

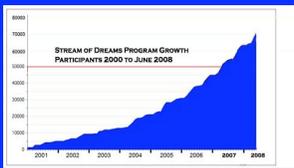


Stream of Dreams News

Newsletter of the Stream of Dreams Murals Society

June 2008
Volume 4, Issue 1

Stream of Dreams teams have helped to inspire more than 72,000 participants to help take care of water and the salmon and other fish in our rivers, streams and ocean.



Celebrating Salmon and the Community at Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School in Port Hardy

While delivering a Stream of Dreams project in Port Hardy on northern Vancouver Island, I had the privilege of working with Mike, a hereditary chief and Betty, one of the elders who teach First Nations culture. We spent the day together in the art room where the students joined us to paint their Dreamfish after discussing salmon and their connection to local waterways and the ocean.



Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw community in front of new mural

I was so touched at the respect the children showed these teachers that I decided to start the mural installation with Mike's Dreamfish painted like an orca and finish with Betty's Dreamfish – a canoe painting. I wanted to show the wisdom and culture the students at Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw are surrounded by, having these amazing teachers in their lives. At the beginning of the mural I then put up a fish painted with a bone design as a reminder of the full life cycle of a salmon, followed by Dreamfish painted with traditional native designs as a reminder that we must remember the past, learn from it and respect our heritage. The rest of the mural is a stream of beautiful, lively Dreamfish – a real celebration of the love and respect the students feel for salmon.

To celebrate the completion of their mural, twins at Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw school danced the Salmon Dance. The U'Mista Cultural Society describes the Salmon Dance: It is believed that when twins are born they are spiritual gifts from the Salmon People. This dance is the birthright of all twins and is danced to celebrate the uniqueness of twins and the greatest of our resources, the salmon. The dancers carry feathers representing twins and jump during the song imitating salmon at sea.



Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw students dancing twin salmon dance.

The Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw school's motto is "strong together in all we do". When it comes to water we all need to share this motto and their passion and hope for a future full of clean waterways abundant with salmon. *Micqualyn Waldie.*

Prince Charles Elementary in Abbotsford, BC = Team Training for Calgary



Karen and Val at PCE in Abbotsford

Two unusual things happened at the Stream of Dreams project at Prince Charles Elementary in Abbotsford this March.

First, the parent who spearheaded bringing the project to Prince Charles, had been a teacher at Edmonds Community School in Burnaby, one of the very first schools involved in the original Stream of Dreams project at Edmonds and Kingsway in September 2000! She was very excited to now be able to engage her two children in the project seven and a half years later!

Second, PCE served as the training ground for new Calgary program providers. Karen Tewnion and Val Schumacher already work with young people by designing and installing school gardens and are adding Stream of Dreams to their offerings. We look forward to reports about how Stream of Dreams helps to educate people in watersheds flowing north to Hudson's Bay.

Stream of Dreams Society News

Stream of Dreams Murals Society Celebrates 200th Project in April, 2008

From the West Coast of Canada to Ottawa over 200 Stream of Dreams eco-education and community art projects proclaim the importance of protecting fish habitat and local watersheds. Salmon, trout, sunfish, pike and the occasional sturgeon Dreamfish 'swim' along fences as a result of the work of over 72,000 students. Together 10 licensed teams are creating community art across the country, but more importantly, are helping to inspire people to change their behavior to ensure there will always be clean water and healthy water habitats for fish and people across Canada.

SDMS Team Gathering – July 2008

On the weekend of July 4th, Stream of Dreams team members from across Canada will visit Burnaby, BC. for the second gathering of SD instructors, artists and project coordinators. The meeting is a great opportunity to share ideas, brainstorm about water education, share what Stream of Dreams means to us and get to know other instructors and board members.



