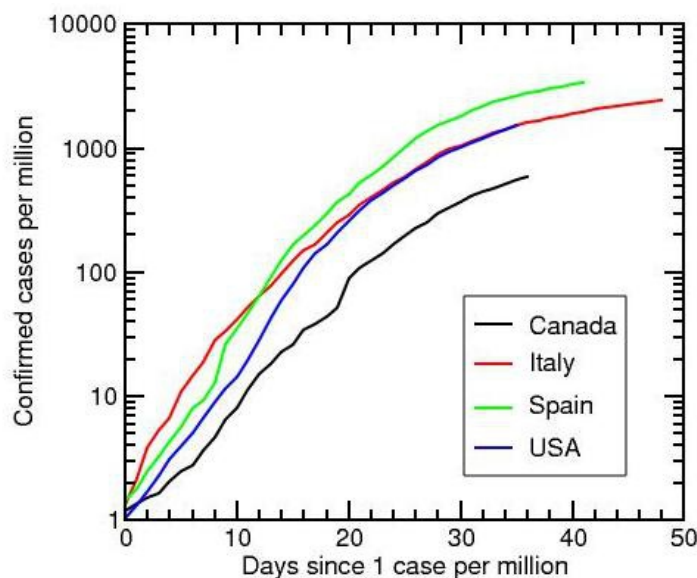
(A brief bio of each Director can be found on the website)

An Unusual Spring

Nice weather has come to Saanich and much of the vegetation has started to show its fascinating shapes and colours. But for us humans, this spring feels different. There is worry as to just how bad the COVID-19 virus is going to affect BC and Canada. There is the stress of having to keep one hockey stick away from all the people you are used to being around. And for young families, there is the stress of home-schooling and the limitations of what to do with kids who can't even play in the local parks.

Things have changed very rapidly. For the March meeting of the FCA Executive, Berwick Royal Oak had already closed its meeting room to outsiders but we were still able to meet at a director's house. For our April meeting we had to observe social distancing and held a virtual meeting. It was not flawless; one director could not connect at all; one had video but no audio; and one had audio but no video. It is probably fair to say that this is not yet mature technology. On the other hand, it is remarkable what can now be done with a copper wire running into our homes. News, games, movies and general information from around the world can be easily accessed. One bit of information that is easily accessible is how the COVID-19 virus is affecting the world. This

graph shows the number of confirmed cases per million for Canada compared to some other countries. Spain and Italy have been badly affected and it looks like Canada should "bend the curve" well below their numbers. Let us hope that, in another 30 days, our curve is flat, meaning no new cases, and that some of the services that we count on are starting to reopen.



Let's show our support



Special thanks to our health care workers, first responders and all essential workers for their dedication during these difficult times.

Go out at 7 p.m. and make some noise to show your support!

COVID Issues

We are a community. As such, we need to be caring for ourselves and our neighbours during this challenging time. Several people have volunteered to help neighbours in need whether that be with a friendly phone call, shopping, keeping in phone-touch with children cooped up at home while parents work, dog-walking or anything else people are having difficulty doing on their own. If you need any sort of help coping during this pandemic, please ask for help. You can email COVIDhelp@falaie.ca or phone Bob (250-479-6184) or Carl (778-265-6102). We'll put you in touch with a volunteer.

Here are a few resources that may help you:

BC government COVID-19 information	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/covid-19-information
Non-medical information about COVID-19 7:30 AM-8:00 PM	1-888-COVID19
BC211 Matches seniors who need support with non-medical essentials, to volunteers in their community who are willing to help.	http://www.bc211.ca/
Saanich's links to financial and community resources.	https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/news-events/covid-19-information/covid-19-resources.html
On-line grocery shopping and delivery. To have any hope of placing an order, you must shop VERY early on a Tuesday morning.	https://pickup.thriftyfoods.com/
On-line grocery shopping for pick-up or delivery. The available time slots fill quickly so you will likely have to try numerous times to get a time.	https://www.saveonfoods.com/

855 Falaie Cres.

The developer of 855 Falaie Cres. held a public meeting on January 18th to present the most recent plans for the lot and answer questions about the proposed development. In addition to the resource people, thirty one residents attended the meeting. The plans have been altered slightly since we last reported about them. Changes include moving the driveways closer together which will allow an extra on-street parking space and moving the houses slightly to save the largest tree on the lot. This picture illustrates how on-street parking may restrict traffic flow.

The FCA indicated that we could support the development if: a second tree of those slated for removal could be saved; the street in front of the house is widened enough so that parked cars can be completely off the existing roadway; a catch basin is installed to solve the problem of water exiting the lot and creating problems for homes downhill; and existing vegetation at the back of the property is maintained to protect the privacy of neighbours. The developer indicated a willingness to maintain the vegetation, pointed out that road width and catch basin decisions would be made by Saanich and that they had tried to find a way to save another tree but had not been able to do so. A full report of the meeting is available on our website (falaie.ca). With the current pandemic crisis, it is uncertain when the development proposal will next be considered by Saanich.



