



We invite you to consider an exciting and world first opportunity. The Thames watershed could become the first Blue Community watershed in the world adding a new dimension to the spreading Blue Community movement. We are sending this message to all municipalities in the Upper Thames watershed.

The Blue Community movement originated in 2009 in recognition of threats to accessible water for all and understanding water as a common gift of life as opposed to a commodity to be privatized for profit. Already 25% of the world's population does not have access to safe water. The Blue Community movement is growing and now more than 200 municipalities and institutions globally have made the three resolutions necessary to become Blue Communities.

These resolutions are:

- recognizing water and water sanitation as human rights ( this means water will not be shut off for those genuinely struggling to pay for water)
- promoting publicly owned and operated water and wastewater services ( as opposed to private for-profit ownership of these services)
- banning the sale of single use bottled water in municipal facilities and events

Resolving water as a human right has not been problematic for the 200 + municipalities that have done so including London/Ontario, Paris, Berlin, Vancouver, Los Angeles. They recognize water is life.

We understand that your municipality already meets the standard for publicly owned and operated water delivery and sewage services. This is progressive and fortunate given the history of problems in jurisdictions where water is operated for profit. These problems are discussed on the Blue Community site <https://canadians.org/bluecommunities>.

The benefits of banning the sale of single use bottled water at municipal sites counteracts the problems created by these unnecessary bottles. To offer only three of the reasons please note. Bottled water uses between 1,000 and 2,000 times the energy per unit volume compared to local tap water.(1) This plastic adds to the approximate 11 million metric tons of plastic garbage entering our waterways. (2)

Further “This water mining can have significant and irreversible hydrological and ecological effects in specific watersheds and localities, including water aquifer depletion, loss of irrigation and well water, and drinking water contamination.”(3)

Finally, bottled water is not generally safer than tap water despite the deceptive language referring to purity, mountain springs, etc.

London made these three resolutions in 2020 and became a Blue Community joining Vancouver, Bayfield, Paris and many others. Since then, Brescia and Huron University Colleges in London have become Blue Communities along with the Sisters of St Joseph and Mother Teresa High School. We expect further announcements .

But imagine an entire watershed protecting water as a human right.  
We hope you can lead the way toward this needed and imagined future .

Information concerning the Blue Community movement is available on line at  
[https://canadians.org/blue communities](https://canadians.org/blue_communities)

We are also available to present or answer any questions. London Water Engineering Dept could also reassure that this is in the interests of citizens.

We hope to hear from you,

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1 Gleick and Cooley 2009. Gleick, Peter H. and Heather S. Cooley. 2009. “Energy Implications of Bottled Water “.

2 Schroerer, Littlejohn, and Wills 2020. Just One Word: Refillables. Washington, DC: Oceana.  
<https://oceana.org/wrp>.

3 Gleick, Peter H. 2010. Bottled and Sold: The Story behind our Obsession with Bottled Water. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Barlow, Maude. 2014. Blue Future: Protecting Water for People and the Planet Forever. New York: New Press.

Resources:

<https://canadians.org/bluecommunities/>  
<https://bluecommunityschools.org/>