

# The Completion of New Pathways!

Partners Creating Pathways (a partnership between Island Pathways, Trail and Nature Club, SS Transportation Commission, and the Ministry of Transportation) have been celebrating lately. And, the fine folks at Braehaven, Heritage Place, Meadowbrook, Greenwoods, and the hospital have been celebrating with them. Why? Because three new pathways on Salt Spring have just been completed, and these seniors are already some of their most enthusiastic users.

One pathway, extending from Lower Ganges Road to Swanson Road along Atkins Road past Meadowbrook, allows users to safely and easily proceed along Atkins, accessing the Upper Ganges Center, Lady Minto Hospital, Legion, and Senior Centre on one end, and the pool, school, and downtown Ganges at the other end. The other two are pedestrian walkways along Blain and Crofton Roads. Needed for such a long time, pedestrians (a number of whom need the assistance of canes and walkers) and motorized wheelchair travelers now have a safe walkway along the roads. In addition to delighted residents and staff at Salt Spring's retirement homes, hospital staff members are pleased. They had worried about the dangerous pedestrian access to the hospital and are glad to see the nearby walkway being so well used.

The construction of the pathways was a joy, due largely to the fine contractors hired for the task: Ganges Excavating



Services Ltd (Atkins) and Capitol City Paving (Crofton and Blain), in addition to Schos Line Painting, who was responsible for all the painting on the new asphalt. We were also pleased that some of the work was subcontracted to local businesses. Amazingly, the Crofton and Blain walkways were completed in 4 days! And, the weather gods made the sun shine for most of this time.

Did you see the balloons lining the walkways? While they were being constructed, a Heritage Place resident expressed her delight, saying, "I am so happy, I want to carry a balloon on my walker." What a great idea! So, as soon as they were completed, we bought balloons to celebrate. On the day of the balloons, Kit Lewis, an 80-year-old who walks the pathways almost each day to visit her husband at Greenwoods, took her husband on an outing. They loved it, especially the balloons they were given and the pedestrian symbols painted on the asphalt!

You volunteers have been amazing, giving countless hours to these pathways. In addition to all your work, none of this would have been possible without the generous support of so many granters and donors. A big thank you to all, including the B.C. government, CRD grant-in-aid, PARC, Salt Spring Island Foundation, BC Transmission Corporation, SSI Legion, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Van City, SS Legion Women's Auxiliary, SS Lions Club, the SS Transportation Commission, Slegg Lumber (who donated all the ground cover needed for the entire project,) Country Grocer, The Plant Farm, Windsor Plywood, Grange Engineering Associates, and a variety of individuals who generously donated funds.



## What's Next?

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In the next few weeks we will be taking groups on walks along the new pathways. Some of these outings will be sponsored by the Trail and Nature Club in their Walkers/Ramblers/and Hikers Program. A Walk has been scheduled for December 1st and a Ramble for January 26th. Hope you can join us.

An illustrated rendition of the Ganges Pathway Network map produced by Philip Grange is being created by artist Donald Gunn and should be ready by early next year. It will be available at the nearby senior residences, the Visitors' Centre, and the pool. Additionally, a large copy of it will be posted in a new kiosk at Lower Ganges and Blair Roads, thanks to Ian Fraser who is building this new kiosk.

Early next year, Partners Creating Pathways will meet to discuss next steps. With PARC and the SS Transportation Commission working on other important sections of the Ganges Pathway Network, great progress is being made. With its completion drawing nearer, will Partners Creating Pathways commit to finishing it? Would you like to be the first to know by becoming a planning committee member? There is still much to do to reach our pathway goals, and you can help us get there. Call Jean Gelwicks at (250) 357-4859.



## Like to Plant Daffodils?

The Gods were with us, and the weather behaved for our November Work Party when we put the final touches on the pathways. Lots of daffodils were planted, signs were installed, and trees trimmed by thirteen enthusiastic volunteers. So efficient were the volunteers that we ran out of daffodil bulbs! So, while Sue Mouat and her Brinkworthy Buddies will be planting more bulbs on our original pathway along Lower Ganges Road, we need some daffodil-loving diggers who would like to plant more bulbs on Atkins and Crofton Roads. Interested? Call Jean at (250) 537-4859.