TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING
Many thanks to everyone through the years who contributed to Island Pathways work and successes. A salute, too, to the record-keepers who stashed and stored the historical materials needed for this summary of 25 great years.

More good active-transportation works to come. Stay tuned.
An impressive list of achievements, *circa* 2003

And the key to success is ...
Before the beginning, however ...

A tragic year
1982

In June of 1982, I was beginning my summer holidays, by biking to our Yoga land on Saltspring Island to work in their lovely extensive gardens.

... (On June 2nd) While biking from the ferry to the garden in the early evening twilight, I was hit and run by a drunk driver in a pick up.

42-year-old Vancouver physician, Nona Rowat

The driver was never caught; Rowat spent months in hospital, more time in a wheelchair, and never fully recovered.

And another Driftwood report in July

Fatality not hit and run, say police
Pauline Rimmer, of Vancouver, was hit by an automobile July 21 on Galiano while riding a bicycle. Police discovered the vehicle shortly after the accident and are currently talking with the driver.

Pauline was 37 years old, a UBC graduate and secretary at the UBC School of Orthodontics.
Coroner recommends cycle paths

The coroner's report on the death of a bicyclist on Galiano Island last July made four recommendations to increase safety for bicyclists.

1. Ministry of Highways and Ministry of Tourism construct bicycle paths
2. BC Ferries unload cyclists after vehicles have cleared the ramps
3. Place warning signs about narrow, winding roads
4. RCMP perform periodic checks of cyclists

The minister of tourism directed the plea for cycle paths be addressed to the Islands Trust.

“The ministry of highways had warned the Islands Trust that island roads would have to be widened to accommodate cycle paths and that the Trust had strongly opposed highways of a width greater than that necessary to accommodate traffic.”
Country roads take me home ...

Safely please.

Word is out about the risks of riding Salt Spring roads, but cyclists keep coming.

1983 July Gulf Islands Driftwood

“The Gulf Islands continue to enjoy the reputation of being a good cycling holiday area despite one fatality and several injuring suffered by cyclists in the islands last summer.”
Salt Spring residents took up the challenge.

They identified a stretch of road to begin improving for cyclists and pedestrians.

Bob Stimpson organized a Tricycle Marathon at Portlock Park to raise money for a bike path from Central to Ganges.

*Norah Perkins won first prize for the most trips around the park.*
1988: Island Pathways gets started, by another name

Quick, name the Salt Spring long-timer/legend in whose living room it all got started.

Was there home brew sampling?

Friends and neighbours formed the **Safety Path Committee**
[also called the Safety (Bicycle) Path Committee and sometimes Safety Paths Committee].

With Bruce Grey as president, they began to:

1. raise public awareness for the need to construct a bike path from the Portlock Park corner to Booth Canal Rd and
2. to fundraise for it.
1990: Catchier Name

1990 October 03 Gulf Islands Driftwood
“Members originally organized ... as the Safety Path Committee ... recently changed their name to the catchier Island Pathways.
“... Pathways members ... confirmed its five-point mandate:
1. urge Islands Trust to adopt a policy favouring cycle paths along highways
2. through Trust, get paths in new subdivisions
3. get private land owners to provide easements for connector paths.
4. Work with the Ministry of Transportation to pave road shoulders and paint fog lines
5. Educate the public about the value and use of alternative pathways.

1991: Action!

400 Salt Spring residents sent postcards to Art Charbonneau, Minister of Transportation & Highways, asking for a safe bicycle and path policy.

They collected 200+ signatures on a petition.

Cards also went to local MLA Clive Tanner and Premier Mike Harcourt.
By mid 1992, the Highways ministry produced a draft cycling policy aimed at widening shoulders when roads are rehabilitated and sent it to Islands Trust.

Trustees Bob Andrew and John Stepaniuk supported this initiative and worked with Salt Spring Trust’s head planner Linda Adams to complete it.

Island Pathways action proved that the tail CAN wag the dog.
By October, the Islands Trust had, fresh in its hands, an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation & Highways like none other in B.C.

This rare gem allows the Trust to liaise regularly with MOTH over road standards and classification on the islands. References to improving cycling safety and infrastructure are laced throughout, making a clear priority of such initiatives as Salt Spring’s roads are rehabilitated.

