

IV. Conclusion

That water is vital is elementary. That everything is connected is inspirational. To invest in our children is wise. And to ensure their sustenance is compassionate, and sensible.

The Peel Water Story fills a local relevance gap within existing water-focused educational resources. A goal of this story is to educate Peel's educators on the subject of local water systems and water issues, past and present. By having read this story, count yourself amongst the more knowledgeable people on this subject. With the other components of the Peel Water Story resource at your disposal (and being the "Giant" that you are), you will hopefully feel equipped to pass your understandings along to your Lilliputian pupils: "that generation of people that is still capable of growing into the habit of looking after where they live."

Through its watery lens, this story exposes Peel for the vibrant community that it is, which in Canadian terms has a long and colourful history, and yes, a spectacular natural inheritance. Peel's natural and cultural diversity (and because this *is* our home, after all) make it a place worth exploring, knowing, and understanding. The Peel Water Story has tried to illustrate the many

ways in which humans and 'more-than-humans' live within Peel's watersheds, which continue to sustain life today, as they always have. This knowledge may inspire some people, perhaps yourself and/or a student(s) to make some changes/take some action that will enhance the quality of life for all, in some small and important way.

Having now understood how water gets around locally, perhaps you want to visit a water treatment facility, a conservation area, or the Peel Children's Water Festival. Maybe you would like an expert to visit your classroom to make a presentation on natural watersheds and/or municipal water systems. Or perhaps you're ready to undertake a community-based action project that will bolster your classroom program while benefiting your (sub)watershed (or perhaps you already have). Come showcase your project at the annual Peel EcoFair! The Peel Water Story resource can help with these objectives.

If the Peel Water Story has raised your awareness as an educator about local water issues, then it has already succeeded. If it makes your water usage behaviours "less unsustainable," even better.

**Tell me, I forget.
Show me, I remember.
Involve me, I understand.**

— Chinese proverb

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Appendix E: Notes

¹ Peel is endowed, like much of Canada, with a significant *renewable water supply*. However, there does exist a ‘myth of abundance’ concerning Canada’s water supply –a myth that stems from the “confusion between *renewable water supply* and water sitting in our big lakes. While lakes are great for boating and fishing, we cannot consume their water unless we plan to dry them up. Our effective renewable supply is the rain and snow that falls every year, which renews aquifers, runs in rivers and passes through the lakes as it moves to the seas.” (John B. Sprague. ‘Myth of Abundance’, *Alternatives: Canadian Environmental Ideas and Action*, Vol. 29, Number 2, (University of Waterloo, Spring 2003) p. 28). In order to retain water local water supplies, we humans must not use water at a rate faster than precipitation can renew it.

While some research points to changes in the amount of water over long periods of time (due to ice meteors that contribute to the Earth’s water resources), for our purposes here we can see water, and especially fresh water quantities, as finite. “The trouble with water...is that they’re not making any more of it. They’re not making any less, mind you, but no more either—there is the same amount of water on the planet now as there was in prehistoric times...People, however, they’re making more of...and all those people are utterly dependent on water for their lives...” (deVilliers, Marq. *Water* (Toronto: Stoddart Publishing Company Limited. 2000). p. 15.

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⁹ Regional Municipality of Peel. *Peel Regional Official Plan*. May 2001.

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¹³ Storm Coalition, *Oak Ridges Moraine*, 1997. p15.

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¹⁵ Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds Task Force, *Greening Our Watersheds* (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 2002) p. 15.

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¹⁷ Ross, Nicola. *Caledon* (Toronto: Stoddart Publishing Company Limited, 1999) p. 76.

¹⁸ Regional Municipality of Peel. *Peel Regional Official Plan*. May 2001.

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²² “The Butterfly Effect” describes the phenomenon whereby a small change at one place in a complex system can have large effects elsewhere, e.g., a butterfly flapping its wings in Rio de Janeiro may eventually change the weather in Moose Jaw.