Original Stream of Dreams Dreamfish Live Again

In June 2006 the original Stream of Dreams mural at the corner of Edmonds and Kingsway in Burnaby was taken down to allow for development on the corner. About 650 of those fish received a new coat of paint at three Burnaby summer events in 2007 and they are now swimming above the Skytrain line along a fence on the newly opened South Burnaby Urban Trail. The fish had to be secured between 1:00 and 4:00 a.m. from a Skytrain maintenance car. Thanks to the dedicated Skytrain crew who twisted wires two nights in a row.

Stream of Dreams Migrates Across the Border

Just as our West Coast Salmon cross international borders out at sea, Stream of Dreams crossed the Canadian border for its first U.S. project. In February we shared the program with students at Columbia Elementary in Bellingham, Washington. The Bellingham Herald published a great story announcing, "it's the first Stream of Dreams project in the U.S." It added, "Third-grade student Shannon Holmes thought the project was a great idea and couldn't wait to go home and tell her parents about what she learned. 'I didn't know drains in homes led to rivers and the sea,' the 8-year-old said while painting her fish with polka dots. 'Now I'm not going to dump so much dirty stuff into (the drain).'"



Columbia Elementary School
in Bellingham, Washington

Water Quote:

Water is the
lifeblood
of our
bodies, our
economy,
our nation
and our
well-being.

Stephen
Johnson



President's Message – June 2008

Spring has finally sprung and fry have been popping up in streams and creeks in our neighbourhoods. This birth part of the salmon life cycle is an inspiring time, and I always feel uplifted when I spot fry in my local creek. I wish the wee tykes safe travels though I know that only a fraction of 1% of them will make it back to spawn. Such harsh statistics might seem sad, but you can also admire such persistence against overwhelming odds.

"My" stream -- Byrne Creek in southeast Burnaby, BC -- has pollution and sedimentation problems, as do many urban waterways, and I feel relieved when I see fry appear and know they've made it through the winter. Every fry counts, and every volunteer, every SDMS team member, every child, and every parent counts. It is all those small, individual efforts and individual awakenings that add up to great accomplishments. When the local initiative that spawned Stream of Dreams began taking shape some eight years ago, nobody knew that it would grow into a program that would migrate across BC, across Canada, and eventually face international demand. I feel honoured to be part of this amazingly successful organization that spreads the word about keeping local watersheds clean and healthy for the fry, for other animals, and for all of us.

Paul Cipywynk

Stream of Dreams and North Island Distance Education School

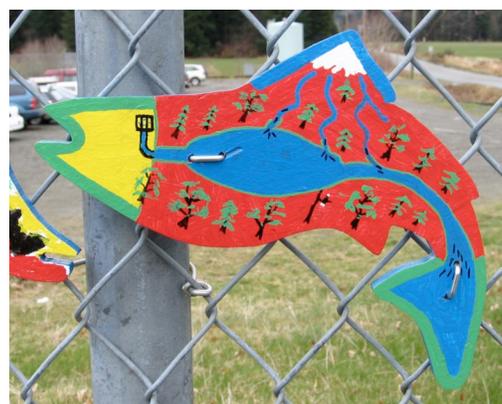
In April some 300 students at North Island Distance Education School (NIDES) created their own Stream of Dreams. NIDES serves central to north Vancouver Island. Its program offers an alternative to the regular public school system. Students learn at home with some help from a parent or other home facilitator and have a support teacher who marks and assesses work and creates a school community both online and through face-to-face interaction days.

Because all the NIDES students don't meet in one location we had to get creative in delivering their project. We held teaching and painting workshops in Nanaimo and Courtenay, and through the incredible efforts of NIDES teachers Jaki Braidwood and Michelle Honeysett, provided an online course for the students who couldn't join us on site.

The online students completed a six-step eco-education course before being sent a Dreamfish to paint. Topics included: Streams, Watershed, Communities in the Watershed, Healthy Streams and Habitats, Streamkeepers, and ended with the Stream of Dreams founding story, the death of Byrne Creek due to a toxin poured into a storm drain and its subsequent recovery. The online course included videos, Power Point presentations and Flash activities to review the concepts in an interactive way and encouraged students to submit entries to t-shirt and poetry contests.