Was it used? At all? Could it be still?

No No Yes
1993: The BC Hydro Challenge

When BC Hydro moved into its new building, it paid for the construction of a 300 metre bike lane fronting its lot on Lower Ganges Road and challenged others to do the same.

Takers? Dream on …

IP team sweeps BC Hydro bike lane, ca. 1997

1995: Rallying Community

Claire Heffernan joined Island Pathways and got busy. She cycles. She writes. She has ideas. She works them. Things liven up again.

An early newspaper piece by Claire, with many to come. Bruce Grey remained president of Island Pathways until Claire took over in 1998.
1996: Follow Through

RCMP Helmet Patrol
Working on the 1982 Coroner’s advice: “RCMP perform periodic checks of cyclists”

It’s happening … in the paper, at least.

Going Political Again: ➔
the beginnings of a concerted effort to build the Portlock Park demonstration bikeway, the first section of a paved bikeway from Central to town.
1997 October
We became a B.C. non-profit society.

1998 April
We turned 10!

This formalized our non-profit nature, provided public yearly filings of our accounts to Victoria, and supported the entirely volunteer work of our board.

1998-99 directors: Claire Heffernan, Wendy Webb, Margaretha Nordine, Bruce Grey, Ron Pachet, Brian Smallshaw, Lauren Sipone
1998 July – September
We surveyed cyclists.

Survey
For Visiting Cyclists

Produced by Island Pathways
June 1998

One page each for residents & visitors; 36 islanders and 128 visitors responded.
Results: yes, we need improved cycling infrastructure, amenities, education, etc.

1998 August
We spearheaded bike racks.

At our request, BC Ferries put in bike racks at Fulford, Long Harbour, Vesuvius, Otter Bay, & Crofton.

Claire Heffernan with new Vesuvius bike rack
1999 April: *Cycle Route Inventory* published

*where the rubber hits the road*

Island Pathways received $2,000 received from PARC to start the study of a Vesuvius-Fulford bike route and $12,000 from Islands Trust Council for engineering consultants to lay out the bikeway.

This is key document from which blueprints for the bikeway can be drawn.

From it, route planning & specifications were written into the Islands Trust’s by-laws and integrated into Salt Spring Island’s Official Community Plan.

**Next steps:**

1. Establish immediate priorities
2. Develop project concepts
3. Assemble funding
4. Build 1st project

and the 1st project is ... 

By 1999 December, the Portlock Demonstration Bikeway had $24,500 from all donors to pave 300 metres of shoulder in memory of Bicycle Bob.
The Portlock Demonstration Bikeway

Build model
done, 1997 Nov

Island Pathways’ model shows proposed park-bikeway project
2 Get funding

grants, donations, raffles, auctions, repeat many times

1999 - $5000 from Telus

3 Get permits, let contract

4 Build bikeway

   It'll be done in a couple of years, right?

5 Repeat on next section until the bikeway connects Vesuvius to Fulford

raffle of chair painted by Jill Louise Campbell
Bicycle Bob

One year after this heartrending loss, a huge fundraising effort in Bob’s name topped up funds for the Portlock Bikeway, enough to build it and dedicate it in his memory.
2000 April: Building the Portlock Demonstration Bikeway

15 years in the making, 1 great week in the doing

from sod-turning to laying the shoulder (asphalt over prep’d gravel)

from riding with room to spare to hitting the news

Ahh, “living well” in the old Barnacle.

2001 late August
PARC got the contractor to repave a choppy section.
Bike Smarts for Local Schools  
"Helmets for Life" beginnings

In June 2000, Margaretha Nordine, Island Pathways treasurer, donned another hat – her bicycle helmet – and coordinated a helmet-fitting & bike rodeo at Fernwood School, the first of many to come at island elementary schools.

