

Message from the President

Upcoming Events

Because of COVID, we may not be able to hold our Family Day event on February 21, as planned.

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: Stew Vinnels
vice-president@falaise.ca

Secretary: Holly Holt
secretary@falaise.ca

Treasurer: Carl Ross
treasurer@falaise.ca

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

Directors:

Bob Lucy
boblucy@shaw.ca

Barbara Ross
bross16183@gmail.com

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](http://www.falaise.ca))

This newsletter is available on our website where you can click on the links (blue text). <https://bit.ly> has been used to shorten long links.

I trust everyone has been staying warm as we get through the winter period relatively unscathed. The weather has certainly been full of surprises. Every year is a little different and 2021 was no exception with its pattern of extremes. Fortunately, the heavy November rain did not cause any significant damage in our community. Nevertheless, it was a wake-up call for all of us and a good idea to sign up for the emergency preparation workshops that Saanich is providing starting in January.

The neighbourhood spirit shone through with the recent snowfall. Even though it pales in comparison to the big dump of 1996, it was good to see people out helping neighbours shovel all that snow and swapping stories about the big iconic snowfall that year.

As we leave the holiday season behind us it appears that the COVID restrictions are going to be with us again into 2022 thanks to the appearance of the Omicron variant. It is all a little tiring and stressful, but the upside is that many of us have found that extra time to finish those projects around the house we have been putting off or to begin new projects. The downside is that it may restrict some of our community events. This year we are planning to focus on family events given the increase in the number of children and grandchildren in the community. As long as we've had our shots and follow the social guidelines, we'll get through this together.

I'd like to thank retiring board members, Cynthia Hawksworth and Gary Weeks, for their service to the community in 2021. Also, a welcome to the incoming 2022 Board of Directors, both those returning who agreed to serve again and to one new director, Barb Ross. Stew Vinnels will take on the role of Vice-President and Barb will be our Event Coordinator. The board will continue to work on your behalf throughout the year. We have several unresolved issues with Saanich concerning safety on our streets and remain optimistic we'll make some progress this year.

Volunteers are always welcome to assist in the various activities we have going on during the year. And a reminder if any resident needs some help, for whatever reason, please feel free to contact me at: president@falaise.ca or one of the directors.

FCA Goals for 2022

Each year at the AGM, we review the accomplishments of the previous year and create a list of objectives for the new year. These are our goals for 2022:

- Advance the case for the highway noise barrier.
- Liaise with Saanich Council and meet with the Mayor at least once in 2022.
- Establish a plan to deal with Falaise Dr. funeral parking.
- Hold community spring, summer, and fall activities, COVID permitting.
- Resolve the Falaise Cr. traffic concerns near the Park.
- Repeat the community survey to take the pulse of the community.
- Increase our membership to 90% of households.

Membership Renewal for 2022

Last year the FCA had 210 members but on December 31st everybody's membership expired. Whether you are a new or returning member, we welcome your support for 2022. 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. A membership form is available on-line at www.falaise.ca/get-involved. You simply complete and submit the form on-line or print and deliver it to our Registrar, Mac Nanton, at the address below.

The \$10 fee may be submitted as cash, a cheque made payable to Falaise Community Association, or by e-transfer from a financial institution to treasurer@falaise.ca. Note that no security question is needed for an e-transfer. During the pandemic, an e-transfer is preferred and we would appreciate payment by January 31st. We will start a door-to-door membership drive in February.

If paying by cash or cheque, please include a membership form and deliver to: Mac Nanton, Registrar, 4613 Royal Wood Ct., Email: registrar@falaise.ca.

2021 AGM Report

The 2021 AGM was held on Wednesday, November 17th with some people attending in-person at Saanich Commonwealth Place and slightly more attending virtually via Zoom. While there were some minor technical problems running the blended in-person/virtual meeting, the format worked well.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Teale Phelps Bondaroff who talked about "Fostering Safe and Connected Communities through Placemaking". His [presentation](#) is available on our website as are [draft minutes](#) of the meeting and Stuart Macpherson's [president's report](#).

During the meeting:

- We agreed that membership fees would remain at \$10 per person.
- Seven people were elected to the board of directors. Brief biographies of each are on the back page of this newsletter.
- The proposed bylaw changes mentioned in our previous two newsletters and that had been posted on our website were discussed and approved. The new bylaws are now posted on our website.

The meeting concluded with a draw for door prizes (two Thrifty Gift cards, two 2022 memberships and a copy of Linda Gilkeson's book [Resilient Gardens](#)).

The Gift of a New Life



Many of us actively seek opportunities to help the less fortunate. One fantastic opportunity we have right now is to give the gift of a new life to a refugee from Afghanistan.

Canada is the only country in the world that allows a group of private citizens to sponsor refugees for resettlement. The Canadian government has created a list of pre-screened and pre-approved persons who are at risk in Afghanistan and who are eligible for private sponsorship. Community members Marlene Simmons and Russ Bonny have offered to coordinate the welcoming of one of these refugees to a new life in Canada and are looking to our community for some support.

Their first step will be to find three more official sponsors to help them. This Group of Five will be responsible for fund-raising, finding accommodation for the person and orienting them to their new country. One big need will be raising the money to support the newcomer for their first year in Canada. You can help by donating money, household articles, or coordinating fund-raising activities.

If you are interested in helping out in some way or just interested in exploring the possibility of getting involved, please contact Marlene, 882 Falaise Cr.: marlene_e_simmons@yahoo.ca. The personal rewards for this work will be huge!

