

### Message from the President

#### Upcoming Events

Family Day event:  
2-4 p.m., Monday, February 19, at  
McCall Gardens on Falaise Dr.

#### Contact Us

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

##### Directors:

President: Stuart Macpherson  
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Secretary: Holly Holt  
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Treasurer: Carl Ross  
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Registrar: Glen Schoepp  
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Director-at-large: Mac Nanton  
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Director-at-large: Barbara Ross  
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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](http://www.falaise.ca))

All of our newsletters are available on  
our website, [www.falaise.ca](http://www.falaise.ca), where  
you can click on any of the links  
highlighted in [blue text](#).

Welcome to 2024. The festive season is now behind us and I think we are all enjoying the balmy weather. There may, however, be a few disappointed children if there isn't enough snow for them to enjoy the toboggan run in Falaise Park!

The AGM in November was a successful meeting. We elected the incoming executive for 2024 and welcomed three new faces. This strengthens the experience of the team. In this issue, our Focus Points for 2024 are listed. A big thank you from all of us to Stew Vinnels who stepped aside this year – he has provided yeoman's service to the association. An acknowledgement of his contributions can be found on page 3.

Please remember to renew your association's annual dues this month – it is so convenient to renew by e-transfer these days.

For those of you who are interested in the single family dwelling zone changes, more details can be found in Saanich's recently updated [Official Community Plan](#). It means we'll have to get used to much taller apartment blocks beside main corridors and 3, 4 or 6 unit condos on single lots, depending on the classification.

Saanich Council has begun implementing a 30 km/h speed limit on certain roads, but did not include any in the Falaise neighbourhood. We will continue to lobby for safer roads, notwithstanding that it is a Saanich-wide issue.

We are planning a Family Day event at McCall's Sequoia Centre again this year on February 19<sup>th</sup>. It is sure to be another fun family time and we hope you can join us. Mark your calendar now.

We trust you appreciate receiving the email advisories we have been sending out during the year. We intend to keep up this means of communication. Please feel free to contact me at [president@falaise.ca](mailto:president@falaise.ca).

#### Focus Points for 2024

- Completion and installation of the highway barrier.
- Maintain open communication with residents and be responsive to requests for assistance.
- Continue efforts to improve safe use of the roads in the neighbourhood.
- Publish at least three issues of the Falaise Focus newsletter.
- Hold social events during the year to promote community building and enjoyment for youngsters.
- Continue with improvements to Falaise Park to accommodate increasing use by the community.
- Keep communication open with the crematorium facilities and follow-up on any issues that arise.

## Highway Barrier Update



The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has begun work on the installation of the highway barrier opposite Falaise Dr. The first phase began during the second week of December. Interlocking concrete blocks were placed along the edge of the highway from the Royal Oak on-ramp up to opposite the Royal Oak Burial Park entrance. The barrier is to be topped with an aluminum glare screen when the material is available. The second phase is a similar installation along the exposed highway across from Adeline Pl. This is to be installed during the first quarter of the new year.

The plan to complement the barrier by planting trees along the embankment has suffered a setback. Saanich has now informed us

that a waterline running beside the verge of Falaise Dr. precludes any tree planting as Saanich Engineering requires a three meter setback. This drastically reduces the number of trees that can be planted. In addition, Saanich Parks is requiring that any trees that are planted must be watered by the community. We are still in discussion with Saanich Parks in an effort to at least have some trees and perhaps a hedge established.

## Falaise Community Association Membership Renewal for 2024

We welcome your support for the Association by renewing your membership for 2024. For new residents, a membership form is available online at [www.falaise.ca/get-involved](http://www.falaise.ca/get-involved). You simply submit the completed form online or deliver it to our registrar, Glen Schoepp, at the address below.

Payment of the \$10 per person fee may be by e-transfer to [treasurer@falaise.ca](mailto:treasurer@falaise.ca), by cheque made payable to *Falaise Community Association*, or by cash. Note that no security question is needed for an e-transfer. **An e-transfer is preferred** and we would appreciate payment by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Please include your name and address in the e-transfer message box.

If paying by cheque or cash, please include a membership form and deliver it to: Glen Schoepp, Registrar, 4605 Royal Wood Ct., Email: [registrar@falaise.ca](mailto:registrar@falaise.ca).

The annual door-to-door membership drive starts in February.

## 2023 AGM Report

The 2023 AGM was held on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Cedar Room of Commonwealth Place. There were 18 members in attendance.

Prior to the start of the formal AGM, there was a presentation by staff from [Coastal Heat Pumps](#). They had a display showing the typical hardware and answered a wide range of questions from the audience.

The FCA president, Stuart Macpherson, conducted the meeting as prescribed by the FCA constitution. Additional details, such as draft minutes and financial audits, are available on the [website](#).

During the meeting:

- We agreed that membership fees would remain at \$10 per person.
- An eight-member Board of Directors was elected and includes three new directors. Brief biographies of each are on the back page of this newsletter.
- A list of focus points for 2024 was developed.

