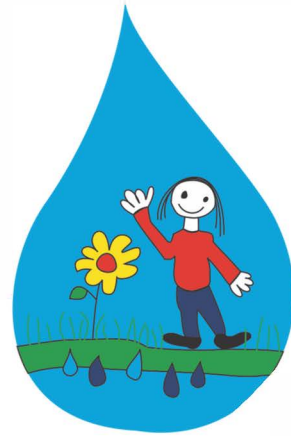


Durham Children's Watershed Festival

Teacher's Handbook



This is your **2025 Durham Children's Watershed Festival Teacher's Handbook (DCWF)**. Everything you need for a successful and enjoyable trip to the Festival at Camp Samac (275 Conlin Road East, Oshawa). To help you prepare, you will also be receiving:

- **DCWF Festival Date Confirmation sheet (contact teacher confirms final numbers)**
- **Adult Volunteer Information Sheet**
- **List of DCWF Activities**
- **DCWF Festival Planner**



Teacher Quick Reference Checklist



TEACHER ACTION	DEADLINE DATES	DETAILS
Read your <i>Teacher's Handbook</i>	ASAP	Overview of Festival and everything that you need to do in advance of your visit.
Cancellation deadline	Friday, Sept. 12, 2025	After the deadline, your school will be charged a \$75 cancellation fee.
Your invoice will be generated when the contact teacher submits final numbers using the link provided in the Festival Date Confirmation sheet.	Friday, Sept. 12, 2025	Once final numbers have been submitted online , CLOCA will coordinate and confirm all bussing arrangements.
Payment	<u>Your Festival day!</u>	You can mail to CLOCA prior to your Festival day or bring payment to the Festival and give it to the bus greeter!
Receipt	<u>After the Festival.</u>	CLOCA will email your receipt after the Festival.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

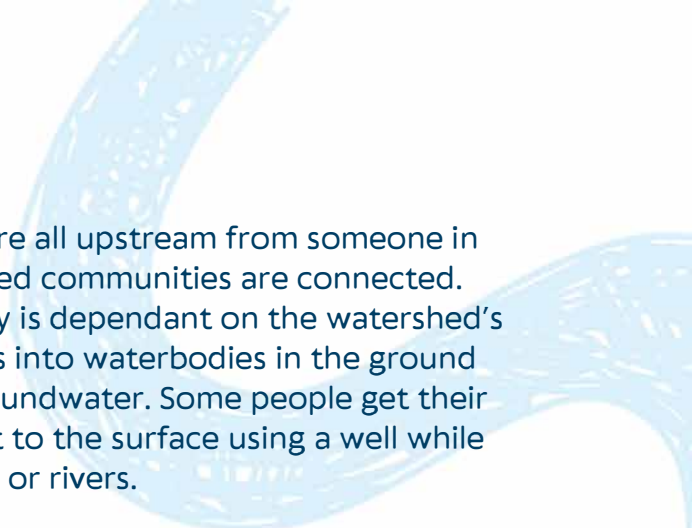
The Durham Children's Watershed Festival takes place on lands that have been occupied by First Nations for millennia and are the traditional and treaty territory of the Michi Saagig and Chippewa Anishinaabeg. These lands are covered under the Williams Treaties and the signatories of these treaties include the Mississaugas of Scugog Island, Hiawatha, Curve Lake and Alderville First Nations, and the Chippewas of Georgina Island, Rama and Beausoleil First Nations. Indigenous peoples are the original caretakers of Mother Earth and realize and respect her gifts of water, air and fire. We are mindful of the harms that have historically and presently take place to the lands, waters and Indigenous communities by colonial practices. We recognize the responsibility as educators to provide meaningful and respectful programming at the Watershed Festival that include Indigenous values, knowledge and the original promises to share the land without causing harm. We are all Treaty People.

Durham Children's Watershed Festival Backgrounder

• Introduction

Clean healthy water is essential for the survival of all living things; plants, insects, birds, mammals and 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 undo.

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 wathersheds. 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 had traditionally been recognized as the Durham Children's Groundwater Festival (DCGF) and with over 20 years of delivering this event, we wanted to create a watershed community consciousness.

A name change replaced the word "groundwater" with the word "watershed" and better connects participants to all water resources and their importance to human health and ecosystem function.

The activities 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) continues 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**

The Festival features 40 activity stations based around five themes: water conservation, water protection, water attitude, water science and water technology.

All activities:

- connect to the curriculum in ways that help students to achieve the desired expectations (Science and Technology, Social Studies, Physical Education);
 - are designed to be as hands-on and experiential as possible in order to enhance and personalize the learning;
 - provide for holistic learning in an environment that demonstrates the integration of people, phenomena and ideas; and
 - are geared to the interests, abilities, and special needs of learners
- Reflect the beliefs that guide education—accountability, quality, equity, partnerships, and a safe environment.



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. 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.

