



## Welcome to the York Children's Water Festival

Every year we look forward to presenting York Region's Grade 4 students with an opportunity to learn about water conservation, water protection, water stewardship and water-related environmental issues.

We have more than 45 curriculum-based, hands on, interactive activities for the students to enjoy.

This will be a useful document for teachers to find information regarding festival policies and procedures.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Corey Ryan, Festival Coordinator by phone or email:

Phone: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75132

Email: [ycwf@york.ca](mailto:ycwf@york.ca)



## 2019 York Children's Water Festival

### Teacher's Field Trip Checklist

To ensure a safe and fun experience at the water festival, please carefully read and check off the information listed below. To confirm your understanding of the checklist please sign, scan and return it by email to [ycwf@york.ca](mailto:ycwf@york.ca) by May 3, 2019.

If you have any questions please contact the Festival Coordinator.

- My class will be organized to meet the 8:1 student to adult ratio. I understand if I do not meet this requirement we may be sent home due to safety concerns. I will make appropriate provisions for my special needs students.
- Myself (the classroom Teacher) along with the supervising adults from our school understand that we are responsible for our students at all times. This includes bus arrival and departure, participating at each festival activity station, during the lunch break and during the lunch entertainment program. The supervision expectations will be clearly outlined to all parent supervisors prior to arrival.
- I understand that the festival is held outdoors, rain or shine, and will inform all students and parent supervisors to wear appropriate footwear and dress for the weather conditions expected that day.
- Students and parent supervisors will understand what a Litterless Lunch is and why it is important to reduce garbage and keep our conservation lands and water clean.
- I understand that busing is now confirmed based on my participant numbers that I provided during the registration process.

NAME OF SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_





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# 1

## Introduction

### Water

All life on this planet depends on water. We need it for drinking and growing food. It has turned mill wheels, provided steam and produced electric power and is a vital element in virtually every industrial process. In Ontario, we are incredibly fortunate to enjoy an abundance of freshwater resources as only 0.01% of all the Earth's water is fit for human use.

Because water is everywhere, we think of it as limitless. In fact, there is a fixed amount constantly cycling through our natural and man-made environments. We borrow water from nature, treat it, use it and treat it again before returning it to the water cycle. Unfortunately, our activities can have a negative effect on this cycle.

The name 'Ontario' is actually Iroquois for "sparkling water" or "beautiful water". There are about 250,000 lakes in Ontario and roughly one-sixth of the province is covered by water. Images of water surround us from the quiet lakes of Algonquin Park to the thundering flow of Niagara Falls. Water is a part of Ontario's natural history and developing future.

### Why a Water Festival in York Region?

York Region is one of the fastest growing areas in Canada. The management of our water supply, forests and air is fundamental in developing a community that is both economically and environmentally friendly.

Ontario residents and businesses draw about 58% of their water supply from surface water (lakes and rivers) and 42% from groundwater. In York Region, 80% of water is drawn from Lake Ontario, 15% from wells connected to the Oak Ridges Moraine and 5% from Lake Simcoe.

In recognition of these facts, the primary goal of the water festival is to encourage a personal awareness of the importance of a clean and plentiful supply of drinking water, and to foster a respect for a healthy natural environment. Hopefully, by increasing awareness and respect, our future generations will make a commitment to use natural resources wisely.



## Learning Opportunity

The York Children's Water Festival motivates students to become water stewards in their classrooms and communities. By combining hands-on interactive activities with messages relevant to their daily lives, students become aware of the value of conserving and protecting water. Interaction with industry professionals, water experts and enthusiastic educators highlight the environmental education messages of the festival.

Water is a natural resource that must be used wisely. Even though we enjoy a secure supply, there are many water-related issues that need understanding. Clean water is not an endless, free resource. Developing awareness, knowledge and skills for sound water use decisions is very important for young people as they will be the resource managers of the future.

## Content Themes

The various activities at the water festival are grouped into 5 high-level themes:

### Water Conservation

- Strategies for consuming less water in our homes, schools and communities

### Water and Technology

- The supply/sources of water
- How water is treated, stored and distributed
- The role of water in industrial processes

### Water Protection and Health

- Examination of the interdependence of soil, water, plants, people and animals
- Promotion of strategies to protect water at the source (source protection)
- Exploration of the role water quality and quantity have to all life



### Water Science

- The physical science of surface water and groundwater
- The hydrologic cycle
- Identification and role of watersheds and water sources

### Water Attitudes

- Historical versus current uses of water
- Exploration of common attitudes towards water use and current water issues
- Promotion of stewardship of water resources



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### SAFETY AND THE STUDENT/SUPERVISOR RATIO

It is our goal that your students learn in a safe environment. The students are your responsibility.

