

Upcoming Events

Because of COVID-19, we are not planning any social events at this time.

Contact Us

www.falaise.ca info@falaise.ca
[Facebook.com/saanich.fca](https://www.facebook.com/saanich.fca)

President: Stuart Macpherson
president@falaise.ca, 250-415-1739

Vice President: Bob Lucy
vice-president@falaise.ca, 250-479-6184

Secretary: Holly Holt
secretary@falaise.ca

Treasurer: Carl Ross
treasurer@falaise.ca

Registrar: Mac Nanton
registrar@falaise.ca, 250-686-3200

Directors:

Cynthia Hawsworth
cynthiahawsworth@gmail.com

Stew Vinnels
svinnels@telus.net

Gary Weeks
gwwlog@shaw.ca

Park Steward: Stuart Macpherson

Newsletter, website: Carl Ross

(A brief bio of each Director can be found at www.falaise.ca/contacts)

This newsletter is available at www.falaise.ca where you can click on the links (blue text)

Message from the President

After a winter of COVID-19 restrictions it is invigorating to be out in the fresh air. Spring is a good time to chat with your neighbours; the social interaction is so important to keep our spirits up even though we still need to practise social distancing. I encourage you to pull together and maintain contact with your neighbours.

Everyone seems to be walking around the streets more and using the Park. Saanich's proposed pilot of a lower speed limit may make this a little safer. The playground has become a local hot spot for both parents and their youngsters and grandparents. In that regard safe roadside parking beside the playground entrance has emerged as a concern. We have contacted Saanich Parks to see if they can improve the situation.

Your Board is hard at work following through on the Focus Points we identified for 2021. Taking on the role of President this year has been a lesson for me on how much work goes on "behind the scenes". Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our first Community Survey.

Despite COVID-19, our membership drive for 2021 is well underway and I am very pleased with your response to our canvassing efforts. For me it is a sign that the community supports the efforts your Board is making for all Falaise residents.

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

Meeting with Saanich CAO, Thorkelsson

Paul Thorkelsson, the Chief Administrative Officer for Saanich, attended the April 14th Zoom meeting of the FCA Board of Directors. He spent more than an hour in discussions with the Board. He kept notes and said that the relevant Saanich staff would be informed in those cases where they could be of help.



He was well aware of our efforts to get a noise wall along the Pat Bay Highway and offered suggestions as to how to advance the project. He will talk to the Police Chief regarding excessively noisy vehicles. He discussed the situation regarding crematorium emissions and pointed out that B.C. has no standards. He encouraged us to meet with the operators. With regard to funeral parking, he said there are plans to move parking enforcement from the police to bylaw officers and that this might lessen flagrant parking violations.

There was some discussion of road murals and he suggested that we talk to Saanich Engineering.

On the question of local area plans, he said that updating them had been put on hold until the housing strategy was completed. Saanich is committed to the Urban Forest Strategy and intends to double the number of trees being planted. He sees community associations playing an important role, especially when it comes to local development.

Noise Barrier Setback

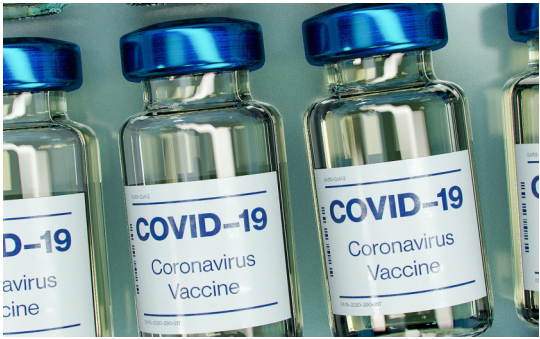
In our last newsletter we expressed cautious optimism that a noise barrier would be constructed after Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure told Mayor Haynes that he expected the provincial government could fund construction of a noise wall to reduce highway noise near the most vulnerable parts of our community.

Since then, however, both our MLA, Lana Popham, and Rob Fleming have said that the funds for the project would not be available after all.

The FCA noise wall committee met with Mayor Haynes to brainstorm alternate funding options and met on-site with Councillor Susan Brice to get her input on ways to move forward. In keeping with the Board's long term strategy, an early on-site meeting with MLA Popham has been requested. Additional meetings are planned with other Saanich Councillors.



