



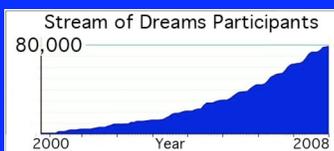
Stream of Dreams News

Newsletter of the Stream of Dreams Murals Society

December 2008

Volume 4, Issue 2

Stream of Dreams teams have helped to inspire more than 79,000 participants to help take care of water and the salmon and other fish in our rivers, streams and ocean.



Thinking About Salmon in the Fraser Basin

The Fraser River is said to be the most important salmon river in the world. Good water quality is critical to the survival of Fraser salmon. People who live and work in this great river basin must be aware that the river is really only as far away as the nearest street with storm drains or as close as bathroom and kitchen sinks—that all drains eventually lead to fish habitat.

In 2008 Stream of Dreams program providers spoke with over 6,000 Fraser Basin residents from communities on the coast, and lower Fraser, upstream to Kamloops and Prince George. The community artwork they created and children's discussions with family and friends led to more education and an opportunity for behavior changes.

Adam, a grade 1 student at Nestor Elementary School in Coquitlam, shared his thoughts at a Vancouver Environmental Educators' (EPPSA) conference in October. He said, "Before the Stream of Dreams came to my school, I had seen the yellow fish on the roads but did not know what they were for. Now I know why there are yellow fish near all the storm drains where I live. It is to remind people that the drains go to the rivers and if they put poison and cleaning things down the drains it kills the fish.... The most important thing for

us all to do is look after the environment and tell everyone else to also look after it too because fish are important."

SDMS would like to acknowledge the support of the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program and the Province of British Columbia for helping us build public awareness and inspire behavioral change in the Fraser Watershed. *Joan Carne – Burnaby*

Quinte Conservation Delivers First Stream of Dreams Program in Belleville, ON

A once drab looking fence along Pine Street in Belleville, Ontario, is now filled with hundreds of children's art masterpieces. The fence has become a gallery of one school's vision for their local watershed.

The first Stream of Dreams program delivered by Quinte Conservation has been a roaring success! The program is a wonderful way to deliver our message about protecting our local waters through our individual actions. Children become ambassadors of this very important message of not just how to protect waters but more importantly why.

Queen Victoria School, one of the oldest schools in our area, was eager to be the pilot school for our first Stream of Dreams program. All 266 students, 13 teachers and all school staff, school-board officials, parent volunteers, and local area high schools students excitedly took part in the preparation, program delivery and installation of the mural.

Grade 2 teacher Ms. Reid says, "It brought home the importance of using land more effectively and how we're all part of a cycle affecting all life on earth." Ms. Sharpe who teaches JK/SK says "the painting reinforced the presentation and made it all real to them."

We couldn't be happier; the response from the staff, students and the community has been very encouraging. We have several more school bookings for spring and fall 2009.

Thank you Stream of Dreams Murals Society, this is an exceptional program that encourages children to be earth friendly citizens through an understanding of their local watershed and its connection to all life on earth. It creates ambassadors of important messages relating to respecting the earth and others, and illustrates the value of art while allowing people to take pride in their communities.

Children become aware of how their daily choices and actions can have impacts locally and globally. The mural shows the community, and acts as a reminder to the children, of what can be accomplished by individuals working together towards a common goal!

Maya Navrot – Quinte Conservation



Queen Victoria School in Ontario

Stream of Dreams Society News

Stream of Dreams Murals Society – 2009 AGM: March 5, 7:30 pm at the Stream of Dreams Murals Society office: #182 – 5489 Byrne Road, Burnaby BC. Please join us for a fun and educational evening.

Kodak University – Lunch and Learn: In November, the Stream of Dreams team presented its first adult-oriented lunch-and-learn sessions at Kodak Graphic Communications Canada. The three sessions included a brief explanation of the origins, mission, and history of SDMS, and a summary of the information provided to children and young adults. Participants were particularly interested in their local watersheds, the Lower Mainland's lost streams and rivers, and conservation ideas. Lively discussions raised interest in continuing the series at other companies, and spreading the message of the importance of clean water to all. Several parents were keen to take the program to their children's schools.