Nikolas, a grade 7 student, participated in the online part of the NIDES Stream of Dreams project. Following is part of his description of the image he painted on his Dreamfish, shown to the right.

"The fish I have painted shows a healthy system for all. If the system remains healthy fish will return to their streams to spawn and will live up to my supernatural background colors of red & green. These are the colors a healthy mature salmon about to spawn becomes as it leaves the salty ocean and begins breathing fresh water telling us that we have done our jobs as stewards of the planet for another year. This important stewardship brings us one step closer to fulfilling a dream of abundant aquatic life; life that is necessary for our very existence".



Nicholas' fish



Fish painted by student at Courtenay Elementary

Quotable Quotes

"I think Stream of Dreams is a good way to stop people from pouring bad things down the drains and killing salmon."
H.B. Grade 3 student of Prince Charles Elementary, Surrey.

"They have scales. I love fish. I care about fish. I do not want the fish to die. And I will only put water down the drain."
Carly - Oaklands Elementary

"Our fish look great! Thank you for helping us learn about how to keep our water clean and safe for people and animals."
Mrs. McMillan's Grade 2 – Wishart Elementary

"One of the main ways we can all help to take care of our local streams and rivers is to make sure that 'only rainwater goes down storm drains.'"
From an article about the Stream of Dreams project at St. John Brebeuf Catholic School in the December 2007 issue of Country Routes Newspaper, Erin, Ontario.

"The blood in our veins is only as healthy as the water in our rivers."
Squamish First Nation elder

Thank You to Our Major Supporters for 2008

- Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program which has helped Fraser Basin students in Vancouver, Burnaby, Surrey, Delta, Coquitlam, Richmond, Abbotsford, Kamloops, Horsefly and Alexis Creek learn about their watersheds.
- Province of BC Gaming Direct Access Grant program for BC program support.
- General Paint for their beautiful colours.
- Victoria Foundation for program delivery in Victoria.
- Canada Lands Company.

Thank you also to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Rona, Home Depot, and Starbucks for supporting schools with their donations, materials and/or refreshments to a number of projects.

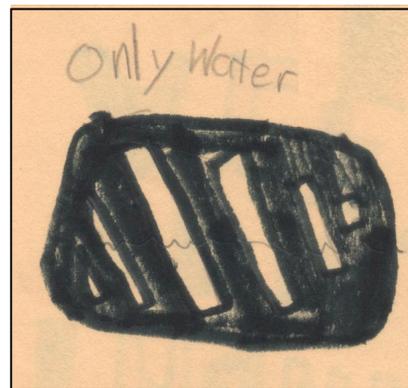
And most important, a big round of applause to the volunteers at the schools and in the communities who make each SDMS project happen. Thank you parents, students, school staff, community members, correctional facilities and local high schools.



Eco-Tip - Use Lavender Laundry Tumblers Instead of Drier Sheets

Do you use drier sheets? I recently found a greener product instead of commercial brand drier sheets that are tossed away after each use. The Salt Spring Lavender Company has lavender sachets that have been designed to use in your drier. They smell great and can be used over and over again. The first person to send your favorite green tip for the next newsletter wins a sample. Send to

mmwaldie@shaw.ca



Drawing by Aidan – Torquay Elementary School

Stream of Dreams Murals Society

Educating communities about their watersheds, rivers and streams, while dazzling them with the charm of community art.

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Become a SDMS Member and/or Support Eco-Education by Making a Donation

Help deliver environmental education to promote water conservation and protection by joining or renewing your membership in the Stream of Dreams Murals Society and/or by making a donation.

For member/donor form visit: <http://www.streamofdreams.org>, click on Stream of Dreams Murals Society on the side bar then scroll down to the member form.

By mail: You may mail a cheque to the address to the left.

Online: Use the Canada Helps online portal at www.streamofdreams.org to make a secure donation with a credit card.

Donate shares: Avoid paying taxes on capital gains and support environmental education by donating securities. You get a tax receipt for the full value of the securities. Contact SDMS for more information.