

Source 3: Article from The Ontarian, Accessed 24 March 2011

# Guelphites march to send Nestlé a strong message

THE ONTARIAN ON MARCH 10, 2011 WITH 0 COMMENTS

**Nestlé seeks controversial 10-year permit renewal for water extraction at Aberfoyle facility** - Kelsey Rideout

For those who may be unaware, the water-bottling corporation Nestlé operates a facility just minutes south of Guelph. Nestlé currently uses water from the Mill Creek watershed, located in Aberfoyle.

Nestlé is seeking a 10-year extension on its permit to take 3.6 million litres a day for 365 days a year. Its permit is set to expire in April. Many U of G students and community members have rallied together to oppose the extension.

Guelph-based organization Wellington Water Watchers organized a march on Saturday, March 5 from downtown Guelph to Aberfoyle. Approximately 40 people attended the walk, which took three and a half hours in total. Mike Nagy of the Wellington Water Watchers described the organization's standpoint on the Nestlé Waters permit renewal.

"We want nothing more than a two year permit, mostly because we've been trying to bring to attention that the province of Ontario is undertaking a very significant historic tier three water budgeting process for the province," said Nagy. "It's looking at all sorts of issues.

There will be new guidelines and regulations that will come out of that, anywhere from six months to a year from now. Nestle wants to lock in their permit prior to those new regulations and permit designs being put upon them as well."

Nagy further explained the type of permit that is currently held by Nestlé Waters, and why the Wellington Water Watchers find it problematic.

“Right now Nestlé’s current permitting model is extremely archaic,” he said. “It’s a fixed capped maximum rate per day, which they’re not giving out to many [companies] any more. The gravel companies in that area actually have to stop pumping on certain days when the water table is being affected. Nestlé doesn’t have that type of permit.”

While Nestlé Waters suggested to CTV that they had no plans to expand in Aberfoyle, the permit they are seeking would increase their water usage from 1.6 million litres a day to 3.6 million litres a day.

Student leaders on campus have been vocal about the Nestlé permit renewal, drawing upon broader issues about the principles behind bottled water.

“I don’t feel that Nestlé should be allowed to extract natural resources and profit off of it, especially something as vital to human existence as water...” said Anastasia Zavarella, CSA Local Affairs Commissioner. “I think our municipality really needs to take a stand for collectively held resources and stand against privatization. Water, food and shelter – I think that we have to take some huge steps within our communities to protect these things, so that everybody has them and has equal access to them.”

Zavarella hopes to see more students aware of Nestlé’s local presence, in order for greater awareness to be spread about the permit renewal.

“I think students absolutely need to know about this. It really affects our community...Students are very aware of the effects of bottled water. Less of them know that this process of the commercialization of natural resources is happening right at our doorstep, but I think if they did know about it, they would be pretty involved and have a lot to say on the matter,” commented Zavarella.

Zavarella applauded those who marched against the Nestlé permit renewal indicating that “no matter the outcome of direction action initiatives, there’s always a huge benefit to the community.”

Letters and comments about this issue can be sent to the Ministry of Environment until April 12, 2011.

**Source 4:** Article from Guelph Mercury, Accessed 24 March 2011

## **Motion to restrict Nestlé’s water-taking defeated at meeting**

*Friday March 4*

CAMBRIDGE — Nestlé Waters Canada was the subject of a motion Thursday that, if approved, could have restricted the company’s ability to take water from the Mill Creek watershed in Aberfoyle.

The Lake Erie Source Protection Region committee met Thursday at the Grand River Conservation Authority headquarters in Cambridge. As part of Ontario’s Clean Water Act, the agency is responsible for developing drinking water protection plans for the expansive area of southern Ontario that drains into Lake Erie.

Part of the meeting included a motion brought forward by Mark Goldberg, a public interest representative with the committee. The motion urged the Ministry of the Environment to “defer issuing and renewing permits to take water to commercial water bottlers within the Grand River Watershed” until a so-called water budget for the area can be completed.

The motion was related to the Nestlé Waters Canada application for a 10-year permit renewal, being considered by the ministry. Goldberg is a certified toxicologist and president and CEO of GlobalTox International Consultants. He is also well-known in the Guelph area as co-founder of Wellington Water Watchers, a water protection group that campaigns against bottled water, targeting Nestlé in many of its efforts.

