



TOWNSHIP OF EAST GARAFRAXA  
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August 2, 2024

## Resolution Re: Phasing Out Free Well-Water Testing

At the regular Council Meeting held on June 11, 2024 the following resolution was passed:

### **MOVED BY STIRK , SECONDED BY HALLS**

#### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

WHEREAS private water systems (example: wells) are not protected through legislated requirements under The Safe Drinking Water Act 2002 and The Clean Water Act 2006, but are more likely to contribute to cases of gastrointestinal illness than municipal systems; and

WHEREAS the 2023 Ontario Auditor General's value-for-money audit of Public Health Ontario (PHO) recommended that PHO, in conjunction with the Ontario Ministry of Health, begin the gradual discontinuance of free private drinking water testing; and

WHEREAS in the County of Dufferin, many households do not receive water from municipal systems, with many relying on a private drinking water system, including wells; and

WHEREAS the Walkerton Inquiry Report Part II, concluded the privatization of laboratory testing of drinking water samples contributed directly to the E. coli outbreak in Walkerton, Ontario in May 2000; and

Whereas all Ontarians deserve safe, clean water, and free well-water testing is a way to help ensure that residents on private wells continue to have barrier-free access to well water testing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of East Garafraxa call on the Province to not phase out free well-water testing as part of the proposed streamlining efforts of public health laboratory operations in the province; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health; Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

**CARRIED**

Sincerely,

Shannon Peart  
Administrative Assistant/ Clerk's Department  
**Corporation of the Township of East Garafraxa**

cc: Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health  
Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Dufferin County and Local Municipalities