



## Students make a splash at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Haliburton-Muskoka Children's Water Festival

(Carnarvon, Ontario, October 3, 2008) Over 450 students in grades 4 and 6 from schools across Haliburton, Muskoka and the City of Kawartha Lakes participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Haliburton-Muskoka Children's Water Festival on Thursday and Friday.

The students 'soaked up' all kinds of knowledge about water at over 35 activity centres that combined hands-on learning with messages relevant to their environment and daily lives.

"Each activity centre had an important lesson," said Rick Whitteker, Festival Chair. "However, the most popular activity centres were 'Reservoir Rendezvous' and 'The Amazing Aquifer.'"

In 'Reservoir Rendezvous,' students learned how lakes in the Haliburton Highlands are providing reservoirs for the Trent-Severn Waterway. They had an opportunity to manipulate water levels for safe boating and avoiding floods within a watershed model, while learning about the importance of water management and how it affects our watersheds.

In 'The Amazing Aquifer,' students investigated the sources of groundwater, how it travels through the earth, and how it enters a well. They also found out how pollutants can enter and move through our groundwater by putting different coloured dyes into a groundwater model, and how contamination can be prevented.

"Everyone had a lot of fun exploring the activity centres," said Julia Robertson, Festival Coordinator, "which makes the festival an excellent way to learn how water supports healthy ecosystems and communities."

The four main educational themes throughout the activity centres were water properties, uses, connections and importance.

The festival was held at the Kinark Outdoor Centre in Carnarvon, and organized by community and environmental organizations, volunteers, and schools within the Haliburton, Muskoka and City of Kawartha Lakes communities. Over 80 students from Trent University and the Ecotourism and Adventure Tourism Management program at Fleming College helped run the activity centres.

Support was also received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, County of Haliburton, Haliburton County Development Corporation, Hydro One, Children's Water Education Council, Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council, Ontario Wildlife Foundation, Kawartha Credit Union, U-Links, Victoria Land & Water Stewardship Council, Environment Haliburton, Trillium Lakelands District School Board and Kawartha Conservation.

"By working together on a positive, mutually beneficial purpose, the festival brings our communities together and fosters pride," said Whitteker. "I look forward to another great festival in 2009."



Reservoir Rendezvous



Amazing Aquifer



Bugs in the Mud



Septic Sights