



FALAISE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

GROWING a STRONGER COMMUNITY TOGETHER

FALAISE FOCUS

Spring 2026 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Picnic in the Park:

Sunday, September 6th
Falaise Park

Contact Us

www.falaise.ca info@falaise.ca
[Facebook.com/groups/fcaprivategroup](https://www.facebook.com/groups/fcaprivategroup)

Directors:

President: Stuart Macpherson
president@falaise.ca

Vice-President: Graham Stone
vice-president@falaise.ca

Secretary: Carl Ross
secretary@falaise.ca

Treasurer: Nikki Stone
treasurer@falaise.ca

Registrar: Glen Schoepp
registrar@falaise.ca

Director-at-large: James Halliday
james.halliday@falaise.ca

Director-at-large: Mac Nanton
mac.nanton@falaise.ca

Director-at-large: Matthew Paxman
matthew.paxman@falaise.ca

Park Steward: Stuart Macpherson

Newsletter, website: Carl Ross

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

Message from the President

Spring has finally arrived – you can tell, as the European wall lizards are out and about sunning themselves. Adjusting to the time change doesn't bother them! It was a nice mild winter so, for most of us, our gardens got through unscathed. But then the downside was that the kids didn't get to enjoy the "ski hill " at Falaise Park either. Falaise Park is springing back to life – there is quite a display of camas flowering this spring.

Next year, the FCA will be celebrating its 70th anniversary as the first and longest running community association in Saanich. Our association depends on the support of its residents and the many volunteers who have stepped up over the years. A list of some of the FCA's accomplishments achieved on behalf of residents is on our website. I welcome your suggestions as to how we might celebrate this anniversary milestone in 2027. Please contact me with your thoughts. One unfinished project is a write up on the history of the FCA. Is there anyone interested in taking this on? To this day we still rely on volunteers, although it is not as easy to have residents volunteer their time as it used to be. Whether it is gardening in the park or helping with the organizing of one of our activities, you don't have to be on the board of directors to help out. That said, a big thank you to our current volunteers and to those residents who renewed their association dues again this year.

This fall will see the municipal election and, although candidates for Saanich council have not been announced, seats are sure to be keenly contested. We expect to be co-hosting an All Candidates Forum so please mark your calendars for a date in early October to attend with all your questions for them.

Just a reminder that our annual community picnic is on September 6 this year, followed by Halloween-in-the-Park on October 31. We hope to see you there.

As always, please feel free to contact me at: president@falaise.ca.

Community Notice Board

Bottle Drive: We are planning our first community bottle drive in late July. This is a fundraiser to help cover the costs of events such as Family Day, the summer picnic and Halloween. Details will follow in a FCA flyer. Meanwhile, start saving any items for which the Bottle Depot issues refunds.

Summer Picnic: The annual summer picnic is planned for the afternoon of Sunday, September 6.

Road Safety: Visibility at the Falaise Dr./Royalwood Ct. intersection and near the park playground entrance has been improved by clearing back brush. Speeding near the playground remains a concern.

Park Poster: James Halliday's daughter has prepared a poster on the camas flower that is now on display in the park. As of early May, a visit to the park is well worth the effort to see the camas in bloom.

Family Day Event, 2026

Our annual Family Day event was held at McCall's Sequoia Centre on February 16th. The total attendance was about 74, of which 32 were kids. We had quite a selection of activities. JJ Entertainment ran a face-painting centre that was especially popular with the girls, as was the balloon art station with the boys. Magician Donald Dunphy put on an excellent magic show that was enjoyed by both young and old. Ange van der Schilden looked after the music and Matt Paxman acted as MC. Matt and Ange ran several dancing contests with prizes for the kids. Verity Kenyon enthralled everyone with her Scottish dancing skills and Laura Molloy supervised an activity centre for the kids. Nikki and Graham Stone assembled an excellent selection of treats including a big cake. Our thanks to McCalls for making their venue available to us again this year and to Leigh Ann for being such a gracious host.



In-Fill Housing Update

The new duplex at 928 Falaise Cr. is now finished and new neighbours have moved in. A fourplex is under construction on the neighbouring lot at 930 Falaise Cr. On-site parking is limited so it remains to be seen how on-street parking will be impacted.



The lot at 855 Falaise Cr. has remained undeveloped since it was sold in 2017. It is up for sale again with the suggestion that it is suitable for two fourplexes. Because this lot is adjacent to Falaise Park and because it contains several mature Garry oak trees, it is a natural extension of the park. We have written to Saanich suggesting that they purchase the lot and extend the park. The [letter](#) has been posted on the FCA website.

Registrar's Spring Update

Our membership drive for 2026 is now over. As of the end of April, we have 192 members this year compared to 202 last year. This year, 60% of you signed up using e-transfer and this greatly eases the burden on our door-to-door canvassers.

We would 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 Glen Schoepp, Registrar, 4605 Royal Wood Ct., Email: registrar@falaise.ca.

Little Free Library News

After five years of keeping the Little Free Library well stocked with books for both adults and kids, our two librarians, Lye Fong and Dale Summers, are passing the torch to Laura Molloy. The LFL has circulated a lot of titles during this time and Lye says that children's books are very popular. The LFL will be in good hands as Laura is the librarian at Lochside Elementary school. Creation of the library truly was a community effort. It was built by residents, Stew Vinnels and Carl Ross in 2021 and installed by Saanich Parks. It continues to be well maintained by Nikki and Graham Stone.



