

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting
Thursday, November 24th
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Contact Us

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[Facebook.com/saanich.fca](https://www.facebook.com/saanich.fca)

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Newsletter, website: Carl Ross

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

Message from the President

As I write this, I trust everyone is enjoying the wonderful warm weather of our extended summer. It is so welcome after our late wet spring. Residents' gardens around the community are looking quite lovely and those of you who are veggie gardeners are reaping a bounty, I am sure.

We have much to be thankful for as we turn the page on the COVID pandemic and can get out without restrictions to do the things we like to do. It feels good to be able to socialize both with our extended families as well as with friends again.

Our community events this year have been well supported. The spring garage sale was a success and we'll plan for another next year. Falaise Park has seen a big step up in use; happily Saanich has agreed to our request to install a second picnic table. The road mural paint day turned into a real community event and although it was a lot of work everyone enjoyed themselves. The annual community fall picnic last month saw a record turnout, with standing room only for the magic show. The goodies provided through the generosity of Thriftys, Real Canadian Superstore and Starbucks went very quickly. This augurs well for a Family Day event next February.

A reminder than the FCA annual general meeting is being held on November 24th at Commonwealth Place. Please plan to attend and consider joining the board of directors. Our community relies so much on your volunteer help.

I am very pleased to note that several of our residents are involved in helping refugees and newcomers settle into the Victoria area. Others have been very generous in their donations of financial support. This certainly is a fine example of our community spirit shining through in helping others.

Feel free to contact me any time concerning community matters at
president@falaise.ca.

Brief Updates

855 Falaise Cr.: The developer who had received Saanich approval earlier this year to subdivide this property into two lots and to build two houses has now advertised the two lots for sale. We do not know whether any or all of the conditions for subdivision stipulated by Saanich would still apply.

Picnic table: Saanich has agreed to provide a second picnic table for our park. This one will be placed at the top of the hill, opposite the memorial bench. Installation is scheduled for next spring.

Crematorium emissions: The FCA board is still receiving complaints from residents regarding smoke emissions and air quality. These emissions occur periodically and are an ongoing concern.

Park fall clean up: Work parties will be scheduled to clean up the park before the winter. Usually they are on a Thursday or Saturday morning for a couple of hours. If you are able to help out, please contact Park Steward, Stuart Macpherson.

Road Mural on Falaise Cr.



A road mural has now been painted on the road opposite the Falaise Park playground entrance. The possibility of a road mural for the Falaise community was first raised by a local resident more than 18 months ago. He was concerned about traffic speeding on Falaise Cr. and knew of the work by Teale Phelps Bondaroff in promoting road murals as a traffic calming measure for other communities. The project quickly gained momentum ably lead by FCA president, Stuart Macpherson after a presentation by Phelps Bondaroff at the FCA AGM in November 2021. Approval as well as financing from a Community Well-being and Place-making grant was obtained from Saanich. Local artist, Desiree Shelley, considered various designs

before settling on a theme based on the Yellow Montane violet flower which grows in Falaise Park. Stuart Macpherson says " the mural design captures a key element of the history of our neighbourhood and reminds us of the precious Garry oak ecosystem in Falaise Park."

It all came together on Saturday August 13th, when a small section of Falaise Cr. was closed to traffic and a group of volunteers from the Falaise community and the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network began painting the mural on the road surface. In addition to the painting of the floral mural, kids were encouraged to paint acorns according to their own "designs". John Cameron kept a photo diary of the proceedings, and it was covered by the local TV and media. A time-lapse video of the painting event as it unfolded and a selection of John's photos are on the FCA [website](#).

The project is a first for Saanich and has been installed as a pilot. Phelps Bondaroff worked with Saanich to develop road mural guidelines and will be studying the impact of the road mural on vehicle speeds on the street. The FCA will be monitoring the wear of the mural and intends to throw a repainting party next summer.

Picnic in the Park



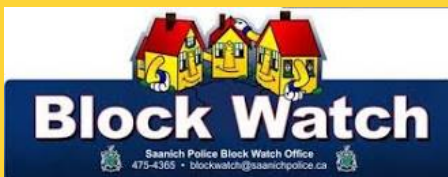
This year's fall picnic, on September 11th, was an outstanding success. The weather cooperated, providing us a warm, sunny day. The magician's show was a hit with the children and adults and he stayed on to make balloon animals for anyone that wanted them.

More than 90 people attended, well above our planning estimates. Gourmet hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, a variety of fruits and sweet treats, drinks and water were enjoyed by all.

We were pleased that Mayor Haynes and Councillors Brice, Brownoff and De Vries were able to attend, as well as several candidates in the upcoming elections for Council.

We are very grateful to Thriftys in Broadmead Mall and the Real Canadian Superstore in Langford for gift certificates and Thriftys in Saanichton for loaning two tents. These donations go a long way to help making our annual picnic a success.

Block Watch Meeting



Andy Lou and his wife, Alice, hosted a Block Watch meeting for the houses in their group on September 18th. Andy has been captain of this group near Southover Ln. for several years. Andy and Alice reviewed several documents regarding the protection of homes and vehicles as well as how to protect yourself online. They pointed out that some insurance companies provide a reduction in house insurance if the home owner is a member of Block Watch.

The Saanich Block Watch program made available a small grant that was used to provide tea, snacks and door prizes. Attendees also enjoyed a tour of Andy's art work.

A Falaise Halloween Story



The Falaise community had its beginnings in the spring of 1957 when the Falaise subdivision was created for veterans of WWII. This program saw new homes built for 32 families and upwards of 36 kids growing up in the new community.