by Andrea Rozsa –SMDS Director

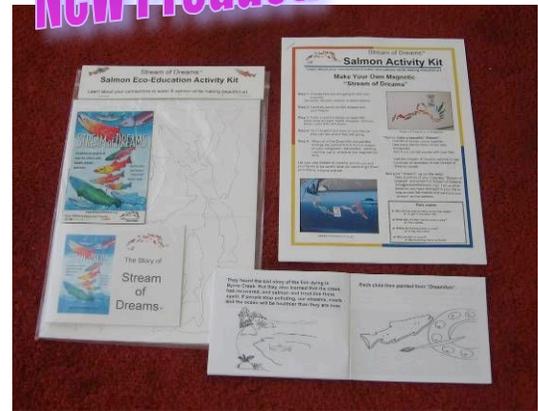
New Salmon Eco-Education Activity Kit: Check out our new salmon eco-education activity kit: teaching tool, fundraiser and just plain fun. The kit includes punch-out paintable/colorable fish magnets and a Stream of Dreams sign so kids of all ages can make their own magnetic Stream of Dreams. There is also a mini Stream of Dreams story/coloring book and games and activity sheets about water and salmon.

Sales of the activity kits will help support the work of Stream of Dreams Murals Society and further our goal to educate communities about their watersheds, rivers and streams, while dazzling them with the charm of community art. Now not only will Stream of Dreams murals be on hundreds of school fences, they will be on fridges across the country.

Salmon Eco-Education Activity Kits can be purchased through the Stream of Dreams office (contact information on page 4) for \$20.00 plus postage and handling.

New Banners: Thanks to assistance from the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program, we can add new temporary banners to murals to help communities understand the meaning of their new beautiful murals: "All Drains Lead to Fish Habitat".

New Product!



President's Message – December 2008

Water Quote:

"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water."

**Benjamin Franklin
(1706-1790)**

People are complaining about soggy west-coast winter weather. I say it's all in the head. I love the autumn rains because they stimulate returning salmon to swim up creeks and streams.

Why not view things positively? Instead of SAD being Seasonal Affective Disorder, think of it as Salmon Arrival Delight! I admit sun is nice, too, so the water is not too high and you can see the fish when you're counting them, or simply appreciating the wonder of their return.

The Stream of Dreams program is about water, and deals with issues that can cast a gloomy cloud: pollution, rampant urbanization, watershed destruction, detachment from nature, and so on. Yet our teams do a great job of sharing beauty and hope while enhancing community spirit. Our teachers help students come up with positive actions that the kids take home and share with their families and neighbours.

I was at a workshop a few weeks ago on climate change. At one point a man in the audience jumped up and shouted that nothing changes, and "some will live and some will die" and there's nothing we can do about anything. Whew. Unfortunately, he left and missed a wonderful tale. It was a story about time-traveling twenty years into the future and the wonders of the environmentally, socially and economically sustainable world that had been created—one step at a time, using technology that mostly exists today. As long as we start making better choices now...

That's what Stream of Dreams does—it imagines a better future and how we all can get there. So let's follow the example of those indomitable salmon as they fight their way upstream in the rain, and fish by Dreamfish, let's keep spawning ideas in minds, changing one at a time toward a better future.

Paul Cipywnyk - President

2008 Projects

Stream of Dreams teams have been very busy this year sharing our message of keeping waterways clean and healthy for aquatic life with nearly 16,000 participants. This brings our total number of participants to 79,000. We end this year with over 250 murals completed.

Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, other parts of BC, Washington – Burnaby Team

Abbotsford	Prince Charles Elementary
Aldergrove	Parkside Elementary
Anmore	Anmore Elementary
Burnaby	Brentwood Park Elementary
	Griffiths Urban Trail Skytrain overpass, rebirth of original Stream of Dreams
	Still Creek Project with Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion
Coquitlam	Nestor Elementary
Delta	Chalmers Elementary
	South Park Elementary
New Westminister	F.W. Howay Elementary
North Vancouver	Fromme Elementary
Port Coquitlam	Leigh Elementary
Port Moody	Mountain Meadows Elementary
Richmond	John Diefenbaker Elementary
Surrey	Prince Charles Elementary
	Hall's Prairie School
Vancouver	Dr. A. R. Lord Elementary
	Vancouver Oral Centre for Deaf Children
	Chief Maquinna Annex
	Chief Maquinna Elementary
West Vancouver	Ridgeview Elementary
Kelowna	Kelowna 2008 Kokanee Salmon Festival
Powell River	Edgehill Elementary
	Henderson Elementary
Bellingham, WA	Columbia Elementary
Seattle, WA	Laurelhurst Elementary

North Okanagan Region, BC – Lumby Team

Heffley Creek	Heffley Creek Elementary
Kamploops	Dallas Elementary School
Revelstoke	Mt. Begbie Elementary School

