

ISLAND PATHWAYS Salt Spring Island

Newsletter - Fall 2008

Sun. Surf. Sand. And a bike?

The west coast of North America offers some fabulous weather as you go south. It affords plenty of ocean vistas, sturdy lighthouses, valuable agricultural land, sand dunes and beach volleyball. It also promises some truly remarkable cycling along the coastal route with its gigantic redwoods, challenging hills, formidable fog and an extensive network of bicycle paths.

Ted Harrison just completed the ride from Vancouver to the Mexican border, 3000 kms of memorable cycling. Come and see his slide presentation and talk at the **Island Pathways AGM, All Saints-by-the-Sea on November 28th at 7pm.**

Some of you will know that Ted has cycled extensively in Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Britain and Hawaii. His slide presentations offer entertaining glimpses of "life in the saddle" as he wends his way hither and yon. **Don't miss this opportunity to hear him!**



Isabel Hunt
Pathway Opening
Celebration
Blaine Road to
Wildwood
Crescent
June 24, 2008

UPDATE ON PARTNERS CREATING PATHWAYS PROJECTS ONE AND TWO

"Build it and they will come" has certainly proven to be true. Our new pathway on Lower Ganges Road from Wildwood Cres. to Blain Road is being used by young and old, cyclists and pedestrians, Physical Education classes and dog walkers, people going to work/school and people just out for a leisurely walk. It brings a smile to our faces every time we see someone on the pathway, so we are smiling a lot these days.

There are a few finishing touches we need to do on this pathway: 1. We need to place some rocks from where they are being stored near the bench, to two locations on the pathway. 2. We need to construct an access onto the pathway at Atkins Rd. for motorized wheel chairs. 3. We need to wheelbarrow saved soil (at Atkins) to a number of locations along the pathway and plant seeds and plants. We will need help once again with all this. We will be organizing a couple of work parties shortly. If you would like to help and/or organize these work parties we could use your help. Call Jean Gelwicks 537-4859.

Not ones to rest on our laurels, we are already working hard on the next Partners Creating Pathway project. Once again, the SSI Transportation Commission, Island Pathways and Trail and Nature Club are partnering on this project. This project has three parts to it. 1. A pathway down Atkins Rd, past Meadowbrook to Swanson Rd. From here people can use Swanson and other back roads to get to the pool, all three schools and Ganges centre. 2. A short pathway on Blain from Braehaven, past Greenwoods, to Lower Ganges Rd. and 3. Another short pathway on Crofton from the Hospital, past Heritage place to the cross walk on Lower Ganges Rd.

We have been busy since June applying for grants, getting surveys done, and meeting with other stakeholders. We are well on our way. We hope to have funding for this project in place (cross your fingers) by the end of February, make all the preparations for the construction of the pathways by the end of May, and construct the pathways in June. Very ambitious of us....but possible. Pathways will just be popping up all over. If we are successful, this coming summer we will be leading a few hikes around Ganges using the new and existing pathways to introduce islanders to the Ganges Pathway Network.

Thrifty's Smile Card program

As many Salt Spring Islanders know, one of our local Grocery stores Thrifty Foods has a generous local giving program. It's called the "Smile Card" program and allows holders to redeem 5% of grocery costs to go to the group or charity of their choice.



It looks like a credit card and is used instead of cash, bank cards or other credit cards. Money is "loaded" on the card from any other currency source at the checkout. As soon as money is put on the card, Island Pathways receives 5% in the form of Salt Spring Currency. For example \$200 loaded gives \$10.00 to Island Pathways current project. Just give the check-out person any form of currency and tell him or her the amount to put on the card. From there it's simple, just use the card until your funds are low and re-load it. The balance available will always be at the bottom of your receipt.

The Smile card proceeds all go to support our Partners Creating Pathways projects.

If you would like more information or for a card please call Wendy Webb at 653-2311.

Country Grocer Save-A-Tape program

Island Pathways has been part of GVM's Save-a-tape program since it's very beginning. Over the years we have noticed that the tape contributions have increased steadily. These contributions took a great leap after the new 1km trail was completed. Thank you ALL.



The money we receive is used to fund all our running expenses. This is when the Save-a-tape \$\$\$ really help.

We would like to thank everyone who slips their tape into our box at GVM (now Country Grocer). We would also like to thank our community minded grocery store for providing this generous program.

Island Pathways relies totally on volunteers for all the work we do and on the generous contributions from the community.

Beautiful Heritage Cycling Map

Island Pathways Heritage Map was first published in 2001 and upgraded 3 times since first printing. The last change and printing was done at the end of 2006 and cost was very high as we made hundreds of changes to make our map very current and accurate. The Heritage Map is not a trail map but all trail heads are listed. It shows altitudes and the newest Parks at that time.

