

# "Okanagan Sunflowers"

## THE ARTWORK

The painting "Okanagan Sunflowers" represents Kelowna's official flower, the Arrowleaf Balsamroot. Painted by local Okanagan artist Jo Scott-B, the acrylic on canvas piece measures 24" x 30".



"Okanagan Sunflowers" by Jo Scott-B (above).

## THE ARTIST



Susan Tough (Coldwell Banker Horizon Realty), Mayor Gray and Jo Scott-B (above).

Jo Scott-B was born in 1941 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She has been a Canadian citizen since 1966 when she came to the Okanagan Valley. Her paintings can be seen at the Hambleton Gallery and in numerous corporate collections.

"When I first arrived in the Okanagan Valley in the 1960's one of my earliest paintings was of the Okanagan Sunflower. Over the years, I have continued to draw and paint the striking flower, both as individual studies and as a part of a larger landscape. It is this powerful valley landscape which continues to exert a large influence over my work."

## THE COMMISSION

The City's official flower, the Okanagan Sunflower (*Balsamorhiza Sagittata*) was chosen in 2001. The Okanagan Sunflower thrives particularly well in the Kelowna area and is one of the longest blooming wildflowers, providing abundant splashes of bright yellow on the hillsides in early spring. The plant is drought tolerant; it's completely edible and was used by the First Nations peoples as a food source. Its large yellow flowers reflect the sunny Okanagan skies and hot summer climates.



Arrowleaf Balsamroot logo (above)

The one stage competition put on by The City of Kelowna, Coldwell Banker Horizon Realty and the Diggers and Weeders Garden Club in 2002 invited an artist, or team of artists to create a two dimensional work of art that depicted Kelowna's official flower, the Arrowleaf Balsamroot. The artist or group of artists would receive \$1000 as the purchase price for their original artwork.

The decision came down to thirteen finalists :

- Bruce Knight
- Don Makela
- Hanny Buurman
- Lee Claremont
- Marcia Harris
- Karen Stewart
- Robyn Lake
- Lisa Figueroa
- Lynden Beesley
- Mayumi Hatano
- Diana Palmer
- R.J. (Bob) Richmond
- Jo Scott-B



Images match names going from top to bottom left to right.



"Okanagan Sunflowers" at left, painted by Jo Scot-B, was the winning selection.