FALAISE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

GROWING a STRONGER COMMUNITY TOGETHER

FALAISE FOCUS

Fall 2026 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Halloween in the Park:
Saturday evening, October 31
Falaise Park

Annual General Meeting:
Thursday, December 3rd, 7 pm
Arbutus Room, Commonwealth Place

Contact Us

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Facebook.com/groups/fcaprivategroup

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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

What a lovely fall we are enjoying! We do have to endure too many elections and the angst created by the dysfunction south of the border. Let's hope for a snowy winter, so the kids get to enjoy tobogganing on the Falaise Park hill. Unfortunately, El Niño is predicted to lead to a mild and wet winter.

Falaise Park is getting ready for winter. Most of the seedlings planted survived the summer drought as did the trees planted on the highway boulevard, thanks to regular watering by the gardening crew from the Royal Oak Burial Park. The park is the venue again for another, and maybe the scariest, Halloween event on October 31st. It feels positive to re-establish this event that was such a fun annual tradition in the community for many years. This time the event is being cosponsored with First Memorial.

Our community events this year (Family Day and the Summer Picnic) were well attended with great enthusiasm by young and old. It is rewarding to see the kids get so much enjoyment from these events, particularly as we are seeing more young families settle in the community. Thank you to Royal Oak Burial Park, McCalls Gardens and Thrifty's for contributing to their success.

As I write this piece I am wondering if this will be the last edition of our Falaise Focus newsletter. After 10 years of serving the community, I intend on stepping down, as are some other long serving directors. This may put the FCA into a succession crisis. That would be such a shame as 2027 is the 70th anniversary of the FCA. Your community association was the first community association founded in Saanich in 1957. The FCA has been an integral part of the community and the main conduit to our municipal government in dealing with community issues. Please consider stepping up and join the FCA board of directors for 2027.

As always don't hesitate to contact me at president@falaise.ca

Community Notice Board

Community Survey: If you haven't already done so, please complete our 2026 community survey. It was emailed to residents this month. The results are intended to be used in our lobbying efforts with the newly elected council.

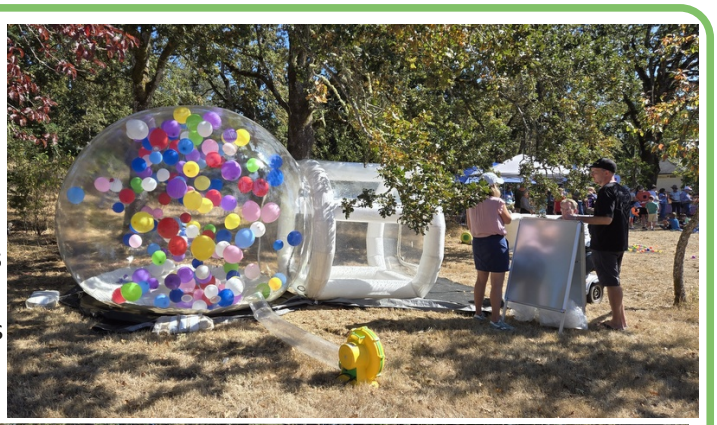
Annual General Meeting: The annual general meeting will be held in the Arbutus Room of Commonwealth Place on December 3rd. Please mark your calendars.

Calling All Kids!



On Halloween night, don't forget to visit the Falaise Community Association Halloween treat tent that will be set up near the playground in Falaise Park. There may be a special surprise this year!

Annual Picnic in the Park



Our annual summer picnic was held on Sunday, September 6th. We were blessed with a warm, sunny afternoon. An accurate count is difficult but we estimate that about ninety people attended, including a large number of children. The kids enjoyed the structures provided by Happy Hopper Party Rentals including the balloon dome, the ball pit and the cotton candy and snow cone machines. Several Saanich councillors, as well as some of those running in the upcoming elections, attended the picnic and had an excellent chance to speak with local residents.



The success of the picnic depends on many hard-working volunteers, too numerous to list here. John Poulson donated excellent fish for the BBQ. The BBQ was manned by Glen Schoepp with assistance from Doug Weidman. Chloe Stone operated the cotton candy machine while Nathan Say made snow cones. Thrifty Foods provided us with a $200 gift certificate.