By 2014, Margaretha and her team of volunteers have put more than 600 island kids in properly fitting, quality bicycle helmets, paying a small amount each. Fort Street Cycle provides them at cost, and donors such as the Lions Club and SSI Firefighters – yay! - cover the rest. She’s held many bike rodeos, partnering with the RCMP.
Early Map Sales

Mid-1990s
This is Bruce Grey’s original paste-up from which tabloid-size copies were printed. Island Pathways sold them for $1.00 each.
Salt Spring Island HERITAGE MAP with Bike Routes

Published 2001 Summer

1998: the idea was born for a Heritage Map with Bike Routes

1999 April: funding was secured:
$3,350 from Canada Millennium Partnership Program for a Salt Spring Heritage Map with Bike Routes;
$5000+ from provincial, regional, & local donors.

The map has:
- 43 heritage sites
- 22 parks & trailheads
- 15 Aboriginal place names
- 14 heritage and scenic roads
- 10 points of interest,
- 10 historic photographs
- 9 geological sites
- wildlife illustrations

- ice age map
- schematic map of Ganges
- bike routes w. distances & ratings
- road safety
- camping
- telephones
- drinking water
- washrooms
- ocean & lake public accesses

2002 winner of the Heritage Society of BC’s Highest Achievement Award
2012 3D Edition, still a winner, selling well


Poster version for SSI ferries, the Visitors’ Centre, and other key island locations
Bike Racks

A small crop of bike racks sprung up in 2001, seeded with a grant from CRD PARC.

Doc Paynter built four wooden bike racks.

Steve Forbes, of Salt Spring forge, helps make Salt Spring Island more bicycle friendly by building ‘designer’ racks for visiting & local cyclists.
By 2013, Island Pathways had spearheaded the placement of 36 bike racks on Salt Spring.
Regional Trail Promise

1999 February: Regional Trail participation
Lobbying by Island Pathways resulted in CRD Parks & Trails bringing Salt Spring into its plans.

By 2005, the Capital Regional District (CRD) had completed the Lochside Trail and the Galloping Goose Trail through greater Victoria.

The CRD’s final push on Vancouver Island would be to connect the Galloping Goose to the Cowichan Valley Regional District’s (CVRD) regional trail. The CVRD would soon complete the final kilometres of its 122 km trail.

Salt Spring needed the CRD’s help to build a bikeway through the island. It would connect to the Lochside from the south and complete the main CRD trails.
CRD’s Regional Trail maestro, Jeff Ward, with SSI CRD director Gary Holman, convened meetings to forward work on the Salt Spring part of it – the gem in the ring.

Island Pathways attended meetings from 2005-2008, then this work stopped.

Outcomes:
1. CRD pledged $50,000 for unspecified SSI Regional Trail work, money that disappeared, then reappeared in 2012;
2. this map and the unofficial name;
3. a vision too important and exciting not to come true.

2010
Island Pathways renewed its works on this important initiative, through its new Bicycle Working Group.
Ganges Village Pathway Network – the dream

Eighty-somethings took the lead

In 2002, 80-year-old Isabel Hunt sent Island Pathways a donation to build an off-road path along Sharp Road, to help her and others travel safely by foot or wheelchair to nearby shops.

At the same time, Sue Mouat, also in her 80s, started clearing a path from Lilac Lane to Atkins Road, also to get to the shops.

Island Pathways loved their dream, dollars, and doings. We could build and look after pathways – with partners and a lot of community support - but not hold liability. What to do?

In late 2007, CRD Director Gary Holman instigated the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission (SSITC. Pathways would now be CRD community assets and responsibilities.

Island Pathways started PARTNERS CREATING PATHWAYS with the SSITC, PARC, and the Trail & Nature Club and got busy pronto!

2008 June 24: Isabel at the opening of the first pathway.

Sue joined the party.
Building Pathway #6: Lower Ganges Road, from Atkins Road to Booth Canal Road

2008: 1 Wildwood to Blain along Lower Ganges Rd
2009: 2 Crofton Rd, 3 Blain Rd, and 4 along Atkins, from Lower Ganges to Sharp Rd
2011: 5 from Upper Ganges to Churchill

2012: 6 Lower Ganges, from Sharp Rd to Booth Canal Rd
2013: 7 Rainbow, from Atkins Rd to pool
2014: 8 Lower Ganges, from Park to head of harbour
9 Upper Ganges, from Churchill to Long Harbour Rd
Ganges Village Pathway Network – the results

Soon, everyone within walking distance of town will be able to leave their cars at home and walk or wheel safely to and throughout Ganges village.

