

Upcoming Events

Because of COVID, we are not planning any social events at this time.

Contact Us

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Park Steward: Stuart Macpherson

Newsletter, website: Carl Ross

(A brief bio of each Director can be found at the end of this newsletter and on the [website](#))

This newsletter is available on our [website](#) where you can click on the links (blue text)

Message from the President

I am honoured to take on the role of President for this coming year. May it be a better year for all as we navigate our way through the restrictions of the COVID crisis. It has been gratifying to see neighbours looking after neighbours and lending a helping hand when needed. I see more residents on the streets, whether it is to take a stroll, walk the dog or for cycling.

I am hoping that COVID restrictions will be eased and we will see a return of some of the FCA's community activities such as the iconic garage sale and the summer picnic. We might arrange a special event for families in the Park.

Despite the constraints on your Board's activities, progress was made in 2020. I encourage you to browse the [AGM 2020 minutes](#) posted on the website for a report on the details. Notably we have made an impression on Saanich Council as a community that "punches above its weight". We have demonstrated to them that we are a community that really cares about our quality of life and living in a green environment. We now seem to have the ear of the government in doing something about the highway noise.

Our Community saw many new faces and several young families arrive in 2020. I'd like to welcome these new residents and families and trust you find our [Welcome Letter](#) a useful orientation for settling in.

Finally a special thanks to Bob Lucy, your retiring President. Bob has worked tirelessly on your behalf for the past three years. I am pleased that he has agreed to stay on the Board as Vice President for another year. I would also like to thank Sandrine Lio who served as Treasurer this past year.

Feel free to contact me at president@falaise.ca. (Stuart Macpherson)

2020 AGM Report

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held by Zoom on November 18th. The meeting was preceded by a very informative presentation by Dr. Linda Gilkeson entitled "Where Have All The Insects Gone?" Slides of Linda's presentation are on her [website](#).

Our MLA, Lana Popham, was able to join us for the meeting. She said she would be talking to Mayor Haynes about the noise wall and was looking into existing provincial regulations for crematoria emissions.

We added two new people to our Board and said goodbye to another. Holly Holt and Alan Taylor* both volunteered to serve while Sandrine Lio, last year's treasurer, decided to not stand for re-election. At the first Board meeting after the election, Directors were elected to fill the various Board positions. The new Board is introduced on the back page of this newsletter.

For more details of the AGM, see the [draft minutes](#) posted on our website.

*Alan was unable to continue on the Board beyond January.

Cautious Optimism: Highway Noise Barrier

Soon after the provincial election, Mayor Haynes held a virtual meeting with MLAs Popham, Fleming and Rankin whose ridings include parts of Saanich. Lana Popham is our MLA and Minister of Agriculture; since 2017 she has been working with our community in our efforts to get a noise wall installed between the highway and Falaise Drive. Rob Fleming is the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. Murray Rankin is Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.



Mayor Haynes reported that he had a productive meeting with the three cabinet ministers and they agreed to move the "Falaise Noise Wall" initiative forward in the New Year at each of their ongoing Saanich-Province meetings. He is optimistic that together they will find a way to protect the most vulnerable parts of our community from highway noise.

The 2020-21 Pandemic

The book by John Barry, entitled "The Great Influenza" describes the pandemic of 1918-19. Although often referred to as the Spanish flu, he shows that it likely began in the U.S., and was spread to Europe by soldiers going to fight in the World War. The virus causing the flu of 1918-19 was far more deadly than COVID-19 and preferentially killed young people. The very high infection rate led to hospitals being overwhelmed and shows why our leaders want to keep the number of cases low. Masks were used to prevent infections in 1918-19 and they are equally important today. Unfortunately, not everyone wears their mask properly, as this black Labrador is attempting to show.

B.C. is doing better than some provinces but significant restrictions are likely to remain in place until vaccines are widely available, perhaps by this summer. The FCA has a list of residents who are prepared to offer help to anyone in the community who is struggling to get supplies or simply wants someone to talk to. If you, or anyone you know, needs help, please contact any member of the Board.



Membership

Memberships are now due for 2021. The fee is \$10 per person.