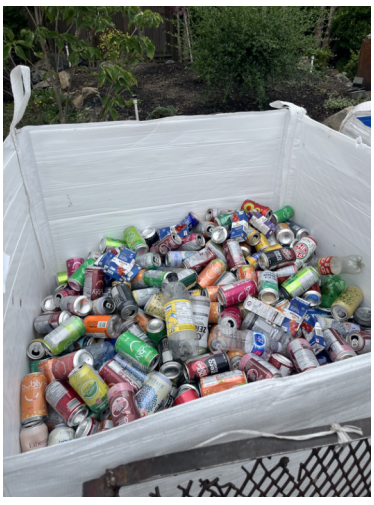
Municipal Election, All Candidates Meeting



The meeting was held at Claremont School on October 5th in front of a sell-out crowd. Over 80 people were turned away at the door. It was co-hosted by the Broadmead Area Residents' Association, the Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs and the Falaise Community Association. Facilitating a meeting for 25 council candidates and 3 mayoral was challenging. Candidate's answers to a range of questions reflected the diversity of opinions among them. Residents came away from the meeting with a better sense of why the candidates were running.

Bottle Drive





Taylor Love, President and CEO of The Bottle Depot, lives in our neighbourhood. Recognizing the challenges of funding the activities of a small community organization, Taylor suggested that we could generate significant income by running a community bottle drive.

We sent a notice to residents that we would collect any items suitable for the Bottle Depot on the morning of Saturday, July 25th. Graham Stone made his driveway available as a reception point and invited neighbourhood kids to come and help with the sorting. Laura Molloy provided suitable treats. The drive was far more successful than some board members had estimated and generated a total of $385. We are grateful to Taylor for providing the collection bins and transporting them to his facilities.

We need to poll the community on how often we might run a bottle drive. Perhaps some residents would set aside all their deposit items for the FCA if the association agreed to some regular pickup schedule.

Little Free Library is Under New Management



Thank you to everyone who has contributed books to our Little Free Library. Your generosity helps keep the library active and welcoming for readers of all ages.

As you may have noticed, children's books are quick to circulate! If you have any extra, much-loved board books, picture books, or children's novels, please consider donating them.

Our Little Free Library is a true community effort, and we appreciate everyone who helps care for it. When browsing, please take a quick moment to place books back in an organized fashion.

Every donated book is an opportunity to share a story, spark a child's imagination, or introduce someone to a new favourite author.

(In her day job, Laura Molloy is librarian at Lochside Elementary School)

In Memoriam

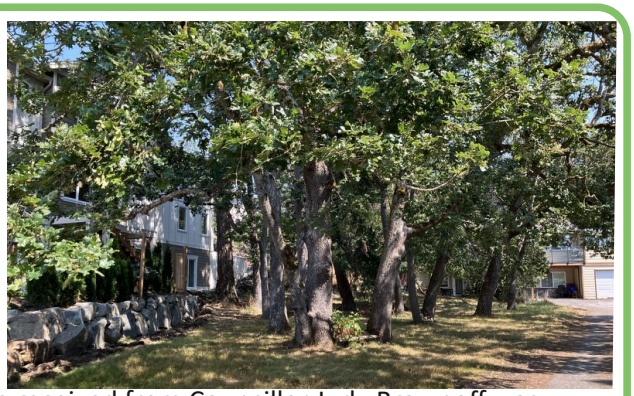
It was the end of an era this summer when three long-time residents and stalwarts of the community passed away.

Russ Ball grew up on Deventer Dr. and lived his whole life in the neighbourhood. He served for some time as president of the FCA. Russ had many stories about growing up in the community. He contributed several recollections for the Winter 2023 Falaise Focus newsletter. He was 81.

Frank Ewer lived on Falaise Cr. - opposite Falaise Park - ever since his retirement as a Saanich police officer, where he served for 25 years. Frank was a resident of the Falaise community for over 50 years. A dedicated family man and a dog lover, he enjoyed observing the variety of dogs strolling around the neighbourhood and through the park with their owners. He was a month short of 85.