2025 Festival Partners and Financial/In-kind Sponsors



- Region of Durham \$
- Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority \$◇
- Ontario Power Generation \$◇
- Durham Region Health & Works Departments ◇
- TC Energy \$
- Cargill Ltd. \$
- Elexicon Energy \$
- Clarington Community Fund \$
- Durham Catholic District School Board ◇
- Durham District School Board ◇
- Durham Region Health Department ◇
- Durham Region Works Department ◇
- Friends of Second Marsh ◇
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board ◇
- Scouts Canada – Camp Samac ◇
- TD Friends of the Environment Fund \$

\$ - Financial Sponsorship | ◇ - In-kind Sponsorship

Things You Need to Know

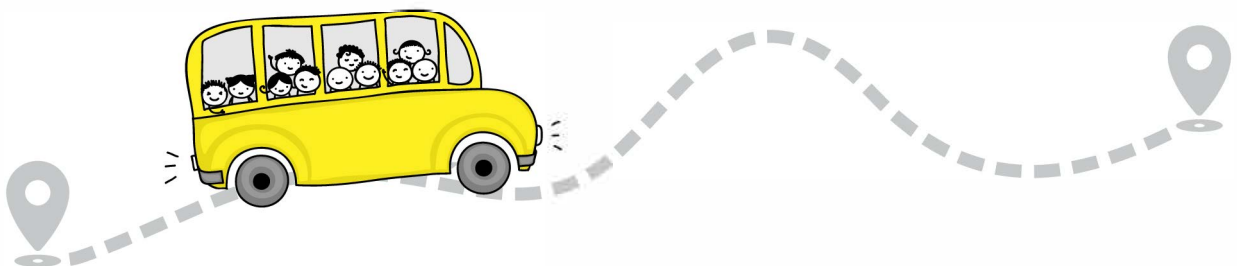


• Preparing for the Festival

- Before the Festival, divide students into groups (5-8 students maximum per adult volunteer).
- Arrange for students who require one-on-one supervision with an appropriate supervising adult.
- Familiarize yourself with the Event Map and plan ahead. You have the option to pre-select activities that meet your desired learning outcomes with the **Festival Planner** that you then provide to supervisors.
- 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 refillable water stations.
- The festival runs rain or shine. Come prepared for the possibility of wet and cold weather. In the case of severe weather, check our website (<https://www.cloca.com/watershed-festival>) or call the voice message at 365-633-0503. We will indicate if the festival has been cancelled for that day.

• Bussing

We arrange and cover the cost of bussing. If your bus does not arrive between 9:30am and 9:45am contact the bus company directly (**contact information** provided on your **Festival Day Confirmation** sheet).



• 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 per class.
- Draw a **rain drop** on name tags of those that cannot be photographed.
- Name tags should follow the templates below for student, teacher and volunteers:

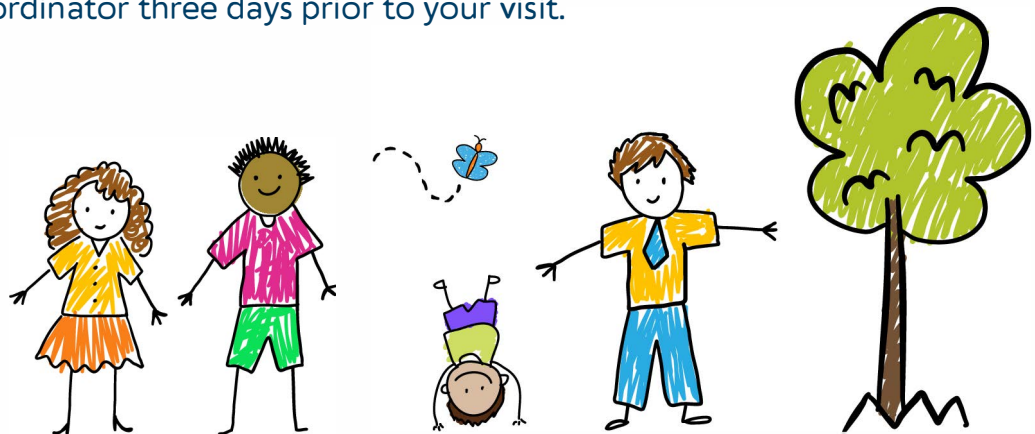
Full name of school
Student's first name

Full name of school
Teacher's full name followed by "(Teacher)"

Full name of school
Volunteer's full name followed by "(Volunteer)"

• Preparing Adult Volunteers

- Distribute to all group leaders (teachers, EAs and adult volunteers) the DCWF Festival Event Map, Adult Volunteer Information Sheet and the Festival Planner (optional if you have specific activities to visit).
- 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.
- Adult volunteers are **not to bring** younger siblings, daycare children or pets to the festival. They must give their full attention to supervising their group.
- PARKING is LIMITED. Adult volunteers are to arrive with the students on the bus. If a space is required, please arrange with the Festival Coordinator three days prior to your visit.



• Day of the Festival

- **Festival hours – 9:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**
- 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.
- **Food Breaks:** Rather than have a designated 'lunch time', participants are free to stop and have food breaks whenever necessary. Should participants need a break from inclement weather, there will be a schedule where your class will have an opportunity to use the designated lunch tent in the Aki (Land) Area. The tent can accommodate 200 people, so it is important that you use the time allotted for your class should you need it.
- **Home time: 1:30 p.m.** A horn will sound at 1:20 p.m. 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 with the Festival Coordinator.
- **First Aid Station** and **Lost and Found** is in the Giizhig (Sky) Area at Council Hall.
- In the event of a child going astray please advise a Festival Organizer or the First Aid Station in the Giizhig Area 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 Area Coordinator and the Festival Organizers will determine if the Festival should be closed.
- 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 DCWF online survey. Please complete the survey to become eligible for our draw.