Royal Oak Burial Park

Although Royal Oak Burial Park is located in the Falaise community, some residents may not have had the chance to learn much about the park or its history. The park opened in 1923 and is about 55 hectares (135 acres), with open green spaces, mature trees, walking areas, and natural sections that are being preserved. It is a not-for-profit organization that is jointly owned by the City of Victoria and the District of Saanich and is operated by the Board of Cemetery Trustees of Greater Victoria. Revenue is used to support the ongoing care, maintenance, and development of the park.



In addition to traditional burial, the park includes cremation memorial options, a mausoleum, and natural burial areas. The park also includes the Little Spirits Garden, a special area for families who have experienced the loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, or early death. The space is available to families regardless of their financial means.

The Board is currently reviewing the park's master plan, which will help guide future use of the remaining land. There will be opportunities for community involvement as that work moves forward, and we will notify the Falaise Community Association directly when that process begins.

The Board is also looking at ways to reduce the park's environmental impact. At its last meeting, the Board approved the purchase of one new cremation unit to replace two older units, incorporating improved environmental technology and expected to reduce natural gas use by about 50 percent. Royal Oak is also working toward electrifying its vehicle fleet.

If you have not visited recently, spring offers a good opportunity to take a walk through the park and see the grounds as they begin to come into bloom. It offers a quiet place to walk, reflect, and spend time outdoors. Leashed dogs are welcome. *(Submitted by Ilan Highton, Executive Director, Royal Oak Burial Park)*

In-fill housing: Several Falaise residents are studying the impact of high-density, in-fill housing on our community. They are looking at how other communities have responded and how we might best make our views known to Saanich and the province. If you would like to be part of this group, contact Stuart Macpherson at president@falaise.ca.



General Contracting
Renovations and Handyperson Service

Serving your neighbours in the Falaise and Saanich communities for 25 years
Honest, Trustworthy and Dependable

250-704-9901
davidvinnels@gmail.com
www.vinnelsproperties.com



Newsletter ads: Just \$25 per issue.



Family Doctors for Saanich

Finding a family doctor or nurse practitioner remains a challenge for many Saanich residents. In late 2025, a group of volunteers launched a grassroots campaign to help more residents get access to primary care. The initiative is called **Family Doctors for Saanich** and their website outlines actions we can all take to help out. They point out that anyone without a family doctor should sign up with the **Health Connect Registry**. This action lets the province know that you are looking for a primary care provider. Councillor Teale Phelps Bondaroff is a strong supporter of the initiative and additional details are in his spring [newsletter](#).



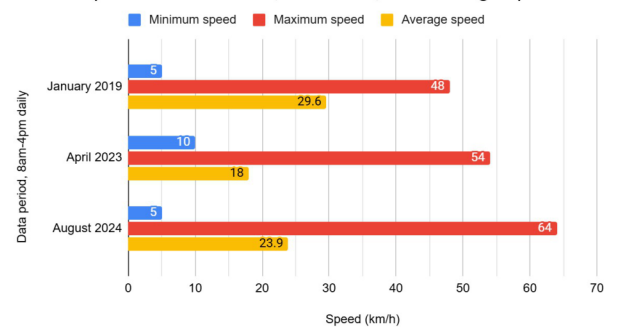
Road Mural Report

The Falaise Cr. road mural project is a community-led traffic calming and placemaking initiative spearheaded by the FCA. Installed in 2022 as a pilot project, the mural is located on a curved section of the crescent near the park and playground, an area where residents had expressed concerns about vehicle speed and safety. The project was notable as Saanich's first road mural and involved over 40 community volunteers in its creation, reflecting strong local engagement.

Beyond its artistic value, the mural was intended to influence driver behavior. Evidence from speed reader data collected before and after installation suggests a modest reduction in average vehicle speeds following the mural's introduction. This aligns with broader research indicating that road murals can slow traffic by increasing visual complexity and drawing drivers' attention. However, the data also shows that this effect may diminish over time, with speeds rising again in later measurements, a pattern often described as a "novelty effect."

Overall, the Falaise road mural illustrates how grassroots and low-cost interventions can contribute both to modest traffic calming and to stronger community cohesion, even if their long-term effectiveness in reducing speeds remains somewhat limited. *(Extracted from a report by Joel Satre)*

Comparison of minimum, maximum, and average speed



A Montessori School in the Falaise Neighbourhood

Virna Tiller has been operating a Montessori Preschool/Daycare at 1012 Falaise Pl. for the past 30 years. It caters to children from 3 to 5 years old who they attend twice a week. The program includes music, nature and learning about different cultures.

The goal of the Montessori teaching method is to help the children develop a love of learning and ability to think for themselves. This is done by providing freedom within a structured environment. The Montessori



**Broadmead
Montessori Educare**

"Teach me, and I will remember today. Show me, and I will remember tomorrow. Allow me to discover and I will remember forever."

classroom is a carefully planned environment, with special materials for hands-on use by the children. This approach fosters independent, self-motivated children and leads to them having better self-esteem. For more information, see www.montessorieducare.com.

Falaise Park: This spring, the playground equipment and the picnic table were defaced with offensive graffiti. A police report was filed and the graffiti was removed in a joint effort by residents and Saanich Parks. We ask all residents to report such acts of vandalism and to watch out for and report people smoking in the park.

Spring growth is bursting out in Falaise Park. The red currant and tall Oregon grape bushes we planted are flowering. Our efforts to eradicate the invasive weeds and orchard grass are yielding results.