



FALAISE FOCUS

Winter 2022/2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Family Day event:

Monday, February 20th, 2 to 4 p.m., at McCall Gardens on Falaise Dr.

Contact Us

www.falaise.ca info@falaise.ca
Facebook.com/saanich.fca

Directors:

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

Director-at-large: Barbara Ross
brass16183@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](#))

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

Message from the President

I trust everyone had an enjoyable holiday season with family and friends. Many kids in the neighbourhood took advantage of the early Christmas snowfall by tobogganing down the slope at Falaise Park.

For those of you who are veggie gardeners remember to check out the seed bank exchange at the Little Free Library in the park. With produce prices the way they are, you might consider expanding your garden and picking up some new vegetable varieties.

Our AGM at Commonwealth Place last November was a success. The new board of directors for 2023 consists of six returning directors from 2022. We didn't elect any new faces to the board for 2023. It's not too late to step up; there are currently three vacancies.

The board is planning several events in the first half of the New Year. This includes Family Day fun on February 20th, a possible spring event in Falaise Park for the kids and then the annual community garage sale in May. Dates will be confirmed later with a Save-the-Date reminder.

We have already met with the new mayor, Dean Murdock, to acquaint him with our issues. We have also met with both new Saanich councillors, Teale Phelps Bondaroff and Mena Westhaver, to share our willingness to collaborate with Saanich Council. Let's hope we are successful in 2023 in resolving a number of our outstanding issues.

Feel free to contact me at: president@falaise.ca.

Please Join Us by Becoming an FCA Director

All volunteer organizations need continual renewal with new blood. Our FCA Board of Directors is no different.

Over the years dozens of our members have served on the Board, helping to build the FCA into the effective community voice it has become. And all of us have benefited from their contributions.

This year our Board has made it a priority to canvass every member to consider joining the Board or assisting on one of our committees.

Our Association is much more effective when we have all nine director positions filled. Many hands make light work! Such a commitment means about only three hours of work a month.

A sense of accomplishment and contribution and new friendships are the reward.

Please get in touch with one of the Directors on the list on the left and offer your services or say "yes" when asked. You won't regret it!

(Stew Vinnels, Vice-President)

The Gateway Church Neighbourhood Food Market



Since 2017, the Gateway Church, located at 898 Royal Oak Dr. in Broadmead, has provided an essential food market for people in need in our community. The Church works in partnership with Living Edge, a Victoria NGO which supplies food to multiple locations throughout Victoria.

The Gateway Church creates a caring atmosphere of community for everyone who attends the market. A great deal of effort is made to ensure that the users of the service feel welcome. Coffee and hot chocolate are served while they wait to attend and select their food choices. Outside heaters keep attendees warm on arrival in the cooler months.

In 2022 alone, close to 4000 people have benefited from the service. During the past year, a significant proportion of the population has been negatively influenced by high inflation and economic hardship. As a result, the usage of the food market by folks with food insecurity has increased 23%. Thirty five committed volunteers, including two from our Falaïse community, graciously give their time to help at the market which is held from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, 50 weeks of the year.

Members of the Falaïse Community Association can assist this wonderful service! The Church would be pleased to accept donations of non-perishable items from Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. In addition, monetary donations can be given directly to the market through the Gateway Church [website](#).

The Church can be contacted via telephone (250-658-5121) or email (gregg@gatewayvictoria.ca).

Membership Renewal for 2023

Last year the FCA had a record 233 members. Whether you are a new or returning member, we welcome your support for 2023. Membership is open to all residents, 18 years of age or older, living on Falaïse Dr., Falaïse Cr. and the various cul-de-sacs off these streets. A membership form is available on-line at www.falaïse.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 per person fee may be submitted as cash, a cheque made payable to Falaïse Community Association, or by e-transfer from a financial institution to treasurer@falaïse.ca. Note that no security question is needed for an e-transfer. 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@falaïse.ca.

2022 AGM Report

The 2022 AGM was held on Thursday, November 24th from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Douglas Fir room of Commonwealth Place. There were 16 members in attendance.

Our guest speaker was [Rosalind Scott](#), President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Vancouver Island. She gave an interesting and informative talk, entitled "[Current Scams and How to Protect Yourself](#)".

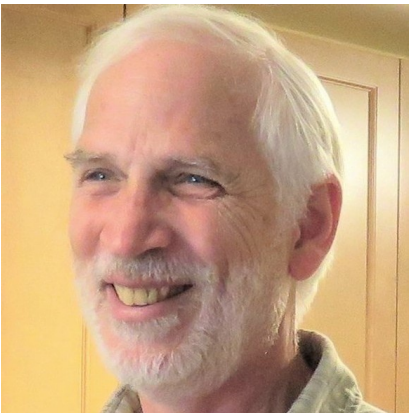
The FCA president, Stuart Mcpherson, conducted the meeting as prescribed by the FCA constitution and additional details are available on the [website](#).

During the meeting:

- We agreed that membership fees would remain at \$10 per person.
- Six people were re-elected to the Board of Directors. Brief biographies of each are on the back page of this newsletter.
- A list of focal points for 2023 was developed.

The meeting concluded with a draw for door prizes for four \$25 Thrifty Foods gift certificates.

