

Message from the President

We may have turned the corner on the COVID pandemic; at least we are cautiously optimistic as the social restrictions are eased by the provincial government. It feels good to be able to get out and about and begin socializing again with friends and neighbours. The tragic war in Ukraine is a reminder to us all of how lucky we are to be living in Canada.

We continue to have new residents moving into the neighbourhood. Many newcomers are young families. I encourage you to take the time to reach out and welcome them. We are fortunate to live in a small community where we can watch over each other. A reminder to contact your Block Watch captain right away if you notice any suspicious activity in the neighbourhood. Also, it is a good idea to let your immediate neighbours know if you are going to be away and for how long.

We are looking forward to holding community activities again in 2022. We'll be starting with a Community Garage Sale on May 14th, to be followed by a BBQ picnic that afternoon. Also, planning is underway for painting a road mural on Falaise Cr. opposite the park playground entrance. We are intending to make this a "community paint-in" party combined with a summer picnic in the park.

We have had concerns expressed that some vehicles are driving too fast on our local streets. Our community has families with young children as well as seniors who may have mobility issues. Please help to make our roads safe for everyone.

Just a reminder: if you haven't yet paid your 2022 association fees please show your support by doing so as soon as possible. Our registrar, Mac Nanton, reports that renewals this year are excellent.

The minutes of the FCA board meetings are posted on the FCA website. This is a good way to learn what the Board is doing on your behalf. As always, feel free to contact me at: president@falaise.ca.

Garage sale and Spring BBQ

The FCA-sponsored garage sale will take place on Saturday morning, May 14th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The FCA will advertize the event in local media, put up signs around the neighbourhood and produce a map with the locations of all the participants. To register, you can contact Bob Lucy at boblucy@shaw.ca. Later that afternoon, starting at 4 p.m., we will have a spring BBQ in Falaise Park. We will send out notifications by flyer and email closer to the date.

Community survey: The FCA Board will be sending out a community survey again this spring. It is a way of taking the pulse of the community. Input from residents is being sought on communications, activities, Board interface, Saanich issues and more. The survey will be online and it should not take more than a few minutes to complete the multiple choice questions. There will be ample space for comments for those who wish to give more detailed feedback.

Upcoming Events

Annual FCA Garage Sale
Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Spring Celebration in the Park
Saturday May 14, starting at 4 p.m.

Contact Us

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

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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.

Road Mural on Falaise Cr.



We have taken another step forward with the proposed road mural on a section of Falaise Cr. opposite the Falaise Park playground entrance. It is intended to focus drivers' attention on the road as a reminder to slowdown. It is similar in intention to the bright yellow "School Zone" mural recently painted at Lochside School.

Since we contacted everyone last August, Saanich Council has now approved our grant application, which will cover the cost. We are now beginning to sort out some of the details with a view to completing the planning stage by the end of May in order to actually paint the mural sometime in mid-August, before the kids are back in school and the weather is still nice. The mural would stay in place for two years after which we would decide on whether to remove it. Saanich Police will be putting up its mobile speeder board to monitor traffic speeds.

Before August we have a lot of work to do, and we will need volunteers to pitch in and help. We need to finalize a mural design, work out the details for a community mural painting party and acquire all the permits we need from Saanich as the road would be closed for part of a day for the painting.

The first step is to come up with the mural design. Our designer, Desiree Shelley, has already come up with a design concept based on chats with some residents and will be meeting with the community design team to finalize the design.

This as a bit of an experiment for us. Saanich is supporting it as they have noted this traffic calming measure being used in other municipalities.

Meeting with the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer



The president, Stuart Macpherson, and vice-president, Stewart Vinnels, met with Mayor Haynes and new CAO Brent Reems on March 21st. The purpose was to brief them on issues important to the Falaise community. Stuart briefly outlined some of the history of the community and the FCA, which was founded in 1959. He mentioned that more younger families are moving into the neighbourhood and also acknowledged the support from Saanich Parks staff in improving the Park.

We drew attention to three outstanding issues of concern to our residents: crematorium smoke emissions from Royal Oak Burial Park; funeral overflow parking on Falaise Dr.; and a Pat Bay Highway noise barrier opposite Falaise Dr.

Options on dealing with them were discussed. With respect to the highway wall, the Mayor undertook to send a letter of support to the province with the goal of securing a commitment to move forward on a resolution this year.

Membership Report for 2022

Our membership drive for 2022 is well underway. Last year the FCA had 210 members and as of early April, 2022, we are close to 200. If you have not yet renewed your membership and our canvassers have missed you, there is still time!

Membership is open to all residents, 18 years of age or older, living on Falaise Dr., Falaise Cr. or 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 or by cheque made payable to Falaise Community Association. Another alternative is to pay by e-transfer from a financial institution to treasurer@falaise.ca. Note that no security question is needed.

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

	Health and happiness	Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing
	Equity and local economy	Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade
	Culture and community	Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living
	Land and nature	Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife
	Sustainable water	Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought
	Local and sustainable food	Promoting sustainable humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein
	Travel and transport	Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport
	Materials and products	Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption.
	Zero waste	Reducing consumption, re-using and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution
	Zero carbon energy	Making buildings and manufacturing energy efficient and supplying all energy with renewables

One Planet Saanich

In March, Bob Lucy attended a [One Planet Saanich](#) workshop to learn more about the initiative. This exciting opportunity may be something in which our community wants to be involved. Read about it below, then let us know how you would like to be involved in the upcoming community survey.

We hear a lot about climate change and the very serious and mounting threat it poses to the future of humanity and the health of our planet. Less well publicized is the fact that we are currently living beyond the capacity of the Earth to replenish resources we use and to absorb the waste we create. If everyone in the world lived as we do in Saanich, we would need three more Earths to

support the world's population. To protect the Earth's limited resources, we need to learn to live happy and healthy lives within the means of our one planet.

