



## Chaperone Information 2017

# Welcome, Parent/ Adult Chaperone!

You have volunteered to be a part of a fun filled day with 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

- 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 become 'water wise'.

### Water Technology

- 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.
- 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.
- ◆ **All schools must 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 also be available at the festival in case of changes to activity centres.

- ◆ Please bring a litterless lunch and snacks. Please note that there is no place to purchase food at the Festival.
- ◆ Please bring a re-usable water bottle, water will be available to re-fill your water bottle.
- ◆ Please dress for the weather as the festival runs rain or shine!

### 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 (including reusable water bottle)

### 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 chaperones nor the children they are supervising leave the Zoo site during the 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 chaperone and park where directed.
4. DO NOT wait in the parking lot- proceed to your schools assigned marshalling or 'tree' area, your teacher will be assigned a numbered tree for your school. When your school's bus arrives they will be greeted by a Festival Volunteer and brought to the assigned tree.
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. If you arrive at an activity already in progress, please move on to another activity or wait patiently until the activity is finished. Activity's usually last 10-15 minutes.

9. 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, water park etc. that can be enjoyed (free of charge!) year round.
10. 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.
11. Please do not feed the ducks or geese. There is enough natural food for the waterfowl, and people food is not healthy for them.
12. In the event of an emergency, contact a Festival volunteer. Festival organizers have two way radios and radio's are always available at either of the Festival 'Lily Pad' locations. If you need to contact your classroom teacher, messages will be transmitted via the organizers.
13. 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.
14. 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 2014 at GreenUp. Teachers or parents can contact the 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. If you are on social media follow us on Facebook (Peterborough Children's Water Festival) and Twitter (@PtboWaterFest).

### **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 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.