Bob Lucy Steps Aside



After many years of involvement with the FCA Board of Directors, Bob Lucy stepped down this past November. Bob was first elected to the Board in 2014 and since then has served in several rolls. He was both president and treasurer for 2018 and president for 2019 and 2020. During his time as treasurer, Bob developed a set of spreadsheets that greatly eases the burden of keeping track of the FCA finances. As president, Bob led the effort to promote the noise wall and was interviewed by local media. He was a key organizer for many community events, such as the annual garage sale and the community picnic. He was always willing to lend a hand and his house was the central storage point for FCA equipment. Bob's role on the Board will be hard to replace but he remains in the community and has indicated a willingness to help out if needed.

Are You Rat Aware?

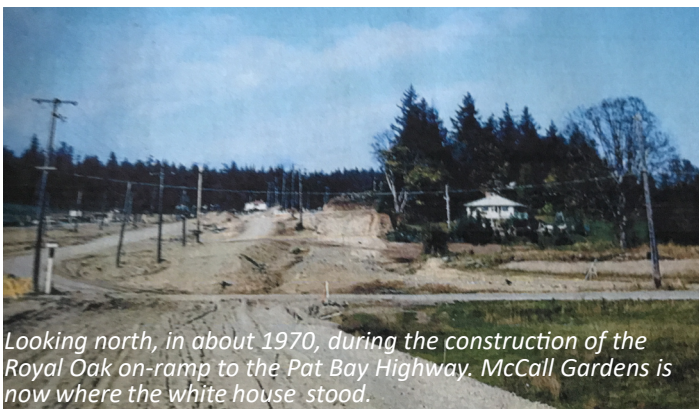
Are you aware that local governments have been advising residents that the region is experiencing an uptick in rat activity throughout the CRD? Our neighbourhood is no exception. The long dry summer and fall this year has been particularly favourable for rat populations. As the weather turns cold and we move into winter, rats increase their scavenging in backyards looking for food scraps and dry warm places to shelter and breed.



The common rat in our area is the roof rat. They are amazing climbers and attics are the most common place for them in houses. They often get in where different pitches of roof meet. Now is time to make sure your house is rat proof.

To eliminate rats, the classic rat trap is very effective. This option is preferable to poisoning as poisoned rats are toxic to many bird species particularly owls.

The Way We Were



Looking north, in about 1970, during the construction of the Royal Oak on-ramp to the Pat Bay Highway. McCall Gardens is now where the white house stood.

Life in the 1960s and 1970s on Falaise Cr. was very much community oriented. The Falaise Community Association held monthly meetings which were attended by almost all of the residents. At the end of each meeting refreshments were provided and neighbours were able to catch up on the latest news and gossip.

The Community Association sponsored a number of activities, including Bingo nights, Easter egg hunts and Halloween get togethers. These were always held at the Hickman's house across from the park. As this was the time before video games, even teenagers enjoyed these events.

Traffic problems were basically nonexistent in those days as the only road in the community was Falaise Cr. It ran from Royal Oak Dr. on the southeast, as it does today, directly to the Pat Bay Highway on the west side. In the early days, Pat Bay highway was only two lanes until BC Ferries Corp was created and the highway was improved and widened to four lanes. This configuration at the west created a very dangerous situation for entry and exit from the Falaise subdivision. No doubt this was one of the main reasons for constructing the section of Falaise Dr. running from Royal Oak Drive to link with Falaise Cr. Only a few houses and properties were sold during the 1960s and 1970s as no subdivision was permissible and veterans were initially given an additional grant based on the 10-year residence in their home. This meant that residents got to know each other really well. As kids we did not do anything wrong as our parents would be well informed of our delinquent behavior in short order. Of the original 32 families, there are four second and third generation offspring still living here. Obviously, this little part of the world was and still is a very desirable place to live.

(As told to Bonita Merkeley by Russ Ball. Russ still resides on Deventer Dr.)

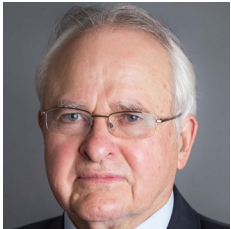
2023 Board of Directors



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.



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 in the neighbourhood, as well as cycling, gardening and being a grandfather.



Mac Nanton, and his wife Marion, have lived on Royal Wood Pl. for the past ten years. He is a retired transportation engineer, who 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 wife 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 contribute 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.

Advertising in FCA Media

The FCA Board has decided to start a pilot project where we offer advertising space in our newsletter and on our Facebook page. Each ad would be restricted to the size of a business card, that is 2" (5 cm) by 3.5" (9 cm). The cost of placing the ad would be \$50 per month on Facebook and \$25 per issue in the newsletter. We will limit the total space devoted to ads in the newsletter to about half a page.

The order of preference for ads will be: members with business licences showing the place of business within the community; members with business licences showing the place of business outside the community; residents with a business licence; and other businesses. We will not accept political ads.

If you would like to place an ad or get additional information, please send an email to info@falaise.ca.

Mark Your Calendar for Family Day!

Plans are well established for a Family Day event on Monday, February 20th from 2 to 4 p.m. at McCall Gardens. There will be food and beverages for everyone and a professional face-painter and a balloon artist for the young (and young at heart).

The event is free for everyone (you do not even need to be a member of the FCA) so please come out, meet your neighbours and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon.