

# intelligence



**Every day, we learn new things about learning.**

There continue to be dramatic advances in what we know about intelligence and about how learning develops. One thing we know for certain—every child can learn. For each child, the question is not “how smart is this child?” We ask, “how is this child smart?”

It's the job of public education to help all children learn and succeed.

## ENRICHED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES HELP EXPAND MINDS

### Get the facts about learning

A series of fact sheets explains what we teach and how we teach it. Topics include:

- spelling
- homework
- French immersion
- math and science
- special education
- wellness and sexuality
- measuring student success
- the new provincial curriculum

### It's easy to get information

You can get copies of any of our information materials in the following ways:

- your child's school has copies of most information materials
- call Communication Services at (905)890-1099/1-800-668-1146 ext. 2809
- have information faxed directly to you through our Faxback service--for a list of materials available, call (905)890-1010/1-800-668-1146 and press 1

### Curriculum available

Every Peel school has a complete set of all curriculum in its library for parents and community members. All Peel curriculum is also available at the education centre. Call the library at (905)890-1010/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2583 for hours.

LEARNING THE BASICS—LITERACY, NUMERACY, SCIENCE—IS VITAL TO DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S INTELLIGENCE. BUT ENRICHED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES HELP EXPAND CHILDREN'S MINDS. CHILDREN DO BETTER IN THE BASICS—AND IN LIFE AND WORK—WHEN THEY HAVE A STIMULATING, WELL-ROUNDED LEARNING PROGRAM. HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS THAT DO JUST THAT.

### High tech art 'canvasses' classrooms

Twelve Peel schools are part of the Kidsmuse program that combines technology and the arts in the classroom, to improve literacy and numeracy skills for children in grades 1 to 3.

Studies show that students involved in enhanced arts programs outperform other students in reading and math.

Multimedia centres allow students to access information, create their own digitized art collections and share their work with others. The Learning Partnership, of which the Peel board is a member, runs this project. For more information about Kidsmuse, call (905)890-1010/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2524.

### Students stand up for children's rights

Mandatory obedience to convention goals and annual accountability reports on the progress of children. That's what 200 high school students decided after debating how the world's countries can ensure a positive future for children at the Peel board's second Student Model United Nations. The event celebrated the 50th anniversary of Unicef.

It helped students sharpen research and debating skills, gain a greater understanding of children's rights and

learn about the complexity of international decision-making. For more information about the model UN, call (905)890-1010/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2817.



Model United Nations

## EARLY INTERVENTION GETS CHILDREN OFF TO A GOOD START

HELPING CHILDREN GET OFF TO THE RIGHT START AT SCHOOL—IT MAKES GOOD SENSE. WHAT WE DO IN THE FIRST YEARS OF SCHOOL IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO CHILDREN'S ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT. IT ALSO MAKES FINANCIAL SENSE—PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN HAVE DEMONSTRATED A RETURN OF \$7 TO THE PUBLIC FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED. MANY PEEL SCHOOLS HAVE EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS THAT MAKE THE MOST OF THE EARLY LEARNING YEARS.

- The kindergarten intervention project has proven highly successful in helping children adjust to school and to learn positive social skills. About 20 schools have this program. For more information, call (905)890-1010/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2157.



Kindergarten Intervention Project



- The elementary mentoring program is a partnership with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Peel. Adult volunteers make a difference in the lives of children by devoting an hour a week to playing games with them, talking to them, and listening. The children in the program improve their school performance and their self esteem. Now in its third year, the program is available in 10 schools in Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga. For more information, call Big Brothers at (905)459-3373.

- Many schools have early literacy programs. At Miller's Grove Public School, for example, trained parent volunteers spend 30 minutes every day helping students in grade 1 and 2 improve their reading.
- A number of Peel schools make sure students get off to the right start every day by providing a nutritious breakfast. In 1996-97, some of the schools to start breakfast programs included Agnes Taylor, Balmoral Drive Senior and Clark Boulevard. For information about becoming involved in a breakfast program at a school near you, call Jim Bond, (905)270-6000, ext. 257.

