



Durham Children's Watershed Festival Teacher's Guide



Here is your 2020 *Durham Children's Watershed Teacher's Guide*. Everything you need for a successful and enjoyable trip. To help you prepare you have received the following items:

- Teacher Quick Reference Checklist* - easy to follow [checklist](#)
- DCWF Invoice/Confirmation* with your Festival date (**Contact Teacher** fill out and return)
- Adult Volunteer Info Sheet* with *DCWF Event Map*
- List of DCWF Activities*
- DCWF Festival Planner*

INTRODUCTION

Clean healthy water is essential for the survival of all living things; plants, insects, birds, mammals and even us. Water connects all earth systems: water, land, air and life. Without it nothing lives and nothing grows.

A watershed is the area of land that catches the runoff water draining from rain and snowmelt. This runoff water drains or "sheds" down the slope of the land to the same creek, stream, river, marsh, lake or other waterbody. Watersheds are separated from one another by higher parts of the landscape; ridges, hills, mountains and other landscape features. Some of the water that falls is stored in the land while some of it evaporates into the atmosphere.

Everyone lives in a watershed and we are all upstream from someone in our *watershed community*. All watershed communities are connected. Everything in the watershed community is dependant on the watershed's health.

Some of the runoff water drains into waterbodies in the ground called aquifers and is referred to as groundwater. Some people get their water from groundwater by pumping it to the surface using a well while others collect surface water from lakes or rivers.

Water has played an essential role in Canada's growth, providing food, drink, transportation and trade routes. It continues to play an important role in our lives today. Landuse impacts the watershed and everything that we do in our watershed community can effect nearby surface and groundwater in both positive and negative ways.

Only 2.5% of the world's water is in freshwater lakes, rivers and groundwater aquifers. The Great Lakes are one of the largest freshwater systems on earth. They represent 21% of the world's supply of fresh water and 84% of North America's surface water. The Great Lakes Basin is home for 40 million people, including 98% of Ontarians and 40% of Canadians. Ontario residents and businesses draw about 58% of their water supply from surface water and 42% from groundwater. In Durham Region 95% of our water comes from Lake Ontario. The remainder coming from groundwater supplies and Lake Simcoe.



The *Region of Durham Works Department* supplies 179,000,000 litres of drinking water to the residents of Durham on a daily basis. Ontario has an extensive supply of surface and groundwater resources, yet under the pressure of growing development many of these resources have become degraded. Concerns for water quality and quantity are growing. In comparison to surface water, groundwater is not as easily contaminated, but once it is, it is much more difficult to un-do.

Water issues are best understood in relation to watersheds; i.e., things dumped on the ground may eventually end up in a stream, lake or under ground in an aquifer. Education and media recognition are two of the reasons for the increased awareness about the importance of healthy watersheds. One of the Ontario educational goals is developing respect for the environment and a commitment to the wise use of resources.

As our communities change and evolve, so has our Festival. The Festival has traditionally been recognized as the *Durham Children's Groundwater Festival (DCGF)* and now that we have reached our 20 year marker, we want to create a *watershed community* consciousness. A name change will replace the word "groundwater" with the word "watershed" and better connect participants to all water resources and their importance to human health and ecosystem function. The activities already support this integrated approach to all water resources, so it is a logical step and will also engage a broader audience of community partners. The *Durham Children's Watershed Festival (DCWF)* is going to continue to help increase awareness among Durham's grade 4 students. The DCWF believes that the value of the watershed as a whole and its protection is fundamental to our existence and requires our attention. There are many ways humans can be stewards of our watershed communities and the ecosystems found within.

GOAL

The purpose of the *Durham Children's Watershed Festival (DCWF)* is to promote awareness that healthy watersheds are the basis of life and encourage participating students to become catalysts for change by taking their respect for water into their homes, schools, and watershed communities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through participation in hands-on and interactive activities focused on the general theme of watersheds, students will have the opportunity to learn about:

- groundwater and surface water as a resource; management and utilization in rural and urban settings
- the water cycle
- the interdependence of people, plants, soil, air and water
- the results of interaction between people and water and what effects this has on the environment
- the role of water in historic and contemporary processes and technology.

Water has played an essential role in the social and economic development of Ontario. Watershed communities, depend on water resources to support the growth of commerce, industry and transportation. The Festival motivates students to become stewards in their homes, classrooms and watershed communities. By combining hands-on, interactive activities with messages relevant to their daily

lives, students “soak” up knowledge on the properties, uses, connections and importance of water. With this information, students become aware of the value of conserving and protecting water. Interaction with industry professionals, water experts, and enthusiastic educators highlight the environmental education programming of the Festival.



2019 Durham Children's Watershed Festival Partners & Financial/In-kind Sponsors

Thank you for your generosity...

