

# NO PIPE!

[www.stopthepipeline.ca](http://www.stopthepipeline.ca)

## WHAT IS THE PIPELINE?

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One of the water supply scenarios considered by the City of Guelph in its 50-year Water Supply Master Plan is the construction of an underground steel pipeline conveying water from **Lake Erie to Guelph**, extending from the County of Haldimand to the Region of Waterloo.

## WHY IS THE PIPELINE BEING CONSIDERED?

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Right now, most of the water you drink in Guelph comes from local wells, referred to as 'groundwater' sources. As the population of Guelph grows in the future, the additional demands placed upon the water supply system will exceed the existing capacity of the system. In other words, the demand for water will exceed the supply if nothing is done to secure additional sources of water. Guelph's Water Supply Master Plan proposes a number of alternatives to meet future needs. Water piped from Lake Erie could either be used to augment Guelph's current groundwater supply, or potentially replace groundwater use altogether. Other options include expanding the number of nearby groundwater wells, or developing local surface water supplies, such as Guelph Lake and the Eramosa River.

## REASONS WHY WE OPPOSE THE PIPELINE

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In the 50-year Water Supply Master Plan, the City of Guelph is considering several alternatives to meet Guelph's future water needs. With the exception of the pipeline, all other viable options further develop Guelph's existing water supplies. Construction of a pipeline to a distant source will create:

- An expensive pipeline and pumping system
- A perception of water as a 'limitless' resource, undermining the drive to use water wisely
- Urban sprawl instead of "smart growth"
- Loss of local and public control of water
- Uncertainty in future water security due to climate change

### ECONOMIC

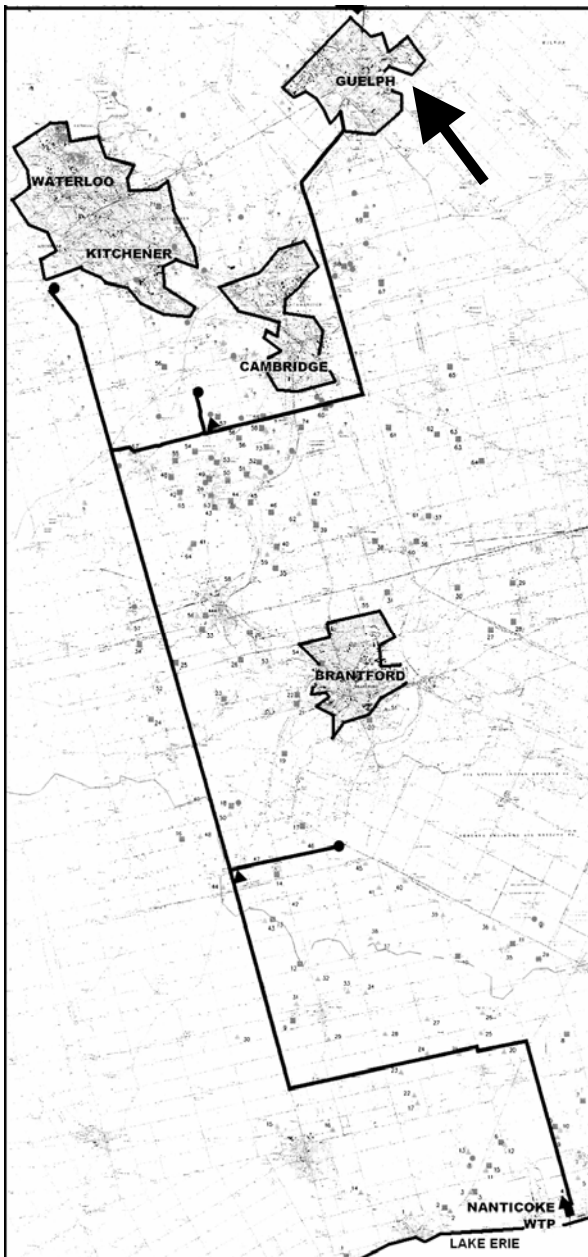
- The capital cost of installing the pipeline is expected to be in excess of **\$649 Million** (Guelph Water Works Water Supply Master Plan Draft Final Report, 2006)
- This figure does not include the money required for maintenance and the energy costs associated with pumping water over a distance of at least 150km
- To pay for the pipeline, user rates will increase, leading to higher monthly bills for water

### ENVIRONMENTAL

- The proposed pipeline will have "moderate to high potential adverse impacts to natural heritage features, including:
  - Provincially Significant Wetlands
  - Environmentally Significant Areas
  - Sensitive Species Habitat (vulnerable/ threatened/ endangered or locally/ regionally rare)"(Guelph Water Works Water Supply Master Plan Draft, 2006)
- The pipeline will have the capacity to withdraw 1.8 Billion Litres of water per day

**WATER FOR GUELPH, FROM GUELPH**

## PROPOSED PIPELINE ROUTE



## OUR PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

Guelph has a strong history of water conservation; it has one of the lowest per capita water consumption rates in Canada (Guelph Water Works Water Supply Master Plan Draft Final Report, 2006). **Stop the Pipeline** encourages conservation, smart growth, and the further development of existing local supplies to meet the future water demand. The 50-year Water Supply Master Plan has shown that local water sources are equally viable solutions in conjunction with conservation efforts. The Water Supply Master Plan identifies numerous ways in which we, as Guelph citizens, can make better use of our local supplies without resorting to a long-distance pipeline. These include:

- Taking advantage of rebates for installing water efficient fixtures (e.g. low-flush toilets)
- Installing rain barrels for watering lawns and gardens, as well as washing cars
- Encouraging future housing and industrial developers to incorporate water reuse systems into their designs
- Choose water-efficient appliances (e.g. front loading washers) and fixtures

Making informed decisions about Guelph's water supply requires a full understanding of the options that are available. We encourage you to learn more about the pipeline, and share your comments and concerns with your local Guelph City Councillor.

## WHO ARE WE?

Stop the Pipeline is a group of concerned Guelph citizens who have come together to promote alternatives to a water pipeline. The Council of Canadians Guelph Chapter, the Guelph Civic League and OPIRG Guelph have expressed their support for Stop the Pipeline.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

- [www.stopthepipeline.ca](http://www.stopthepipeline.ca): our campaign website, where you can find the Latest News, how to sign up for our email list, links and much more
- For information from the City of Guelph regarding the Water Supply Master Plan, go to: [www.guelph.ca/living.cfm](http://www.guelph.ca/living.cfm) (Click on the 'Environment' link, 'Water,' then 'Master Plan')