In 2020 the number of members was 196. We welcome your support for 2021. Membership is open to all residents, 18 years of age or older, living on Falaise Dr., Falaise Cr. and the various cul-de-sacs off these streets. Due to increased operating costs the fee this year is increased to \$10; this is in line with other community associations. Membership is completed in two steps: 1) Completing the membership form; 2) Paying the membership fee.

Membership form: 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 deliver it to the Registrar with your payment.

Payment options: 1) By e-transfer from your financial institution to treasurer@falaise.ca. No security question is needed for an e-transfer and you will get an immediate receipt. 2) By cheque, payable to the Falaise Community Association or with cash.

Please deliver your membership form and cash or cheque payment to: Mac Nanton, Registrar, 4613 Royal Wood Ct., Email: registrar@falaise.ca.

When COVID restrictions are eased we will initiate a door-to-door membership drive.

North Quadra Urgent and Primary Care Centre: A new [urgent care facility](#) has opened at #100, 4220 Chatterton Way, near Emily Carr Dr. No appointment is necessary.

Residential Parking: Parking is an on-going concern for our community. Is free residential parking unjust? Should users have to purchase a parking permit? Here is a thought-provoking [article](https://www.sidewalkingvictoria.com/) in <https://www.sidewalkingvictoria.com/> with a number of comments by Victoria residents.

In the News

855 Falaise Cr.: The rezoning of 855 Falaise Dr. was on the Saanich Council agenda for the meeting on November 2nd, 2020. Because of COVID-19, no citizens could attend the meeting in person. Instead, by booking in advance, anyone could make a three-minute submission by phone. Directors Cynthia Hawsworth and Mac Nanton both made presentations. A motion was passed to submit the rezoning proposal to a public hearing but no date was set. On-street parking remains a concern because parking is going to be permitted on both sides of the roadway in front of this development.

Elk Lake Rd. Development: A proposal has been submitted to the District of Saanich to develop an 11-storey, 242-unit, multi-family project on Elk Lake Dr., just across the Pat Bay highway from Adeline Pl. On December 14th, Council voted with a margin of 7-2 to refer the proposal to a public hearing. As noted in a recent *Times Colonist* [article](#), both the Royal Oak and Falaise Community Associations have raised concerns about the proposal. More information about the development is available in the [report](#) submitted to Council for its meeting on December 14th.

Overflow funeral parking: Because of the pandemic there have been no large funerals for the past several months. However, overflow parking on Falaise Dr. and Falaise Cr. is likely to return once restrictions on large gatherings are relaxed. In recent conversations with the Mayor, we had combined the noise wall and parking upgrades to Falaise Dr. as a single infrastructure project. It turned out that this was not practical because the projects involve different jurisdictions. Thus, we must lobby separately for the two initiatives.

Crematorium Emissions: At a Board meeting in February 2020, Mayor Haynes promised to discuss the issue with Minister Popham. At our AGM meeting in November, Minister Popham expressed a willingness to work on a solution. We plan to assess how other communities have dealt with the challenge of having crematoria near residential areas.

4692 Mountain Rd: This 49-acre forested area has been purchased by the CRD in partnership with the [Habitat Acquisition Trust](#) (HAT) to create a new regional park. "The Friends of Mountain Road Forest" had initiated a letter-writing campaign recommending that this property be acquired as parkland. The FCA wrote a letter supporting the initiative and we are pleased that this property will be retained as a park. HAT has initiated a fund-raising campaign (<http://www.mountainroadforest.ca/>) to obtain the remaining \$1.2M needed to complete the purchase.



A Tribute to Falaise Park by a Local Resident

Falaise Park is the jewel of the Falaise community. My family and I enjoy using the park in many different ways. My son uses the playground regularly, the paths are a good place to run, we play in the trees, we go on rock hunts, we like exploring the Park. We also enjoy observing the wonderful Garry oak trees, other flora, and the animals, including snakes, lizards, robins, rabbits, deer, squirrels, owls, eagles, vultures, and other critters.

Seeing the rare violets are also a treat. The park is also a wonderful place to watch the sunset with a view of the Malahat.

For most of 2020, Falaise Park has been a safe haven throughout COVID times as other activities for children have been closed or very limited. The Park has remained open and is an important part of our daily routine.

