

## 2009 WASTEWATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

(SPDES No.: NY-0027171)  
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

We are pleased to present to you this annual Wastewater Consumer Confidence Report to continue the progressive, proactive Environmental Management Program that is currently employed within the Town of Ontario Water Utilities Department. This report was designed to raise your understanding of wastewater; to inform you of the performance of the wastewater collection system and the wastewater treatment process; and to provide additional recommendations to help promote positive environmental stewardship to protect our vital, natural resources. Please be aware that this report is only one of several sources of information on the wastewater collection system. Others include your local news media, water utilities employees, the [Town website](#), the new Town of Ontario Geographic Information System (GIS), the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This report also provides an overview of last year's wastewater effluent quality that was discharged into Lake Ontario. If you have any questions and want to learn more, please contact either:

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(Superintendent of Water Utilities)  
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Fax: (315) 524-3840  
Email: [Peets@ontariotown.org](mailto:Peets@ontariotown.org)

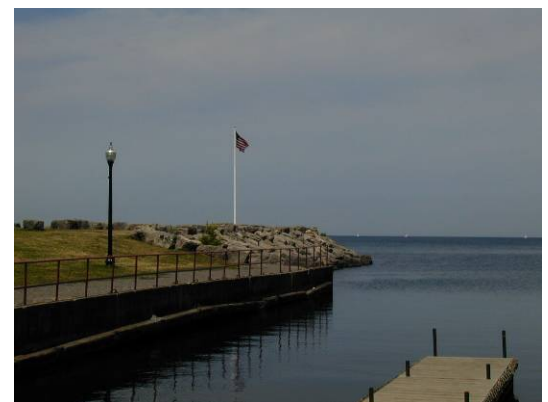
or

Robert Kelsch  
(Town Supervisor)  
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We want you to be informed about your wastewater and ways to minimize the costs associated with its collection and treatment. We need your help to protect our environment and local natural resources.

### WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

We are blessed with a precious natural resource, Lake Ontario, which supplies our community and neighboring communities with water. Water is drawn from the lake via an intake pipe, which extends approximately 4,000 feet offshore to a depth of approximately 50 feet. This raw water is pumped to our local Water Treatment Plant where it is treated and prepared for human consumption. This removes any hazardous minerals and bacteria that may be present in the lake water. In 2009, our Town used 334,899,000 gallons of water. A great majority of this consumed water is discharged in the sanitary sewer system and is treated at the wastewater treatment plant.



*Memorial Point and Bear Creek Harbor*

If you have any questions about this report or concerning the Town's utilities, please call the Water Utilities Department at (315) 524-2941, Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

## **WHERE DOES OUR WASTEWATER GO?**

Last year we focused on residential septic systems. We provided a description of a typical system, how it operates, and where the treated water goes. This year we will provide information for two significant dischargers to publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), otherwise known as the local wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), which can send potentially hazardous substances to the WWTP. These two dischargers are dentists and industrial dischargers.

### **DENTIST DISCHARGES**

Dentists recently experienced a new requirement to operate their businesses. They are now required to install amalgam waste separators. Amalgam is the most commonly used material for dental fillings and contains a mixture of mercury and at least one other metal. Mercury use has seen increased scrutiny during the past few decades for its harmful environmental impacts to fish, humans, and air and water quality. Therefore, the NYSDEC has instituted new regulations that require installing amalgam separators at their offices if they discharge these wastes to a publicly-owned treatment works (POTW). These separators physically remove the amalgam from the water similar to a filter removing coffee grounds in a coffee maker. In addition to installing these separators, these offices must also submit a certification form to the POTW and the NYSDEC. These regulations were introduced in May 2006 and most dental professionals have instituted these measures into their offices by the deadline that was set in 2008. These changes have helped to reduce the amount of mercury from these sources and have assisted with the protection of our sensitive natural resources and have limited the amount of mercury disturbances that have occurred at the WWTP.

### **INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGES**

Industrial facilities typically create wastes that are much different from the wastes create in people's home. Therefore, these places must play under a whole different set of rules since they have a better chance of causing much more damage on the public, neighboring properties, and the environment. The Town of Ontario has maintained a Sewer Use Law since the 1970s. In this code, Significant Industrial Users (SIUs) are required to do several different steps to be able to send wastes to the treatment system. Failure to do this could possibly result in problems at the WWTP where the Town may receive permit violations or receive fines from the NYSDEC and USEPA. All of these consequences bear a heavy cost in their own terms.

The Town of Ontario Water Utilities Department and Town Board have effectively enforced these rules for the past 4 decades. We must all do our part and make sure we dispose of hazardous items properly and if you see suspect activities occurring, be sure to report it to the proper authorities. The Water Utilities Department is a good place to start.

