



Hamilton Watershed  
Stewardship Program

A program of:



## Who are we?

The **Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program** is a program of Hamilton Conservation Authority that works with private landowners to protect, enhance and restore the environmentally significant natural areas and watercourses on their property.

We have been working with landowners in the Hamilton watershed since 1994. We provide advice and make recommendations for environmentally friendly land use practices on properties with natural features, such as woodlots, wetlands, meadows, ravines and creeks.

## Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program

# Do You Have an Abandoned Water Well on Your Property?

## Health and Safety Hazards on the Landscape!

An abandoned water well that is not properly filled, sealed and capped poses risks such as safety hazards for children and animals.

## How many abandoned water wells are out there?

The Ontario Ground Water Association estimates that there are over 1,500,000 unsealed abandoned water wells in Ontario!

## Importance of Decommissioning (Plugging and Sealing) Abandoned Water Wells



Faulty Annular Seal

Photo Courtesy of Well Aware



Unsealed Well Requires Upgrade

Photo Courtesy of Well Aware

A well that is no longer used or maintained can become a direct pipeline for surface water or run-off to reach groundwater. Unused and unmaintained wells threaten the quality of groundwater that supplies water to wells.

## Did You Know?

“If an unused and unmaintained well is on your property, you are legally responsible for ensuring that it is plugged and sealed properly.” This statement comes from an excellent guide for landowners entitled:

**“Well Aware – A guide to caring for your well a protecting your family’s health.”**

The guide was produced by Green Communities Canada in partnership with the Ontario Ground Water Association. Contact us if you would like a copy of this guide for your home.



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## **Is Financial Assistance Available?**

Financial assistance is available to landowners in Hamilton to assist with the cost of properly decommissioning (plugging and sealing) an abandoned water well.

Contact the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program to inquire about the application process for financial assistance

### **BEFORE**

decommissioning an abandoned well.

To be eligible for financial assistance an Ontario Ministry of the Environment licensed well contractor must decommission your abandoned water well.

## **Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program**

### **How many people rely on ground water for their drinking water in Hamilton?**

In Hamilton Conservation Authority's watershed over 14,000 people rely on groundwater resources for their drinking water.

Below is an example of an abandoned well that a landowner had properly decommissioned by a licensed well contractor.



**Before Well Decommissioned**



**After Well Decommissioned**

Landowners who have decommissioned their abandoned water wells say to us that they *"have peace of mind now knowing that they have taken steps to protect their ground water resources and their drinking water by properly closing the potential health and safety hazard on their property."*

### **Don't delay.**

Contact us today to learn about financial assistance available from the City of Hamilton to help with the cost of properly decommissioning an abandoned well on your property.

**Please contact the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program  
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838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario, L9G 4X1  
[www.hamiltonhaltonstewardship.ca](http://www.hamiltonhaltonstewardship.ca)  
Office: 905-525-2181, ext. 181 or 196**