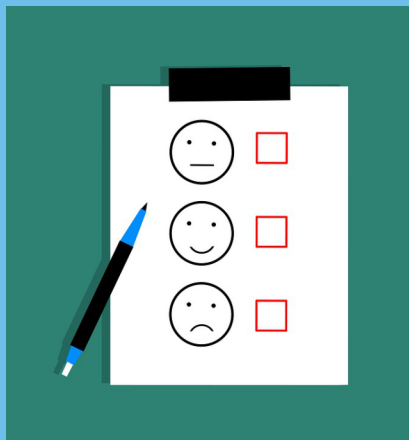
Everybody knew each other in those days. Halloween became a cherished event: the kids in the community looked forward to it with lots of excitement. In the early 1960's there were many Halloween gatherings hosted in the neighbourhood. Hank Hickman would create a huge bonfire pile in a vacant lot in the weeks leading up to it, inviting residents on Falaise Cr. to add to the pile. The bonfire was a place to burn unwanted wood waste that residents had accumulated over the year. On Halloween night after the kid's trick-

or-treating, all the neighbours would come to the Hickman's across from the park. They enjoyed the huge bonfire, munching down hotdogs and drinking pop. The refreshments were sponsored by the Falaise Community Association. This fall tradition is a fond memory for many residents.

How times have changed. Today we can no longer have backyard bonfires. A whole variety of Halloween costumes and all kinds of candy can be purchased. Local shopping malls are offered up as a place to celebrate Halloween. Happily, the tradition of the Falaise fall community picnic continues to this day.

Based on a memory as told by Gillian Harper (nee Hickman) who resides on Falaise Cr.

Annual Survey Results



In June, the FCA board invited community members for whom we have email addresses to complete a short on-line survey to help the board assess how it is doing in serving the interests of the community and to solicit ideas on how it might continue to improve its work. The survey asked 19 questions encompassing current community issues and allowing for input into other areas that we should address.

The survey was sent to 182 community members from 148 of the roughly 180 households in the community. 101 people (55%) responded to at least some of the questions.

Very briefly, most respondents were satisfied with the work of the FCA board, a small number of people had suggestions for improvement but very few indicated a willingness to help with the work of the board.

Thank you for helping guide the work of the FCA board by completing the survey. Based on the comments received and considering the mandate of our association, board goals for the coming year will include: developing a policy to allow advertising in the Falaise Focus, continuing to promote road safety measures, continuing working towards solutions to the highway noise, continue to monitor and work toward solutions regarding excessive crematoria emissions and continue communicating with the community via emails and the Falaise Focus newsletter.

A more detailed report is available on the website at <https://www.falaise.ca/surveys/>.

2022 Annual General Meeting

The FCA annual general meeting will be held November 24th in a meeting room at Commonwealth Place.

Please attend and learn about what has happened in the past year and give your input on what should be the focus for 2023. Vote for the board members and consider joining the board for 2023. Your commitment can be a little or a lot; in either case, new energy and new ideas are welcome.

We plan to have treats, door prizes and a guest speaker.

The Gift of a New Life: Update



In our January newsletter we told you that community members Marlene Simmons and Russ Bonny were looking for others to join them in bringing a refugee from Afghanistan to a new, better life in Victoria. To support a refugee, Marlene and Russ needed at least three other people willing to officially commit to fund-raising, finding accommodation and orienting the newcomer to their new home.

We are happy to report that five other community members and one of their friends joined Russ and Marlene in various capacities to form the Soft Landing Sponsorship Group.

In July, the group welcomed a young woman from Afghanistan to Victoria and she has thrown herself enthusiastically into her new life. She moved into a nice

suite and attends English classes for newcomers at Camosun College and at the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria. Despite arriving without speaking any English, she can now make herself understood quite well. It has been a real pleasure (and a lot of hard work) helping her in her settlement process.

The Soft Landing Group is still raising the funds needed to support their new friend through her first year in Victoria. If you can help financially, please do. Contact boblucy@shaw.ca to find out how to donate. Donations are tax deductible.

The Afghan woman is not the only refugee being sponsored by community members. We know that other community members are helping sponsor a family of four from Eritrea and yet another group is helping a family of four from the Ukraine.

Isn't it nice to live in a community where residents are willing to help those in need?

Please Slow Down!



You may have noticed we have placed two PLEASE SLOW DOWN signs on Falaise Cr., on the bend beside Falaise Park. Residents have been concerned about speeding vehicles on that section of the street for a long time. Since the COVID lockdown the number of delivery vehicles has increased; these vehicles seem to be some of the worst offenders.

The installation follows the PLEASE SLOW DOWN signs we installed last spring on the Falaise Dr. hill below the Royal Oak Burial Park entrance. One was stolen but we replaced it. Royal Wood residents continue to have a safety concern when making a left hand turn onto Falaise Dr.

How effective are these signs? We don't know, but at the very least it alerts drivers and hopefully reminds them to drive carefully in the neighbourhood. The concern that these situations are an "accident waiting to happen" remains unresolved with Saanich.

Newsletter, Website or Facebook Advertizing



Response to our recent annual survey indicated that a number of you support the idea of the FCA running ads. This raises a number of questions about the details, such as the size of the ad, whose ads we accept, where we place them and what we should charge.

If you have thoughts about what you would like to see in Falaise Focus and/or on <https://www.facebook.com/saanich.fca/>, please email them to secretary@falaise.ca. The FCA board will consider

your suggestions and develop a policy for advertising before the next newsletter is published.

Our membership drive for 2022 is now finished. Last year the FCA had 210 members but this year a record 229 members have joined. If we have missed you and you would still like to join, the details are available at www.falaise.ca/get-involved.