

Message from the President

Upcoming Events

Community garage sale:
Saturday, May 13th, 9:00 a.m. to
1:00 p.m.

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
director1@falaise.ca

Park Steward: Stuart Macpherson

Newsletter, website: Carl Ross

Please be sure to read the enclosed
flyer regarding positions on the Board
of Directors.

This newsletter is available on our
[website](http://www.falaise.ca) where you can click on the
links (blue text).

Spring is in the air, and we have noticed several people getting out into their gardens. It is certainly refreshing and invigorating to leave winter behind. Now is the time to get out and walk to the shops or explore the neighbourhood on your new e-bike.

The Family Day event at McCall's Sequoia Centre attracted a large turnout of residents and friends. By all accounts, it was a great success and one of the best FCA events in a long time. The kids tell me they had "too much fun". Our iconic Community Garage Sale will be held on May 13th. We are also looking forward to our annual summer picnic.

It is early days with the newly elected Saanich Council. Your Board has met with Mayor Dean Murdock as well as the two new councillors, Mena Westhaver and Teale Phelps Bondaroff, to acquaint them with our concerns. We continue to press Council on our road safety issues. There is a lot of talk of Saanich Council relaxing the single-family-dwelling zoning to make it easier for developers to propose fill-in subdivision developments. We don't know how this may affect the Falaise neighbourhood.

Thanks to those residents who have renewed their membership in the FCA for 2023. We also wish to welcome a number of new residents who have joined the Association. Please take note of the insert in the newsletter. We are appealing to residents to step forward and join the Board of the Association. It is crucial to enrol new directors, particularly as many current directors have indicated that they will be stepping down at the end of the year 2023 after several years of carrying the torch.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. We value our community. Feel free to contact me at: president@falaise.ca.

Noise Wall Update

We have recently heard from MOTI staff concerning the type of noise wall or barrier that might be installed along the edge of the Pat Bay Highway opposite Falaise Dr. They tell us there are difficult engineering challenges due to the steepness of the narrow embankment and narrow on-ramp. Your Directors will be meeting shortly with Saanich Mayor Murdock and MLA Lana Popham to review MOTI's initial proposal for a cement block barrier with a glare screen on top (see photo). At this time it is uncertain what noise attenuation measures we will be able to secure or when such an installation might take place. We are optimistic that Mayor Murdock and MLA Lana Popham will continue to support our community and that we will receive a second proposal with an emphasis on noise attenuation. We appreciate all the support from our members as we continue to work for this community priority.



Family Day

Fun! Fun! Fun! Those were the reviews of our Family Day event held at the McCall's Sequoia Centre in February. This event proved to be one of our most successful community events with over 100 people attending.

The children were entertained with fun music and crazy dances complete with prizes. Music was provided by the talented Alex Tamas of [Alexander's Music Service](#) and there were no dull moments. Trudy Tamas of [AT Photobooth](#) added to the fun with her photobooth and props. Thank you to both of these community members for donating their time, equipment and expertise to our community!



No children's event is complete without a balloon artist and/or face painting artist and we lucked out by hiring the husband and wife team of Jim and June from [JJ Entertainers](#). Many people commented on the amazing artistry each entertainer showcased. Also, for the children, there was an imagination station set up, building challenges and a gratitude scavenger hunt.

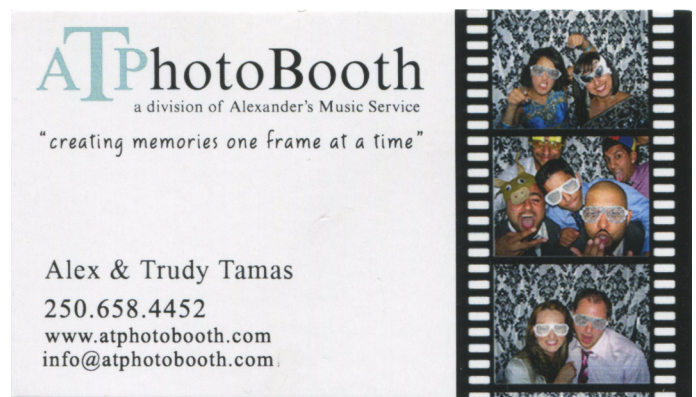
To top off the event, the food was plentiful and delicious! The Real Canadian Superstore helped out by providing a gift certificate.

One comment that touched our hearts was the answer one child gave to the scavenger hunt question "Name something you are proud of". The child's answer was "my neighbourhood". A long-time resident wrote in an email to the President "... one of the best FCA events I have attended in my 63 years ..."

A special thank you to Trevor McCall for providing us with this spectacular venue and providing tea, coffee, water, dishes, and all the extras. Our community really came together!

Family Day Shout-Outs

Here are the business cards of the organizations that helped make the Family Day event a success.





Message from Mena Westhaver

I am honoured to be a part of the [Saanich Council](#). Saanich is a special place to live. I am grateful to be one of the lucky ones born in Saanich, raised in Saanich and established a life in Saanich with my husband where we have raised our four boys.

Safety in Saanich is at the top of my priority list. It impacts on where we live, where we work, where we play, as well as the pathways that connect us to these locations. Ongoing implementation of actions laid out in our active transportation plan is providing Saanich residents with an increased sense of security while promoting a healthy environment. More active commuters will result in a healthier community. Creating safe spaces for all modes of transportation is critical in protecting Saanich residents and ultimately can

contribute to reducing variables that impact climate change. Consider healthy options for your travel needs and when you are in a motorized vehicle, be attentive to those around you.