Goldberg’s rationale for bringing the motion forward, he told the meeting, was to spur the committee into considering not only water quality issues, but also water quantity, which is part of its mandate. He said allowing long-term water-taking permits could jeopardize drinking water supply in the future.

There is plenty of water in the Mill Creek sub-watershed now, he said, but the effects of climate change or drought could change that. Unless Nestlé is restricted in the amount of water it pumps and bottles, drinking water resources could be seriously depleted.

Goldberg had the conditional support of committee member Janet Laird, director of environmental services for the City of Guelph. But Laird asked for a “friendly amendment” of the motion that would restrict the Nestlé permit to two years, subject to the completion of a water budget – a hydrologic assessment of the quantity of an area’s drinking water resources based on a number of supply and demand factors.

Laird said Guelph is not opposed to Nestlé’s operation, but said there are “future unknowns” related to the drinking water supply. Under the Places to Grow legislation, Guelph will see its population grow significantly. Its water supply will be placed under greater strain. Restricting water-taking operations might be necessary.

But others on the committee said the Ministry of the Environment has the right at any time to restrict the amount of water that can be taken under permit, or repeal a permit entirely, and has made such restrictions during drought conditions.

“Permits can be throttled back at any time,” said committee member Mark Wales.

A majority of committee members felt there were already measures in place to turn off the taps of water bottlers such as Nestlé if necessary. The motion was defeated by a strong majority.

Nestlé is seeking a 10-year extension on its permit to take water at a rate of 2,500 litres per minute, 24-hours per day, 365 days a year, to a maximum of 3,600,000 litres per day. The process is in the public comment stage. Its current permit expires in April.

James Etienne, senior water resource engineer for Lake Erie Source Protection Region, said Nestlé accounts for 34 per cent of the total water-taking from the Mill Creek sub-watershed. Aggregate washing is a larger permitted use and higher water taking operation than water bottling, he said.

Between 2002-2010 Nestlé, took an average of 61 per cent of its permitted maximum, with just 48 per cent last year.

But Goldberg argued the water bottling operation is “a more consumptive use” of the water resource because the water is bottled and shipped out of the Grand River watershed, never to return. “It is the worst kind of consumptive,” he said. “It drains the watershed and the water is not returned.” Aggregate washing, he said, returns the water to the watershed.

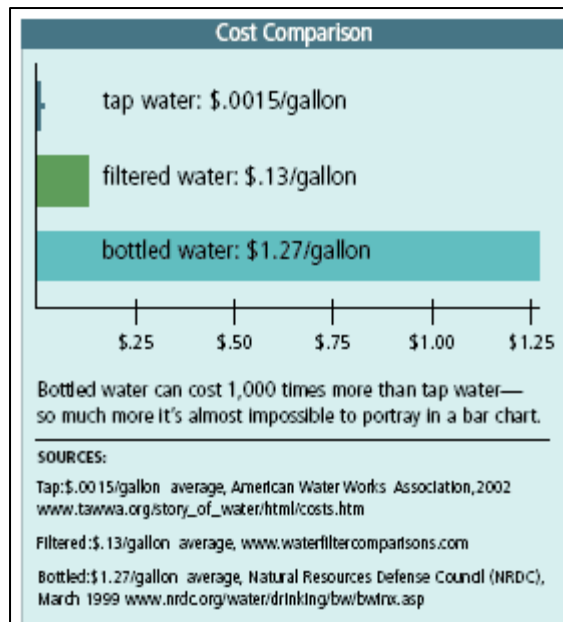
In an email, John Challinor, director of corporate affairs for Nestlé Waters Canada said it was his understanding that under technical rules, a “Tier 3 water budget and water quantity risk assessment is not required because there are no municipal groundwater supplies located within the Mill Creek assessment area.”

“We are unconcerned about it as it is not at all relevant to our application,” he said.

The City of Guelph is currently undertaking a water budgeting study, but Mill Creek is not part of that review, since it is downstream of the City of Guelph’s water supplies.

