

THE CITY OF HAMILTON CAPTURES THE GOLD AT THE 2010 INTERNATIONAL OLYMPICS OF WATER

Hamilton, Ohio – March 1, 2010 - On February 27, 2010, the City of Hamilton successfully accomplished a feat that the U.S. Men's Hockey Team was unable to achieve. Hamilton was able to unseat its Canadian rivals as Gold Medal Winner for the Best Tap Water in the World at the 20th Annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting. The Berkeley Springs competition, the oldest and largest water tasting competition in the world, is aptly known as the Olympics of Water.

The City of Hamilton won the Gold Medal as the Best Tap Water in the U.S. and was also named as the Second Best Tap Water in the World at last year's competition.

Entrants in the competition included 125 waters from 24 states and 10 foreign countries. In the municipal water competition was represented by 44 municipal waters from 12 states and Canada.

A dozen judges, from print, radio and Web media, followed specific guidelines similar to wine tasting in the blind taste test, judging the waters based upon "look, sniff and taste." The waters were rated for a number of attributes, including appearance (it should be clear or slightly opaque, for glacial waters), aroma (there should be none), taste (it should taste clean), mouth feel (it should feel light), and aftertaste (it should leave you thirsty for more).

Canada, primarily British Columbia, has an almost permanent place in the tasting's winners circle. The City of Hamilton was able to capture the Gold Medal over two British Columbia entrants: Beaver Falls, BC (Silver Medal) and Greenwood, BC (Bronze Medal).

Jim Collins, Director of Gas & Water for the City of Hamilton, credited the tremendous effort and hard work of the City personnel for this honor. "Hamilton's Water Production staff is to be congratulated for their efforts in winning this competition. Our staff works tirelessly to produce the highest quality and finest tasting water to our customers. And this Award is a testimony to and fitting recognition of that effort," Collins said.

The City obtains its water from the Great Miami Aquifer, one of the finest sources of water in North America. The City employs 21 deep wells to draw the water from the aquifer and treats the water, utilizing chlorine dioxide disinfectant, at two water treatment facilities, to produce the finest tasting tap water in the world. Most other water utilities use chlorine rather than chlorine dioxide in their disinfectant process, making Hamilton fairly unique in its treatment method.

In response to the 2009 award, the City of Hamilton began a limited commercial water bottling production of its water last year. The City has invested in small-scale bottling equipment and plans to expand this commercial operation this year. Bottles water produced by the City will, at the outset, be primarily used for marketing and promotional purposes at local, regional and national events and not as a competitive, for-profit venture.

The City of Hamilton plans to defend its crown as the Best Tap Water in the World at the 21st Annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting, scheduled for Saturday, February 26, 2011.

The City of Hamilton owns and operates all four of the primary utilities in the City, including electric, natural gas distribution, water and wastewater systems. The City continues to be one the lowest cost providers of all utility services in the Region and the State.

For further information, contact Jim Collins, Director of Gas and Water, at (513) 785-7285 or Greg Petredis, Superintendent, Water Production, at (513) 867-7308