I am an advocate for active living! Biking, walking, running, hiking – these are some of the many modes of transportation that improve our personal health while contributing to the health of our community. Ensuring our walkways, crosswalks and trails are maintained and safe is important. I have had the opportunity to meet with many Saanich residents since the election to discuss locations that are in need of upgrades and appreciate our community stewards that advocate for safety. I recognize there is a process and building safe communities takes time.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at Mena.Westhaver@saanich.ca. I look forward to meeting you, hearing from you and learning more about the residents of the Falaise Community Association. I was impressed to learn that you were the first established community association in Saanich. I congratulate you on your ongoing contribution to your immediate neighbourhood and ultimately to the whole of Saanich.

On Garbage Detail in the Falaise Community

I have been picking up garbage in the Falaise community and the walkway beside the Patricia Bay Highway for over a year now. I usually pick up a bread bag full or more each time. I was inspired to pick up garbage after reflecting upon what I could do to make a small difference in our community.

I am sometimes discouraged by the continued littering in the Falaise community but I have been encouraged by fellow community members and by many people either honking their horns or giving me the “thumbs up” as they go by walking, biking and driving.

The worst time for garbage on our streets, driveways and lawns is after recycling pickup. The items I usually pick up are microplastics, fast food containers and cigarette butts. Please visit [Recycle BC](#) to review what can go in the recycling bin.

Let's keep our community as green and clean as possible! *(submitted by Dale Summers)*

Little Free Library



Our Little Free Library (tucked in beside the park playground entrance) continues to see a lot of use. All titles seem to be popular and we get a constant run on children's books. It is so neat to see children looking for a book to read while they are at the playground. Children's books are always in SHORT SUPPLY.

Please return children's and adult borrowed books or leave any book donations in the library.

Also a reminder that the Seed Exchange drawers, affixed to the base of the library, are open for seed pickup - seeds left there seem to go very quickly.

Community Garage Sale: Yes, the garage sale is happening this year on May 13th and Bob Lucy (boblucy@shaw.ca) is the organizer. Contact Bob to get on the list and watch for the up-coming flyer.

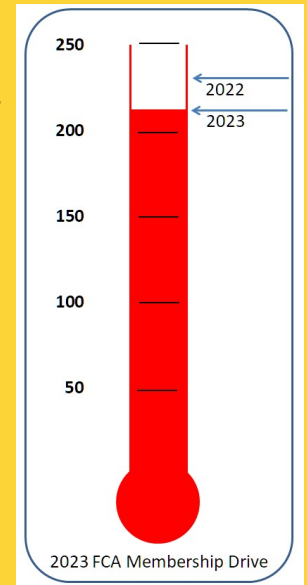
Registrar's Update, Spring 2023

We would like to thank all of you who responded to our appeals for early membership renewal. The graphic to the right shows the status of our membership drive for 2023 and compares it to 2022. We plan to wrap up our membership drive by the end of April.

We would also like to welcome those who moved into our community during the past year and are thrilled to see that the number of young families has increased.

If we missed you during the membership drive but you would still like to join, details are available on our [website](#). The \$10 per person fee may be submitted as cash, a cheque made payable to Falaise Community Association, or by e-transfer to treasurer@falaise.ca. If you send only an e-transfer and no registration form, please make sure to identify yourself in the e-transfer comment box so that we know who you are. Note that no security question is needed for an e-transfer.

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.



Falaise Park Update



The playground continues to be a favourite spot for families in the neighbourhood. We saw many kids having fun on the toboggan run and playing in the winter snow. We are hoping Saanich Parks will be installing a second picnic table up by the memorial bench later this summer.

Lately, the Park seems to have become a “drop in” spot for larger birds of prey. A pair of bald eagles have been spotted perching on the tall Douglas fir trees this spring. Both a great horned owl and a red-tailed hawk have been noted flying low over the tree canopy and perching amongst the oak trees.

The snowdrop patches, although quite lovely when flowering in late winter, are spreading and are beginning to crowd out some of the camas

meadows. Our volunteers have been busy pulling out as many snowdrops as we can as they are classified as an invasive plant by Saanich and are not part of the native vegetation. The camas meadows are emerging from the winter cover of leaf mulch that we had spread. We look forward to a spectacular camas bloom starting late April.

Some of you may have noticed our new plantings in late winter. The caging is to protect them from deer browsing. Our efforts are now focussing on establishing flowering native shrubs such as Indian-plum, red-flowering currant and oceanspray. Recently, thanks to Saanich Parks, we were able to source and plant three healthy arbutus seedlings. Arbutus can be found growing naturally on the north side of the park.

If you would like to join the Park volunteer group, call Park Steward, Stuart Macpherson at 250-415-1739.

Road Mural Update

It is now six months (August, 2022) since the stylised road mural was painted on a section of Falaise Cr., opposite the playground park entrance. The wear and tear on this painting is being monitored monthly. Although it is standing up well to the daily traffic it is beginning to show signs of wear. Most likely it will be repainted this summer, possibly in August. There is enough left over paint to do this as well as to touch up the children's decorative acorns.

Prior to the mural painting, we had a speed reader take data on the rates of speed by the park. A second set of data was taken after the mural was finished to determine its success as a traffic calming strategy. The outcome will be written up in a report that is being prepared by Councillor [Teale Phelps Bondaroff](#).

