



January 15, 2018

Protecting Water

Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Provincial Planning Policy Branch
777 Bay Street, 13th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Dear Ministry staff,

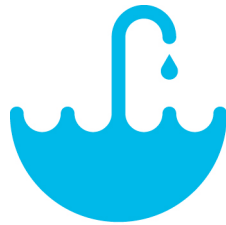
I am pleased that the Government of Ontario is taking an important step to help protect the water resources of the Province. I would like to offer my organization's comments on this proposal (EBR # 013-1661).

I represent the Elmvale Foundation, a federally registered charity for environmental education. The Elmvale Foundation is helping to change the way we think about water. As a non-profit, science-based organization dedicated to environmental research and education, we help to educate people of all ages and from all walks of life about the importance of our water resources: we generate awareness about current issues of water security, promote conservation, watershed protection, and environmental stewardship. The Foundation achieves its goals by hosting community events (primarily the annual Elmvale Water Festival), supporting water-based research at all levels, and providing global access to this information via our website (www.elmvale.org). We helped to create the Elmvale Water Kiosk (www.elmvalewater.org) which provides shelter to the public when they are filling their water bottles at the artesian spring on the east side of County Road 27, just north on Elmvale.

I wish to draw your attention to an important area which has been left out of your study area map: the Simcoe Uplands which includes the Oro Moraine. The location of the Simcoe Uplands is shown in the map attached which was taken from Chapman and Putnam "The Physiography of Southern Ontario". The Simcoe Uplands represent the recharge area for the important artesian spring waters of Springwater, Tiny and Tay Townships in Simcoe County.

The quality of the waters in these artesian springs has been documented in international, peer-reviewed scientific journals (copies enclosed). I have been testing these spring waters on and off for more than 25 years, first at my laboratory at the University of Berne (Switzerland), then the University of Heidelberg (Germany), and now at the University of Alberta. Using metal-free, ultraclean research facilities at each of these universities, I have shown that these spring waters contain lower concentrations of trace metals such as lead (Pb) than ancient arctic ice (which I have also tested). These are arguably the cleanest natural waters on Earth. I have no





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doubt about their unique quality and inherent value. These artesian spring waters have supported the inhabitants of the region for millennia, and every effort should be made to protect them for future generations.

The Elmvale Foundation is strongly in support of expanding the Green Belt and creating a Blue Belt of groundwater protection. Our rural landscapes are much more than just aesthetic jewels where city dwellers can go to find peace: they include unique natural ecosystems found nowhere else in the country and the best farmlands of our nation, currently being managed in an effort to enable food production in perpetuity. Moreover, our forest and agricultural soils act as natural, integrated water filtration systems, maintaining the quality of surface and groundwaters for countless life forms, including our own. Stewarded by First Nations peoples for millennia, these landscapes represent the most important inheritance for future generations.

An expanded Greenbelt, and the creation of a Blue Belt, will benefit all Ontarians. I strongly recommend this expansion includes the Simcoe Uplands.

Sincerely,

William Shotyk, Ph.D. , Dr. rer. nat. habil., P.Ag.,
President, Elmvale Foundation
and
Bocock Chair for Agriculture and the Environment, University of Alberta

Enclosures:

1. Map showing the approximate location of the Simcoe Uplands.
2. Shotyk, W., Krachler, M., Aeschbach-Hertig, W., Hillier, S. and Zheng, J. (2010) Trace elements in recent groundwater of an artesian flow system and comparison with snow: enrichments, depletions, and chemical evolution of the water. *Journal of Environmental Monitoring* 12:208-217.
3. Shotyk, W. and Krachler, M. (2009) Determination of trace element concentrations in natural freshwaters: how low is “low”, and how low do we have to go? *Journal of Environmental Monitoring* 11:1747 – 1753.

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