



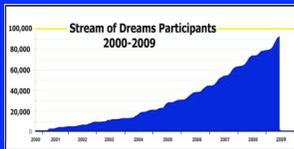
Stream of Dreams™ News

Newsletter of the Stream of Dreams Murals Society

June 2009

Volume 5, Issue 1

More than 92,000 Stream of Dreams™ participants to date. Please take care of water and the salmon and other fish in our rivers, streams and ocean.



-- Stream of Dreams Call to Action --

92,000 young people together with their teachers, parents and those inspired by the murals can change the world!

In this our 10th year, we are rapidly approaching the 100,000th Stream of Dreams participant – with 92,000 Dreamfish to date swimming along fences. Those participants know how they are connected to their local streams, lakes, and rivers, and through them their connection to our one ocean. They know that ‘All Drains Lead to Fish Habitat.’ They have each painted a fish and let it go onto to a community fence to inspire and delight others.

When you see those fish from Victoria, British Columbia, to Belleville, Ontario, and from Seattle, Washington to Prince George, BC, remember what they mean and explain it to your friends, neighbours and co-workers.

Think of Stream of Dreams Dreamfish as a call to action to protect the health of our waterways and the salmon and other species that call streams, rivers, lakes and the ocean home. They ask you to make changes as needed in your daily life – perhaps the way you wash your car, how you travel from place to place, the chemicals you use in your home and garden, how you dispose of unused or outdated medications, how much water you use.

Think of the young Dreamfish painters and their future on our beautiful watery planet. [Think Salmon](#) and the numerous challenges they face. Think and act.



Concrete Salmon Sculptures Help Celebrate Stream of Dreams 10th Year

On the Victoria Day weekend in May, participants at the Salmon Enhancement Program (SEP) Community Stewardship Workshop – Sustaining the Spirit 2009 - had the opportunity to paint two stunning salmon sculptures.

The fish are called Legacy Salmon, and the project was conceived by Joe Kambeitz, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Community Adviser for the South Fraser, to commemorate the 10th year of the Stream of Dreams program. The salmon sculptures, each about two metres long and weighing about 270 kilograms, were cast out of concrete by the Fraser Regional Correctional Centre. Joe prepared the fish for painting based on Dreamfish that had been painted at Stream of Dreams school and community projects in Greater Vancouver, and Sustaining the Spirit 2009 attendees took brushes in hand to complete the stunning works you see to the right.

Two more salmon are planned. The salmon sculptures will be installed at key points in Maple Ridge over the next few months.

We hope that when community members see the salmon they will be reminded of the Stream of Dreams™ message that “all drains lead to fish habitat.”

We will post the locations of these salmon sculptures on our website as they find their way to their new streams.



Salmon Sculptures

Stream of Dreams™ Society News

Thank You UBC Students

Stream of Dreams Murals Society worked with the UBC Community Service Learning program again this spring. Seven engineering and arts students spent three days of their February break at Selkirk Elementary School in Vancouver, creating complementary outdoor games to follow Stream of Dreams presentations and designing a compact water filtration system to remove paint from water used in the workshops. Two students from Geography 410, Environment and Society, worked on two projects: Conversations with Dreamfish, mini-videos to let Dreamfish painters tell their stories on YouTube; and researching a sustainable business plan for SDMS. We'd like to thank the students and UBC coordinators for the passion and enthusiasm they brought to working with Stream of Dreams. "Conversations with Dreamfish" will be up on our website soon so you can hear what students have learned through participating in a Stream of Dreams project.



First Fish is up!

New Team in Kamloops, BC

We have a new team to serve Kamloops, BC. Joanne [check name – later it's Joan] Nickolas and Gord Stewart were trained this spring to deliver Stream of Dreams in the Kamloops area. They were trained in Chase, BC, at Haldane Elementary School. Haldane is the first school in Canada to attain Earth Status III from the SEEDS Foundation Green School Program and has completed over 3,000 enviro-friendly initiatives, Stream of Dreams being one of them. Joan and Gord are both passionate about eco education and have been teaching science and environmental issues with children for years. We are delighted to have them join the Stream of Dreams family.