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**Source 5:** Cost Comparison (from [http://www.sierraclub.org/committees/cac/water/bottled\\_water/](http://www.sierraclub.org/committees/cac/water/bottled_water/) Accessed 24 March 2011) →



**Source 6:** Letter to the Editor, The Standard (St Catherines) Published 8 March 2011.  
Accessed 24 March 2011

## **BOTTLED WATER HAS BENEFITS**

Re: Reduce your water use on World Water Day, (March 4)

While we encourage Canadians to consume more water -- whether bottled or tap -- for better health, the environmental benefits associated with drinking water in a reusable container instead of bottled water are overstated.

According to a 2008 CIAL Group study entitled Lifecycle Carbon Footprint Analysis of Bottled Water, the carbon footprint of a stainless steel water bottle is almost five times that of bottled water. The stainless steel bottle would have to be used 80 times before it would have a lower carbon footprint than a single-use plastic beverage container.

The study also found washing reusable containers uses significant amounts of energy. The amount of hot water used each time the stainless steel water bottle is cleaned may have a carbon footprint between about 25% (high efficiency commercial dishwasher) or more than 100% (hand washing under running hot water) of the carbon footprint of a single-use plastic beverage container.

Improper cleaning and care of stainless steel water bottles have resulted and will result in illness. There are no reported incidences of Canadians becoming ill following the consumption of bottled water, which is why it is used exclusively in emergency situations as well as routinely by emergency services personnel.

John B. Challinor II

Director of Corporate Affairs Nestlé Waters Canada , Guelph

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Source 7: <http://www.bottledwater.org/news/bottled-water-industry-supports-world-water-day> Accessed 24 March 2011

# THE BOTTLED WATER INDUSTRY SUPPORTS WORLD WATER DAY

**For Immediate Release  
March 21, 2011**

**ALEXANDRIA, VA** – This year’s theme for World Water Day 2011, celebrated annually on March 22, is “Water For Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge.” This United Nations (U.N.) sponsored event is held every year to focus attention on the importance of fresh water, and to advocate the sustainable management of fresh water resources. The International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) and the bottled water industry support World Water Day and recognize the importance of a safe and sustainable water supply.

Water – from the tap or bottle – is essential to life. And bottled water is a clean, safe, convenient, and healthy product that consumers find refreshing and use to stay hydrated. “The bottled water industry fully recognizes the importance of protecting the quantity and quality of water. The bottled water industry supports a strong and adequately funded municipal water system,” says Joe Doss, president and CEO of IBWA. “Governments, businesses, communities and individuals must work together to help protect, preserve and provide a clean, safe water supply. Most communities in America, as well as many bottled water companies, depend upon fresh, available surface water for tap water, so protecting municipal water supplies should be one of everyone’s top concerns,” he added.

Bottled water companies that produce purified water often use municipal water sources. Once the municipal source water enters the bottled water plant, several processes are employed to ensure that it meets the purified or sterile standard of U.S. Pharmacopeia, 23rd Revision. Bottled water companies that produce spring water products are entirely dependent upon a safe, fresh supply of constantly recharged and replenished groundwater for their livelihood.

## **Quality Controls**

Bottled water products – whether from groundwater or public water sources – are produced utilizing a multi-barrier approach, which helps prevent possible harmful contamination to the finished product as well as storage, production, and transportation equipment. Measures in a multi-barrier approach may include one or more of the following: source protection, source monitoring, reverse osmosis, distillation, micro-filtration, carbon filtration, ozonation, ultraviolet (UV) light or other safe and effective methods. These steps are considered effective in safeguarding bottled water from microbiological and other contamination.

Over the last several years, the bottled water industry has demonstrated solid environmental leadership when it comes to water conservation and efficiency. Bottled water companies utilize and manage water resources in a responsible manner by 1) investing in broadly accepted science and technology to improve water quality, and 2) strengthening water conservation practices. The industry is also working to bottle and dispose of packaged water products in ways that best serve the environment.

The bottled water industry uses minimal amounts of water to produce an important, healthy and calorie-free consumer product—and does so with great efficiency. In the United States, bottled water production accounts for less than 2/100 of a percent (0.02%) of the total ground water withdrawn each year. Even though it is a minimal groundwater user and is only one of among thousands of food, beverage and commercial water users, bottled water companies actively support comprehensive ground water management policies that are science-based, multi-jurisdictional, treat all users equitably, and provide for future needs of this important resource.