Neighbourhood kids meet and play at Falaise Park. We have had picnic and holiday celebrations with our neighbours at the Park. It is a great place to meet new neighbours and have a sense of community.

I have observed other people using the Park in different ways. They walk and play with their dogs, meet friends, sunbathe, chat, and read books on top of the hill. (Contributed by Taya Harris)

Picnic Table for the Park



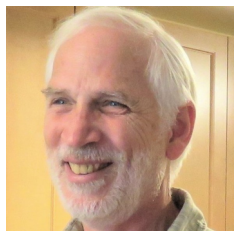
Our Park has no picnic table. The AGM in November identified a number of issues we plan to address in 2021 and one of them was to get a picnic table for the Park. The FCA President, Stuart Macpherson, contacted Saanich Parks and we are pleased to report that Saanich is prepared to install a picnic table in our Park, at no extra charge to the Community. The installation will be in the spring. We will seek the advice of the young families who use the Park on the best location for the table.

2021 Board of Directors



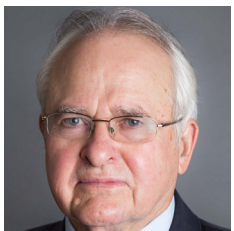
Cynthia Hawksworth moved from the Maplewood area of Saanich to the Falaise Community in November 2018. Prior to retirement, she worked for 33 years for the government of B.C. as a community and regional planner. Cynthia has one adult son and she

keeps fit by attending Jazzercise classes and hiking with her two rambunctious dogs. She enjoys working with other members of the Board on issues affecting our community.



Bob Lucy and his wife, Sue, have lived in the community for 37 years. Now retired, Bob gardens, raises bees, and volunteers with the [Maasai Conservation Fund](#) to establish a permaculture and demonstration farm in Tanzania. This year he and Sue

anticipate the arrival of an Eritrian refugee family they are helping sponsor.



Mac Nanton and his wife Marion have three children and five grandchildren scattered over the globe. He is a retired professional transportation engineer. He worked extensively on the Vancouver Island Highway Project, including the Pat Bay Highway. His second career was

in residential realty in Victoria. He and his spouse have hosted UVic ESL students for the past 25 years.



Stew Vinnels and his wife Ann Brydon have lived on Southover Lane since 1996. While practicing dentistry from 1970 through retirement, Stew continues as a principal of residential and transportation development businesses. He is an active Scouter, has

served on Scouts Canada's Regional Management Committee and Chaired the Glendale Lodge Society's Board of Directors.



Holly Holt moved to the Falaise community from the North Quadra area in 2013. Holly worked in the Victoria School District as a teacher and a school principal. She has actively volunteered throughout her 43 years in Saanich in a variety of activities such as Operation

Trackshoes, Girl Guides, Parent Advisory Councils and Community Clean-ups.



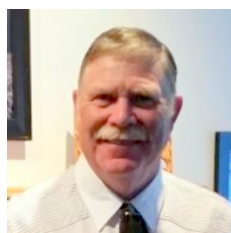
Stuart Macpherson has lived in the community since his retirement in 2013 from a career as a forestry and environmental consultant. He raised his family of four children in the Gordon Head neighbourhood. In spring 2018 he took on the role of Park Steward for

Falaise Park and keeps busy working on restoring the natural vegetation of the park with his group of volunteers.



Carl Ross is a retired physicist. He and his wife, Barbara, moved from Ottawa to Saanich in 2016 to escape the worst of the winter weather. They enjoy living in the Falaise area and have been warmly welcomed by the neighbours. Carl joined the Board with the hope that

something could be done about the traffic noise that impacts the community. He has also established a website for the Association.



Gary Weeks has lived in this community for 30 years. Recently retired from the forest industry he maintains a healthy lifestyle and enjoys spending time with his family. He believes that the ocean and the land environments are important causes because they affect us

all, one small change at a time. Although change is inevitable it should be for the good of us all and not for individuals.



Volunteers!

Are you interested in becoming a director or helping with any of the issues identified as priorities for 2021?

Our Park Steward is always looking for volunteers to help with Park maintenance and upgrades. Thanks to this happy crew, our Park is looking better each year. Would you like to help?

If so, please send an email to secretary@falaise.ca.