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**SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM**

Many residences do not have on-site septic systems as they are connected to the Town Sanitary Sewer Collection System, which conveys sanitary sewer flows to the Town of Ontario Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 2200 Lake Road. Most of the businesses found within the Town are also connected to this sewer collection system. These flows are transported via underground pipelines to nearby wet wells using gravity. These wet wells are located near Town pump stations that send the flows to higher areas located within the Town so that gravity can take over the workload, or they pump straight to the wastewater treatment plant.

As you can see, there is approximately 37.6 miles of sanitary sewer piping located within the Town. This piping system consists of pipes ranging in size from 4 inches to 24 inches diameter, made of several materials including PVC and Asbestos Concrete (ACP). Flows conveyed from the pump stations travel through several forcemains ranging in size from 2 inches to 14 inches in diameter and made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE), PVC, and ACP. There is approximately 5.8 miles of forcemain piping found within the Town.

There are also 17 pump stations located within the Town, which convey wastewater to areas where gravity could not be utilized by the collection system. These pump stations ultimately hold the responsibility to transport flows to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

To provide a means to inspect, clean, and access the sanitary sewer system, there are approximately 593 manholes.

These piping systems and pump stations are owned, operated, and maintained by the Water Utilities Department.

*Sanitary Sewer Collection System of Ontario - 2008*

Piping System	Total Length (miles)	Range of Diameters (inches)	Materials
Sanitary Sewer (gravity)	37.6	4 to 24	PVC, ACP
Forcemain	5.8	2 to 14	HDPE, PVC, ACP

If you and your neighbors are interested in obtaining public sewers in your area, please be sure to provide **written documentation to the Town office and the Water Utilities Department**. This will not guarantee that you will receive sewers, but it will provide a means for the Town Board to decide which areas are parts of future sewer expansions. There are many factors involved in the decision-making process of sewer expansion including available funding, need, public opinion, and feasibility, among others. However, none of these can happen without an initial, formal notification from a large group of Town citizens stating their desire and justification.

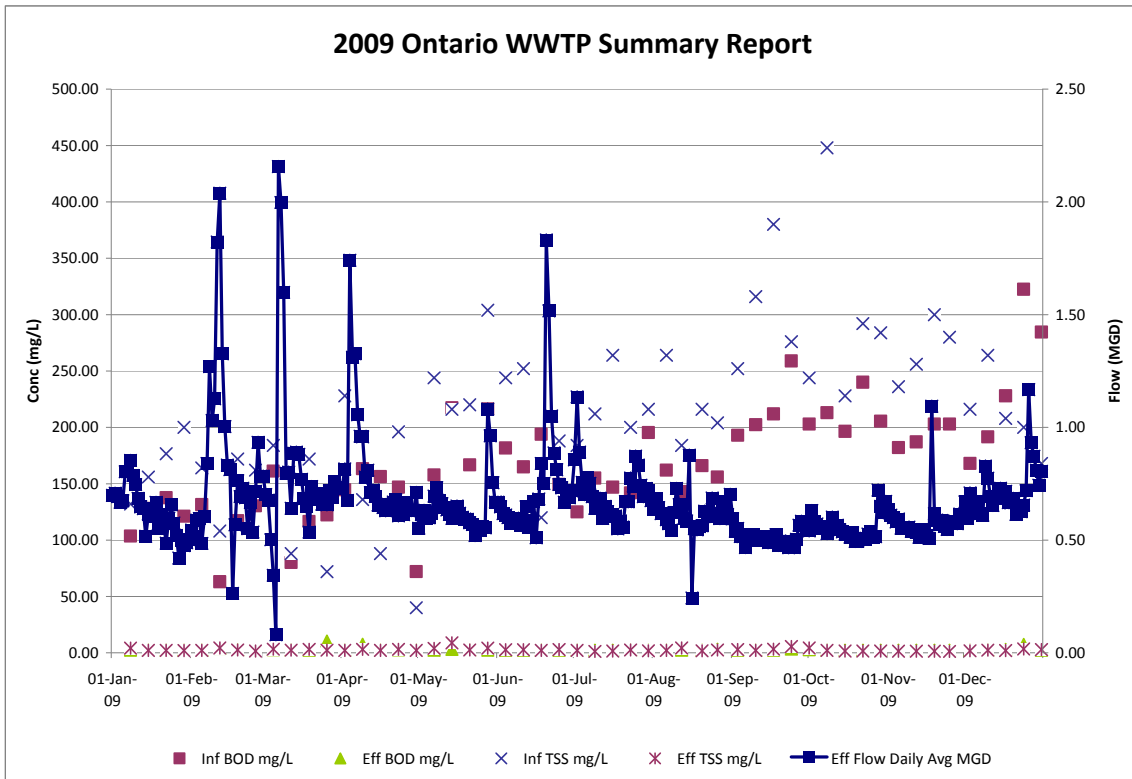
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**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

The Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at 2200 Lake Road near Bear Creek Harbor. The plant began operation in 1976 and has the capacity to treat 1,000,000 gallons of wastewater daily. The plant has a state-of-the-art treatment process that removes pollutants prior to discharge into Bear Creek. Ultraviolet disinfection is used in the final treatment process to kill any disease-causing organisms that may adversely impact the local ecosystem found in Bear Creek and Lake Ontario. The plant also serves as a strong barrier to help protect public health by treating human, animal, and chemical wastes.



*Town of Ontario WWTP with Composting Facility*



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## COMPOSTING FACILITY

The Town Composting Facility is also located on the campus of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This facility combines processed wood chips supplied from trees that have been cut down within the Town and supplied from outside sources such as outside businesses. These wood chips are then combined with processed waste sludge. Bacteria in the sludge and the conditions found within the Compost Building promote the further degradation of the waste until it can be used as mulch for flower beds, landscape areas, etc. This Beneficial Use of our waste material has been approved by the NYSDEC and provides a practical way to recycle our waste and minimize the costs to dispose of it. The mulch is free to all Town residents.



Please contact the Water Utilities Department if you are interested in using the mulch for one of your projects or would like a place to deposit unused wood chips. The Water Utilities Department is happy to accept clean wood chips from anyone looking to get rid of them. They are a vital component of this "green" method of waste disposal and reuse.

**FREE MULCH**

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## WASTE CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS

In addition to the common problem caused by grease, toxic/hazardous chemicals can also be a problem. It is illegal to dump paint, paint thinner, gasoline, parts cleaners, etc. down your drain. These items are disruptive to the biological treatment process at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A relatively new development has been the identification of pharmaceuticals in our wastewater treatment plants. Just about every person in this country takes some kind of medication for what ails them. However, most people do not know that the majority of the dose is not consumed by the body, but travels straight through. Likewise, expired vaccinations and prescriptions are simply dumped down the toilet. Many of these "proprietary" chemicals are unknown and untested with respect to their impacts to our wastewater treatment processes and waterways. It is important for everyone to do their part to minimize the amount of these drugs that are emptied into our wastewater streams. There are several initiatives currently underway: Several nationwide pharmacies (i.e., CVS) are currently

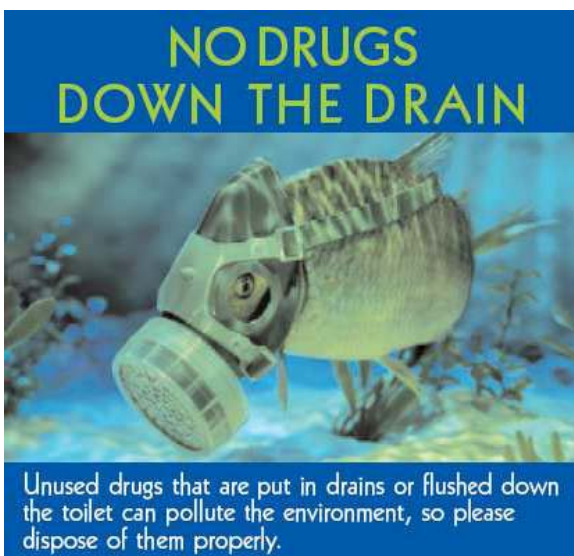
accepting expired prescriptions to be disposed at hazardous waste facilities; worldwide organizations that provide medications to developing and third world nations; medication recycling programs at hospitals; and elimination of toilet disposal of medications.

It is unknown if the Ontario Wastewater Treatment Plant is effective in treating and removing these compounds as little testing has been done, but it is important to prevent them from getting there altogether. **WE MUST ALL DO OUR PART.**

Governor Patterson has recently announced a new initiative, "Don't Flush Your Drugs". Click on the picture below or this link for more information of this new initiative. <http://www.nywea.org/clearwaters/08-3-fall/06-Don'tFlushDrugs.pdf>

## INFLOW AND INFILTRATION (I/I)

Another major obstacle in the sanitary sewer collection system and the treatment plant is a phenomenon called Inflow and Infiltration (I/I). I/I is defined as storm water or groundwater that enters the sanitary sewer system. I/I typically occurs due to illegal storm water connections to the sanitary sewer (i.e. sump pump discharges, downspouts from roof drains, foundation drains, etc.), leaking manholes and covers, and drainage into wet well structures. I/I is costly because these flows can add significant flows to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and increase the potential of overflowing the plant, which may result in fines and hazardous discharges to Bear Creek. Even if the plant can handle these excessive flows, I/I increases the cost to run the plant as more electricity and manpower is needed. We aim to avoid this added expense just to treat storm water with our advanced wastewater treatment plant! If you are unsure if you are using an illegal connection, please do not hesitate to call the Water Utilities Department.