The meeting concluded with a draw for door prizes. These included two poinsettias and two gift certificates, courtesy of [Macaloney's Island Distillery & Twa Dogs Brewery](#).

**Family Day Event:** Plans are underway for a Family Day social event at the Sequoia Centre on Falaise Dr. It will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> and will feature entertainment for the kids, as well as treats and drinks. We are looking forward to an event that is even more successful than last year's!



## Stew Vinnels Steps Aside

Stew Vinnels served on the FCA Board of Directors during a period when a local official described the FCA as "punching above its weight". He made presentations to Saanich Council regarding the rezoning of 855 Falaise Cr. and traffic noise from the Pat Bay Highway. His efforts regarding Lot 855 helped save some of the Garry oak trees on the property. He helped organize a petition regarding a highway noise wall and pressed the issue with local politicians. He stepped up to build the Little Free Library which was a welcome addition to our Park and is kept well stocked by Lye and Dale. He was always willing to make his trailer available for transporting tents and BBQs to the annual summer picnic. His insights into the decision making process by various levels of government will be missed.

## Invasive Wild Rabbits

Two issues ago we carried an article about rats causing a concern in the neighbourhood. We also have an increasing problem with wild rabbits that seem to be popping (hopping) up in everyone's front yard. These are not the cuddly domestic rabbits we find so cute but the invasive wild Eastern cottontail rabbit. They are a fairly recent arrival to Vancouver Island as they were introduced in the 1960s. These cottontails have adapted well to the island environment and have become a serious threat to Garry oak habitats as they will chew up all the herbaceous plants they can find, including the rare Yellow Montane Violet in Falaise Park. They'll dig a hole in your lawn to make a nest for their litter, so try not to feel bad if you accidentally step on one. They also provide a food source for red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures and crows. Any way of reducing the population is positive for the urban environment. Otherwise we will just have to live with them, as we do with deer and raccoons.



### TLC Fibre Arts

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and fibre artists shop!*

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Hello Everyone, I am your neighbourhood realtor. I am working with Royal LePage Coast Capital Realty. If anyone needs any assistance with their real estate transactions, please feel free to reach out to me. Thank You!!

—Hardeep Kaur



(Newsletter ads are \$25 per issue. See the January, 2023 [newsletter](#) for more details.)



## 2024 Board of Directors

Although Stew Vinnels stepped down from the FCA Board of Directors this year, three new residents have signed up. Glen Schoepp will replace Mac Nanton as Registrar. Hardeep Kaur will replace Barbara Ross as the lead for social events. Graham Stone will serve as Vice-President and will help address some of the issues the FCA will focus on for 2024. Stuart Macpherson continues as President, Holly Holt as Secretary and Carl Ross as Treasurer.



**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.

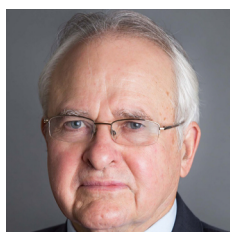


**Hardeep Kaur** and her sister moved to the Falaise community 4 years ago. She has completed her Bachelor's program from Camosun and one year at UBC. She is a realtor with Royal LePage Coast Capital Realty. She loves the neighbourhood and the easy access to the beauty of nature. This year Hardeep joined the FCA Board of Directors in hope to give back to the community.



**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 twelve years. He is a retired transportation engineer, who worked extensively on the Vancouver Island Highway Project including the Pat Bay Highway, and has served on the FCA

Board of Directors since 2015. His second career was in residential realty in Victoria. He and his wife have hosted over 40 UVic ESL students for the past 27 years.



**Barbara Ross** is now retired from various positions held in both the education and personnel areas. She moved to Saanich from Ottawa with her husband eight years ago and feels privileged to be living in as caring a community as ours. She has served on

the FCA Board of Directors as the Social Events Coordinator for the past two years. She enjoys playing pickleball, walking, hiking, biking and dancing.



**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. He has served on the FCA Board of Directors since 2017. He 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.



**Glen Schoepp** and his wife Dale have been residents of the Falaise community since 1989. They are now a retired pharmacist and nurse, respectively. Their son Karl is an electrician at the Royal Jubilee Hospital. Glen is an avid golfer and Dale enjoys playing pickleball.



**Graham Stone** and his family moved into the Falaise neighborhood two years ago. Twenty years ago he moved to Victoria from South Africa and worked in the ship building industry as a Dock Master. Now retired, he still enjoys do-it-yourself projects around the house and scooting

around the neighborhood with his dog, Milo. Graham has enjoyed meeting many of his friendly neighbours in the area.

## Seed Exchange

Have you noticed that seeds are getting more expensive? Now is the time to think about using the seed exchange for your garden this year. The seed drawers are attached to the bottom of the Little Free Library and may contain vegetable or flower seeds. We encourage you to drop off any clearly marked surplus seeds you may have and invite you to help yourself to any seeds that interest you.