

# Have you had your fill today?

# Try it!

In June 2010, Hamilton embarked upon the “I Drink Hamilton Tap Water” campaign to encourage residents and City staff to adopt the principle and philosophy of choosing Hamilton’s tap water as their first choice using refillable water bottles instead of bottled water.

The City of Hamilton is committed to providing water to its citizens that is clean, safe, and tastes great! Hamilton’s drinking water is tested approximately 47,000 times annually.

## **How the Community Services Department, Recreation Division is supporting this initiative**

- New recreation centres and existing facilities are upgrading water fountains to high end filling stations.
- Facility users and staff will be encouraged to bring reusable water containers. Try it!
- Facilities will sell reusable water containers.
- Partnering with Blue W, a not-for-profit organization who supplies detailed information on where to find healthy, safe municipal tap water anywhere around the globe. Registered businesses, like Hamilton recreation centres are represented on the map because they have agreed to refill your reusable container with water from their tap or filling stations without compelling you to make any additional purchases. Visit <http://bluew.org/>

## **What you can do to help**

- Let your family, friends and organization know about the City’s “I Drink Hamilton Tap Water” campaign.
- Fill a reusable water container for at the gym, at the sports field, and on the go.
- Keep meetings and special events bottled water free.
- Be a role model for others by choosing Hamilton’s tap water first and using a refillable water bottle.

## **Facts about Hamilton’s tap water**

- Tap water is accessible and more sustainable than bottled water.
- Hamilton tap water is tested 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure residents enjoy a consistent supply of high quality drinking water. It continuously upholds and exceeds the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards set out by the Ministry of the Environment.

## **Facts about bottled water**

- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has endorsed a resolution urging all municipalities to phase out the sale of bottled water where appropriate, and over 50 municipalities in Ontario have implemented restrictions on bottled water.
- Bottled water is more costly than tap water. In Hamilton, 1000 litres of tap water costs \$1.12, while the same amount of store brand bottled water costs approximately \$230, gas costs approximately \$1,250, and imported bottled water can cost up to \$1,750 per 1000 litres.
- It takes about three litres of water and 1/3 of the bottle’s volume of oil to manufacture and deliver a single one litre plastic bottle.
- An estimated 650 million used plastic bottles enter landfills each year as people either do not have access to recycling or choose not to recycle.

## **Reports**

- Bottled Water Council Report (CS10035/PW1003) - April 13, 2010
- Bottled Water Information Report (CS10035(a)) - March 2, 2011

*Hamilton*  
Water is Life