



## Parent Helper Information 2011

# Welcome, Parent/Adult Volunteer!

You have volunteered to be a part of a fun filled day of water themed activities. Your role as chaperone and guide to young students is extremely important and the following pages outline information that will help you to keep your group of kids safe and having fun.

## The Festival

The Peterborough Children's Water Festival motivates students to become caretakers of water in their homes, classroom and community. Students 'soak up' information on the importance of water through hands-on, interactive activities. With this knowledge, students become aware of the value of conserving and protecting water. Each of the Festivals activity centres addresses one or more of the following themes:

### Water Conservation

- Looking at using water wisely in our homes, schools and communities.

### Water Attitudes

- Introduction to historical uses of water compared with present uses.
- Exploration of common attitudes toward water, and ways to improve these views.

### Water Technology

- Looking at the role of water in energy production.
- Examine how water is treated, stored and distributed

### Water Protection

- Examination of the interdependence of soil, air, water, plants, people and animals.
- Consideration given to the positive steps we can take to keep water clean.

### Water Science

- Introduction to the physical science of surface water and ground water.
- Introduction to the hydrological cycle.
- Exploration of the role of water quality and quantity to aquatic life.

## Getting Ready for the Festival

- ◆ You have already started on step one...read through this information guide so you know what to expect at the Festival.
- ◆ Discuss the Festival and the role of adult supervisors with the teacher. Make sure to mention any questions or concerns you may have.
- ◆ **We ask schools to provide one adult supervisor for each group of five students.**
- ◆ Ask the teacher to identify any students in your group who are not to be photographed or interviewed. For those students that can be photographed, you should have a list (provided by your teacher) of the full names of students in your group.
- ◆ Familiarize yourself with the site map. Maps will be posted throughout the site if last minute changes were made to centre locations.

- ◆ You don't need to be an expert on water information for your visit, but if you are interested, several excellent web sites are listed on the final page.
- ◆ Please bring a litterless lunch and snacks. Please note that there is no place to purchase food at the Festival.

### Parent/Helper Survival Kit:

- ◆ Clipboard
- ◆ Pen or pencil
- ◆ Large zip-lock baggie (to put your papers in)
- ◆ A few extra plastic bags (if you need to keep any gear in your bag dry)
- ◆ Pocket full of tissues
- ◆ Backpack (lightly loaded!)
- ◆ Sunscreen
- ◆ Re-Usable Water Bottle
- ◆ Litterless Lunch and snack

### On the Day of the Festival:

1. The Festival will be held rain or shine. Check the weather report and dress appropriately. Wear comfortable walking shoes.
2. We ask that neither Parent helpers nor the children they are supervising leave the Zoo site during school's visit to the Festival.
3. If you are driving to the Festival please minimize vehicles in the limited parking area by car-pooling with others from your school. Identify yourself to parking attendants on arrival as a parent helper and park where directed.
4. DO NOT wait in the parking lot- proceed to your schools assigned marshalling area, your teacher will be assigned a letter code for your school. When your school's bus arrives they will be greeted by a Festival Volunteer and brought to your assigned area.
5. Instructions/ changes to activity centre availability etc. for the day will be communicated to your whole school at the marshalling area.
6. **NO STUDENTS ARE TO BE LEFT AT ANY TIME, ANYWHERE ON SITE, WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION. You must keep your group together at all times.** No student should be removed from site prior to the group departure without your teacher in charge knowing in advance.
7. If your teacher has identified specific centres to visit you may want to do them first but if you have extra time please feel free to visit any of the centres.
8. A great deal of volunteer time and effort has been spent putting the Festival together for the benefit of your child and their classmates. It is highly recommended that you spend the time at the Riverview Park and Zoo focused on the Children's Water Festival Activities as a part of their school day and NOT in using the playground equipment etc. that can be enjoyed (free of charge!) year round.

9. For safety reasons, it is important that parent helpers and teachers **keep student groups away from the Otonabee River.** Flows on this stretch are particularly unpredictable at this time of year and no one should enter the river.
10. Please discourage your group from feeding the ducks. There is enough natural food for the waterfowl, and people food is not healthy for them.
11. In the event of an emergency, contact a Festival volunteer. Festival organizers have two way radios and one radio is permanently at the Volunteer Registration tent. If you need to contact your classroom teacher, messages will be transmitted via the organizers.
12. At the end of the day before bus loading you will meet in your designated location so that the classroom teacher can do a head count. **DO NOT WALK THROUGH THE PARKING LOT WITH YOUR GROUP AT THIS VERY BUSY TIME.** Parent helpers should not leave the site until the teacher has signaled that your group is in their care. A Festival volunteer will lead the collected group to the bus location for boarding.
13. Lost and found items can be brought to the registration tent. If there are items remaining at the end of the Festival, they will be stored until June 30 2010 at Peterborough Green Up. Teachers or parents can contact Corinne Harris, Festival Coordinator, at 745-3238 x 208 and arrange to pick them up. If items are not claimed they will be donated to a local charity.

### **The Festival is not just for Kids!**

We would like you to take the above information seriously however; we would also like you to have fun at the Festival. Please feel free to participate in the activities along with your group. Your participation will encourage them to explore the activities, and everyone (including you) will learn a lot more from the visit.

### **Your Feedback is Important!**

We welcome any feedback you might have about the Festival. Your ideas and comments can be shared through your classroom teacher, the coordinator or members of the organizing committee, letting them know what you enjoyed about the Festival, and what you think could be improved on for future events.

### **Thanks!**

We truly appreciate you taking the time to attend the Festival. You volunteering your time means that a group of children were able to attend and experience a fun filled day outside, learning about one of the most important resources- water. We hope that you enjoy your day at the Peterborough Children's Water Festival.

Thank you for taking the time to share in our Festival!