Salmon Eco-Education Activity Kits – two versions

SDMS has created a second salmon eco-education activity kit geared for teachers as a way of continuing education following a school project. Both class kits and the Salmon Eco-Activity Kits for sale include fish magnets to colour/paint and a Stream of Dreams sign to make a magnetic "Stream of Dreams," a colouring booklet that tells the Stream of Dreams story and other activity sheets.



Salmon Eco-Education Activity Kits can be purchased through the Stream of Dreams office (contact information on the last page of this newsletter) for \$20.00 plus postage and handling of \$5.00.

President's Message – June 2009

Water Quote:

"In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins. Not through strength, but through persistence."

Buddha

Don't you love these long, late spring/early summer days? There's plenty of daylight to get down to the creek after work and reconnect to the local watershed and nature. The school year is ending, and I'm sure we're all looking forward to taking a break over summer after a busy year of delivering SMDS programs. Thanks to all of the staff, teams, parents, volunteers and supporters who've contributed toward another successful year.

I'm writing this on our balcony, the cat happily stretched out beside me as the birds chirp among the trees in the nearby ravine. Bees are buzzing in the blueberry, raspberry and strawberry plants, staying busy, but I urge you all to relax and come back refreshed in September. I know it's tough for passionate people to let go for even a few days, but we all need to recharge and renew, and take some time to ourselves and our loved ones.

Stream of Dreams is in its tenth year. It's hard to believe it's been that long already, and we can all look back at our achievements with deserved pride.

I had the privilege recently of representing SDMS on a panel on Community Partnerships at the Fraser Assembly 2009. Some of our funders were there, several of our partners were there, and I finished my presentation by saying that we need to "share the glory." While there might not be a lot of glory in the work that we do, we certainly have successes that we can celebrate together.

We've touched a lot of children, a lot of people, with an important message. Change is incremental, and while goals and societal behaviour change may seem a long way off, and progress minimal, we are making a difference. There is joy in what we do.

Have a happy summer!

Paul Cipywnyk, SDMS President

Reflections of My First Year teaching with SDMS

Being a teacher for the Stream of Dreams Murals Society is just about the best gig a teacher could have! In my first year of being a Stream Talk teacher, there have been so many highlights, it's hard to recount them all.

The society's reputation precedes us when we come into a school, so that instant welcoming feeling is great. The highlights are pretty much all about people... the wonderful, enthusiastic and devoted teachers, principals and parents who invite us into their schools and make us feel so welcome; and, mostly, the children who are so delighted to create their fish for the mural, and then go home and tell their families about protecting waterways for the fish. There are a couple of stories that stand out this year. I was so touched when Mary, the PAC president at St. Patrick's School, shed happy tears when their mural was completed. There are lots of tales of hard-working dads and granddads who cut out and paint fish way beyond the call of duty. The dad at Northridge Elementary who didn't go to Hawaii with his family over Spring Break so he could finish cutting out the fish for their school's project amazed us. The granddad at George Jay Elementary and the neighbour at Keating Elementary who pretty much single-handedly cut out all the fish were really inspiring. And I'll never forget my first mural installation when it poured in Victoria (a rarity, honest) and the army of parents at St. Patrick's School who turned out and simply wouldn't go home, no matter what...we ran out of pliers that day, we had so many parent helpers.

The real magic happens, however, when the children see the mural installed, and they search for "their" fish and drag their parents and friends to see it. Everyone seems so lifted and excited when they see the mural, and their super enthusiasm lifts me, even if my feet are cold and sore, and rain is dripping off my nose. And every time I pass one of the murals I helped with (in teaching and installing) I do take the time to really look at it and even point it out to the friend I'm with at the time....and that feels pretty cool!

Marilyn Crump – Stream Talk Teacher, Vancouver Island



Marilyn teaching at St. Patrick's Elementary

True Community Effort at Quinte Mohawk School

Close to 500 students between Kindergarten and Grade 8 participated in a Stream of Dreams project with support from hundreds of community members.

To involve the community as much as possible, the school and its volunteers approached businesses, organizations and individuals with invites to participate with the children in this neighbourhood-building watershed education and community art project.

