

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **New Pathway on Upper Ganges Road**

The Ganges Pathway Network has a new pathway that runs from Moby's to Churchill Road. This pathway will put the many pedestrians that walk from Churchill Road and beyond, safely onto an off road pathway. The Partners Creating Pathways (PCP) volunteers have been amazed by the number of pedestrians using this section of road. A number of the walkers interviewed said they walk this section of road regularly and the traffic has gotten heavier over the years and they feel they have to hug the side of the road to remain safe. Now they can walk, off road, on a safe pathway.

PCP had hoped to construct more than just this one pathway this year but did not raise quite enough money. They do have their permits in place, and design plans all ready to go for the proposed pathway on Lower Ganges Road from Sharpe to Booth Canal Road. It will be their priority next year. The construction contract for this year's project was awarded to Salt Spring's Earth Heart Productions contractors. Volunteer PCP project managers will be Richard Sheed and Gary Lehman. Do say hi to them all if you are walking this way. The construction should take about two weeks.

Island Pathways has forged a coalition of like-minded organizations on Salt Spring which in recent years has been very successful in obtaining funding and volunteer support for the pursuit of a Pathway Network in and around Ganges. "Partners Creating Pathways" is a partnership between Island Pathways, the CRD, the SSI Transportation Commission, PARC and the SSI Trail and Nature Club.

It is important to acknowledge all the work that goes on behind the scenes at CRD in Victoria to make our pathways a reality. Once the SSI Transportation Commission endorses a Pathways project proposal, the CRD plays a vital and multi-faceted role. This includes evaluating and approving the engineering design; applying to MoTI for a permit to build the pathway on MoTI right-of-way; calling for offers from qualified contractors; selecting and negotiating a contract with the successful bidder; handling all budgetary matters; and not least of all, assuming liability for the finished pathway and maintaining it in the months and years to come.

Partner Creating Pathways role is to do: the title searches, surveys, design plans, talks with all stakeholders and neighbouring property owners, prepares the site, raise the funding needed, provide volunteer project managers, landscape and write the final reports to granters. If you would like to help please contact Jean Gelwicks at 537-4859.

Partners Creating Pathways wants to thank all our funders who are helping us to make our community safe for pedestrians/cyclists who want or need to walk or cycle into town for services, to shop, walk their dogs or just visit with friends. Our funder this year were: The Transportation Commission, Salt Spring Island Foundation, Van City, TD Bank (Friends of the Environment Fund), Victoria Foundation, SSI Park and Recreation Commission. . The Community and the environment is benefiting from your generosity.

PCP would also like to thank Patrick Akerman for donating gravel to the project, Windsor plywood for giving us culverts at cost and EarthHeart Productions for doing a first class job constructing it.

**Jean Gelwicks (PCP committee chair) is available to answer questions. 537-4859**