



Township of Puslinch

7404 Wellington Rd 34, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0

P: 519-763-1226 F: 519-763-5846

www.puslinch.ca

October 31, 2016

City of Guelph
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

SENT VIA EMAIL – Stephen.OBrien@guelph.ca

Attention: Mayor Cam Guthrie and Guelph Councillors

Re: Permits to Take Water in Puslinch

There has been much discussion recently about PTTW renewals in Puslinch and the proposed renewal of the permit for Nestle Waters Canada.

Nestle is a key Puslinch and Wellington County employer, a significant tax payer and an important member of our industrial community. They have been very professional to deal with and support many local events.

Puslinch provides formal comments on EBR posted PTTW's and we have been consistent in recommending that all permits have a maximum of 5 years duration. Puslinch also has peer reviews done on the mandatory water taking reports that are issued. We will be providing comments on the proposed Nestle renewal when it is posted.

To put the Nestle permit in perspective, according to the MOECC data from July, the number of active PTTW's in Puslinch was 106 totaling 542 million litres/day. The City of Guelph's total was 286 million l/day and the aggregate industry total was 198 million l/day. The Nestle permit was for 3.6 million l/day.

Next door to the Nestle site is an aggregate operation with a permit for 8 million l/day and next door to that is another aggregate site with a permit for 23 million l/day. While some may say that the aggregate industry reuses the water for washing, the industry will agree that 5 to 10% is lost through evaporation.

Currently, more than 50% of Guelph's water comes from wells in Puslinch. New policies and protection programs required by the Clean Water Act have been put in place to protect the wellhead areas around your wells. Addressing the costs associated with this has yet to be resolved.

Approximately 2 ½ years ago, representatives from Guelph visited Puslinch Council to discuss the Guelph Water Supply Master Plan. We were invited to and attended meetings outlining the current situation, water conservation efforts, proposed growth and future water needs for your city. Two of the future options presented included an additional well in Puslinch in the Maltby and Victoria Rd. area and another one in Guelph/Eramosa Township. It was also very clearly stated that Guelph would not proceed with any new well without the full support of the host municipality. Based on the now known significant impacts that Guelph's water taking is having on Puslinch residents and potential impact on our industrial/commercial base, support for any additional water taking by Guelph in Puslinch is very unlikely.

The Water Supply Master Plan report also outlines that Guelph has a number of wells that are not used due to various quality issues. The cost to remedy each situation is also included in the report. If you have not already read the report, I would encourage you to do so and ask what the plans are for sites like the Admiral well.

Groundwater is a complex science and water taking needs to be looked at in a comprehensive manner and not focus on one permit. Even the extensive Tier 3 study that is currently underway has unanswered questions.

Puslinch has and will continue to support important research in groundwater and decisions on water taking that are science based.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis Lever", with a small blue dot to the right of the signature.

Mayor Dennis Lever

c: Puslinch Council