- A sexual abuse prevention program for students in grades 1 to 4 is available in elementary schools. A new drug awareness and prevention program for grade 5 and 6, called RAID, is being developed and delivered in partnership with Peel police. For more information about either of these programs, call (905)890-1010/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2548.





**“There must be more to intelligence than short answers to short questions.”**

*Howard Gardner, Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*

**TESTING INTELLIGENCE AND INTELLIGENT TESTING: MEASURING WHAT STUDENTS KNOW AND HOW THEY LEARN**

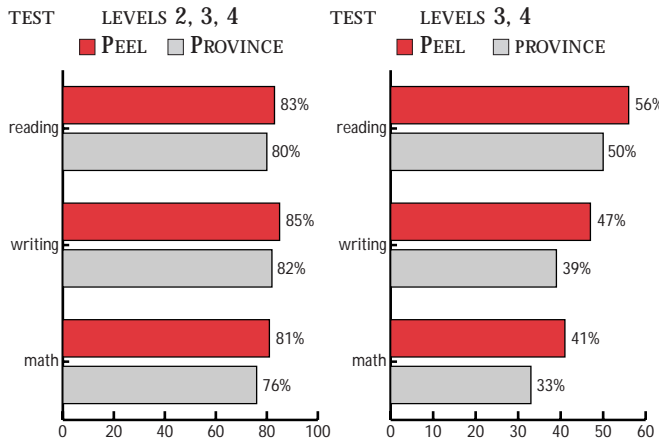
WE’VE ALL HEARD ABOUT TESTS OF INTELLIGENCE. BUT AT THE PEEL BOARD, WE BELIEVE IN INTELLIGENT TESTING—A RIGOROUS, COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF MEASURING STUDENT PROGRESS. THAT MEANS EVERYTHING FROM CLASSROOM QUIZZES AND ASSIGNMENTS TO PROVINCIAL TESTING. IT MEANS MEASURING NOT ONLY WHAT STUDENTS HAVE LEARNED, BUT HOW THEY LEARN. THIS GIVES US A COMPLETE PICTURE THAT HELPS US IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

**81% of Peel students ‘pass’ provincial grade 3 test**

More than 81 per cent of Peel grade 3 students achieved the expected level or higher on the provincial tests of reading, writing and math. The provincial Education Quality and Accountability Office conducted the tests in April 1997.

Student work on the EQAO tests was scored on a four-level scale (with 1 being weak and 4 strong). Students were expected to perform at levels 2 and 3. EQAO compiled results for school boards in two ways—the percentage of students who achieved levels 2 or higher and the percentage who were strong performers (levels 3 and 4).

**OVERALL, THIS IS HOW PEEL STUDENTS PERFORMED:**



Nineteen per cent of students are enrolled in English as a second language, and 12 per cent receive special education. As well, 31 per cent of students speak a language other than English at home.

“This is only one of many assessment strategies the Peel board uses—it’s only one piece of the picture,” says Harold Brathwaite, the board’s director of education. “For example, the board has developed standards and performance-based reading and writing scales. That’s in addition to the tests, quizzes, and a multitude of other strategies classroom teachers use.”

Most of the focus for the Peel board is on communication between schools and their parents. The board publicly released results for the region and by school. Each school will develop an action plan, based on its own results.

For more information about the grade 3 tests, call (905)890-1010/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2814.

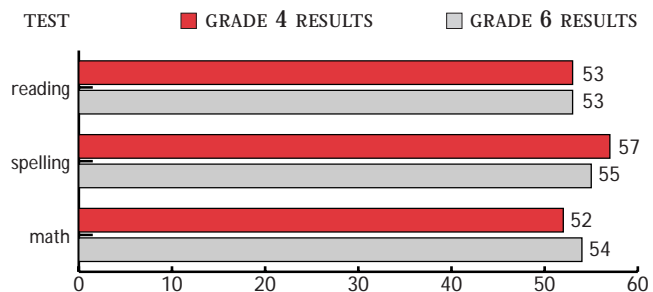
**Tests show Peel students perform at or above national average**

The Peel board tests all grade 4 and 6 students each year on the Canadian Achievement Test (CAT/2) of reading, spelling and math. This testing program marked its 15th year in 1996-97.

