

Background and Resolution regarding Nestlé's proposed 'voluntary levy' to the Town of Erin

Big Picture

- Water is critical to all life, and is recognized by the United Nations as a universal human right, and – like the air we breathe - part of our shared 'commons'. Water taking here in the Town of Erin has an impact locally and globally.
- Statement by church leaders. "Water is a sacred gift."
<http://www.therecord.com/opinion-story/7192055-water-is-a-sacred-gift/>
- The overriding objective of all corporations is to make a profit for shareholders..
- Nestlé is or has been involved in ongoing disputes regarding its water-taking practices in many places, including Centre Wellington, British Columbia, Pennsylvania, California and Pakistan.
- Waste is an enormous problem. Plastic water bottles are made from non-renewable petrochemicals and have a poor recycling record; even if 60% (the bottling industry's target, as yet never met), billions go to landfill in Canada every year, or end up at litter in ditches and in larger bodies of water, including rivers spilling into the Great Lakes and in all of our oceans.
<http://www.plasticoceans.org/> and <https://www.usgs.gov/news/widespread-plastic-pollution-found-great-lakes-tributaries>

Local Picture

- Bottled water is unnecessary except in emergency situations, and meeting this need has traditionally been fulfilled by groups such as the Red Cross and other relief organizations.
- The use of bottled water undermines municipal water infrastructure.
- Water from Hillsburgh leaves our watershed, and is sold in places as far away as New York, Texas, and Florida, and across Canada.
- Increased truck traffic causes pollution and wear and tear on local roads.
- We are representing growing numbers of citizens and groups – increasing daily – who would like our Council to say no to Nestlé's levy, and who themselves have said no to using plastic water bottles.
- We would like to hear from Council why there is such a hurry to make this decision? There are many more who want to be heard.

Be it resolved that the Town of Erin Council:

- **Votes NO to the voluntary levy, or**
- **At the very least, defers the decision until other concerned citizens and groups have had an opportunity to be heard on this critical issue.**