

Nestlé extracts water for bottling as local residents forced to cut back on water use

For Immediate Release

July 31, 2019 Today, on the second anniversary of the expiry of Nestlé’s permit to take water at its Aberfoyle well, residents of Guelph must reduce their outdoor water use to conform to a [Level 1 warning](#).¹ While By-Law enforcement officers may levy a \$150 fine on residents who do not follow the by-law **it is not mandatory for Nestlé to reduce its water taking during these restrictions**.

This is the same situation as two years ago today when southwestern Ontario was in the middle of a drought – and on the day Nestlé’s permit to take water at Aberfoyle expired - Nestlé continued to extract water for bottling.

Global warming is increasing average temperatures around the world. July is [the hottest month in one of the hottest years in the history of human civilization](#)² and Nestlé continues to extract water for bottling in single use plastic bottles. One can understand why Nestlé does this – they seek ever increasing profits, even as the climate crisis deepens – a classic illustration of what Naomi Klein calls ‘disaster capitalism’.

However, it is impossible to understand how the government of Ontario, now led by Premier Doug Ford, can continue to allow Nestlé to extract water from the aquifer from which Guelph and surrounding communities in Wellington County relies for its drinking water.

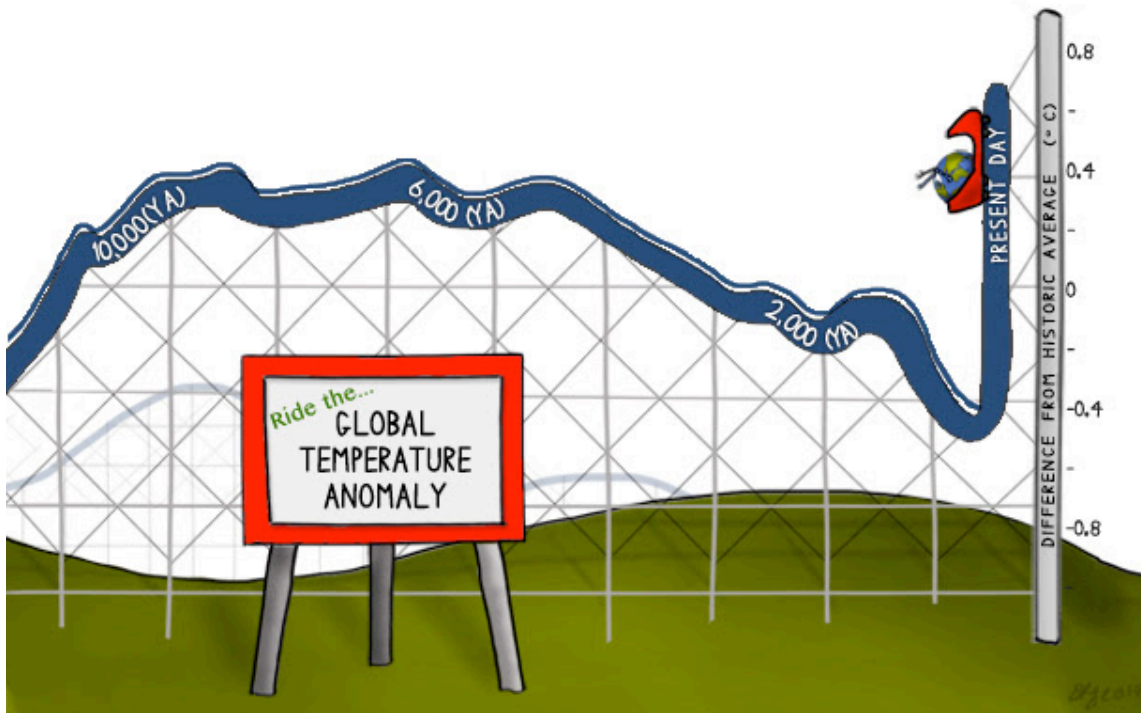
“Guelph is the largest city in Canada to rely 100% on groundwater for its drinking water” says Arlene Slocombe, Executive Director of the Wellington Water Watchers. “The increasing impact of climate change is changing all the rules including on permits to take water. We can no longer afford to allow our community’s drinking water to be extracted by Nestlé and shipped out of our watershed for enormous profits.”

The previous Ontario government put a moratorium on new applications for permits to take water in response to massive public outrage at Nestlé’s water exploitation.

¹ <https://guelph.ca/living/environment/water/water-conservation/outside-water-use/>

² What’s the hottest Earth has been “lately”? | NOAA [Climate.gov](https://www.noaa.gov/climate)

“Two thirds of the public support phasing out permits to bottle water in Ontario according to a Mainstreet poll we commissioned on World Water Day in March of this year” says Rob Case, chairperson of Wellington Water Watchers. “Clearly if Premier Doug Ford’s government is ‘for the people’ than phasing out permits to bottle water represents what the people want. And we want it now!”



Difference from historic average temperature since last ice age. NOAA Climate.gov cartoon by Emily Greenhalgh. Inspired by Figure 1(b) in Marcott et al., 2014.

The Water for Life, Not Profit program of the Wellington Water Watchers calls on the Ontario government to phase out permits to bottle water in Ontario.

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About Wellington Water Watchers Founded in 2007, Wellington Water Watchers (WWW) is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization based in Guelph, Ontario. Committed to the protection of water resources and public education, WWW works to affect local water policy and protect water sources. WWW also sponsors and supports guest speakers, debates, and are active at bottled-water free community events.

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Dedicated to the protection, restoration and conservation of drinking water in Guelph and Wellington County

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