- ²³ This definition of a watershed borrows from other definitions, including those in the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's "Greening our Watersheds" publication. p. 5.
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Appendix F: Index

- Aboriginal Peoples 24, 29, 33, 37, 40, 44, 46, 80
 Albion Township 20, 24, 36, 41, 67, 68
 Alton 23, 54, 63, 82
 aquifer 21, 26, 64, 65, 69, 70, 72
 archaeology 23, 29, 45
 Avro Arrow 73
 bacteriology 52, 53, 54, 80
 base flow 42
 Belfountain 13, 54, 57
 Big Water Ideas 8, 9, 12
 biodiversity 11, 17, 19, 23, 42
 birds 28, 67
 Bolton 16, 24, 41, 42, 49, 67-70, 72, 80
 Bond Head, Francis 37
 Brampton, City of 16, 23, 25, 28, 37, 43, 49, 51, 53, 58, 60, 61-70, 74-79
 Bruce Trail Association 27
 Brulé, Etienne 31, 33
 Caledon Badlands, see *Cheltenham Badlands*
 Caledon East 16, 22, 54, 70, 80, 82
 Caledon Village 13, 82
 Caledon, Town of 13, 14, 16, 21-26, 36-39, 43, 54, 63, 69, 70, 77, 80, 82
 Cataract 13, 16, 23
 Centreville 70, 82
 Cheltenham 13, 25, 44
 Cheltenham Badlands 26, 27
 Chinguacousy Township 34, 36, 39, 67, 73, 74, 77
 cistern 45, 59
 civil engineering 50, 54, 63
 Clarkson 41, 72, 73, 76
 Clarkson Wastewater Treatment Plant 72, 76
 climate 13, 14, 17, 19, 29, 30
 Colborne, John 39
 Cooksville 17, 22, 73
 Credit Valley Conservation 23, 24, 28
 curriculum connections 7, 12, 32, 47, 66, 78
 deforestation 22, 23, 27, 32, 40, 42, 61, 73
 Dundas Road 17, 25, 34, 36, 37, 38, 49
 Eldorado Park 24
 Erin Mills 76
 Erindale 37, 49
 erosion 13, 16, 18, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 32, 78
 fauna 24, 26
 fire protection 9, 49, 59, 60-64, 68, 69, 73
 First Nations 24, 29, 31-38
 Anishinabeg 17, 29, 30, 31
 Iroquois 17, 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, 30, 37, 80
 Ojibwe 29, 30, 31, 34
 treaties 35, 36, 51, 67
 flooding 16, 25, 26, 30, 33, 38, 42, 61, 64, 67, 68
 flora 24, 26, 28
 forest zone 19, 20, 23, 24, 34, 37, 40, 41, 42
 Carolinian 17, 19, 23, 24, 26, 30
 Mixed 17, 19, 23
 G. E. Booth (Lakeview) Wastewater Treatment Plant 72, 76
 glaciers 14, 19, 20, 26, 29, 36
 Laurentide Ice Sheet 14
 Wisconsin Glaciation Period 14, 17
 Grosse Ile 52
 groundwater wells 16, 22, 23, 43, 45, 46, 53, 57, 59, 64-70, 72, 73, 74, 82
 habitat 9, 16, 17, 19, 22, 26, 42, 67
 Hamilton, City of 38, 43, 46, 50, 52, 53
 Hurontario Street 17, 22, 36, 41, 73
 Hurricane Hazel 61
 hydrologic cycle 9-12, 16, 18-22, 26, 32, 44, 47, 49, 54, 66, 76
 ice 13, 14, 16, 19, 22, 23, 28, 34, 40, 57, 58, 61, 68
 ice age, see *glaciers*
 immigration 33, 43, 52, 53
 Ingersoll, Thomas 34