There are roads and a parking lot at the festival, please ensure that your students and accompanying supervisors remain aware of their surroundings at all times.

The ratio of 8 students to 1 adult supervisor is for everyone's safety.

There is no reason for a lost or missing student. We have extra staff supervising the areas and if we see a student without an adult or an adult that should have students with him/her, we will stop the student(s) or adult and question them.

Each group goes to the bathroom area **together**, they go to the lunch area **together**, they visit the activities **together**, and if a student leaves something behind, the whole group goes **together** to get it.

If there are any students with special-needs the ratio should be adjusted appropriately. Please make sure the adult supervising any group with a special needs student knows the limitations of the child.



### 3

## YOUR DAY AT A GLANCE

### UPON ARRIVAL

You will be notified of the bus pick up time by email prior to the event and will arrive at the festival between 9:40 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on the day of your field trip.

When you arrive, you will be met by a bus greeter wearing a York Children's Water Festival t-shirt who will board your bus to direct the driver to the appropriate parking location.

The bus greeter will review safety items, any possible changes in the festival itinerary, indicate the location of the EMS tent and the locations of washrooms. The bus greeter will then direct your group to the registration area.

Please note, it is important that when you leave the bus your class goes immediately to the grass area away from the parking lot.

### CHECKING IN

It is only necessary for the class teacher to 'check-in'. Once you have checked in please proceed to the lunch tents where you will find your designated tables. You can leave your lunch bags here, however please note that this area is not monitored and we are not responsible for lost items during the festival.

### LUNCH BREAK

Lunchtime starts at 11:50 a.m. and a Litterless Lunch is encouraged.

Once you have determined your lunch tables, please inform your group to return to the same tables during the lunch break. All festival activity stations will be CLOSED to students during lunch. This is to allow our presenters their break as well.

### LUNCH TIME ENTERTAINMENT

Lunch time entertainment for all students will take place in a central location from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.







At 12:30 p.m. the activities will reopen for afternoon programming.

## **DEPARTURE**

The buses start to arrive at approximately 1:30 p.m. for the trip back to your school. Please verify your end of day bus departure time with your bus driver before leaving the bus in the morning.



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### LIST OF ACTIVITIES (ALPHABETICAL)

Actual list subject to change.

1. 2Xs a Day
2. 3Ps in the T
3. A-maze-ing Water Treatment
4. Big Foot
5. Blooms Away
6. Bucket Brigade
7. Canada Coast to Coast
8. Creature Quest
9. Cycle-Path
10. Down the Sewer
11. Eagle Survivor
12. Environmental Twister
13. Every Little Bit Helps
14. Fishy Chemicals
15. Flow Away
16. Forest Sponge
17. Go with the Flow
18. How Much Water Does It Take
19. How Water Works
20. Just a Little Salt
21. Lather Up
22. Moving Through the Moraine
23. Neato Deeto No More Mosquito
24. No Water Off a Duck's Back
25. Off I Go
26. Oil Slick
27. One Water
28. Pioneer Water Race
29. Polluted Who Do'd It
30. Porosity and Permeability
31. Royal Flush
32. Say Glow to Germs
33. Septic Sights
34. Signs of Beach Pollution Solutions
35. Taps and Drains
36. The Salmon Run
37. Thrills and Spills
38. Tree-mendous Fun
39. Water Jeopardy
40. Water-opoly
41. Wetland Wonderland
42. What's My Water Level
43. Wonderful Watershed
44. WOW-Scape
45. Your Water Cycle



## 5 EVENT MAP

Our 2019 site map is not yet finalized.

If it is available prior to the event we will notify you by email, otherwise copies will be provided when you check in at the event.



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### DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

We hold the festival rain or shine. Of course we hope for good weather.

BUT...

The festival happens no matter what. Please make sure your students and supervisors are dressed for the day. We are at an outdoor conservation area.