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Diamond Sponsor (\$5,000+)	
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Festival Partners

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority	Friends of Second Marsh
Durham Catholic District School Board	Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
Durham District School Board	Ontario Power Generation - Darlington Nuclear
Durham Region Health Department	Scouts Canada – Camp Samac
Durham Region Works Department	

\$ - Financial Sponsorship ◇ - In-kind Sponsorship





THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Preparing for the Festival:

- We arrange and cover the cost of bussing. If your bus does not arrive between 9-9:30 contact the **bus company directly** (contact information provided in your *Invoice/Confirmation*).
- Council Hall Special Guest program times are scheduled once final student numbers are submitted to festival coordinator (confirmed).
- Familiarize yourself with the Event Map and plan ahead. Select activities that meet your desired learning outcomes. An optional *Festival Planner* has been provided and can also be found on the website www.watershedfestival.ca (*Teacher Info*).
- Arrange for special needs students who require one-on-one supervision. Ensure that an appropriate supervising adult is assigned to meet **all** of your student's needs.
- Media are often present at the Festival. Any student who is not to be photographed or interviewed should be pointed out to the adult supervisor and given a festival provided wristband. Wristbands will be distributed upon arrival before leaving the bus.
- Students should be prepared to carry their backpacks with them throughout the entire day as there is no safe place to leave them.
- This is a LITTERLESS FESTIVAL with a boomerang lunch. EVERYTHING you and your students bring GOES BACK HOME. There are no facilities at the Festival to purchase food or drink. We do have water stations.
- The Festival runs rain or shine. Come prepared for the possibility of wet and cold weather. In case of severe weather check our website (www.waterhsedfestival.ca) the morning of your visit or call the voice message at (905)-579-0411 Ext 144. We will indicate if the Festival has been cancelled for that day.

Name Tags:

- If Festival participants do not have names tags, they will not be permitted to leave the bus. Should you forget, name tags will be available at a cost of \$10.00 per class.
- Name tags should follow the templates below for student, teacher and volunteers:

Full Name of School
Students First Name

Full Name of School
Teacher's full name
followed by (Teacher)
in brackets

Full Name of School
Volunteer's full name
followed by
(Volunteer) in brackets

Preparing Adult Volunteers:

- Before the Festival, divide students into groups (**5-8 students maximum per/adult volunteer**).
- Distribute to all group leaders (teachers, EA's and adult volunteers) the following items from your *Teacher's Guide* (items may also be found on www.watershedfestival.ca website):

DCWF
Festival
Event
Map

Adult
Volunteer
Info
Sheet

Festival
Planner
(optional)





- Advise all adult volunteers that they are responsible for the behaviour of their group. They ***must*** accompany their students at ***all*** times and it is mandatory that they remain in the areas designated for Festival use.
- Remind adult volunteers what time your school is scheduled for the Council Hall presentation (if you were scheduled).
- Adult volunteers are ***not to bring*** two-way radios, younger siblings, daycare children or pets to the festival. They must give their full attention to supervising their group.
- PARKING is LIMITED. IF a SPACE is REQUIRED, ARRANGEMENTS ARE TO MADE WITH THE FESTIVAL COORDINATOR 3 days prior to your visit. If arrangements are not made in advance there is a \$10 (exact change only) PARKING PENALTY FEE charged to the adult volunteer.

To ensure a fun and safe day, review these points with students and adult volunteers.

At the Festival:

- Festival hours **9:30am – 1:30pm**.
- Upon arrival wait on the bus until you are ***greeted*** by a ***Festival Greeter*** who will review safety protocol.
- After your school has unloaded from the bus and is behind the parking lot pylons, choose an “End-of-day” meeting place for your entire school.
- Stay in the designated areas of the festival. Participants must STAY OUT of the creek, lake and forest areas. We rent the venue at Camp Samac.
- Lunch time: 11:45 - 12:15** A horn will sound at 11:35 giving you time to ***finish*** your activity. All activity areas will then be CLOSED. To ensure a break for our volunteers and the safety of the participants all groups MUST go the DESIGNATED **lunch area**.
- Home time: 1:30pm** A horn will sound at **1:20pm** giving you time to finish your activity. Proceed to your “End-of-day” meeting place. **One** adult will locate the bus and then direct the school for boarding.

Festival Safety:

- If you have any concerns during your visit, our staff will be wearing red aprons. They will assist you and will have two-way radios to communicate to the Festival Coordinator.
- First Aid Station*** and ***Lost and Found*** is located in Area 1 at Council Hall.
- In the event of a child going astray please advise a Festival Organizer or the ***First Aid Station*** in Area 1 at Council Hall.
- In the event of an emergency (e.g. sudden severe weather), red flags will be posted at the main lodge and each Area activity tent. Wait for instructions from the Festival Organizer and the Festival Coordinator will determine if the festival should be closed down.
- Please follow instructions and ***RESPECT*** volunteers and the Camp Samac property.

After the Festival:

- The Festival Coordinator will send your **Festival Receipt via email** and will include a link to the *Durham Children's Watershed Festival (DCWF)* online survey. Please complete the survey to become eligible for our draw.