



Falaise Community Association  
Growing a stronger community together

---

## **Presidents Annual Report for 2021**

It has been my pleasure to serve the community as president this past year. Despite the constraints imposed by the provincial COVID restrictions your board stayed engaged and had a busy year. Unfortunately because of the restrictions we were not able to hold all of our popular events; Family Day and the Summer picnic were cancelled

### **Highlights of 2021**

#### **Board of directors**

The 2021 board commenced the year with nine directors. Board meetings were held monthly throughout the year for a total of 12 meetings (Dec- Nov). The minutes of these meetings are posted on the FCA website. Residents may also attend board meetings as observers. Two directors were unable to complete their term due to personal reasons: Gary Weeks and Alan Taylor. We thank them for the contribution they made to the board's deliberations.

#### **2021 Focus Points**

A set of 8 Focus Points were adopted to guide the board's business for the year. With some minor exceptions these were substantially completed.

### **Summary of Activities**

#### **Membership Renewals**

The 2021 membership campaign was a little protracted; annual dues payments were made by both bank e-transfer and by door knocking. Some 210 residents renewed or signed up their 2021 membership. This is slightly higher than the 200 members for 2020 and represents approx. 70% of addresses in the neighbourhood.

#### **Financial**

As evidenced by the treasurers report and verified by the auditor's report (our thanks to Glen Schoepp and Kent Boag ) the association is in a sound financial position. A cash balance has been restored. Going forward this enables us to provide for community activities such a Family Day and a summer picnic.

**Saanich Municipal engagement** - Mayor Haynes attended a board meeting to discuss the highway noise wall and traffic issues. We also met with Saanich CAO, Paul Thorkelsson, to review community concerns with him.

Letters were written to Saanich concerning traffic around Falaise Cres opposite Falaise Park, off-road parking beside the playground entrance and traffic speeding on Falaise Drive by the Royal Wood Place intersection. The board is also pursuing the idea of a road mural opposite the Falaise park playground entrance as a traffic calming measure with Saanich Engineering; a decision is expected in 2022.

**SCAN meetings** - Mac Nanton attends these meetings regularly on the boards' behalf and keeps us informed on issues of mutual concern with other community associations. We also participated in hosting the Zoom all-candidate forums for both the 2021 provincial election and the recent federal election ( in cooperation with the Broadmead community association and the Cadboro Bay association )

**Development applications** - the board reviewed development applications adjacent to the community boundary. This included the Doral Forest development beside Beaver Lake Park, a proposed condo development on the Normandy Road corner and a proposed subdivision opposite Lochside School. The board did not take formal positions on these applications but advised residents of these applications.

### **Pat Bay Highway Noise wall**

The installation of a barrier to visually and physically separate Falaise Drive from Highway 17 continues to be our top priority for the community. We have been pressing our case in meetings with both the Mayor and Saanich councillors and have also met with our MLA Lana Popham. Our concerns have been relayed to the Highways minister Rob Fleming and Murray Rankin.

**L855 Falaise Cres Rezoning and Subdivision** - the developer's application to rezone and subdivide this property abutting the south side of Falaise Park appears to have stalled. Saanich have been unable to tell us when this application will proceed to public hearing.

**Community survey** was completed in April. This put us in touch with residents' expectations. Outcomes covered more communication by email with residents, traffic safety issues and continuing to organize community activities. (The report is on the website)

### **Crematorium Emissions Review**

A long-standing issue, this concern was revisited this year. We obtained a fuller understanding of how the two crematoriums in the neighbourhood are operated. We verified that there are no specific provincial regulations for crematorium smoke emissions. Although no public health risk was identified some residents remain concerned with the odour and excessive smoke emissions. We learned that Royal Oak Burial Park is intending to install new state-of-the-art crematorium units. (The report is on the website)

**Falaise Focus** - the newsletter was published 3 times during the year. Treasurer Carl Ross did double duty as editor. Our thanks go out to Lana Popham's office who support its publication by providing the colour copies and volunteers who hand deliver a newsletter to every residence. We encourage residents to submit articles of interest for the newsletter.

**Little Free Library** - this was installed on Falaise Park with approval of Saanich Parks. It was LFL# 503 in all of Victoria. Special thanks to Stew Vinnels who built the library.

**Picnic Table** - this was installed beside the playground - a welcome addition, thanks to the cooperation of Saanich Parks.

**Community Garage sale** - our traditional garage sale was held in September this year instead of in May. It was successful with 16 residents participating.

**Falaise Park Restoration team** - a small team of volunteers have made good progress in removing invasive plants (blackberry, broom, English ivy) growing in the park. The crew have now begun replanting with a selection of native plants including Garry oaks and flowering shrubs provided by Saanich Parks. It is expected the work should be substantially completed in 2022.

**Mountain Road Park** - we supported a community effort to convince the CRD and Saanich to create this new park and are pleased to report that this initiative was successful. This new park will be a welcome addition for residents and families alike who enjoy local nature walks.

The face of the community is changing with a turnover of long-term residents and new people moving in. A Welcome Letter is distributed to all new residents. Many of these are younger families with children although we are not sure how many there are in the neighbourhood. It would be helpful to know this as may influence our event planning going forward.

Stuart Macpherson

President

12/11/2021