



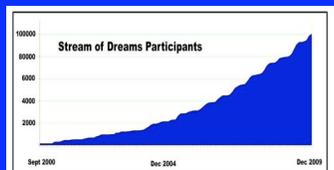
# Stream of Dreams News

Newsletter of the Stream of Dreams Murals Society

December 2009

Volume 5, Issue 2

Stream of Dreams teams have reached over 100,000 participants. We hope they have been inspired to help take care of our rivers, streams and ocean and teach others about the connections.



## Teachable Moments: The Day a Scary Ravine Became a Salmon Stream

In the 10 years since the first Stream of Dreams project, I've been to schools that are fully eco-aware and others that had no idea that a salmon stream was only meters away from the playground. This story is about the latter.

A grade 6 class was very excited about the program since their teacher had heard from other teachers that the 'scary' ravine behind the school where hoodlums hung out was in fact a salmon spawning creek. Not many people in the community with the exception of one or two parents and the local streamkeeping group knew that salmon were in the creek the very week we were at the school. Perhaps that is why Stream of Dreams was invited.

The afternoon before their turn at the Stream of Dreams workshop, the grade 6 class took a walk to the creek to see the spawning salmon. Not understanding the importance of staying out of the creek and not disturbing the fish during spawning time, a couple of overzealous kids were seen by other kids acting 'unfriendly' to fish. Needless to say our Stream of Dreams science teacher, Susan, and I heard all about what happened at the creek and, upon further investigation, thought that this was a perfect teaching moment.

The grade 6 class came into the fish painting room the next morning. I did my usual presentation about the paint, brushes, and wooden fish and how they come together to make a beautiful work of art, but when I got to the rainstick dream, I told the true story of a creek near a high school in Burnaby. How one day a local streamkeeper videotaped three kids beating salmon spawning in the creek. I described how the streamkeeper wept as he taped the kids. I described the shock and shame of the whole community at this behavior. The Burnaby students were charged with an offence under the Fisheries Act and made to do community service which included helping the streamkeepers pull invasive plants from the riparian zone of the creek.

As I told this story I could see a couple of boys look down, but to my delight those boys made an extra special effort in painting their fish. Their art was careful and thoughtful. I know they were very proud of the fish they painted.

My presentation uses the analogy of salmon's transformation and the transformation of a wooden fish into a Dreamfish, but the most important transformation is when a community embraces their local waterway and transforms its thinking; a 'scary ravine' becomes a vibrant salmon stream in a beautiful forest.

By Louise Towell

## 100,000<sup>th</sup> Fish Painted and Stream of Dreams 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

100,000 painted fish during the last 10 years, each representing someone who has learned that all drains lead to fish habitat is a great reason to celebrate! Stay tuned for details on how we plan to celebrate this success because we want you to join us.

British Columbia MLA Harry Bloy sent his congratulations:

*"I want to personally congratulate you and all the members of your society for creating a project that raises the awareness of watersheds, streams, rivers and oceans. Who would have thought that an environmental disaster 11 years ago would be the impetus for a program that educates children about fish in our waterways? 100,000 fish later, our community continues to be reminded about our environmental obligations and it's done with beautiful fish the children paint and place in a "stream" on fences."*

Next year begins a new decade for the Stream of Dreams program looking toward the next 100,000 informed youngsters! The society will be reviewing its programs, with the intent of offering new and expanded educational options, restructuring administration, and looking at exciting new alliances including new partners, supporters and sponsors. Please contact us to be part of the next decade of Stream of Dreams.

Original Stream of Dreams at Edmonds and Kingsway in Burnaby for Rivers Day 2000.



## Stream of Dreams Society News

### Horsefly, Prince George, Nelson team changes

As a door closes, a window opens: we say goodbye to our four-year-old Horsefly-based Stream of Dreams team as our coordinator/instructors move on to other commitments. Thank you Maureen, Sue and Jenny for four years serving the Cariboo and communities from Prince George to 108 Mile House. At the same time we say hello to a new Prince George based team, Gail and Jovanka, and look forward to their first projects in spring.

Farewell also to Nancie, our Nelson team coordinator for the past 2½ years. We hope to see her back in a different capacity in time. Welcome Emily who joins Monica to serve the Kootenay and southeast BC region.

### Arts and Healing Award

Louise and Joan were truly thrilled to receive an Arts and Healing Network award for their work in developing and delivering the Stream of Dreams program. Each year the [Arts and Healing Network](#) in San Francisco “honors healing artists who are truly making a difference in the world.”

### Special Events

Stream of Dreams was at the Horsefly Salmon Festival in September, Rivers Day events in Burnaby and New Westminster, and at the Pacific Salmon Foundation's first Pink Salmon Festival at Vanier Park in Vancouver. Dreamfish also participated at their first [Up Your Watershed](#) performance in Surrey.

**Tascha Stubbs of the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program on stage with Holly Arntzen, Surrey students and Dreamfish at December's 'Up Your Watershed' performance. More shows coming in 2010.**



### Stream of Dreams Murals Society – 2010 AGM

The Stream of Dreams 2010 AGM is tentatively scheduled for the evening of March 15<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for an educational evening and show your support for the Stream of Dreams Murals Society and the work our teams of watershed educators do. Watch for date confirmation.



### President's Message – December 2009

#### Water Quote:

**A McLean Elementary School parent says that because of what their child told them after participating in Stream of Dreams, "I can't put anything down the drain anymore!"**

It's a rare sunny afternoon this rainy autumn here on the west coast, and like many of you, I am raring to get outside. As winter approaches and the days shorten, it will be dark in a few hours. This is also the season when the spawners return, but I find less and less time to get out and walk Byrne Creek and look for salmon, though the stream is right outside the back gate in our fence.

It's been a gloomy year for many folks—friends have lost jobs, volunteers are burning out, while government support for non-profit groups appears to be still sliding toward a nadir. There's a sense we have to keep our noses to the grindstone, for the troubles may not yet be over.

Yet I still find Stream of Dreams inspiring, and demand for our program doesn't slacken. I think there's a message here.

Economic pundits say the environment drops off people's radar when times are tough, but I don't think that's happening this time around to the extent that it used to. The green, or blue, wave is here and it's not going away. People want Stream of Dreams. Kids respond to Stream of Dreams. Everyone sees hope in Stream of Dreams.

My wife and I did get out for a ramble recently and we found a pair of magnificent coho spawning in our little urban creek. We could only catch flashes of the muscular, copper-toned fish as they surged up and down in the current as the female dug her nest in the gravel, yet we were enthralled.

I find that a primal experience like watching the coho, or startling a coyote that you've come across scavenging a salmon carcass, clears and refreshes one's mind. I feel fortunate to be able to experience that connectivity with nature in an urban area, and I'm proud to be part of a group of passionate people who are working hard to ensure that such opportunities remain for future generations.

Paul Cipywnyk

## Projects 2009

Stream of Dreams teams have been very busy this year sharing our message of keeping waterways clean and healthy for aquatic life with over 20,000 participants this year alone. This brings our total participants number to 100,250.

### Burnaby, BC Team, Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley

Abbotsford	Mountain Elementary
	Abbotsford Middle School
Burnaby	Gilpin Elementary
	Rivers Day, 2009 Burnaby
Langley	Willoughby Elementary
	Gordon Greenwood Elementary
	James Kennedy Elementary
New Westminster	Hume Park Elementary School
	Fraser River Discovery Centre
North Vancouver	Ross Road Elementary
	Cove Cliff Elementary
	Norgate Community School
Port Coquitlam	Hazel Trembath Elementary
Richmond	Hamilton Elementary
Vancouver	Lord Selkirk Elementary
	Lord Roberts Elementary addition
	Pink Salmon Festival
	Thunderbird Elementary
	Laura Secord Elementary

### Interior and USA

Chase	Haldane Elementary and Chase Primary
Horsefly	Horsefly Salmon Festival
Prince George	Edgewood Elementary
Bellingham WA	Parkview Elementary
Edmonds WA	West Gate Elementary School

### Kamloops, BC Team

Kamloops	Bert Edwards Science & Technology School
Celista	North Shuswap Elementary

### Nelson, BC Team - Kootenay Region

Crescent Valley	Brent Kennedy Elementary
Rossland	McLean Elementary

### Horsefly, BC Team - Cariboo Region, BC

Prince George	Peden Hill Elementary
	Central Fort George Elementary

### Bella Coola, BC school and festival project

### Calgary, AB Team

Calgary	William Reid Elementary
	Sunnyside Elementary
	Lawnview Patch Project
	Queen Elizabeth Elementary
Innisfail	Chinook Center School

### Victoria, BC Team - Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands

Campbell River	Ripple Rock Elementary
Courtenay	Courtenay Elementary (repeat)
Duncan	Alex Aitken Elementary
Lake Cowichan	Palsson Elementary School
North Saanich	Kelset Elementary
Parksville	Winchelsea Elementary School
	Parksville Elementary
Saanich	Keating Elementary
Victoria	Northridge Elementary
	Crystal View Elementary
	Prospect Lake Elementary
	Selkirk Montessori
Youbou	A B Greenwell Elementary

