



# The Peel Water Story

A WATER CURRICULUM RESOURCE FOR PEEL SCHOOLS

What we do on the land is mirrored in the water.

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# Table of Contents

List of Images .....	5	2. Humber River Watershed .....	24
Commissioner’s Message .....	7	3. Etobicoke & Mimico Creek Watersheds .....	25
How to Use this Resource .....	8	4. Peel’s Wetlands .....	25
		5. The Bog, the Badlands, and the Big Kettle Lake .....	26
<b>I. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>III. HUMAN CYCLE .....</b>	<b>29</b>
A. Gulliver in Lilliput: Experiential Education and Childhood .....	10	A. First Nations in Peel .....	29
B. Peel’s Big Water Ideas & The Ontario Curriculum .....	12	1. <i>Ongwehonwe</i> - The Iroquoian Peoples .....	29
<b>II. NATURAL CYCLE .....</b>	<b>13</b>	2. <i>Anishinabeg</i> - The Mississauga Ojibwa People .....	30
A. Peel’s Hydrogeologic History .....	13	B. First Nations and European Contact in Peel .....	31
1. Tropical Peel .....	13	1. Across the Waters – Immigration and Treaties .....	33
a. The Niagara Escarpment .....	13	a. The Needs of Newcomers in Backwater Canada .....	35
2. Arctic Peel .....	13	C. Settling Peel .....	36
3. Watershed Genesis .....	14	1. Water Transportation .....	38
a. The Oak Ridges Moraine .....	16	2. "TIMBER !" –Primeval Deforestation .....	40
b. Ancient Lake Iroquois - Shoreline and Plain .....	17	a. The Business of Wood .....	41
B. Peel’s Life Zones - Climate and Biodiversity .....	17	3. Urbanization, Public Works and Public Health .....	42
1. The Butterfly Effect .....	19	a. Water Supply in Peel .....	43
C. The Hydrologic Cycle .....	19	(1) Simply Water .....	44
1. Water Cycle Thinking .....	19	(2) Muddying the Waters .....	45
2. Water Cycle Sensing .....	20	(3) Municipal Water .....	49
D. Peel’s Watersheds .....	20	b. Sewage Happens .....	50
1. Credit River Watershed .....	23	c. Public Health and Waterborne Disease .....	51
		(1) Boards of Health in Peel .....	53
		4. Three Peel Communities, in Three Municipalities, on Three Watersheds .....	55
		a. Water Power in Streetsville on the Credit .....	56

b. Floods, Fires, and Waterworks in Brampton on the Etobicoke .....	60
(1) Fire and Water .....	61
c. From Groundwater to Lake Water in Bolton on the Humber .....	67
<b>D. Water &amp; Development: The South Peel System .....</b>	<b>72</b>
1. First in the Lake .....	72
a. South Peel System - Then and Now .....	75
2. Water Efficiency - Water Smart Peel .....	79
3. “Population” and Water Source Protection .....	80
a. Multi-Barrier Approach to Safe Drinking Water .....	81
(1) Peel’s Wellhead Protection Area Program .....	81
<b>IV. CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>V. APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>84</b>
A. Glossary of Terms .....	84
B. Articles .....	86
C. Peel’s Historical Population Statistics .....	87
D. References .....	88
E. Notes .....	91
F. Index .....	97

## Curriculum Connections Pages

Curriculum Connections 1 .....18

Curriculum Connections 2 .....32

Curriculum Connections 3 .....47

Curriculum Connections 4 .....66

Curriculum Connections 5 .....78

# List of Images

- p.10 The Lilliputian View
- p.11 Tardigrade Protozoa
- p.14 Peel's Geological Epochs
- p.15 Gulliver's View of Peel
- p.17 The Iroquois Plain
- p.21 Map of Watersheds in Peel
- p.27 Cheltenham Badlands, 1945 (Bruce Trail Association)
- p.27 Cheltenham Badlands today
- p.28 Rattray Marsh (Mark Majchrowski)
- p.29 Iroquian Elder Jake Thomas (Jake Thomas Learning Centre)  
A River Through Time
- p.31 The Great Flood Mural (New Credit First Nation)
- p.34 The Government Inn at Port Credit
- p.35 Ojibwe People Harvesting Wild Rice, 1919 (National Museum of Canada)
- p.44 The Well Pump, by Gordon Rayner Sr.
- p.45 "Simply Divine" at 2004 Peel Children's Water Festival
- p.46 Windmill well at Malton, 1920s (Peel Archives)
- p.48 Cattle in the Credit River, 1950s (Peel Archives)
- p.52 Puck cartoon of (cholera) "Angel of Death"
- p.56 Overshot Wheel (Mississauga Heritage Foundation)
- p.57 Streetsville Swing Bridge over the Credit River (Wes Durie)
- p.57 Ice on Credit River banks (Peel Archives)
- p.58 Children playing hockey on Streetsville millpond, ca. 1910 (Streetsville Historical Society)
- p.59 Streetsville Power Plant (Peel Archives)
- p.59 Streetsville CPR Station, 1914 (Archives of Ontario)
- p.61 1948 Brampton Flood (Peel Archives)
- p.62 Brampton Diversion Channel map (Peel Archives)
- p.62 Brampton Diversion Channel photo
- p.62 Bucket Brigade at Inglewood swamp fire (Peel Archives)
- p.62 "Bucket Brigade" at 2004 Peel Children's Water Festival
- p.64 Royal Hotel fire, Brampton (Peel Archives)
- p.65 Heart Lake aerial view, 1945 (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority)
- p.65 Brampton Council at original well, 1912 (Peel Archives)
- p.68 1912 Flood in Bolton (Peel Archives)
- p.69 Bolton Flour Mill (Peel Archives)
- p.69 McFall Dam, Bolton (Peel Archives)
- p.70 Bolton's former groundwater and current lake water supply
- p.71 Map of aquifers in Caledon
- p.72 Sediment plume in Lake Ontario
- p.72 Port Credit Water Treatment Plant
- p.73 Malton conserves water, 1951 (Peel Archives)
- p.74 A.V. Roe airplane factory, 1930s (Peel Archives)
- p.74 Sewer construction at Malton Airport, 1938 (Peel Archives)
- p.76 Streetsville Elevated Tank
- p.77 Gary E. Booth Lakeview Wasterwater Treatment Plant  
Back Cover, Water and Land (Mark Majchrowski)

