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## Halton Children's Water Festival registration now open

Conservation Halton and Halton Region will be co-hosting the fifth annual Halton Children's Water Festival (HCWF) from Tuesday, September 28 to Friday, October 1, 2010. The festival educates children about water, one of the world's most precious resources, and is once again being held outdoors at the picturesque Kelso Conservation Area in Milton. Registration for this year's Festival is now open and teachers can sign their classes up through the website [www.hcwf.ca](http://www.hcwf.ca).

The Festival has grown every year since its inception in 2006, with the addition of Grade two students in 2007, an expansion from three days to four days in 2008. Attendance has risen from 3,000 students in 2006 to an anticipated 4,200 students in 2010. At the conclusion of this year's Festival, approximately 17,000 elementary school students will have had the opportunity to learn about water through the program since its inception.

"As the festival grows, we hope to instill a strong conservation ethic that will last a lifetime, encouraging students to be good stewards of natural areas and watercourses," said Brian Penman, honorary Festival co-

chair. "This is the milestone fifth year for the Festival and we are pleased to be celebrating this accomplishment and the legacy that has been created."

To recognize the fifth anniversary, the theme for this year's Festival is Biodiversity. 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, celebrating the variety of life on our planet, which is crucial to the health of our ecosystems. The Festival is co-hosted by Conservation Halton and Halton Region in partnership with the Halton District School Board, the Halton Catholic District School Board, The City of Burlington, The Town of Halton Hills, The Town of Milton and The Town of Oakville.

Students will have a unique opportunity to learn about water in a fun and interactive way while covering Ontario curriculum requirements. The festival features nearly 60 curriculum-based, hands-on activity centres that incorporate four central water related themes:

- Water Science and Technology
  - Water Conservation and Protection
  - Water Health and Safety
  - Water and Society
- "Water is a vital resource

and the Halton Children's Water Festival is a wonderful opportunity to remind our children about its importance," said Gary Carr, Honorary Festival Co-Chair. "We will continue to work with Conservation Halton and are pleased to have so many committed partners who have all contributed to the growth of the festival."

The Festival is a community partnership that depends on over 150 volunteers each day to assist with various activities. Halton high school students, staff from the partner organizations and community volunteers have generously offered their time, while gaining experience with community outreach, public speaking, teaching, and time management.

The Festival is offered to Halton schools at a cost of \$4 per child, which includes a full day at the Festival as well as transportation to and from the event. The HCWF is an investment that ensures children will learn the value of this critical resource and through their learning, ensure a continuation of a reliable water supply for years to come.

For more information on the Halton Children's Water Festival, visit [www.hcwf.ca](http://www.hcwf.ca).

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