Highway Noise Barrier

Mayor Haynes attended the February FCA Directors' meeting to learn about community concerns. One concern raised was the lack of progress towards building a noise barrier along the highway. Saanich has already expressed their support to the provincial government for building the barrier. Mayor Haynes suggested that he arrange a meeting with Saanich Staff to look at ways we could move forward with this project. Unfortunately the meeting had to be postponed until after the COVID-19 emergency.

Memorial Plaque Unveiled at Falaise Park

Family, friends and Falaise residents gathered at Falaise Park on the sunny afternoon of March 8th to unveil a plaque in memory of Tannis Warburton.

A long time resident of Falaise Cres., Tannis was a gifted artist and enthusiastic advocate for protecting the Park. She was well known in the arts community for her lovely watercolour paintings of B.C. native flowers and plants. She discovered the very rare Yellow Montane Violet growing in the park and was responsible for alerting the Environment Ministry.

At the unveiling, her daughter, Betty, recounted the fun times she and her siblings enjoyed playing in the Park in the 1960s. A display of some of the wildflower watercolors was set up.

The plaque is installed on a new bench at the top of the Park near where Tannis used to sit and paint. For Tannis, Falaise Park was a special place and she would be pleased to see how the Park is being taken care of today by our dedicated group of volunteers.

Park Steward, Stuart Macpherson, shepherded the application for the plaque through Saanich Parks on behalf of the Warburton family. The cost of the plaque was borne by the family.



Falaise Park Improvements

Another step forward in reintroducing native plants into Falaise Park was made on Saturday March 7th. A hard working group of eight dedicated volunteers (right) eagerly put some 45 native plants in the ground. These included Garry oak seedlings, Indian plum, ocean spray, red flowering currant, red elderberry, tall Oregon grape and sword ferns. They were placed in various locations around the park.

Many of them are flowering plants that will be attractive to bees as well as nectar feeders such as hummingbirds.

Protective cages will protect them from deer. Saanich Parks have included them in its watering schedule for the coming summer.

Providing the plants survive the attention of the itinerant inquisitive deer, this is another step forward in restoring the natural Garry oak ecosystem of the Park.



Family Day

The second annual Family Day event was held at the Women's Institute Hall on West Saanich Road from 2 to 4 p.m. on Monday, February 17th. This year, Director Gary Weeks decorated the hall and arranged for the Country Cousins square dance caller, Kirk Rockerbie, to attend. In addition to square dancers from within the Falaise community, several other members of the Country Cousins made a surprise appearance. Kirk called several dances with the trained dancers and then invited everyone else to join in. Several of the young girls were excited by the chance to participate but the boys preferred their toys.

There was coffee and drinks, and a wide selection of snacks and treats. There were games and contests for both young and old. Holly Holt set up several activities for the children including a popular paint station. The draw for door prizes was reserved for the kids and almost everyone went home with something.



Elk Lake Dr. Development

A proposal has been submitted to the District of Saanich to develop a 242 unit, multi-family project on Elk Lake Dr. just across the Pat Bay highway from Adeline Pl. The FCA was asked to provide comments and we did so in an email to the Planning Department. You can read our submission at www.falaise.ca/elk-lake-dr.



Membership Renewal

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. Please renew your membership now. A membership form is available on-line at 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. 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.

BEEffects of COVID-19

We have four beekeepers in our community. Of their eight hives, only three survived the winter. High rates of winter bee colony loss is common throughout Canada. To compensate for those losses, Canadian beekeepers normally import tens of thousands of "packages" of bees each year. This year, however, the novel coronavirus is preventing that from happening.



Bees are imported to Canada in temperature-controlled cargo aircraft because they will not survive if they get too hot or too cold. Airlines, however, are cancelling such cargo flights as they try to cope with the coronavirus and that means the needed bees cannot be imported.

The implications for this shortage of bees are much more serious than a shortage of honey. Most bees are imported specifically to pollinate crops. Without the bees, canola and fruit production will suffer. We could even see reduced yield of some vegetables although most vegetables grown in Canada do not rely heavily on imported bees.



As with many other aspects of modern life, the pandemic has made us realize we are not self-sufficient in bees. We could design our agricultural systems to not rely on imported bees but that can't be done quickly. Since the victory gardens of WW1 and WW2, society has continuously moved further away from what matters—food stability. Maybe it is time to do as Lukas Nelson says in his song, "Turn off the news and build a garden."

Block Watch

We have discussed the Block Watch program in earlier newsletters, but have not been successful in getting the names of all the Block Watch Captains in the Falaise area. Here we list two of the Captains and the areas they serve: Andy Lou – all of Southover Lane and several of the houses on Falaise Cres. near the end of Southover; Tracy Olsen – all of Royal Wood Court and Royal Wood Place and a couple of the houses on Falaise Dr. near the end of Royal Wood Court. If you would like to get in touch with one of these Captains, contact Bob Lucy at president@falaise.ca. If you know any other Block Captains, please let us know. Being part of a Block Watch Group may get you a reduction on your home insurance!