Results are reported in percentile scores, a comparison of how Peel students performed compared to the “norm group”—a representative group of students from across Canada. For example, a score of 60 means Peel students scored better than 60 per cent of the norm group.

**Other highlights of the Peel testing program include the following:**

- On all tests, the 1996-97 scores are slightly higher than in the past five years.
- Girls outperform boys in reading and spelling. Girls and boys do not differ in math.
- Students whose home language is English score higher in reading tests than students who speak another language at home.
- French immersion students outperform students in the regular program on all tests.



The board also surveyed grade 4 and 6 students and teachers on key learning issues. Some of the findings follow:

- Three-quarters of students report having a home computer; grade 6 students are more likely to use it for doing homework.
- Students in both grades who watch less TV are more likely to express positive feelings about reading and math and to view math as useful in everyday life.
- Grade 4 students are twice as likely as grade 6s to report reading 20 or more books outside of class in the past nine months.

For complete results, call (905)890-1010, ext. 2610 to request a copy of the *Regional Student Testing Program Annual Report 1996-97*.



# At birth, a baby's brain contains over 100 billion neurons—roughly as many nerve cells as there are stars in the Milky Way.

## TAPPING INTO THE INTELLIGENCE OF LIFELONG LEARNING

THE PEEL BOARD BELIEVES IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN. TO TRULY DEVELOP THE INTELLIGENCE OF A PERSON MEANS TO CONTINUE TO LEARN THROUGHOUT LIFE. THE BOARD'S GOAL IS TO HELP BUILD AN INTELLIGENT, LEARNING COMMUNITY THROUGH PROGRAMS FOR ADULT LEARNERS, IN PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY AND BY HELPING STUDENTS BE CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

### **CET** Centre for Education and Training incorporates



The Peel board's Community Education incorporated as an entrepreneurial, not-for-profit corporation in 1996. Now called the Centre for Education and Training, it is Canada's largest provider of workplace training, serving 300,000 learners each year. CET has five divisions:

- Employment Assistance Project provides pre-employment training, including job search skills, to unemployed youth.
- Wide Area Employment Network helps youth produce an effective on-line resume.

For more information about youth programs, call (905)949-0049.

### Partnerships improve student learning

Tapping into the wealth of resources in the community that can help students is a smart idea. When schools and the community work together, everyone benefits. For example:

- The Peel board pilot-tested revenue generating screen savers in 1996-97. More schools will pilot the project in the next year.
  - Homelands Senior Public School and Mississauga Hospital have formed a partnership that will see many joint activities, such as student art displays in the hospital and career shadowing.
  - A partnership between North Park Secondary School and AFS Interculture Canada offers students a four-month co-operative education placement in Paraguay.
- For information about becoming a partner, call your local school or Jim Bond at (905)270-6000, ext. 257.



- Computer Technology Institute provides computer training using state-of-the-art equipment.
- Quality and Continuous Improvement Centre designs, develops and delivers corporate training to increase performance, productivity and profitability.
- Centre for Language Training and Assessment provides training in effective communication and assessment of linguistic ability.
- Innovations division creates high technology programs and products ranging from internet applications to employment for youth.
- Community Education is a leader in community programming and outreach.

CET operates at no cost to the Peel board or Peel taxpayers. For more information, call (905)949-0049.

### Peel board targets youth unemployment

CET offers youth a helping hand in finding employment. The following programs provide youth with a link between education and employment:

- Youth Opportunity Canada matches unemployed, job-ready youth with local employers.
- YouthNet trains youth in Microsoft Windows NT—a call centre program.

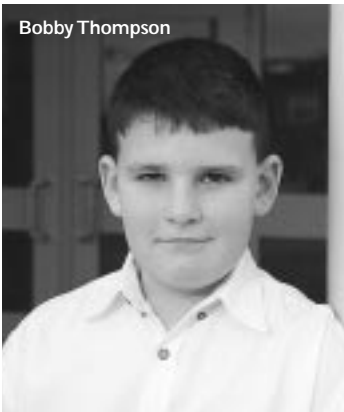
### Peel board, Caledon library board sign joint-use agreement

The Peel board and Caledon Public Library board have launched a partnership that will see the Belfountain Public School library upgraded and opened to the community. Through a joint-use agreement, the existing school library and an additional classroom in the school were converted into an integrated library facility that is used by the school during school hours and by the community during other times.

