

TOWN OF ERIN

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Town of Erin accepts voluntary contribution – invests in community improvements

For Immediate Release

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The Council of the Town of Erin voted today to accept a voluntary contribution from Nestle Waters Canada. The levy will bring an estimated \$41,000 (based upon 2016 consumption levels) to the Town, with future amounts to be based upon consumption with a guaranteed minimum of \$25,000 intended to be used towards community projects.

This is not the first time that the Town has accepted voluntary funds from the international company. Contributions totaling more than \$160,000 were accepted between 2001-2009, with an additional \$30,000 provided for specific projects in 2010 and 2012. However, since that time the company has not been forthcoming with any payments, increasing the burden upon taxpayers to pay for many of the Town's community projects.

"Council saw fit to accept this contribution to help reduce the burden upon taxpayers who currently fund the vast majority of our community improvement projects", said Mayor Allan Ails. "It will directly benefit residents by helping us to expedite some projects that are currently underfunded. Nestle appears to recognize that if they want to have a positive presence in our community, then offering the Town a contribution as they did during previous terms of Council is the right thing to do", he added. Mayor Ails also referenced the Waste Free Ontario Act and the responsibility it places on producers to manage the waste they create such as plastic water bottles. "The legislation will help to hold companies like water bottlers accountable for the plastics and cans they produce, and is a positive step forward in helping to protect our local environment", he said.

Nestle Waters Canada was given approval from the Province of Ontario to draw water from a well connected to the Guelph-aquifer located in Erin, and has been doing so for the past 16-years. The provincial government remains the only legislative body with the authority to prevent Nestle's continued operations in the Town.

For more information, please contact:

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