



Springwater Council – FoTTSA Deputation – October 16, 2019 – Judith Grant

The northern tip of the Township of Springwater has an abundant flow of the world's purest water. You celebrate this water every summer in the Elmvale Water Festival. Hundreds of people stop at the water kiosk north of Elmvale to fill bottles with this extraordinary water every week. People drive from Barrie and other distant centres to get it. People from all over Ontario fill their bottles en route to their cottages on Georgian Bay. Professor Bill Shotyk has been testing this water – some of it ancient, some of it recent, all of it filtered to extraordinary purity by the living layer sand, gravel, stones, clay, trees and plants – for 30 years and has documented its extraordinary purity.

The artesian flow from three pipes in the water kiosk is part of the headwaters of the Alliston aquifer complex that flows almost to Toronto. Shotyk and Professor John Cherry writer of the standard textbook on groundwater are beginning to map this aquifer complex this fall – but theirs is a long term, very costly project involving the sinking of many wells over many years. They have a 5-year grant of \$30,000 a year to make a start and they plan on applying for a much larger grant to get the job completed. They have appealed to the community in Springwater, Tay and Tiny Townships to get involved by housing researchers, allowing wells to be drilled in their properties, supporting their applications to government granting authorities, and raising money for costs.

We are afraid that there will be no point in mapping the aquifer if it is wrecked by aggregate extraction in the next couple of years. So, FoTTSA (the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations) has become a party in the LPAT (Local Planning Appeal Tribunal) hearing into the application by CRH Canada Group, owner of Dufferin Aggregates, for an extension of the Teedon Pit northward into French's Hill in the first concession of Tiny Township. Our members live along the shore of Tiny Township, miles away from the Teedon Pit which is on the far eastern edge of the township. Indeed, the road where trucks exit loaded with gravel borders Tiny and Tay Townships. Some of our members may fill their bottles en route to their cottages, but none of us have wells that draw on that aquifer. We got involved because we care about the environment and feel that the purest water in the world is worth fighting for.

It looks like the battle is going to cost us more than \$100,000, to cover the cost of witnesses and the expenses of our pro bono lawyers. Without the support of the Canadian Environmental Law Association – CELA – our costs would rise to at least \$150,000.

You recall the world-wide protest of the young a week or two ago and the address to the United Nations by a young Swedish girl – all decrying the inaction of their parents,



grandparents, and great grandparents to deal with destructive climate change. They might equally have decried our failure to protect the planet's drinking water. Already there are worrisome signs that aggregate extraction is impacting groundwater. Wells along highway 93 and along Marshall Road have become silty whenever gravel is washed in the Teedon Pit. This past January, there was silt in the water of the Water Kiosk.

This is an opportunity for you to help to protect the source of the extraordinarily pure water around Elmvale and points south in Springwater. I – and FoTTSA – appeal to you to invest in our effort to halt the removal of the filtration layer that produces your extraordinary water. Bill Shotyk believes that it is imperative that there be a moratorium on the aggregate extraction in the Waverley Uplands. Getting the extension of the Teedon Pit stopped is a start. We of FoTTSA ask that you make a substantial contribution toward our legal costs as we go to bat for the world's purest water – water that you celebrate and use.