



**Collingwood Public Utilities**  
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Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
177 North State Street, Suite 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Ms. Kaput,

We would like to begin by thanking you for the opportunity to make this submission and share with your committee the innovative project Collingwood has undertaken to engage our youth in water conservation.

Collingwood is located in the heart of Ontario's finest four-season destination area. On the south shore of Georgian Bay, 150 kilometers north of Toronto, our community is home to 22,000 environmentally conscientious residents.

For over 100 years, Collingwood Utility Services has supplied the town's citizens and industries with safe and clean water. We pride ourselves on our innovation and have developed a reputation for going above and beyond minimum government regulations. We strive to exceed what is expected of us and act as a role model for other small communities.

In 2009, Collingwood Utility Services decided to make a long term investment in water conservation; an investment that would yield lifelong results and focus on behaviour and mindset rather than immediate statistical results. We concluded that the greatest impact we could have on water conservation was through the education of our children. We quickly recognized however, that we may have the knowledge to educate but that doesn't mean that we possess the skills necessary to engage our youth. In light of this we decided to partner with a not for profit educating organization, "Elephant Thoughts", and the collaboration has paid off.

If selected as the recipient of the \$5,000.00 grant, Collingwood would present the money to Elephant Thoughts to expand their current water workshops. This Organization is always in need of additional testing materials including rain gauges, water cycle tables and ground water simulator tables to make their presentations even more interactive for students. Elephant Thoughts is able to conduct workshops for schools free of charge because of sponsorship. We are currently the title sponsor of the Earthkeepers workshop and would like to continue supporting this program and others to ensure that all schools in the Collingwood area have access to the water education that they provide.

Thank you for taking the time to review the attached submission.

Yours,

Marcus Firman C.E.T.  
Manager Water Services

Cc Mayor Carrier  
Ed Houghton