

*Laurie Salvador*

# Ageing *in* Place *in* **Sidney By The Sea**

**C**onstruction began on Patrick Lenihan's vision for mature adult housing in 2002. The concept, a private-public partnership between a group of investors and the Town of Sidney, has sparked interest in communities all over BC.

The site consisted of a parcel of land owned by the Town of Sidney. On it sat a building that housed the Silver Threads Seniors Group which, for many years, has provided hospitality, lunch, and activities for the many senior residents of our town.

The group had outgrown their digs and it seemed like an excellent location for the new model. Patrick approached the Town with a concept to house a new



20,000 sq. ft. Silver Threads Activity Centre, 25 independent-living units and 26 assisted-living units providing 24-hour care, professional office space, a commercial kitchen, and a chapel.

The Town holds title to the land and the building is privately owned by investors and individuals who have purchased units in the building. The massive kitchen is designed to feed the building residents and residents of neighbouring buildings of a similar nature and to supply food services for the Meals on Wheels program for the Greater Victoria area.

The professional office space is designed to be operated on a rotating basis and will include doctors, ophthalmologists, podiatrists, massage therapy, chiropractic, and other holistic health-care providers.

Services in the building also include housekeeping, companionship, and the multitude of activities available through Silver Threads such as bridge, dancing, exercise, yoga, lapidary, quilting, and travel tours. They also offer free flu-shot clinics for the general public, which were very popular last Fall.

Residents of the building can live as independently as they wish and they can partake in the activities and enjoy meals.

**The professional office space is designed to be operated on a rotating basis and will include doctors, ophthalmologists, podiatrists, massage therapy, chiropractic, and other holistic health-care providers.**



*Patrick Lenihan*

The building is now up and running . . . a beehive of activity, with more motorized scooters than cars in the parking lot! It has attracted the interest of many other towns who wish to use this building as a model for their own communities.

Last Fall the Canadian Council of Public-Private Partnerships presented the Town of Sidney with the Gold Award in Infrastructure for demonstrating excellence and innovation in the establishment of partnerships that benefit the public. Plans are underway for similar projects in North Saanich, Cowichan, and Langley, for starters. ▲

**Laurie Salvador** is a partner in the Notary practice of Salvador Davis & Co., in Sidney, BC. Laurie serves on the Board of Directors of The Society of Notaries Public of BC and was recently elected to the Board of Governors of the Notary Foundation.

[laurie@salvador-davis.com](mailto:laurie@salvador-davis.com)