The 2020-21 Pandemic



B.C. has been experiencing a steady increase in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks. Many of us know people who have had the disease. Some of us know "long-haulers". Some of us know people who have died. Many of our residents are retired and haven't had to worry about employment but some younger people in our community have lost jobs or had their hours reduced. Others continue to work, some from home, some in "front-line" jobs.

With a sizable number of older people in the community, many people have had their first vaccination. It is likely still going to be several months before we are told that we can resume normal activities and, with quite a few residents stuck alone at home, this is a good time to check on your neighbours. Speak to

them (at a distance) when you see them outside. Phone them or slip a note through their door if you haven't seen them for a while.

Remember, we have volunteers who are willing to help if you or someone you know in this community would like a friendly voice to talk to, is shut in and needs some shopping done or needs something else. Email covidhelp@falaize.ca to volunteer or be put in touch with a volunteer.

If you have not yet registered to receive your vaccine, you can do so online. Go to www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated.html and follow the instructions.

Membership

Our door-to-door membership drive for 2021 may be finished by the time you receive this newsletter. We are on target to meet or exceed our membership total for 2020.

If we have missed you, do not despair; it is not too late to sign up. Membership is open to all residents, 18 years of age or older, living on Falaize Dr., Falaize Cr. and the various cul-de-sacs off these streets and the fee is only \$10 per person.

A membership form is available on-line at www.falaize.ca/get-involved. You can complete and submit the form online or print it and deliver it to the Registrar with your payment.

You can pay by e-transfer from your financial institution to treasurer@falaize.ca. No security question is needed for an e-transfer and you will get an immediate receipt. (We note that some financial institutions insist that you create a security question. Any question will do because our account is set up for auto-deposit). Alternatively, you can pay by cheque, payable to the Falaize Community Association, or with cash, delivered to our Registrar, Mac Nanton, 4613 Royal Wood Ct.

Mac's email address is registrar@falaize.ca.



You may not know it, but the FCA has a Facebook page (facebook.com/saanich.fca). We do not devote a lot of time to keeping it up to date so it is not as useful as it might be. Would you like to see more effort devoted to the FCA Facebook page? If so, **would you like to volunteer** some time to help make it more useful? For more details, contact Carl Ross at webmaster@falaize.ca.

In the News

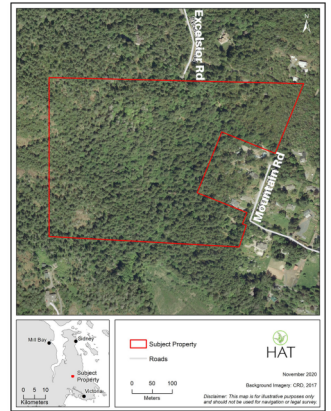
Mountain Road Park: Excellent progress is being made in raising the \$1.4 million needed to create a new regional park out of the 49-acre forested property at 4692 Mountain Road. The Habitat Acquisition Trust reports that its fund-raising campaign is now over the 75% mark. The target date for completion has been extended to July 20th. Check out the HAT website for more detail: www.mountainroadforest.ca. A visit to the property makes a great family outing; a stroll along the trail takes about 45 minutes. The best way to access is at the end of Excelsior Road. Interpretive brochures are available.

Crematorium Emissions: Last month we completed a survey of residents living near the Royal Oak Burial Park and First Memorial to assess how the smoke emissions from the crematoriums affect their quality of life. Thirteen residents responded to the survey with five indicating some issues. The Board will be assessing the feedback and determining the next steps.

FCA constitution: The present constitution was adapted in 2018. We have noted a few areas where changes would be beneficial. Details are available on the FCA website.

Community survey: Over the past month, we undertook a survey of Falaise residents and received an excellent response. The Board will be preparing a report on the feedback and developing a follow-up action plan. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond. We are targeting June 30th to post the survey report on the website.

Falaise Cr. Road Mural: This is being considered as a pilot project in Saanich. The mural is intended to draw drivers' attention to the 30 km/h speed limit around the Park. Conceptually this could be a community project with Saanich's approval and would be directed by a local artist. It might involve families with kids as well. For more details, see: www.teale.ca/saanich-road-murals.