### Students take the lead as good community citizens

The ability to apply what you've learned to real-life situations is one test of intelligence. If that's true, then Peel students shone this year. Following are some examples of students who took the lead to make their community a better place.

- Through Jump Rope for Heart campaigns, Peel students and staff raised a half million dollars last year to fight heart disease.
- Peel schools raised \$100,000 during the annual Terry Fox Run.
- \$43,000 was raised by Peel schools for Unicef.
- After studying about issues of poaching and animal protection in class, students at Palgrave Public School raised enough money to adopt 21 orphaned baby elephants in Africa.



Bobby Thompson

### Grade 3 student organizes schools to help Manitoba flood victims

Bobby Thompson, a grade 3 student at Robert J. Lee Public School, initiated a drive for donations to help the victims of the Manitoba flood in April 1997. After calling two trucking companies who agreed to donate freight trucks, he convinced staff and students at his school to collect blankets, clothing, toys and non-perishable foods. By issuing a challenge to other schools, virtually every Peel school became a collection site for donations of goods.

The Peel board, inspired by Bobby's actions, initiated a campaign called "Help send rainbows to Manitoba." In one week, the board raised \$30,000 by inviting staff, students and the community to donate a dollar to help Manitoba families rebuild after the floods.

### Multilingual poster becomes international bestseller

A poster designed to make newcomers feel welcome in Peel schools has become an international sales success. More than 7,000 copies of the multilingual poster have been sold throughout North America. The poster features the word "welcome" in the 25 major languages in Peel. For information, call (905) 890-1010/1-800-668-1146 ext. 2818.



### Community honours first grader for quick action in emergency situation

First grader Marlon Thomas, was honoured by the Brampton mayor, Peel police, the Red Cross and the Peel board for his action in an emergency that helped his mother and baby sister.

Six-year-old Marlon was shopping with his mother and baby sister when his mother slipped on the ice and was knocked unconscious. Marlon went into the nearest store and asked the clerk to call mall security and an ambulance. Then he waited outside with his mother, taking care of his sister. When security arrived, he provided his grandmother's telephone number.



Marlon Thomas



### CELEBRATING INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

- Trishia O'Donnell from Bramalea Secondary School was the Peel board's top Ontario scholar. A French immersion graduate, O'Donnell scored an average of 99.7 per cent in her top six Ontario academic credits. The Peel board had 1,246 Ontario scholars in 1996-97.
- Bonnie Bunkis and Ruth Dunlop from Russell D. Barber Public School, resource teacher Mary Hurley, and Grant Wardlaw from Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School were recipients of the 1996 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence.
- An antiracism video produced by four Byngmount Beach Public School students earned recognition in a national video competition.
- W.G. Davis Senior Public School won a Nortel scholarship to initiate a project called "Planet Aid: We Care." The project uses technology to foster community service through international aid.
- Community involvement and a strong commitment to human rights earned five Peel students recognition as winners of the B'nai Brith Peel Human Rights Award.
- A choir of 23 students from Fletcher's Creek Senior and Hickory Wood schools was chosen to perform a 14-week run as part of the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.
- Steve Russell, teacher at Turner Fenton Secondary School, was one of three recipients of the provincial TVOntario Teachers Awards.
- Employees and students of the Peel board raised \$307,000 for the United Way in 1996 to become the top public sector donor in Peel.
- The Communication Services department won 18 national and international awards for communication excellence.
- In June, the board recognized the achievements of more than 100 students and teachers who won awards in national and provincial athletic, academic and music competitions during 1996-97.

"Experience is the chief architect of the brain."  
*Dr. Bruce Perry, Baylor College of Medicine*

**"One of the key findings of contemporary intelligence research is that intelligence can be taught, learned, developed and enhanced."**

**BOARD DELIVERS FIRST-EVER TAX DECREASE, DESPITE PROVINCIAL CUTS**

The Peel board faced a loss of \$15 million in provincial grants from the base level. At the same time, Peel schools grew by over 1,900 students, adding about \$4.9 million to the budget.

