

## **Highlights of Selected Accessibility Initiatives July 2007 – June 2008**

**Appendix III**  
2008 Accessibility Plan

### ***Peel Children's Water Festival***

The 2008 Peel Children's Water Festival (PCWF) was held May 22 to May 28, 2007 (excluding Sunday, May 25) at Heart Lake Conservation Area in Brampton. The PCWF is a six-day, annual environmental education program which provides learning opportunities to Peel elementary students, in grades two through five on the school days of the event and is open to all Peel residents on the Family Fun Day event. Using more than 50 hands-on and interactive activities, participants are exposed to important environmental messages related to the protection and stewardship of water resources.

This year's event marks the thirteenth Festival, with more than 60,000 Peel students having attended the event since its inception in 1996. The Environment, Transportation and Planning Services Department played a leadership role this year by providing the theme for the Festival, which was "Source Water Protection". "Source Water Protection" flows from the Region's Strategic Plan, specifically Goal #1, which is to "deliver citizen-focused services", Goal #2 which is to "protect, enhance and restore the environment" along with Goal #4 "to manage the impacts of growth on the community and Regional services. A cluster of new activities was also developed that emphasize the importance of source water protection and the actions taken to prevent the pollution of drinking water sources.

This year the festival's organizing committee continued to improve on accessibility elements within the festival planning process. In order to fulfill this objective a member of the Regional Accessibility Planning Program was included on the Festival Steering Committee. A member of the Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was also selected to sit on the Activities Sub-committee.



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Through the focus of making activities more experiential and eliminating operational barriers, the Festival greatly improved the overall accessibility of the event. Accomplishments included revising activity scripts to be more inclusive, comprehensive and experiential, inviting secondary school students to present activities during the event and editing communication material to clearly mark limited accessibility areas.

The planning and execution of the PCWF is achieved through the collaborative efforts of many external partners and the Region of Peel's Health, Corporate Services and Environment, Transportation and Planning Services.