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## **WASTEWATER SYSTEM REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS**

The Water Utilities Department conducted several improvements within the Wastewater System in 2009. Below is a listing of the major items:

- New Ammonia Probe – the WWTP recently installed new ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) probe to monitor the amount of ammonia in the treatment system and react more quickly if spikes are occurring at the plant. The current detection method doesn't indicate a problem until a permit violation has occurred, this sensor will give the operators a quicker notice to modify the plant operations to avoid any future NH<sub>3</sub> permit violations.
- Copper at the WWTP – The Water Utilities Department is working with the Town Engineer, MRB Group, and the NYSDEC to conduct a study to determine if the Copper effluent limit on the plant that is more restrictive, and thus more expensive, than is necessary.
- The Water Utilities Department is planning to install a permanent standby generator at the pump station located on Lake Road near the Ginna Nuclear Power Plant. This upgrade will prevent any future pump station failures during power outages and subsequent sewer backups.
- The WWTP is expanding its sludge drying beds to provide more room to receive sludge from the Town of Williamson and possibly other communities. This has provided the Town of Ontario with a future revenue source and helped Williamson get rid of their waste.

## **STORMWATER SYSTEM REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS**

The Water Utilities Department has also helped out the Stormwater Committee with a few items to help keep our stormwater flowing and clean:

- Ontario Drive outfall repair (near 531 Ontario Drive) – a broken 36" diameter outfall pipe that drains water to Lake Ontario and the surrounding barrier rock has been repaired. The required permits were obtained from the NYSDEC and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lawn restoration efforts are scheduled to take place in the spring.
- Ontario Drive outfall repair (near 413 Ontario Drive) – a drainage swale that drains into Lake Ontario has severely eroded several properties. The Water Utilities Department plans to install a closed piping stormsewer in this area to restore the impacted land and convey stormwater to Lake Ontario. The required permits from the NYSDEC and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been obtained. The work is scheduled to be done during January or February 2010 depending on the weather. Restoration efforts are scheduled for the spring.

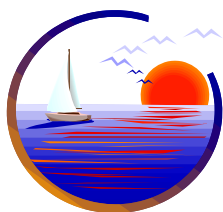
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## STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

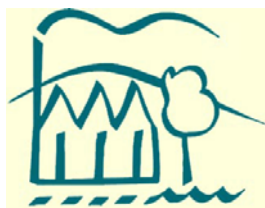
The Water Utilities Department has now been charged with the responsibility of managing, enforcing, and maintaining our storm water management resources throughout the Town. This new responsibility stems from new Phase II Storm water Regulations mandated from the NYSDEC and USEPA. These new regulations aim to prevent, or minimize, pollution originating from municipal separate storm water systems (MS4) from entering our rivers, streams and lakes. Common pollutants include oil and grease from roadways, pet wastes, pesticides from lawns, sediment from construction sites, and carelessly discarded trash, such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers, and plastic bottles. When deposited into nearby waterways through MS4 discharges, these pollutants can impair the waterways, thereby discouraging recreational use of the resource, contaminating drinking water supplies, and interfering with the habitat for fish, other aquatic organisms, and wildlife. It is up to all of us to do our part to protect these vital natural resources. In addition, it costs a lot of money to clean these pollutants after they have entered the storm water system. Participating in this program as a community and reducing these impacts before they happen will save us all money in the end and minimize the detrimental effects to our precious waterways.

As part of the GIS being used by the town, all of the storm water outfall points and structures were located with GPS equipment to easily map their location. Thanks to the GIS and GPS technologies, it will be very easy to go out and locate these items at a later date, rain or shine, or snow. Likewise, the inspection reports and maintenance logs are kept in a new central electronic database to more easily keep track of all of these documents.

## USEFUL LINKS (Click on the Links below to view)



[Town of Ontario Watershed Council](#)



[Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council](#)



[Ontario-Wayne MS4 Coalition](#)



[USEPA Office of Wastewater Management](#)



[NYSDEC MS4 Toolbox](#)



[Dig Safely New York](#)

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