



**Workshop 2005  
Leading the Way**

**Using Art to Ignite Stewardship –  
the Stream of Dreams Murals Model**

**Presenters: Louise Towell and Joan Carne**

**How can environmental educators, particularly stream stewards get invited into schools, PAC meetings and even corporate boardrooms? How do we reach the uninitiated folks that do not come out to environmental events? Art. Community art. It involves whole communities at a time and leaves a legacy of the educational program for all to see, enjoy and learn from. The Stream of Dreams approach, combining watershed science, stories, painting and public display, has educated more than 20,000 participants about their local stream.**

Stream of Dream Murals Society was formed in July 2003 to build upon the success of the Stream of Dreams program, initiated by Louise Towell and Joan Carne, together with the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers in Spring of 2000. The Stream of Dreams program has directly reached over 20,000 participants since that time.

Louise Towell:

Louise, originator of the Stream of Dreams concept, decided to beautify a corner in south-east Burnaby where buildings had been torn down while commemorating the death of an estimated 5000 fish in Byrne Creek due to a toxin release into the storm drain system. Louise studied at Emily Carr, worked as a visual merchandiser at Eatons and has been a Stream of Dreams instructor and a member of the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers for five years.

Joan Carne:

Joan, chair of the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers since 1999, has also volunteered as a garden club instructor at her son's elementary school, lead numerous geology and ecology classes and field trips into the local ravine, and chaired a number of amateur music organizations. She presently sits as a citizen representative on Burnaby's Environment and Waste Management Committee and has been a Stream of Dreams instructor for five years.

Awards:

- ❖ Burnaby Business Excellence Award for Community Service
- ❖ Gold 2004 Canadian Environmental Award for Environmental Learning – May 2004
- ❖ Award of Merit for Outstanding Contribution to River Conservation in Canada in 2003 from the Canadian Heritage Rivers System – June 2004
- ❖ BC Recreation and Parks Association Award for Environmental Leadership: April 2004
- ❖ Outstanding EE Project: 2002 Roger Hammill Award for Environmental Education from the Environmental Educators Provincial Specialists Association of the BC Teachers Fed.
- ❖ City of Burnaby Environmental Award to Byrne Creek Streamkeepers for Rivers Day 2000 Stream of Dreams
- ❖ BC Outdoor Recreation Council Award for the most creative River's Day event, 2000.
- ❖ Burnaby Local Heros Award to Louise Towell and Joan Carne for Stream of Dreams Environmental Education Program.