



Advocating for the responsible use of water,
air and land in the Guelph-Eramosa
Township and surrounding areas.

Protecting our Precious Waters

Issue 2
June 1, 2018

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Our Mission and Campaign

There are numerous disturbing issues related to the proposed Xinyi float glass plant project.

This issue focuses on water - a worldwide environmental issue. It also focuses on local political accountability.

During the recent provincial election, **all** the Ontario candidates declared protection of water resources as their #1 platform priority.

Aquifers around the world are being emptied by over-extraction of ground water. Moreover, the Grand River Conservation Authority says that water supply in Guelph/Eramosa is also threatened. One of the City of Guelph's own well heads is

already unsustainable. Droughts and climate change worsen the situation.

At a time when large multi-national corporations such as Nestle have moved into Canada, and into our own area to use our pristine water for industry and profit, we must look to our politicians to help us protect Ontario's ground water supply.

Please read on and help get this important message to our governments:

- ✓ Attend the Community Meeting to learn more
- ✓ Send letters to the media and voice your support to articles and editorials for this cause
- ✓ Share this newsletter

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Mayor White Page 2

Water - a worldwide issue. How
long can we use the Well before
it runs dry? Page 3-4

COMING SOON

GETconcerned Community Meeting

More information to follow

*Come to be informed about the
development, where we stand
and where we go from here.*

*Go to GETconcerned.org for
further details*

A Meeting with the Mayor

On May 29, members of GETconcerned met with Mayor Chris White and GET CAO, Ian Roger to discuss the zoning by-law amendments requested by Xinyi Glass and other related issues:

- The lack of completed technical studies including the hydrogeological report, which should be independently evaluated.
- Zoning by-law 40/2016 (M1 Rural Industrial) allows "dry" industrial uses with minimal effluent.
- There has been no move to have metered verification of water uptake and monitoring by an outside agency. This magnifies the need to review the zoning by-law before final review or approval of any amendment.
- The 1.6 million litres of water/day declared by Xinyi applies to plant start-up, but this will increase with planned future plant expansion.
- The GRCA has already described groundwater supply in this area as significantly at risk.

GETconcerned asked:

- ? *How can any zoning by-law amendment occur unless the Township revisited and re-defined the existing zoning by-law, given the significant volumes of water that the proposed Xinyi glass plant would extract?*
- ? *Township council will be ultimately responsible for approving or rejecting the by-law amendments and site application. Where do they stand?*
- ? *That the Township delay any further processing of the heavy industrial development file until the GRCA completes its study in Spring 2019 into groundwater supply.*
- ? *When will we receive a hydrogeology report and the other science-based studies that are so crucial to an undertaking of this size.*
- ? *When will the second public meeting promised by Mayor White be held to provide residents and ratepayers with much needed information?*

Mayor White offered the following feedback:

- A The Xinyi application could not wait until the GRCA finished its water quantity studies, but must be done now, under the existing legislation. Which means that the Mayor and Council is prepared to make a decision without the best available data.
- A He suggested we speak with the Province because water was not a Township responsibility.

Council has been elected to maintain the safety and well-being of GET residents. Water is very much a Township responsibility

- A The Mayor indicated no definite date was known as far as receipt of required Xinyi reports and missing technical data, or the issue of a revised GET Planning Department Report following peer review and comment.
- A Township had not set any dates specific to the second public meeting or council vote.



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How Long Can we use the Well before it runs dry?

Ask your WARD councilor where they stand on the issue of maintaining a sustainable ground water supply and ensuring that land use planning contributes to the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of our water.

For ten straight years, in the Canadian Water Attitudes Study, Canadians named fresh water as our most important natural resource.

Although our water is often taken for granted, the study shows that we expect all levels of government to do their part to look after it.

Protection of our water is more important now than ever. Growing populations and climate change are putting stress on water supplies around the world, including in Canada. We are not immune to water shortages or disasters.

Our neighbor, Town of Erin, has just spent another \$600,000 looking for a viable water source.

Water scandals in our past, like the contamination of drinking water in Walkerton in 2000, have made Ontarians realize that we can't take chances with our water supply.

Allowing industrial users to take drinking water and squander it while others go without water is immoral and cannot be tolerated.

The Xinyi plant proposes to take 1.6 million litres of water PER DAY and two-thirds of that will be evaporated in the manufacturing process.

It gets worse...Xinyi's water use will not be metered...in the end, we will have no idea how much water is being taken. Xinyi also proposes to add a third production line in the near future, which will increase its water needs to 2.4 million litres of water PER DAY.

The only way we can safeguard our drinking water supply is to insist that the science behind water taking requests are solid and will not harm everyone else - either now, or in the future.



Xinyi has not provided any science to show that everyone in our community will be protected.

The sorts of things that we still need to know:

- an accurate measurement of how much water will be taken every day
- how will it be transformed through the manufacturing process - either by the addition of chemicals or heat

- how much water will be needed in the future
- how many wells will be drilled
- how deep those wells will be
- what is the remedy for well interference should it happen
- how much water is returned to groundwater for recharge
- what does the storm water management plan look like?

These questions *and many more* require science-based answers.

To date, there has not been a completed hydrogeology report submitted to the Township.

We don't have any answers.

Mayor White and Councilors are considering passing by-law amendments that allow Xinyi to proceed with their development. Yet not one of them has seen a hydrogeology report that would tell them what they need to know: 1) whether this is a permitted dry use and, 2) how the water-taking is going to impact the wells of the residents of the GET.



We never know the worth of water until the well is dry."

Thomas Fuller, 1732

On Being Responsible

Mayor Chris White has enthusiastically endorsed the proposed Xinyi glass plant as a "game changer" — but he now appears to be its only champion.

In the Wellington Advertiser on May 31, all Provincial election candidates stated that their very first campaign pledge was to protect and preserve groundwater.

We believe Mayor White is abdicating his responsibility to represent the public and to consider the well-being and interests of the municipality.

GET zoning by-law definition of Rural Industrial (M1) clearly states "dry" uses shall not use significant amounts of water and shall not produce significant amounts of effluent.

Now, when local leadership is important, the Mayor is unwilling to be the person who stands up and says 'this does not fall within the definition of our by-law'.

Since Mayor White is the deputy Chairperson of the GRCA, he is fully aware that the GRCA is in the process of conducting water quantity studies, yet he feels he must charge ahead without the best available science.

This also means that his council colleagues will not have access to the best available data. And, everyone on Township Council will make a decision on an area that has already been identified as significantly at risk for water



taking, knowing that they are ignoring important facts that may influence their decision.

For these reasons, we believe Mayor White is ignoring the real threats to the health, safety and ground water supply that Xinyi Glass represents to GET residents.