The provincial government's funding freeze actually resulted in a \$300 million cut to education funding in Ontario, \$15 million for Peel. Trustees did not pass the cut and costs to taxpayers—instead the board aggressively cut costs and increased efficiency. The bottom line was a mill rate decrease of .39 per cent—the first in the history of the board.

**Provincial changes alter local budget process**

The province has changed the fiscal year of school boards to now be September to August, instead of January to December. Early in 1998, there will be a budget process for the January to August 1998 period—called a 'stub year' budget. A new budget process will have to be developed for the first full year of the new budget year.

The province will completely determine the amount of funding for the Peel board in the stub year. Early projections are for a percentage based on 1997 funding levels. Factoring in growth, this could mean a loss of funding for Peel students. Though the board cannot raise funds for education through local taxes, it is still important for taxpayers to get involved in the financial decisions about education.

**BOARD TAKES LEAD ON EDUCATION ISSUES**

In a year of change, the Peel board consistently stood up for local students, staff, taxpayers and the community. Numerous times, the board took the lead in informing the public and defending public education. Here are a few examples.

**Bold initiative gives public the facts**

In October, in the midst of radical changes to education, the Peel board felt obligated to get the facts to the community. *Just the Facts*, a publication sent to every home in Peel, provided the key changes being talked about for education, and the impact on Peel.

**School councils informed about education reform**

In the first year of school councils, the Peel board continued to reach out to make sure these important groups had information about education reform. Hundreds of parents attended board-hosted information meetings on education reform and *Bill 104*. Councils were surveyed for their opinions on *Bill 104*, and their feedback became the basis for the board's presentations to the hearings on the bill.

**Get the facts**

Get the facts with an award-winning series of fact sheets on key issues affecting the budget, including:

- Students come first
- Cost of educating a student in Peel
- Transportation costs
- Cost of special education
- Community education
- Innovative cost-saving initiatives
- HJA Brown Education Centre
- Mandated and legislated costs
- How the Peel board is funded
- Cost of French immersion
- Peel board custodians
- Understanding the difference between education and municipal taxes

These budget fact sheets are available at your local school, by calling Communication Services, (905)890-1010/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2809, or through Faxback, (905)890-1010, then press 1.

**Be part of the budget process**

Attend public meeting  
Feb. 4 7:30 pm

Express your views  
Phone: (905)890-1010/  
1-800-668-1146, ext. 2067

Fax: (905)890-9552

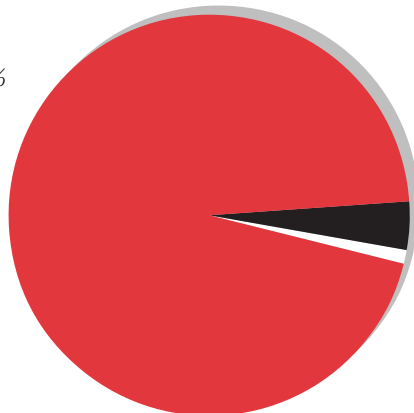
Mail: HJA Brown Education  
Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street,  
Mississauga, Ontario, L5R 1C6

Speak with your trustee  
Express your views about the  
budget to your local trustee.  
To find out the name and  
number of your trustee, call  
(905) 890-1099/1-800-668-1146,  
ext. 2029

**Almost all of budget directly supports students and schools**

A greater percentage of the Peel board budget goes directly to the classroom than the average of Ontario school boards. In fact, 95 per cent is spent in-school. Only two per cent is spent on business and administration.

*in-school costs 93%*



*other costs 5%*

*support to schools 2%*

**Board one of few to present on 160**

The Peel board was one of the few Ontario school boards permitted to present to hearings on *Bill 160*. The board used its time to present constructive proposals to help improve education in Ontario. In the presentation, board chair Beryl Ford stressed, "We don't improve education by constantly criticizing schools and school boards; and we certainly don't make constructive progress by dragging the reputation of teachers through the mud." A board fact sheet on *Bill 160* was also sent to parents.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Public meetings of the board are held in the board room, HJA Brown Education Centre. Committee meetings are held in the Brampton room, HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga.

