

Symposium Welcome Comments

Good evening and welcome everyone. I would like to thank you for attending this symposium and would also like to tell you a bit about how this event came about & what we are hoping to accomplish this evening.

My name is Betty-Anne Howard and, I am in the business of Making Dreams a Reality, as are many of my colleagues here.

I believe that we need to put our own individual dreams, wants and desires within a societal context while examining the long term effects of how we live our lives, how we spend our money and how we invest our money.

Specifically, I have a concern about how the choices we make today will impact not only our future, but also the future of other people around the globe.

There is a movement afoot in several domains addressing concerns for the environment, & concerns about social and corporate responsibility.

I wanted to bring people together, speakers and audience members, to hear and talk about that movement, as I see us sharing a common goal and vision for the future. Within this context, I wanted the focus to be on positive changes we can make and to learn about what is taking place around the world & from the successes in other countries.

This symposium was a dream of mine and, like so many dreams it helped to have others who shared in that dream & who provided support along the way. Without the sponsors this event could never have taken place and without the assistance of Erin Meisner, who just gave birth to a baby boy – a week ago, this event **would not** be taking place.

I have also had support from many other people, many of whom are volunteering this evening. Brian Cumming was a tremendous support this summer and, he is encouraging us to make this an annual event so your feedback will be extremely important.

I also shared a dream with my brother (who works with me) - Paul, that we would enjoy our Mother well into old age and, sadly that didn't come about. She died at the age of 64 after a four-year ordeal with breast cancer. Consequently, that particular dream had to shift, so we now share in the dream of opening up a Gilda's Club in Kingston, for Southeastern Ontario, which is why all of the proceeds from the ticket sales and the raffle will be going to the Gilda's Club.

I would now like to turn this evening over to Rebecca Luce-Kapler – I will come back to the stage at the end of the evening. Rebecca, what can I say – a wonderful woman, good sport, I called her this summer and told her I had an idea for a brilliant woman who would make a great MC for the evening and she very kindly agreed. I told her she could do whatever she wanted, however she wanted, and what was most important was that she have some fun.