The One Planet Saanich initiative is part of an international project including cities in the UK, South Africa, Denmark, and Russia. Currently there are 17 Saanich businesses, schools and community groups who have committed to developing, implementing and evaluating their own 'One Planet' action plans to build healthy, happy, equitable communities that use zero carbon energy and protect land and water.

These plans are structured using [Bioregional's One Planet Living®](#) framework which provides a common language to talk about sustainability and is underpinned by carbon and ecological footprinting. It is a simple framework based on ten simple principles that cover all aspects of social, environmental and economic sustainability. These principals are summarized in the accompanying graphic.

We could set up our own Falaise Community 'One Planet Action Plan'. If you are interested in being involved, be sure to indicate your interest in the upcoming community survey.

855 Falaise Cr. Development Approved

The developer has secured approval to subdivide 855 Falaise Cr. into two lots and build two large houses. The application was approved by Saanich Council at a public hearing on January 14th, 2022. The approval was the culmination of an arduous planning process that started three years ago. Lot 855 abuts immediately along the south side boundary of Falaise Park. The application mobilized a lot of community concern and Falaise residents stayed engaged in the process over the past three years.

The FCA made a presentation to Saanich Council at the public hearing (a copy is posted on the FCA website). Our request to have the mandatory replacement trees planted in Falaise Park instead of accepting cash in lieu was ignored. The oak tree on the road boulevard is to be protected.

The developer can move on with construction of the subdivision. We have not been told when work will start.

The FCA put in a lot of effort to convince the developer to listen to community concerns. We even retained an arborist, who reported that more trees could be protected. At the end of the day, although the developer did not accede to all our requests, we did manage to get several concessions. Specifically the size of the houses were reduced (albeit they are still large), the house footprints were reconfigured to minimize impact on the remaining oak trees, the large oak tree in the center of the property is to be saved, and a covenant to preserve vegetation along the east side property line was promised. We also made Council aware of how important Falaise Park is to the community and their concern that it should not be impacted by the development. The FCA board considers that the developer's modified application was the best outcome it could get from a Council that is committed to fill-in housing in single-family neighbourhoods.

Residents Corner: Who knows what hidden talent resides within the community? Do you have an interesting story to tell, perhaps about your career, a hobby, local history or anything else? Tell us about it by writing a small piece for the newsletter or the website. Submit your draft to the newsletter editor at webmaster@falaise.ca. You can remain anonymous, if you prefer, and you will get to see the final draft before publication.

Falaise Park Spring Report



It was encouraging to see so many families enjoying the park this past year. The picnic bench is being well used and the Little Free Library is very popular. The restoration work in removing the invasive plants is now beginning to pay dividends, although the deer are not happy as a lot of their favourite browse has been removed! The good news is that the native plants we planted in 2020/2021 survived the drought conditions last summer, thanks in no small part to the Saanich Parks watering truck. We also had a problem with teenagers smoking in the park during the summer drought period. Thanks to residents for being vigilant and promptly reporting incidents to the park steward. Your efforts helped prevent any fire hazard. We also posted Thank You for Not Smoking signs.

Our volunteer restoration crew continued digging out the orchard grass which had been clogging up camas meadows under the oak trees. They also spread bark mulch supplied by Saanich Parks to suppress weed growth. Although a lot of work, their efforts appear to have been very successful and we anticipate a brilliant flowering of camas through April this spring. Be sure to go and see the meadow flowering beginning in mid-April.

This year our restoration efforts will be focussing on completing the orchard grass removal and planting more flowering plants such as red-flowering currant and native flowers. These plants are attractive to pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. We also have to deal with snowdrop thickets, which, although very pretty in early February, are spreading far more than we anticipated and are beginning to crowd out parts of some camas fields.

Finally, a big thanks to all our restoration crew on behalf of all Falaise residents. Your work has made a huge difference to the park. (Park Steward, Stuart Macpherson)



Slow down!

You may have noticed PLEASE SLOW DOWN signs have been put up on the Falaise Dr. hill below the Royal Oak Burial Park entrance. This is because Royal Wood residents turning left at the Falaise Dr. intersection often have to contend with vehicles speeding around the curve, right beside the unmarked crosswalk. This has caused some anxious moments for many drivers. There is a concern that this situation is an "accident waiting to happen". Saanich is unwilling to install a marked pedestrian crossing or erect larger caution signs.

Support for Ukraine



The senseless war in Ukraine is on the top of all our minds right now. Many of us have been thinking of how we can pitch in and help mothers and children who have found themselves having to flee their homes with nothing. Many of us have made donations to NGOs such as the Red Cross for refugee assistance. Others have been collecting clothing and household items that can be sent to the refugees in Europe. The grandchildren of one of our residents used their own money to assemble kids' items for refugee children such as stuffies, games, colouring books and toys. During spring break they made up individual Care Boxes (in shoe boxes) and delivered them to The Compassionate

Warehouse in Esquimalt. This worthy organization is focusing on accepting material donations for shipping to Ukrainian refugees. If you want to help, contact them at: <https://www.cwarehouse.ca>.

Seed Bank: The community seed bank is now up and running at Falaise Park. Check out the seed drawers at the Little Free Library. Drop off your surplus seeds and take a packet of what you would like.

May Weedathon: Volunteers wanted! Help our park restoration crew weed the mulch patches and other spots we have cleared and planted. The weedathon takes place on the Saturday mornings of May 7th and 21st. To sign up please call or text Park Steward, Stuart Macpherson at 250-415-1739.