- Inglewood.....13, 23, 27, 62, 82
 Jones, Peter37
 Keefer, Thomas Coltrin42, 54
 Lake
 Great Lakes13, 17, 19, 20, 21, 31, 43, 50
 Heart Lake16, 19, 20, 28, 29, 62, 63, 65
 Kettle Lake.....26
 Lake Iroquois.....17, 22, 23, 25, 28
 Lake Ontario9, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20-25, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42,
 44, 50, 51, 54, 60, 67, 70, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77, 80, 81
 Lake Peel.....22, 84
 Lake Shore Road43, 73, 75
 London, England48, 53
 Malton25, 33, 49, 73, 74, 75
 Meadowvale76
 Mississauga14, 17, 20, 23, 25, 26, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 43, 49, 56, 60, 67, 73, 76, 77
 Mono Mills.....13, 22, 82
 Montreal, City of.....31, 34, 40, 45, 52, 73
 municipal water4, 45, 60
 disinfection.....51, 69
 treatment72, 74, 75, 77
 Niagara Escarpment.....13, 16, 22, 23, 27
 Nightingale, Florence.....44
 Oak Ridges Moraine16, 22, 23, 24, 81
 Ontario Water Resources Commission51, 60, 67, 69, 75
 Ottawa, City of.....48, 54
 Palgrave.....16, 22, 24, 70, 82
 Pasteur, Louis50, 53
 Pearson International Airport.....23, 25, 46, 73, 74
 Peel Children's Water Festival.....7, 45, 62, 83
 Peel County42, 43, 44, 51, 52, 68, 74, 79
 Peel EcoFair7, 8, 83
 Peel Plain21, 22, 25, 30
 Perkins Bull, Willam.....40
 pioneer, see *settler*
 pollution9, 26, 44, 46, 48-51, 54, 64, 76, 80-84
 population22, 28, 42-46, 48-53, 55, 56, 60, 61, 65, 67, 69, 70, 75, 80
 Port Credit.....23, 37, 38, 43, 72, 73, 75, 77
 Public Health.....4, 42, 51
 Public Works7, 12, 42, 44, 75, 77, 82
 Quebec, City of.....42, 52
 Queenston shale.....27
 Railway
 Canadian Pacific.....58, 59, 62, 68
 Rattray Marsh.....13, 20, 24, 26, 28
 Regional Official Plan.....9, 72
 River
 Cold Creek67
 Credit River7, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 33-39, 41, 48, 56, 57-60, 72, 73, 76
 Etobicoke River.....21, 25, 34, 35, 60-67, 76
 Humber River.....21, 22, 24, 25, 33, 67, 68, 69
 Mimico Creek21, 22, 25
 Nottawasaga River23
 Silver Creek23
 Roman aqueducts46
 run off.....16, 61, 73
 Ryerson, Egerton.....37
 Safe Drinking Water Act.....77
 Secord, Laura34
 settlers.....24, 34-42, 45, 56, 60, 67, 80
 sewage, see *wastewater*
 Silvercreek54
 Simcoe, John Graves24, 33
 Simcoe, Mrs.....33, 37
 Snow, Dr. James53
 Sod Squad.....79
 South Peel System49, 67, 72, 75, 76, 77
 Stanley Mills.....73, 74

Stavebank Road.....	41, 73
storm water.....	16, 24, 51, 61, 76
Streetsville	16, 24, 39, 41, 48-60, 63, 76
Toronto and Region Conservation	24
Toronto Gore	36
Toronto Township	36, 41, 45, 49, 67, 73-77
transportation	9, 29, 33, 38, 39, 40, 67
tundra	19, 26
United Empire Loyalist.....	35, 56
Upper Canada.....	32-39, 47, 53, 62, 66, 67
urbanization.....	23, 42
Walkerton	55, 80, 81
War of 1812	36, 43, 56
wastewater.....	7, 10, 12, 44-51, 54, 59, 60, 64, 65, 68, 69, 72, 75, 76, 77, 79, 81
water cycle, see <i>hydrologic cycle</i>	
water efficiency	79
water power	
electricity	57, 58, 60, 63
mills	24, 25, 33, 37, 41, 42, 56-59, 67, 68, 69
Water Power	
electricity.....	60, 66
mills.....	13, 22, 41, 56, 58, 67, 73, 74, 76, 82
Water Smart Peel.....	79, 80
water source protection.....	81
Water treatment	46, 51, 64, 69, 72, 74, 75, 77
waterborne disease	9, 48, 52, 54, 80
cholera	46, 48, 51, 52, 53, 55
typhoid	48, 54, 55
watershed.....	13, 14, 20, 22-25, 28, 32, 42, 43, 45, 55, 56, 67, 72, 73, 81, 83, 85
Wellhead Protection Area.....	81, 82
Wetlands	24, 25, 26, 28
Creditview Wetland	26
World War II	74
York-Peel Water Agreement	77