In many parts of the world, clean safe water is unavailable or only available in limited quantities, even in stable periods without an over-arching natural disaster. While governments and the private sector work to find permanent solutions to provide clean drinking water in underserved urban communities around the world, bottled water, combined with other solutions such as filtration and bulk filling stations, is an efficient and effective means of delivering clean, sanitary drinking water where insufficient or non-existent water delivery infrastructure poses life-threatening problems. In addition, a growing number of bottled water companies are designating a portion of their income to support global programs, which help create long term solutions for the provision of water for drinking, sanitation and hygiene in underserved and developing communities.

Consumers across the United States choose bottled water because it is a healthy, refreshing beverage. As a manufactured food product, bottled water is similar to thousands of other beverage and food products that are comprehensively regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a food product. Bottled water has its own stringent FDA manufacturing standards governing its safety, purity and labeling. And by law, FDA standards for bottled water must be as protective of public health as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's tap water regulations.

### **Bottled Water's Effective Environmental Actions**

Consumers should be aware that bottled water containers are fully recyclable and should be properly recycled through whatever system their local municipality has in place. In fact, all bottled water containers --whether plastic, glass or aluminum—are recyclable. IBWA actively supports comprehensive curbside recycling programs, partners with other beverage and food companies, municipalities, and the recycling industry, as we seek to educate consumers about recycling, and work to increase all recycling to reduce litter. Currently, 31% of all bottled water containers are recycled – a record high result for any PET plastic container.

By using recycled materials, alternative packaging (recycled PET, PLA, biodegradable and compostable materials), and increasing the fuel efficiency in the transportation of their products to market, the bottled water industry is working to reduce its environmental footprint. By developing and using lighter-weight plastics for its containers, in eight

years, the average weight of single-serve bottled water has decreased by over 32%. Recent Life Cycle Inventory studies have verified that bottled water products have a very small environmental footprint.

Bottled water containers make up a very small part of the waste stream, accounting for less than one-third of one percent all waste produced in the U.S. Any efforts to reduce the environmental impact of packaging must be comprehensive and focus on all consumer goods.

The larger bottles found on many home and office bottled water coolers can be sanitized and re-used an average of 40 times before the bottled water company removes them from the marketplace and recycles them. That is why the bottled water industry is considered one of the “original recyclers.”

### **Bottled Water and Emergency Response**

Unforeseen natural disasters, such as the recent earthquake and tsunami that struck northern Japan, show how vulnerable water systems can be. Days after the earthquake struck, Japanese officials were overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis, with millions of people facing days and nights without electricity, water, food or heat in near-freezing temperatures, according to the Associated Press of Japan. British news sources reported 1.5 million people in Japan – mostly in urban areas -- were without water. U.S. bottlers immediately provided several million dollars in cash and product donations, joining in a huge international effort to provide bottled water.

In times of emergency, bottled water is a staple and always there when you need it. Floods, wildfires, hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, terrorist attacks, boil alerts and other events often compromise municipal water systems. Domestically, IBWA members contribute millions of gallons of water each year to the affected victims and work closely with federal, state and local agencies on a year-round basis to prepare for emergency distribution of water. IBWA’s broad-ranging expertise can help government officials better understand the issues involved as they attempt to create a more workable system.

Bottled water companies are often the first responders to these emergency situations, acting as a backup for compromised public water systems. However, for bottled water to be available in emergency situations there must also be a viable commercial marketplace that supports its production. Reducing the commercial viability of bottled water could seriously threaten its availability during emergency situations, and laws and actions which negatively target bottled water are an ironic disservice to, and poor public policy for, an industry that is called upon every year to provide crucial drinking water throughout the U.S. and the world.

**Source 8:** (next two pages) from [http://www.sierraclub.org/committees/cac/water/bottled\\_water/bottled\\_water.pdf](http://www.sierraclub.org/committees/cac/water/bottled_water/bottled_water.pdf)  
Accessed 24 March 2011)