



Welcome to the 12th Annual 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 40 curriculum-based, hands on, interactive activities for the students to enjoy.

Once again, we are presenting our festival policies and procedures to the teachers in this booklet instead of mandatory teacher sessions.

Additional copies can be downloaded from our website at
<http://www.waterfortomorrow.ca/en/atschool/teachers.asp>

Please read the booklet carefully. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me either by phone or email.

Corey Ryan

2010 Festival Coordinator

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2010 York Children's Water Festival

TEACHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – To be completed and returned

PLEASE CHECK EACH CIRCLE BELOW AND SIGN TO INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE INFORMATION IN THE 2010 YCWF TEACHER BOOKLET.

This page must be faxed back to **905 895-6353** (Newmarket number), or scanned and emailed to ycwf@york.ca. Each teacher attending **must** sign and return this form.

PLEASE NOTE there may be media and other people taking pictures at the festival, especially on Tuesday May 18th. We will ask the photographers and/or camera people to request permission prior to taking pictures of the students.

- 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.
- I realize that I and the adults from my school are responsible for my students at all times, including during the lunch and entertainment time. I realize this is a serious concern and will address this issue with my parent supervisors.
- I understand that the festival is outside, rain or shine and I will help my students appropriately prepare for the days' weather
- I will explain the idea of a litterless lunch and why it is important, so that my students can do their part to reduce garbage and keep our land and water clean.
- I understand that the media will be present and students may be photographed. I will make sure the supervisors in charge of their groups know whether the students' can have their picture taken or not.
- I realize I cannot change my numbers for busing after May 1st.

NAME OF SCHOOL: _____

NAME OF TEACHER: _____

SIGNATURE OF TEACHER: _____





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SECTION 1

SAFETY AND THE TEACHER STUDENT 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. The area is supervised, however, your students and accompanying supervisors must understand that they are to be aware of their surroundings at all times.

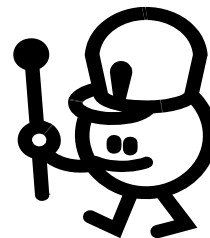
The RATIO of 8 students to 1 adult supervisor is for everyone's safety.

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.

THIS IS MANDATORY!

If there are special-needs students, the ratio should be adjusted appropriately. Please let the adult supervising group who has a special needs student know the limitations of the child.





SECTION 2 SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

You will arrive between 9:40 a.m. and 10:10 a.m. The time of bus pick up at your school will be faxed to your school before May 1st.

At the festival, a bus greeter will get on your bus to make sure the driver knows where to stop.

The greeter will go over any possible changes in itinerary, point out the EMS tent and washrooms.

WHEN YOU LEAVE THE BUS, GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE GRASS AREA. NO MEETING OUTSIDE THE BUS IN THE PARKING LOT.

You will be directed to the registration area. Please check in and then proceed to the lunch tent to drop off the lunch bags at your designated table.

Once the lunch bags have been stored, you may then begin the activities.

Lunchtime starts at 11:50 a.m. A litterless lunch would be best but we have garbage and recycling containers that students may use.

There will be lunchtime entertainment this year.

At 12:30 p.m., it's back to the activities.

The buses start to arrive 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.



SECTION 3 ACTIVITIES LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

LIST TO COME



SECTION 4
FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES

MAP TO COME



SECTION 5 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
- The students can leave their lunches/backpacks at the lunch tent first thing in the morning



**SECTION 6
LUNCHTIME
11:50 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

The students must be supervised during the lunch time.

Located south of the lunch tents will be portable toilets with hand sanitizers. The students must be supervised by the school adults when using the facilities. The hand sanitizers will cut down on the huge waste of water and paper towels.

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

Thank you for your help in this matter.

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





SECTION 7 LUNCHTIME ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment will start at 12:00 p.m.

We are very pleased to welcome *Freddy Fusion* to the York Children's Water Festival this year. Freddy offers a unique blend of science and magic that will captivate all audiences.

The entertainment will start at lunchtime and continue for approximately 20 minutes.

The teachers and adult supervisors are responsible for their students at this time. Please remember to tell the parent volunteers with your school that supervision is required during this time as it is for the whole day.

Freddy Fusion has travelled with the Disney Cruise Line and is in great demand at festivals and other school events. For more information about Freddy, please visit www.freddyfusion.com





SECTION 8 BUSING

We have arranged and will pay for busing. If the bus hasn't arrived at your school within 10 minutes of the scheduled time, please contact me, Corey Ryan, on my cell phone at 905 955-0960.

The students are to remain on the bus until welcomed by our bus greeter. 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 grass 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.

PLEASE emphasize this with your supervisors.





SECTION 9 CURRICULUM LINKS

Curriculum link details are available for download from our website at

<http://www.waterfortomorrow.ca/en/atschool/teachers.asp>



SECTION 10 OUR GREENING INITIATIVES

For more than a decade, 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 a responsible water steward and an environmental leader. 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, 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 it reduces 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 only 100 per cent Recycled Certified FSC paper with 100 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 years' festival is acid-free and recycled without the use of chlorine or chlorine compounds.

ORGANIC T-SHIRTS

This year, staff and volunteers will be wearing T-shirts made from 100 per cent organic cotton. What's the difference between organic and conventional cotton? Our T-shirt producer's (Me to We Style) website, www.metowestyle.com (2010), defines the difference between conventional and organic cotton as:

Conventional cotton: Is one of the most pesticide-intensive crops. In fact, seven of the 15 most carcinogenic (cancer causing) chemicals discovered are used in the pesticides to grow this type of cotton. Almost one-third of a pound of pesticides and fertilizers is required to grow enough cotton just for one T-shirt. Cotton farmers usually live in developing countries where health and safety regulations are either lenient or non-existent, making them vulnerable to illnesses and diseases.

Organic cotton: The water runoff from growing organic cotton is non-toxic because harmful pesticides or chemicals are not used. Using pesticides reduces soil fertility and contaminates water that can be harmful to wildlife habitats/ecosystems and local communities.

Organic cotton is more expensive. However, by choosing organic cotton, you are promoting safer working conditions for the farmers and a healthier environment.

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 1,250 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.

RECYCLED WATER

At the festival, two activities and one display are designed to encourage water conservation. The "3x a Day" and "How Water Works" activities, as well as the "Drip, Drip, Drip" display all recycle water. The amount of water used in the activities and display 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 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/>

Me to We: [Responsible Style]. (2009). *Organic cotton: Just the Facts*. Retrieved from, <https://www.metowestyle.com/SearchResults.asp?Cat=49>

