



## Demand for well grants exceeds available funds

(City of Kawartha Lakes, October 22, 2008) Kawartha Conservation was overwhelmed by the number of applications made to the Kawartha Well Stewardship Fund (KWSF) this year, a one-time funding partnership between the Victoria Land & Water Stewardship Council and Kawartha Conservation.

The total request for funding was \$39,800 for projects that have a total value of \$92,200, whereas the Kawartha Well Stewardship Fund had only \$7,000 available.

Kawartha Conservation is currently seeking other sources of sustainable funding, including municipal partners, to expand the KWSF.

"The overwhelming number of applications we received indicates a larger need for support and incentive to safely close or upgrade wells in the City of Kawartha Lakes," says Kristie Virgoe, Manager of Environmental Protection and Restoration, Kawartha Conservation. "It's crucial that we support these types of projects to help protect our ground and drinking water."

"Old wells act like a pollution funnel," explains Doug van Hemessen, Victoria Land and Water Stewardship Council. "It's important to have a licensed professional safely close old wells or make upgrades to prevent pollution from entering our groundwater. Once the groundwater is polluted, it's almost impossible to clean."

**Kawartha Conservation** is a watershed-based environmental organization that manages natural resource features which are essential for sustaining water quality and quantity. The natural boundaries of the Kawartha Conservation watershed overlap segments of the City of Kawartha Lakes; Township of Scugog; Township of Brock; Municipality of Clarington; Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey; and Township of Cavan Monaghan. [www.kawarthaconservation.com](http://www.kawarthaconservation.com)

**Victoria Land & Water Stewardship Council**—People working together to advocate and implement good stewardship on private lands in the City of Kawartha Lakes. [www.ontariostewardship.org/ontarioStewardship/home/osVLWSCIndex.asp](http://www.ontariostewardship.org/ontarioStewardship/home/osVLWSCIndex.asp)