By 2013, Island Pathways PARTNERS CREATING PATHWAYS had built over $500,000 worth of CRD pathway infrastructure, with only 12% coming from taxpayers.
2008 September: We’re a Registered Charity with the Federal Government

This is huge! It has all the benefits of being incorporated as a B.C. non-profit society, and we can issue tax receipts for donations.

In 2013, the federal charitable tax credit rate was 15% on the first $200 and 29% on the remaining donation.

A new logo appeared in 2007, part of our updated brochure. It’s our brand now, as a full-fledged charity.
Bicycle Working Group

In late 2009, Kimi Hendess, a SSI Transportation Commission volunteer, spun off the independent Bicycle Working Group. The BWG quickly joined Island Pathways and got busy.

**FIRST:** Do another Island Pathways 2nd Cycling Survey, to clearly establish SSI’s main spine bikeway route. It was funded by the SSITC, published 2010 April.

**SECOND:** Review Salt Spring’s Bikeway History, make an 8-panel display of it.

**THIRD:** Invite the cycling community from on and off island to a Cycling Forum & AGM. Talk up our long, impressive Bikeway History.
This CRD document and its accompanying compendium draw heavily on Island Pathways’ long years of bikeway work, without which the plan and compendium would either be far less solid or have cost a great deal more.

Island Pathways proudly welcomes and happily supports these vital CRD inputs for Salt Spring’s long-cherished bikeway.
Special Events

Fall Fair - our popular booth, now an old-timer at this annual event

Wendy, long-time IP VP

New Pathway Openings

2011 Easter Bicycle Parade
The Velo Village weekend drew approximately 60 conference attendees, 400 visitors, and 1000 residents.

- **BC Ferries first ever bicycle-only sailing**
- Sponsors by the dozens
- Beautiful Bikes by the hundreds
- SRAM art show: 23 artists, $22,000 raised for World Bicycle Relief

Velo Village weekend drew approx. 60 conference attendees, 400 visitors, and 1000 residents.
Newsletters & Brochures

**Newsletters**

- 1998 Summer - 2001 Summer (12 issues)
- 2008 Summer to date (11 to date)

**Brochures**

- 1990
- 2003
- 2007
- 2014
- Step Up Campaign

Website:
ww.islandpathways.ca

Since 2002, Keith Powell, Salt Spring owner of Internet-BC, has provided domain registry & hosting. Volunteer Brian Smallshaw got the site up and working, then another, paid webmaster did upkeep.

In 2012, we started taking PayPal donations and membership payments – a boon!

In early 2014, we launched an updated website we can run ourselves.
Awards

2002: **Heritage Society of BC’s Highest Achievement Award** for our Heritage Map with Bike Routes

2011: **Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce**
non-profit group of the year

2013: **Capital Regional District EcoStar Award**
Community Environmental Action

2013: **Primes Award, Bicycle Trade Association of Canada**
first-ever Primes Award for Outstanding Work by a Local Cycling Association, in recognition of Velo Village

2013: **British Columbia Community Achievement Award** for IP director Jean Gelwicks, for years of significant volunteer work with the SSI Conservancy, Climate Action Committee, Transition Salt Spring, and Island Pathways, one of 35 recipients. The award is sponsored by Postmedia Network, publishers of *The Vancouver Sun* and *The Province*.
The Next Quarter Century

We plan to continue working with partners, volunteers, and donors to:

★ Finish the Ganges Village Pathway Network, so everyone can walk and wheel safely to and throughout town.

★ Offer Helmets for Life and bike rodeos for our school kids and safe-riding help to all interested islanders and visitors.

★ Make our major roads safer for cyclists and pedestrians, through better maintenance, shoulder improvements, and signage.

★ Finish the bikeway from Vesuvius to Fulford ... and perhaps call it the Salt Spring Gander, since what’s good for the Galloping Goose will certainly be good for the Gander.

★ Keep our Heritage Map with Bike Routes up to date and produce a Walking & Hiking Map for the island.

★ Take part in and hold special events, as they present themselves and we conjure them.

★ Stay thankful we live in and share this paradise.