### Conservation Halton, Milton, ON Team

Burlington	St. Christopher's School
	Burlington Children's Festival 2009
	Pineland Public School
	Florence Meares Public School
	Sheridan Public School
	Canadian Martyrs School
Greensville	Greensville Public School
	(Bay Area Restoration Council Partners)
Hamilton	Mountview Public School
	Sacred Heart School
Milton	Fall Into Nature Program

### Bay Area Restoration Council, Hamilton, ON Team

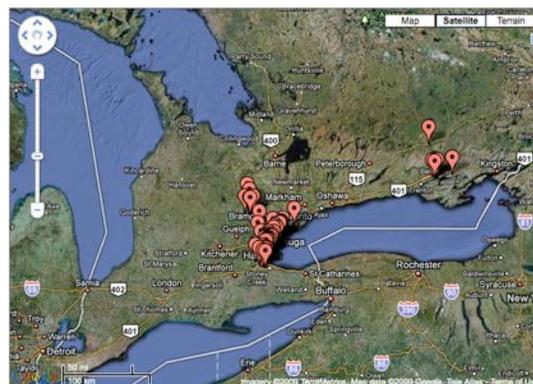
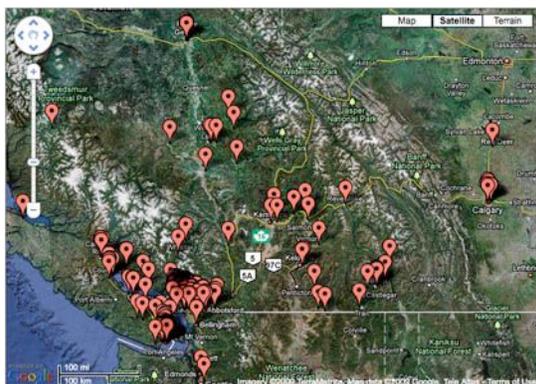
Greensville	Greensville Public School
Hamilton	Sacred Heart School
	Mountview Public School

### Credit Valley Conservation, Mississauga ON Team

Alton	Alton Public School
Georgetown	Stewarttown Middle School
Mississauga	Forest Ave Public School
	Erin Centre Middle School
	Clarkson Public School

### Quinte Conservation, Belleville, ON Team

Belleville	Belleville Community Stream of Dreams
	Susanna Moodie Public School
	St. Joseph Catholic School
Deseronto	Quinte Mohawk School
Madoc	Madoc Public School



Project locations west and east – getting pretty crowded! For detailed views please visit our [project locations](#) page.



Minister Shea with Dreamfish

## Fisheries Minister and a Dreamfish

On July 10th Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, toured the Goldstream Hatchery on Vancouver Island.

Goldstream Hatchery Volunteers Association members shared their passion for salmon and their commitment to educational programs. Micqualyn Waldie and Don Lowen briefly outlined the Association's contribution to local education initiatives including the Stream of Dreams Murals Society's watershed education and art program and DFO's Salmonids in the Classroom program.

We hope such meetings with local volunteers and grass roots organizations will demonstrate that people really care about salmon and their local watersheds.

## Guerilla Giving

A Stream of Dreams mural along the bike path under Burrard Bridge in Vancouver was discovered by [Guerilla Giving](#) who do revolutionary philanthropy. The fish do get noticed!



## Funding for 2010 and Thank You to Our Major Supporters for 2009

Stream of Dreams, like many non-profits, is finding past sources of funding drying up. It is particularly unsettling that the BC Gaming Branch has reduced or eliminated grants to so many community groups, including SDMS for this funding cycle. In our quest to keep Stream of Dreams programs affordable to schools, we need outside support, be it government, foundations or private or corporate donors and sponsors. We welcome all contributions!

That said, SDMS had some terrific support for program delivery in 2009. Thank you to the following:

- [Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program](#)
- Some incredibly generous individual donors
- Province of BC Gaming Direct Access Grant program
- General Paint, Terasen Gas, G & F Financial Group
- Telus Employees Charitable Giving Program

Thank you also to those who help individual schools bring in the program:

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation  
Vancity - Rona - Home Depot - Starbucks  
Corrections facilities and high school shop classes  
And many more. Visit our [supporters page](#).

## 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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## Help Support Eco-Education

### Join the Stream of Dreams Murals Society

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 tax-creditable donation.

**For a member/donor form visit:** <http://streamofdreams.org/index.php?pgid=30> Click 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](http://www.streamofdreams.org) to make a secure donation with a credit card.

**Donate shares:** You can donate securities without paying capital gains taxes on the appreciated value of your shares, and you get a tax receipt for the full value of the securities on the day they are donated. Contact SDMS for more information.