Falaise Dr. Beautification Project

Many current residents of the Falaise community may not be aware that the close proximity of the Pat Bay Highway to a section of Falaise Dr. has long been an outstanding concern to residents and a safety risk. In 2002, the late Ron Timms began a campaign to consider some kind of barrier between the community and the highway that was becoming increasingly noisy. Having been turned down by the Ministry of Highways for the construction of a barrier the FCA's second option was to create a green space by planting trees. A plan for a green belt utilizing the existing pathway was conceived and the Falaise Dr. Beautification Project was born. At that time, there was a lack of funding available and the project was not pursued.



In 2007, the idea was revived and the FCA commissioned a professional plan by a landscape architect. Residents expressed enthusiasm for the project and many stepped up to sponsor a tree. The Beautification Project vision was to rejuvenate the landscape along the Pat Bay Highway (north of the Royal Oak overpass) by creating a new green space through the planting of trees and native vegetation. It was intended that the project would create a more visually appealing landscape and help reduce noise and air pollution.

The FCA began a funding-raising campaign after securing a matching grant from Saanich Parks for the planting of a belt of trees. Species specified in the landscape plan were Douglas fir, bigleaf maple,

western red cedar, Austrian pine and native shrubs such as snowberry, ocean spray and Oregon grape. The initial planting, in the spring of 2012, took place along the bottom bend of Falaise Dr. and at the top end. Many of these trees survived although they are growing slowly due to the dry soil condition. Unfortunately, the project was not completed in entirety. The middle section across from McCalls remains unplanted due to insufficient funding to enable completion of the project.

Nevertheless, this project reflects the spirit of the Falaise community and what can be accomplished through community determination. Twenty years after the vision of Ron Timms this spirit remains alive today as the FCA continues to urge government to improve the neighbourhood with the completion of a barrier to reduce the highway noise and turn the original vision into reality. *(Prepared by Stuart Macpherson with contributions by Margaret Klatt)*

Falaise Park Update



Now that spring has arrived the vegetation in the Park is bursting into life. We have already seen a spectacular late winter flowering of a profusion of snowdrops. Soon the camas and white fawn lilies will be on display.

Our volunteers also completed a winter planting program. Another twelve Garry oaks and a selection of salal, kinnikinnick, blackcurrant, ferns, tall Oregon grape and Douglas fir were put in the ground, primarily along the east side boundary.

If you took a stroll in the Park recently you may have noticed scattered patches of dark leaf mulch in various spots. What is going on? Well, we are trying an experimental technique to eradicate the invasive orchard grass. This grass is spreading in patches throughout the park and can quickly out-compete the native vegetation such as the camas and white fawn lilies. The orchard grass was particularly noticeable in the meadow under the Garry oaks on the west side where it is suppressing the camas lilies. Our volunteers have grubbed out select patches of orchard grass clumps and covered the patches with mulch. This is in the hope that it will suppress regrowth of the grass and enable the camas to thrive again. If it is successful you can expect to see more of this technique applied throughout the Park and remember to watch the camas bloom in May.

If you are able to volunteer some time to help in the Park, contact the Park Steward, Stuart Macpherson, for more information at 250-415-1739.

Saanich Boulevard Partnership Tree Program

Interested in having Saanich plant a tree in your front yard for free? Saanich Parks is looking for new opportunities to plant on boulevards around the municipality. You select the tree - broadleaf or coniferous. You might choose one for its aesthetic quality: with spring or autumn colours, unusual or attractive bark, leaves and branches, or interesting winter form. Saanich will plant it for you and only asks that you keep it watered for a couple of years. In doing so you will be making your own personal contribution to increasing the Urban Forest canopy in the Falaise neighbourhood.

Contact Saanich Parks directly to learn more about its [Partnership Tree Planting Program](#).



Little Free Library

You may have seen small libraries like the one on the left throughout Saanich. One of our residents wants to set up and manage a Little Free Library beside the playground entrance to the Park. Saanich Parks are amenable to the idea and will even install it for us. **We are looking for a volunteer** to build the library and help with its installation.

Please e-mail [Cynthia Hawkesworth](#) if you have the talent and the time to offer.

A Picnic Table for the Park!



We are all very happy to have a picnic table installed beside the playground in the Park. It has been welcomed by both parents and grandparents alike.

We have been noticing the grass verge has got quite mucky during the winter months. The same thing happened last winter and we filled in the ruts by hand. We have asked Saanich Engineering to look at improving the off-road parking by the playground entrance as well as improving/fixing drainage on Falaise Cr.