## Commissioner's Message

### Teachers,

As a child, the best times were always when we were outdoors, breathing the fresh air, and playing in the Credit River valley. At that early age, the beauty of this country and the magnitude of the natural resources were never really foremost in my mind. As I grew up, education and advice from teachers and parents taught me to appreciate the wonders of nature, to become engaged in our environment and understand how our natural resources play a key role in determining our future.

Today, as the Commissioner of Public Works for the second largest and fastest growing municipality in Canada, I am even more aware of the increasing need to respect and sustain the natural elements of our environment. The Region of Peel is responsible for providing services to over one million people every day. In order to provide these services, we continue to forge partnerships with residents and businesses, promoting co-operation, communication, and environmental stewardship.

Each day, our water and wastewater treatment facilities work to ensure that every drop of water is delivered in its cleanest form for Peel residents to enjoy. As our Region continues to grow, it will become even more important that we continually invest in the infrastructure to provide state-of-the-art water purification, to

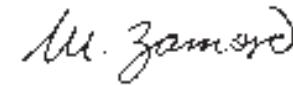
ensure that our drinking water remains plentiful and healthy. With dedicated and talented staff, the Region of Peel is able to ensure the delivery of quality water to our communities and to promote water efficient programs. However, we cannot do it alone. Continued support and participation from the community is important to protecting our natural environment and communicating the increasing value of water preservation.

A key component of our commitment to providing environmental protection and stewardship is education. We aim to help educate residents, particularly our children, through our outreach initiatives at home and in school. Peel's water-focused school programs include: the Peel Children's Water Festival, the Peel EcoFair, in-class presentations, water treatment facility tours and now a new water curriculum resource: The Peel Water Story.

The Peel Water Story provides valuable tools to engage, encourage, and educate our children so that they will become stewards of our environment. We are confident that this resource will enhance your existing school program by providing you with locally-focused information about Peel's water systems. The Peel Water Story has much to offer, from interesting accounts of our common past to case studies of student action projects today and hi-tech tools to explore our modern water systems.

I would like to thank you for your continued commitment to our children and for helping them to become informed friends of the environment.

Thank you.



Mitch Zamojc  
Commissioner of Public Works  
Region of Peel



## How to use this resource

The Peel Water Story (PWS) is a multi-media resource designed so that each of its parts supports and enhances the others. As a cross-curricular resource, PWS can be used in many ways to support your existing water-focused programming.

### This BOOK contains:

- **The Peel Water Story narrative** – The history of water in Peel from pre-historic times to the present day, which introduces you to the four “Big Water Ideas” found throughout the resource. You will also find K-12 curriculum connection pages as well as suggestions for relevant water activities, downloadable from the PWS website.
- **Case Studies** – A sampling of student environmental action projects in Peel. More examples can be found on the website.
- **Action Guide** – A manual for mentoring your own action projects, which is also on the website.
- **Matrix of online Water Activities** – Thirty-four water activities are categorized under four matrices, each corresponding to a Big Water Idea. Here teachers can see the relevance of each activity to subject areas and grade levels.

### A CD-ROM is found in this book. It includes:

- **A flyover of Peel’s landscape** – This virtual tour shows labelled topographical features while depicting the size and diversity of Peel’s natural environment.
- **website access** – An easy way to boot to the PWS website.

### The website is found at [www.peelwaterstory.ca](http://www.peelwaterstory.ca) and includes:

- **The History of Water** - A sampling of excerpted images and sound clips bring the history of water to life.
- **“Big Water Ideas” and Water Activities** – An online source for recommended educational water activities, categorized by Big Water Idea, subject area, and grade level.
- **The Peel EcoFair** – Information about the event, how schools can participate at our annual showcase of environmental action projects, and examples of action projects from Peel schools.
- **Action Guide** – Our manual for mentoring your own action projects.
- **Geographic Information Systems** – An interactive, online tool that allows teachers and students to map their school in relation

to Peel’s human and natural water systems. The “Places to Go” page locates dozens of potential field trips in Peel Region.

- **Resource List** – An online list of more educational water resources and information categorized by media type, including water presentations and field trips.

Teachers can use one or all parts of the Peel Water Story. Use it to augment your existing program and bring that sense of wonder to the classroom that comes with exploring the world immediately around you.

The Peel Water Story is much more than a book and a website; it is a door to the outdoors in your own community. Take your students outside, help them understand how lessons link to the world they see around them everyday, and bring learning to their own backyard. The result will be students who recognize how their actions affect their environment, and youth who may become ambassadors in protecting Peel’s environment.