Here are some tips for smart-weather enjoyment:

- A sweater tied around the waist is the perfect solution to cool breezes
- A rain coat and boots are needed for rain and mud
- *Be sun smart! SLIP on clothing to cover your arms and legs! SLAP on a wide-brimmed hat! SLOP on sunscreen! Use SPF30 or higher!*

To ensure you get the most out of your day:

- Students, teachers and supervisors should bring refillable water bottles; York Region's Tap'd In Mobile will be onsite for easy refills
- We provide a tent for lunch with picnic tables; your school's name will be posted at the end of a table or tables
- Emergency First Aid is on site, however, it is not to be used as a meeting place or a lost and found
- There are **no food or drinks available at Bruce's Mill**



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## **LUNCHTIME**

**11:50 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**The students must be supervised during lunchtime.**

Located south of the lunch tents will be portable toilets with hand sanitizers. The students must be supervised when visiting the facilities. The hand sanitizers will cut down on water and paper towel waste.

Please note that hand sanitizers will not be effective on soiled hands. If hands are visibly soiled, please take students to the washrooms, located on the west side of the Chalet, to wash their hands with soap and water.

Waste bins and recycling bins will be provided so the students may dispose of any waste from lunch. Please take a few moments at the end of lunch to ensure that the area is left in the same condition as it was at the start of the day.



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## LUNCHTIME ENTERTAINMENT

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

This year we welcome Michelle Hillier and her team from Experience Groove to provide some lunchtime entertainment and interaction.

### **About Experience Groove:**

WE ARE ALL BORN TO MOVE. Inspiration is just the beginning. Experience Groove's mission is get people moving in their OWN way! We do this through creating and delivering unforgettable customized movement experiences in the Recreation, Community Education and Workplace sectors.

Experience Groove is created for everyone. Key offerings include; corporate team building, recreation and education leader workshops, wellness-focused school assemblies, groovin' babies and community "pop=up" experiences. Regardless of your age and profession, when you Groove "you can't get it wrong!" It's time to wake up, move our bodies and reconnect as humans.

For more information on Michelle and Experience Groove please visit [www.experiencegroove.com](http://www.experiencegroove.com)



## 9 BUSING

Busing has been coordinated and details have been shared by email.

If your bus does not arrive at the listed pick-up time:

**Step 1: Contact the Bus Company (provided in your email confirmation)**

If they cannot resolve problem;

**Step 2: Contact Audra Scott at 289-716-4405**

Upon arrival at the festival students are to remain on the bus until welcomed by one of our bus greeters. When you are ready to leave the bus, PLEASE take the students DIRECTLY to a grassy area to organize yourselves.

**DO NOT STAY IN THE PARKING LOT.  
MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO THE GRASS.  
THIS IS A SAFETY ISSUE.**

When meeting the bus at the end of the day, please wait on the grassy area and be careful crossing the road and parking lot on your way to your bus. DO NOT BE LATE FOR YOUR BUS; all buses have a school route to do following the festival and must leave on time.

**PLEASE emphasize this with your supervisors.**



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### **Tree-mendous Travel for Tree-mendous Fun**

Once again we will be running our Tree-mendous Fun activity. This activity provides the students to chance to get their hands dirty and contribute to York Region's forestry cover goals by planting a tree at Bruce's Mill.

Lead by TRCA Conservation Lands and York Region Forestry students will help fill in a designated regeneration area within the park.

The location where this activity will take place is slightly removed from the main festival area. We will once again be running our 'Tree-mendous Travel' shuttle bus to transport student groups to the planting area.

Opportunities to participate in this activity will be on a first-come first served basis. Once your class arrives at the water festival you will proceed to the check-in table. A team member will be at the table to record names of interested groups in the schedule. There are limited spaces available each day and we ask that no one school register for all of the spaces (this will be enforced by the festival team member).

**Once you receive your scheduled time, please be at the bus pick-up location in the parking lot on time.**





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### CURRICULUM LINKS AND LESSON PLANS

Curriculum links for our festival activities are available for download as a separate document from our website at [york.ca/ycwf](http://york.ca/ycwf) under Related Resources at the bottom of the page.

The document is also available through this link: [curriculum links](#)

There is a lesson plan available to teachers through Focus on Forests at [www.focusonforests.ca](http://www.focusonforests.ca) where you can sign up for a free account to access forest-related lesson plans for Grades 1 through 12.