- Regular board meetings:** 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
- Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee:** 1st Tuesday at 8 p.m.
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC):** 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
- Physical Planning & Building Committee:** 1st Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Meetings are open to the public and feature open public question periods, and opportunities to attend as a delegation. For more information, contact Marion Smith, executive assistant, (905)890-1010/ 1-800-668-1146, ext. 2011.

**SCHOOL COUNCILS ARE SUCCESSFUL,  
SURVEY INDICATES**

School councils in Peel are working well. That's the finding of an extensive survey of councils. The review found that each Peel school has a council with parent and teacher representatives. All high schools also have student representation.

Most of the work of school councils focuses on three areas: school community communication strategies, methods of responding to parents and the community, and school code of behaviour. Almost 90 per cent feel their school council membership reflects the diversity of their community.

The Peel board's policy on school councils was developed in 1996 with input from 1,500 parents and community members. For more information about school councils, call (905)890-1010/ 1-800-668-1146, ext. 2624.

**FACTS AT A GLANCE**

Total number of schools	178
elementary	150
secondary	28
Total number of students	102,115
elementary	67,689
secondary	34,426
Number of Community Education learners	300,000
Total number of staff	9,500
academic	7,000
business and support	2,500
Students in French programs	38,000
Students served through special education	12,000
Students in English as a second language/ English skills development programs	8,500
Students travelling to school by bus	25,600
Permits issued for community use of school facilities	3,400

**RAPPORT ANNUEL 1996-97**

Le CCLF est un comité légiféré en vertu de la loi sur l'éducation: il a la responsabilité de formuler des recommandations au conseil visant les besoins éducationnels et culturels des étudiants francophones et de la communauté francophone.

Le comité se compose de six membres francophones élus dont quatre représentent Mississauga et deux représentent Brampton/Caledon. Les résultats des élections tenues en décembre se présentent comme suit:

Représentant Mississauga:

Normand Doré (Président)	820-0278
Joanne Young (Vice Présidente)	824-1645
Yash Marwaha	567-5107
Mohamed Jawaheer	568-9056

Représentant Brampton/Caledon:

Valérie Pinard-Jain	507-3315
Suzanne Parrot	812-1221

Pendant l'année scolaire 1996-97, le conseil de Peel a acheté des services éducationnels pour ses étudiants francophones au CEF CUT (Conseil d'éducation francophone de la communauté urbaine de Toronto) et au Conseil séparé des écoles catholiques de Dufferin et Peel. Le nombre d'étudiants se chiffrait à 100 primaire (maternelle à 8e année) et 19 au secondaire (9e année à CPO).

Le CCLF a participé dans les réunions du CLAE #58 en préparation pour le nouveau conseil francophone qui entrera en vigueur le 1er janvier 1998.

La conseillère scolaire Sandy Ransom sert de liaison pour le CCLF, prêtant son assistance aux communications entre le CCLF et le conseil.



# Peel board of trustees—strong, local leadership

## Returning trustees

## Trustees Nov.94 to Dec.97



## New trustees



THE PEEL BOARD, LIKE EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD IN ONTARIO, IS GOVERNED BY A BOARD OF TRUSTEES. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING POLICIES, SETTING THE BUDGET AND MAINTAINING STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOR PEEL REGION. THEY ARE ELECTED BY PUBLIC SCHOOL TAXPAYERS EVERY THREE YEARS DURING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND ARE DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY.

### WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS

This annual report is produced by Communication Services, Peel District School Board. To receive additional copies, for more information about anything in this report, or to comment, call (905)890-1010/1-800-668-1146, ext. 2818. This report is printed on acid-free paper, 50% recycled, 10% post-consumer. Printing cost of each report is 30 cents.

**New name for board in January 98**  
Effective Jan. 1, the Peel Board of Education is named the Peel District School Board. The newly elected board of 12 trustees will serve from Jan. 1, 1998 to Dec. 1, 2000. Five trustees are new to the board and seven are returning.