Our Quinte Conservation Stream of Dreams crew was only one part of a week-long focus on water and fish. Prior to our arrival, the Mohawk Language School visited every class with cultural teaching around fish and water. A cultural celebration with food and dancing brought students and community together at the end of the week to celebrate the activities and officially open the Stream of Dreams mural.

Hundreds of community members, parents, friends, supporters and employees lent a hand cutting fish, priming and installing. "Water Beings" were designed by an artist in the community and prepped along with hundreds of fish. Correctional Services Canada through an institution in Warkworth, Ontario, supplied an additional 400 soon-to-be Dreamfish.

The Water Beings were painted by community members and blended with the Students' Dreamfish for a 900-piece Stream of Dreams mural along York Road on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory.

A local resident emailed us with a note the following week "The fish on the fence were reflecting the headlights of the car driving towards me and it looked as if they were dancing", a perfect representation of a very special project and memorable experience at the Quinte Mohawk School.

By Maya Navrot – Quinte Conservation Team



Parents installing mural at Tyendinaga

Stream of Dreams Community Helpers

Behind the scenes at Stream of Dreams Murals Society is a dedicated 'mini crew' of fish cutters and primers of blue & white. With the help of Mainstream Assn. For Proactive Community Living, Community Volunteer Connections, Headway Centre, North Fraser Pretrial Centre, Maple Creek Middle school, retired engineer Bob Clark and all the participating Stream of Dreams schools who donated their extra fish, we are able to keep the river running when we need extra fish for festivals or when schools fall short in providing prepared fish for their Stream of Dreams classes.

As the dolphins say in the *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, "...thanks for all the fish."

by Louise Towell

Stream of Dreams at John T. Tuck Elementary, Burlington, ON

The Stream of Dreams project at John T. Tuck elementary school in Burlington, Ontario, is a remarkable story of perseverance and the power of environmental education. The story began in August 2007 at the Burlington Children's Festival. I was delivering the program, along with my fellow Stream of Dreamers, when we met a very enthusiastic parent, Claire Eggers, who had participated in one of the sessions with her daughter and was enthralled with the program. We soon found out that she was teacher at one of the local schools, John T. Tuck, and one of the driving forces behind sustainability initiatives at the school. She inquired about bringing Stream of Dreams to her school and decided to take on the project. This was a big step for the school, as environmental education had not been a focus in their community up to this point.

After proposing this program to the school, Claire was given approval to move ahead with support not only within the school community, but also from the parents who recognized the effort she was putting forth. It took almost 10 months of planning and hard work but with the help of her students and community members Claire was able to pull the project together.

We arrived in the late spring, very close to the end of the school year, when all of the students were getting ready for their summer vacation. Although there were some challenges along the way we felt as though we were making headway within the school. Many of the teachers and students left the program thirsting for more knowledge and pondering the impact of their actions, demonstrating the power of the program.

Today, John T. Tuck has the legacy of a beautiful Stream of Dreams mural swimming joyously around its kindergarten fence, heightening awareness of environmental issues within the community. Through the efforts of one determined teacher they are making the transition to a sustainable community, and becoming wonderful stewards of their environment.

A teacher at John T. Tuck said that the Stream of Dreams program started their school on the path to becoming an eco-school. Since the presentations the school has become more environmentally aware and the staff and students are working hard at greening the school.

By Elizabeth Wren – Halton Stream of Dreams Team

And from Jasmine Labelle of Canadian Martyrs School:

I can't imagine what I could add other than it is such a well put-together program and that we were so happy to help make it come to life and fortunate to have it offered in our city. The education sessions were fantastic and in my opinion if a dozen children go home with knowledge about how we can keep our water clean, it can only continue to spread. I know I have shared with my neighbours and my girls know what to do to help, this is the kind of knowledge we all need. I wish they offered it in Quebec...perhaps you could push for that!!



Thank You to Our Major Supporters for 2009

- Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program
- Province of BC Gaming Direct Access Grant program
- General Paint for their beautiful colours.

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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Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



Become a Stream of Dreams Supporter

Help SDMS 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.