

Experts prefer tap water

Our water is safer, more eco-friendly than bottled, local scientists say

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The Hamilton Spectator

(Apr 27, 2009)

Hamilton tap water is cheaper, safer and more eco-friendly than bottled water, say three scientists studying issues related to human health and water quality.

Warren Foster, a McMaster University professor who heads the McMaster Institute of Environment and Health, said at a Bay Area Restoration Council workshop: "I don't buy bottled water, though I did for three years in Los Angeles. I'll believe, until I see otherwise, that the stuff out of our taps is safer." Joanna Wilson, assistant professor of biology at Mac, said: "The environmental cost of bottled water is insane. I don't ever use it if I can help it."

Noting that Hamilton draws its raw water from more than a kilometre offshore in Lake Ontario, Environment Canada scientist Tom Edge said "we're lucky compared to a lot of communities" that rely on river water downstream of sewage plants and industrial discharges.

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