The lesson plan we would like to promote is the Urban Forests and the Emerald Ash Borer available here: [http://www.forestsontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/FOF-80\\_EAB-Lesson-Plan.pdf](http://www.forestsontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/FOF-80_EAB-Lesson-Plan.pdf)

There is also an Emerald Ash Borer factsheet from Focus on Forests: <http://www.forestsontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/EAB-Fact-Sheet-Final.pdf>



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### OUR GREENING INITIATIVES

For over 20 years, the York Children's Water Festival has been successfully teaching students about water conservation, water efficiency, water protection and water health. As the trend of environmental concern continues to evolve, we are trying to encourage students to be responsible water stewards and environmental leaders. This year, the festival will highlight a number of green initiatives to show students how they can help preserve the environment. Here is a list summarizing some of our initiatives:

#### RECYCLED PAPER

As simple as it sounds it is still not the norm. Destruction and exploitation of forests has become a serious environmental issue. Consumers take advantage of this cheap resource and sadly, most of it ends up in landfill. It has been demonstrated that a newspaper buried in landfill is still legible after many decades proving that paper, when not disposed of properly, does not easily biodegrade.

To help solve this problem, we must use and salvage recycled paper responsibly. Using recycled paper helps reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill, thereby conserving our valuable landfill space and reducing the need to harvest new trees for paper production.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an organization that helps protect our renewable wood resource from being exploited or depleted too quickly. Certified FSC Recycled paper guarantees that a minimum of 85 per cent of the content is from post-consumer waste and a maximum of 15 per cent is from post-industrial waste (Joyce, 2009).

This year, the festival will be using Recycled Certified FSC paper with a minimum of 30 per cent post-consumer recycled content. Additionally, choosing paper that is both chemical and acid free is important because chemicals can leach from landfills and contaminate our water and soil. The paper used in this year's festival is acid-free and recycled without the use of chlorine or chlorine compounds.



### **MASS TRANSIT**

According to the article, “Promoting Better Health through Public Transit Use” by the Canadian Urban Transit Association [CUTA] (2002), fossil fuels burned from transportation activities is the largest cause of air pollution in Canada. Air pollutants from these transportation activities affect heart and lung health (CUTA, 2002). Most Canadians are exposed to dangerous levels of these air pollutants each day. These pollutants contribute to smog and result in 20 per cent of Canadians having respiratory problems, such as asthma (CUTA, 2002).

This year we will be bringing approximately 800 students on 25 school buses (50 passengers maximum) to the festival every day. Each bus holds 379L of gasoline, whereas a van/SUV (7 passengers maximum) holds 114L of gasoline. However, it would require 178 van/SUVs to transport the same number of passengers as the 25 buses. In total, 25 school buses will burn up to 9,475L of gasoline per day, compared to 20,292L of gas a van/SUV would use.

### **TREE PLANTING**

Since the York Children’s Water Festival first began in 1999, we have planted over 8,600 trees and shrubs along Bruce’s Mill forest landscape through our Tree-mendous Fun activity.



## RECYCLED WATER

At the festival, very few of our water activities use actual water (the weather is too unpredictable, we do not want kids wet and cold). An example of recycling water is the “How Water Works” activity. The amount of water used in the activity is a fixed amount and reused, meaning we won’t be wasting water by letting it run off into the environment. This is also an example of a “closed loop” cycle, where all resources are reused and nothing escapes from the cycle.

## SOLAR POWERED TRAILER

In addition to recycling water, “How Water Works” uses solar energy to power its operations. Many people do not realize that pumping and treating water requires large amounts of energy. With our solar-powered activities, we are using one of the most efficient and abundant forms of energy – the sun. Therefore, this activity does not require a connection to the main power grid, reducing the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

### List of References

Canadian Urban Transit Association. (2002). *Promoting Better Health Through Public Transit Use*. Retrieved from, <http://www.transitaction.ca/issuepapers/IP2.pdf>

Joyce, Tara. (2009, September 4). *Your Sustainable Business: Recycled vs. Certified Paper*. Message posted to <http://www.elasticmind.ca/innerpreneur/index.php/2008/09/04/your-sustainable-business-recycled-vs-certified-paper/>



## 14 OUR SINCERE THANKS

Delivering a project of this size requires the support of numerous people. Significant staff time is invested to register classes, schedule busing, arrange the event site, coordinate staff, maintain the activities and complete the event.

Thank you to all the York Region elementary students, teachers and parents who came out to learn, the York Region secondary school students who came out to teach, the York Region and partner staff who came out to help, the EMS Paramedics who came out to protect and the entertainers who came out to share.

