



## President's Annual Report for 2022

It has been my pleasure to serve the community as president again this past year. The highlights for this past year show that it has been a busy one for the board. In moving out of the Covid restrictions we were able to accomplish more goals and events than in 2021.

**Board of directors** - the 2022 board commenced the year with seven directors. Bonita Merkeley was appointed to the board in July but due to personal reasons resigned after two months. Board meetings were held monthly throughout the year for a total of 11 meetings, nine by Zoom and two in-person (Dec- Nov). The minutes of each meeting are posted on the FCA website the following month.

**Membership** - the 2022 membership campaign was essentially completed by April. There was a marked increase in residents paying their annual dues by bank e-transfer. Collections by a door-to-door campaign were also made; this adds a personal touch and an opportunity to chat with residents. Some 231 residents renewed or signed up their 2022 membership. This is slightly higher than the 200 members for 2021 and represents approx. 80% of addresses in the neighbourhood.

**Financial** - the association continues to be in a sound financial position - as evidenced by the treasurer's report and verified by the auditor's report. This financial position was greatly assisted by a Community Wellness Grant (\$3075) from the District of Saanich towards the road mural project. We also received generous donations from Thrifty Foods, SuperStore and Starbucks; these greatly offset the cost of catering the summer picnic.

**Focus Points for 2022** - a set of Focus Points were adopted to guide the board's business for the year.

Advance the case for a highway noise barrier	In - progress
Liaise with Saanich council - meet mayor at least once	Completed
Falaise Drive funeral parking resolution	Discussed with Saanich
Hold spring, summer, and fall activities	Completed
Resolve Falaise Cres traffic concerns	In-progress
Repeat community survey	Completed
Increase membership to 90% of households	Actual 80%

**Saanich Municipal engagement** - we met with Mayor Haynes and the interim CAO Brent Reems to review concerns of the community. Our discussion primarily focussed on the proposed highway 17 noise wall and traffic issues. We also attended a meeting with the mayor who introduced the new Economic Development Manager, Mitchell Edgar, and discussed potential development ideas for the Broadmead area.

**SCAN (Saanich Community Association Network) meetings** - your registrar, Mac Nanton attends these monthly meetings regularly on the boards' behalf. He keeps us informed on issues of mutual concern with other Saanich community associations. Mac also manned the SCAN display booth as our representative at the Uptown Multicultural Festival last July.

**Community survey** - a second survey was completed during the summer. The response rate of 55% exceeded that of the survey in 2021. Most residents were satisfied with work of the board; a small number made suggestions for improvement. We also received suggestions on what the board might focus on going forward.

**Falaise Focus** - the newsletter was published three times during 2022. Treasurer Carl Ross did double duty as editor. Lana Popham 's office supported its publication by printing the colour copies. According to the community survey residents enjoy getting the newsletter. Copies are sent to Saanich mayor and council as well as to Lana Popham MLA.

**Pat Bay Highway Noise wall** - we have continued to press our case for a barrier to visually and physically separate Falaise Drive from Highway 17 in meetings with the Highways minister Rob Fleming, the mayor, Saanich councillors and MLA Lana Popham. We are expecting an announcement from the government on this project soon.

**Road safety** - we continued to point out to Saanich our ongoing concern with speeding traffic on Falaise Drive before the unmarked crosswalk and on Falaise Crescent. We set up "Please Slow Down" signs at both these locations and will continue to encourage Saanich to install traffic calming measures at these locations.

**Falaise Crescent road mural** - in August a street art mural was painted on Falaise Crescent road opposite the park playground entrance by an enthusiastic group of residents and the Greater Victoria Place Makers Network. The stylised floral design of the Yellow Montane Violet in bright yellow is intended as a traffic calmer and is a first in Saanich. It was a very well attended community event that attracted the mayor and council candidates.

**All Candidates Meeting - Municipal Election 2022** - in cooperation with the Broadmead Area Residents' Association (BARA), Cadboro Bay Residents Association (CBRA) and the Blenkinsop Valley Community Association (BVCA) we jointly organised and hosted an All Candidates Meeting at Claremont School.

**855 Falaise Cres Rezoning and Subdivision** - Saanich council approved the developer's application to rezone and subdivide this property abutting the south side of Falaise Park in January 2022. Instead of constructing two houses the developer is now marketing the property as two serviced lots.

**Crematorium Emissions** - we continued to monitor smoke emissions from both the First Memorial crematorium and the Royal Oak Burial Park crematorium. Periodic outages resulting in excessive smoke emissions are still being observed by nearby residents. We learned that Royal Oak Burial Park had shelved its intention is to install new state-of-the-art crematorium units opting instead to upgrade the electrical circuitry with the expectation that this would improve operational control and efficiency.

**Falaise Park Restoration** - a small team of volunteers continued their work of removing invasive plants in the park. This resulted in a spectacular flowering of Camas this past spring. Further planting of a selection of native plants including Garry oaks and flowering shrubs provided by Saanich Park were completed and more planting is scheduled for 2023.

**Little Free Library** - installed at Falaise Park in 2021 the library continues to be popular and is kept well stocked by our two volunteer librarians, Lye Fong and Dale Summers. In the spring a seed exchange tray for both vegetable and flower seeds was added for residents to swap seeds.

**Picnic Table** - we secured an understanding with Saanich Parks to have a second picnic table installed beside the memorial bench in Falaise Park. We are hopeful this welcome addition will be put in place in 2023.

**Park Tobogganing** - we contacted Saanich Parks to request the Falaise Memorial signs flanking the toboggan path be moved and widened to create a safer pathway on this slope. It was a very popular spot this past winter due to the heavy snowfall.

**Community Garage sale** - this iconic annual event was held in May. Some 16 residents set up tables and were well patronized. The garage sale was followed by a community spring barbeque in the afternoon at Falaise Park.

**Neighbourhood Watch meeting** - in response to several queries from residents we reached out to the Saanich Neighbourhood Watch coordinator. He made a presentation to the board and provided information on how to join. This was reported in the newsletter.

A big thank you to the 2022 board members and the many residents who volunteered their time to make 2022 a successful year for the community.

*Stuart Macpherson*  
President

24/11/2022