Kootenay Region, BC – Nelson Team

Nelson	South Nelson Elementary
	Hume Elementary School
	A. I. Colinson Elementary
Beaverdell	Beaverdell Elementary
Rock Creek	West Boundary Elementary

Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands, BC – Victoria Team

Courtenay	Arden Elementary
Comox	North Island Distance Education School
Port Hardy	Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School
Victoria	Torquay Elementary
	St. Patrick's Elementary School
	St. Andrew's Elementary
	George Jay Elementary

Cariboo Region, BC – Horsefly Team

Horsefly	Horsefly School
Alexis Creek	Alexis Creek School
108 Mile	108 Mile Elementary
Prince George	Rivers Day Festival

Ontario – Halton Team

Burlington	Burlington Winter Carnival
	John T. Tuck Public School
	St. Timothy Catholic School
Oakville	Sunningdale Public School

Ontario – Hamilton Team

Hamilton	Bennetto Elementary
	Pauline Johnson Elementary
	Holy Name of Jesus Separate School
	Richard Beasley Junior Public School

Ontario – Credit Valley Team

Hillsburgh	Ross R. Mackay Public School
Mississauga	Owenwood Public School
	Birchwood Academy
	Green Glade Sr. Public School
Orangeville	St. Peter Elementary School

Ontario – Quinte Conservation Team

Belleville	Queen Victoria School
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Stream of Dreams Reaches Seattle

The Stream of Dreams program was introduced to Seattle, Washington, at Laurelhurst Elementary in early December. Over 500 kids and school staff learned about salmon, local watersheds, the rain-drain (storm-drain) connection and the need for children to help teach adults. Their stunning Dreamfish swim along their chain-link fence.

On mural installation day, one parent reported what her daughter brought home from the program. Her daughter sat her down and said, "Mommy, I have something very important to talk to you about." Mom was understandably nervous about what was to follow! Her daughter continued, "We have to stop using chemicals in our house and we can't wash our car in the street anymore because the salmon need clean water."

Another parent received a letter from her son:

"Dear Mom, We can't wash the car in the street anymore!"

The proud mom went on to say that her son wants to send a letter to all the neighbours.

Our American neighbours are loving the Stream of Dreams program and interest from across the border continues to grow. Laurelhurst Elementary is a fantastic school that composts, recycles and has many energy saving practices. As for all Stream of Dreams projects, community input into the program at Laurelhurst was tremendous: coordinating, scheduling with our organization, preparing the wooden fish, and on a beautiful, sunny day, numerous parents helped twist wires as the fish were installed. *Louise Towell - Burnaby*



Washington State is implementing many measures toward ending storm-water pollution, considered to represent 70% of the pollution problems in Lake Washington and Puget Sound. Let's learn from their example and be part of the solution in BC!

How Kids Can Drive Change and Inspire Adults

At Stream of Dreams we often talk about the projects we have completed. We include a story about a project that hasn't taken place yet, but the beginning is inspiring. It's a story about a ten-year-old girl that saw a Stream of Dreams mural and took the initiative to contact the Stream of Dreams coordinator at Conservation Halton to find out about the program and how to bring it to her school. Her name is Jasmine and this is her story:

"I found out about the Stream of Dreams by seeing them done on a fence; they looked really cool and made the fence light up. So my Mom and I thought it would be a good idea to try to find out what they were all about.

"My Mom mentioned it to a friend who is a supply teacher and she knew right away that it was called Stream of Dreams and what a great program it was.

"I got your contact information and e-mailed and called you to try to book our school in. I was on the Eco-club at our school last year. You dropped off an envelope with all of the information for me. My Mom then had a meeting with Mr. Rokowski, Mr. Romlewski and yourself to get things moving.

"We did up letters to different companies to ask for supplies such as wood, paint and money to pay for the program.

"I hope it will teach our school on how we can not pollute our waters and also make people more aware of what they are putting down the drains in our homes and our sewers."

By Jasmine Labelle of Canadian Martyrs School; thanks to Elizabeth Wren – Conservation Halton

Thank You to Our Major Supporters for 2008

- Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program
- Province of BC Gaming Direct Access Grant program
- General Paint
- Victoria Foundation
- 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.

Stream of Dreams Murals Society

*Educating communities
about their watersheds,
rivers and streams,
while dazzling them
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Become a Stream of Dreams Murals Society Member and Support Eco-Education by Making a Donation

Help us 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.