Dave Martin was originally from Newfoundland but lived his adult life out West. He settled into the house he built on Falaise Cr. in the 1970's and at one time owned a horse. After working as a millwright, he began a second career as a dog groomer. He always had treats ready for neighbourhood dogs passing by on their daily walk. He was 87.

Application to subdivide 934 Falaise Cr.



The owner of 934 Falaise Cr. has filed an application with Saanich to subdivide this property into two lots. It is beside 930 Falaise Cr. where a new four-unit multiplex has just been built. Neighbours are concerned that this could open the door (allow) for two more multiplex units to be built and would mean the grove of oak trees and an old growth Douglas fir tree would all be cut down to make room. We wrote to Saanich councillors expressing our opposition to the subdivision citing concerns of tree loss and increased on-street parking at this already busy location that has no sidewalk. The reply we received from Councillor Judy Brownoff was disappointing, implying the trees would be cut down if the application was approved. We intend to take this issue to the new Saanich Council and the new Saanich South MLA after the elections.

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855 Falaise Cr. remains vacant but is still for sale. It is adjacent to the park and would be a natural extension of the park. Unfortunately, Saanich does not have the resources to purchase it. It is a great opportunity to save some large Garry oak trees. Is there a benefactor who would purchase the lot in exchange for having the park named after them? Even having half the lot donated to the park and housing on the other half would be a significant achievement.

The Future of the Falaise Community Association

The FCA came into existence in 1957 and 2027 will be its 70th anniversary. Although the FCA is the smallest of the Saanich community associations, we have had several significant achievements over the years. These are posted on the FCA website. After years of advocacy for a noise wall, we were successful in at least getting the provincial government to install a concrete barrier and partial visual screen. We have expanded our community celebrations significantly and continue to keep the community informed of events and issues through flyers, emails, the newsletter and face-to-face meetings.

At least four members of the board of directors, including the president and the secretary, intend to step down at year's end. These members have played an important role in taking issues to government, organizing social events and preparing the quarterly newsletter. We hope their retirement does not trigger a succession crisis, but we really need residents to step forward and join the board for 2027. The continuing existence of the FCA as an organization depends on having at least three directors who are prepared to serve as president, treasurer and secretary. This situation will be tabled for a community discussion at the upcoming AGM in December.

Lana Popham Moves On



After five terms as our MLA, Lana Popham has decided not to run for re-election in the September provincial election. Lana has served as the MLA for Saanich South for 17 years. She showed a keen interest in the Falaise Community and attended many community events over the years. We acknowledge the support we received from Lana's office and her staff for printing our newsletters and flyers. This has saved us significant costs and permitted us to devote more funds to community activities. Lana was instrumental in assisting the FCA in advancing community issues to government. In 2017, at the Fall AGM, Lana recommended that we petition the provincial government to have a noise wall installed beside the Pat Bay Highway. In 2025, after several years of lobbying, the Department of Highways erected a concrete barrier and glare screen although the section of highway near Adeline was omitted. More recently Lana shared our concern that Bill 44 allows multiplexes to be crowded into small lots, thereby overriding the concerns of local residents.

We are grateful for all the support our community has received from Lana over the years and wish her well in her future endeavours.

A Sidewalk for Falaise Cr.



The new multiplexes at 928 and 930 Falaise Cr. have led to a significant increase in on-street parking. Often, the street is reduced to single-lane traffic, making it a hazardous area for pedestrians. Resident Catherine Mustafa has studied the Active Transportation Plan for Saanich. She noted that the 2018 plan included a sidewalk along the inside boundary of Falaise Cr. but it has been removed from the 2024 plan. Correspondence with Saanich confirmed that there are no plans for a sidewalk along Falaise Cr. Catherine has had a letter published in the Saanich News making the case for a sidewalk (https://bit.ly/4yTtXpy) and the issue is a question on our community survey.

Registrar's Report

The Board was pleased to see the ongoing commitment to our Association again in 2026, with 195 paid members, slightly down from the 201 who supported our community work last year. Two-thirds of residents pay their memberships via e-transfer, and the balance by cheque or cash. This ratio was similar to prior years.

We are pleased to see the increase in young families in the Falaise community, and that many of them participate in our social events. There have been some changes in housing density in our area, but the new residents have been generally happy to join our Association.

We will start the membership drive for 2027 in the new year.