

# SAVE OUR WATER .ca

## One Last Chance to SAVE OUR WATER

The multinational water bottler Nestlé Waters purchased the Middlebrook well for its water bottling operation when Centre Wellington, the local municipality, attempted to buy it for its drinking water needs. Nestlé would like a permit from the Ontario government to extract 1.6 million litres a day or over half a billion litres a year from the same aquifer the township relies on for its own water use.

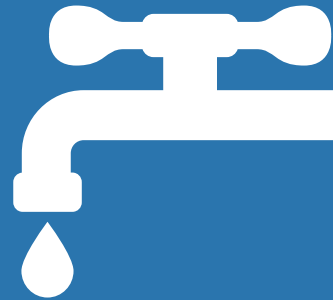
**This is a huge threat to this community** and sets a precedent for the rest of the province!

**Save Our Water** is a group of residents who are determined that Nestlé will never be permitted to take water from the Middlebrook well and that groundwater must be held as a public trust, now and for future generations. **Save Our Water** knows that Nestlé's challenge to Centre Wellington is a challenge to each one of us to ensure that the right decisions are made to manage water wisely.

People opposed to commercial water bottling for moral, ethical and economic reasons - farmers concerned about water for crops, business owners relying on water for production, students, young families, private well owners, seniors, faith groups, special interest groups - are appalled by the idea of monetizing a basic of life, water.

Working with water allies and creating awareness for the campaign through extensive research, protest marches, fundraising events, blue ribbon and lawn sign initiatives, community information talks as well as meetings with public officials, **Save Our Water** has persisted in its purpose. In doing so it has succeeded in shining a light on groundwater policies. However, **the final decision about the permit comes from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.**

**We need your help now! This is urgent!**  
**HOW YOU CAN HELP...**



A moratorium  
is in place that  
will end on  
January 1, 2020  
giving residents and  
**SAVE OUR WATER**  
precious little  
time to convince  
politicians to  
**Say No to Nestlé!**

Contact Jeff Yurek 416-314-6790 [minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

Contact Doug Ford 416-325-1941 [doug.ford@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.ford@pc.ola.org)

Contact your MPP Tell them to say no to Nestlé.

We have one last chance to ensure the protection of groundwater from large-scale extraction for commercial water bottling.

Clearly, leadership must come from each of us. With only a few months left in the moratorium **Save Our Water** is committed to defending water.

With your help we will protect water in Ontario!



## Water Taking at Middlebrook, if Permitted, Will Threaten Centre Wellington's Future Water Supply

Under Provincial Places to Grow legislation Fergus and Elora were mandated to double in population by 2041, triggering a water supply deficit and a search for new water sources.

Three comprehensive studies of the township's aquifers and water system conclude that:

- At least four multi-million-dollar well systems are required to meet growth targets.
- Operation of Nestlé's Middlebrook well will reduce municipality's water supply by 560 cubic metres per day, requiring a fifth municipal well to make up the difference.
- The Middlebrook well's location, if Provincially permitted, blocks the municipality's access to the best quality and most abundant source of water, which lies west of Elora.
- Clearly, it makes no sense in a water-sensitive area to permit competition between a township mandated to grow and an exploitive commercial water taker.

We cannot grow **without water!**

# Consider a Future with Nestlé as your Neighbour...

Centre Wellington will lose up to 1.6 million litres of groundwater every day, close to the amount of water used in all of Elora daily.

Sure, there'll be new employment... likely one part-time position will be created at the Middlebrook well.

Centre Wellington will keep about \$9,000 in property taxes on the 5-acre lot.

**Our community will be forced to locate future wells in areas where there is less reliable quality and capacity, and at a much higher cost.** We must grow from our present 8 wells to 12 wells. Four new wells needed – AND FAST!

A township with a water issue offers no incentive for business to invest in that municipality. Centre Wellington needs businesses that create jobs and pay taxes where they use water.

Nestlé at the Middlebrook well means a loss of water that would service 2700 homes and generate \$2 million dollars in property taxes for the Township.

Moreover...

**The Township assumes 100% of the risk if the Nestlé water extraction draws contamination into the aquifer.**

What about the fee of \$503.71 per million litres that Nestlé will pay? This is a levy; it covers only a fraction of the cost of administering the permit. Yes. The taxpayer pays the rest.

**For Nestlé the water is free.**

**Predatory water taking is a reality – is your community next?**

Consider the  
40-50 water trucks  
per day each  
weighing 90,000 lbs!

Roads designed to  
last twenty years  
will wear out in  
seven.

The Township of  
Centre Wellington  
and County  
taxpayers will pay  
for all road and  
bridge repairs.

# Save Our Water Speaks up for the Fish!

At this perilous moment in the history of our planet, provincial decision makers are morally and ethically obliged to redefine water use in terms of how much water must remain in the ground to ensure that every creek, river, stream, wetland and aquifer remains capable of sustaining the intricately complex ecosystems dependent upon them.

Current studies of Centre Wellington's water supplies do not address the cumulative impacts of water taking on these threatened webs of life.

The ecological trade-offs permitting industry to extract large amounts of water from the watershed represent an existential threat to all creatures deriving life from that water. **Now is the time to declare that groundwater and all freshwater systems have critical ecological value, not just for you and me but also for fins, feathers, furs, fields and forests. Forever.**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What are you so worried about anyway?

**Save Our Water** wants a secure, long-term supply of water for our community and for the ecosystem for generations to come. The population is slated to double in the Elora and Fergus area, and we see additional water taking for commercial exploitation as a serious and avoidable risk for our future. We believe water must be protected as a public trust.

## Isn't commercial water-taking just a drop in the bucket?

**No.** The amount proposed for extraction by Nestlé daily is the same amount of water used from three wells by the whole of Elora in a given day.

## Isn't there a vast supply of water in this area?

**No.** Our municipal water comes from aquifers deep underground, not from rivers or lakes. Aquifers are recharged with rainwater that percolates deep into the ground over decades and centuries, and this is an uncertain and finite amount. **Evidence from the studies currently underway indicates our water is at risk.**

## Who controls our water?

The **provincial government** must issue a permit for the taking of large amounts of groundwater. The **municipal government** is responsible for keeping water safe for drinking. The **federal government** controls the exporting of bulk water out of the country. **No one owns the water. All living things share water.**

## Where can I get more information?

Visit our website [SAVEOURWATER.CA](http://SAVEOURWATER.CA)

## How can I get Involved?

You can donate, join a parade or march, host a fundraiser, invite speakers to your group. There are many ways to volunteer some of your time. Learn about the issue. Visit us at the Elora Farmers' Market. **Share the message, talk to your family, friends and neighbours. Contact your MPP!**



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