With Christmas coming I'm always looking for an attractive and personal gift to give. May I suggest that a Heritage/cycling Map produced by Island Pathways is a wonderful choice for giving? The sale of Heritage Maps not only allows us to reprint and upgrade the map but keeps up regular cash flow to be used for projects where we need that extra bit to complete a project. Wendy Webb is chief promoter and seller of the maps.

Thanks mostly to local business such as our Chamber of Commerce, Volume II Books, Salt Spring Books and Sabine's Books the money keeps coming in slow but sure. All businesses are given up to 40% off retail price of \$8.50 but 10 minimum must be purchased to qualify for this discount.

If you would like a map or have an idea for a location that may sell these beautiful maps please call Wendy Webb at 653-2311. All ideas and new sales people are welcome.

Thanks and Merry Christmas!



BC:Clettes visit Salt Spring Island

In July 2008 a pro-cycling womens dance and song troupe visited Salt Spring Island to spread the word about the benefits of getting out of your car and onto your bicycle. They entertained a very large crowd in Centennial Park with their colourful dance and song routines with such enthusiasm it was hard to resist the urge to grab your bike and head out.

The troupe travels all over the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands spreading the word when they are not working or going to University. The unique boom box-come bike trailer blasted original "bike" tunes and the array of props augmented the amazingly colourful and energetic dance and song routines.

Marion Pape, Island Pathways member and local activist was contacted by Sara Ross the Clettes public relations person in May to start arranging the group's visit. Marion called Wendy Webb one of the board members of Island Pathways to request assistance with getting a Centennial Park permit. The troupe plus many supporters cycled to Ruckle Park after the show with a van full of food, much of it donated by local businesses such as Barb's Buns, GVM, Thrifty Foods, David Woods SSI Cheese and Nature Works. Wendy helped with food shopping and shuttling gear to the Park. Marion Pape also arranged for her friends Robert Birch and partner Michael to make the after performance dinner which they delivered by wheelbarrow to one of the group campsites at Ruckle Park. Wendy was fortunate enough to join in the dinner of Lentil stew and carrot salad decorated with nasturtiums. What a beautiful feast when bread and cheese were added!

On Monday morning the wagons were uncircled and all headed to Pearson College in Metchosin accompanied by Marion Pape part way for yet another performance. Good on 'ya girls! Thanks for the beautiful homemade thank-you card.



Helmets for Life Program

It was at one of our regular board meetings in 2000 that Kim Murray, then the president of Island Pathways suggested that we buy bicycle helmets at a discount and partner with groups in the community to distribute the helmets to local students. Since then a program we call "Helmets for Life" has evolved.

During the past eight years, Island Pathways has sponsored many educational seminars at our local schools. We have also involved the home schooled students. In 2004 we went into the Middle School with a local RCMP Officer and presented a seminar on bicycle and helmet safety.

We have noticed that a high percentage of helmets are in a very poor condition and very poorly fitted. In short most of the helmets we see are unsafe and even potentially dangerous.

The helmets we provide are purchased from Fort St. Cycle in Victoria at cost. Doug Grant, owner and previous Salt Spring Island resident has been on board with this project since the start of 2000.

Our goal is to see every bikeriding student on this island with a CSA approved helmet that has been properly fitted to their head.

This fall we are planning educational seminars at Salt Spring Elementary School (Grades 4 - 5) and Salt Spring Centre School.

Executive 2007/2008

President: Margaretha Nordine
Vice-President: Wendy Webb
Treasurer: Val Short
Secretary: Cara Joy Hughes
Board Members: Jean Gelwicks
Zeke Blazeka
Gayle Baker

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Sue Mouat
Pathway Opening
celebration
June 24, 2008

SPECIAL THANK YOU

We are already being successful with our fundraising for the Partners Creating Pathways project. We want to give a big thank you to the SSI Transportation Commission for generously putting \$15,000 towards this project, the Transmission Corporation for \$10,000, PARC for \$5,000 and Gary Holman for \$10,000 from his grant-in-aid fund. The SSI Legion has generously given the project \$2,000, the Lions \$500 and we have received \$5,000 from the SSI Foundation. There are many other "irons in the fire" and we are hoping in the next months you will read our press releases in the Driftwood saying thank you to many more funding partners.

Pathways are an idea whose time has come. Thank you to all our volunteers who worked on the pathway, to all of you using an Island Pathways Smile card or putting your GVM slips in our box and especially to our funders. We need you all. We choose the name PARTNERS CREATING PATHWAYS carefully. We knew these pathways would only be possible with many community members all playing a part and helping however they could. Thanks again to all of you.

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Please re-cycle!

ISLAND Island Pathways

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AGM Notice

November 28, 2008 ~ 7:00 pm

All Saints by the Sea

There will be an update on

Partners Creating Pathways

and Guest Speaker

Ted Harrison

"Sun, Surf, Sand and a Bike?"