The Little Free Library Expands



The Little Free Library in the park is growing. We've added some drawers below the book cabinet so the book library can also become a seed library. The first seeds will be placed in the drawers in mid-to-late February.

The Capital Regional District started us off with a donation of vegetable and native plant seeds and some literature on gardening with native plants. We hope people will add their excess purchased or home-grown seeds as they become available.

You are encouraged to take seeds of plants you would like to grow but ask that you not take more than one package of any one type of seed. If you do not need a full package, you may open one and put the seeds you do want into one of the envelopes provided.

When you donate seeds, please put them in a paper envelope and label the envelope to indicate the type of plant and date the seed was collected.

What We All Need to Know About Masks

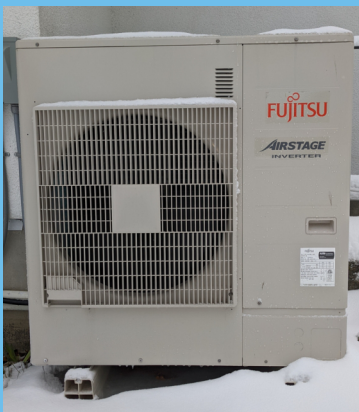


Our health experts are recommending medical grade masks to protect us including the N95; however, not all N95s are created equal so it is important to do your homework. The three higher level masks recommended masks at this time are the N95, the KN95 and level 3 medical masks (if the fit is good). For more information, please check out this CBC article: <https://bit.ly/3ETxzeK>.

All these masks are meant to be disposable and not reused. This is a concern to many of us who value the environment but there is at least one company, Vitacore Industries, who offers a recycling program.

During this pandemic we have tried to buy locally to support our merchants and manufacturers; this is also important when we consider purchasing masks. We have posted a list of some Canadian manufacturers and retailers at <https://www.falaise.ca/reports/>.

Heat Pump Group Purchase Rebate



Are you considering installing a heat pump? The FCA can help you take advantage of the group purchase rebate to help you save some money.

Some people may be considering a heat pump to reduce their carbon footprint (burning fossil for space and water heating in our homes is the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our community); others may consider switching because heat pumps are 300% more efficient than electric baseboard heaters; and some, having suffered through last summer's heat dome, may want one because it can cool as well as heat their homes.

Heat pumps generally cost in the range of \$6,000 to \$15,000 before accessing the various incentives that could save you up to \$11,000 on your purchase. By purchasing your heat pump at the same time as others in the community, you can save \$200 to \$500 on your purchase in addition to other incentives offered for individual purchases. To participate in the group purchase, please send an email to boblucy@shaw.ca saying that you are interested - or phone Bob at 250-479-6184. Bob already has a heat pump and is very pleased with his. For more information on the group purchase rebate see <https://betterhomesbc.ca/rebates/gpr/>. For information on other heat pump and energy efficiency incentives see <https://bit.ly/3EGZgao>.

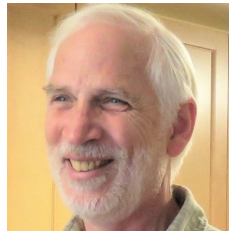
Saanich Emergency Preparedness

Saanich is providing a series of online presentations commencing in January on the subject of emergency preparedness. Given the summer hot spell and the extreme rainfall in the fall last year these workshops may be of interest to individuals and families. The schedule can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3pN7s4G>.

2022 Board of Directors



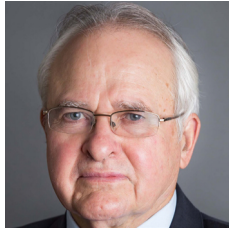
Holly Holt moved to the Falaise community from the North Quadra area in 2013. Holly worked in the Victoria School District as a teacher and a school principal. She has actively volunteered throughout her 44 years in Saanich in a variety of activities such as Operation Trackshoes, Girl Guides, Parent Advisory Councils and Community Clean-ups.



Bob Lucy and his wife, Sue, have lived in the community for 38 years. Now retired, Bob gardens, raises bees, and volunteers with the [Maasai Conservation Foundation](#) 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.



Stuart Macpherson has lived in the community since his retirement in 2013 as a forestry and environmental consultant. This career took him to a project in Iran in the late 1970s that was abruptly terminated by the revolution. He has been on the board since 2018 and is also Park Steward for Falaise Park. He enjoys walking his dog around the trails in the neighbourhood, as well as cycling, gardening and being a grandfather.



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.



Barbara Ross is now retired from various positions held in both the education and personnel areas. She feels privileged to be living in as caring a community as ours and is enthusiastic to start contributing to its well being. She loves walking and hiking and is grateful to the neighbours for having introduced her to e-biking, round dancing, square dancing and pickleball.



Carl Ross is a retired physicist. He and his wife moved from Ottawa to Saanich in 2016 to escape the worst of the winter weather. Although still doing some physics for fun, Carl and his wife participate in several of the activities the region has to offer. 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.



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.

Volunteers!

Are you interested in helping with any of the issues identified as priorities for 2022? Perhaps with social events?

Our Park Steward is always looking for volunteers to help with Park maintenance and upgrades. Can you help?

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

Better Mobility Saanich

This citizen's organization was created last year by Dean Murdock and Elise Cote due to concerns for road safety around Saanich. An example is sidewalks that suddenly end, forcing pedestrians onto the roadway. The intention of the group is to advocate for an improved mobility infrastructure. Some Falaise residents feel it can be unsafe at times to get around on foot, bike, scooter, in a wheelchair or pushing a stroller in the neighbourhood. You can contact Better Mobility Saanich via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or by email at info@deanmurdock.ca.