

Stormwater Inflow Reduction Program

Stormwater and wastewater.... Where should the flows go?

Property owners generate both wastewater and stormwater and must ensure these liquids are discharged to the proper place. In some areas of Stirling, during heavy rainfall, stormwater finds its way into sanitary sewers. Stormwater should flow into a separate collection system that empties into stormwater collection ponds or receiving bodies of water. Stormwater can also be dealt with at the source by installing green roofs, rain barrels, naturalizing your lawn or by creating a path for water to slowly infiltrate into the soil. Redirecting stormwater away from the wastewater system onto your lawn and other pervious (surfaces that absorb water) areas is good for you gardens and lawns, provides groundwater recharging and assists in maintaining water levels in rivers and lakes.

What is storm water inflow and why is it a problem?

Stormwater inflow is rain or surface water that enters into the wastewater collection system through a direct connection from the following sources.

- Foundation drains
- Roof drains and downspouts
- Drains from window wells
- Outside basement stairwell drains
- Sump pumps
- Catch basins
- Driveway drains



During heavy rainfall the Stirling Sewage Plant can receive up to **five times** the daily flow that it would on a regular day. These large influxes of sewage are mainly comprised of precipitation that has entered the system by means of inflow. Higher electricity consumption at sewage pumping stations, chemical usage to treat the sewage and the potential for sewers to back up are concerns when illegal connections are made to the system.

What is the municipality doing to control inflow and infiltration?

The Township of Stirling-Rawdon is providing information to inform citizens of the issues arising with stormwater inflow. The addition of large amounts of inflow into the sanitary sewer overwhelms the treatment plant and limits future growth capabilities. Utilities staff are conducting camera work in the sanitary sewers to determine areas of concern for repair. The Township requests the help of residents to do their part in controlling the unnecessary increase of unwanted inflow into the system. Residents are urged to contact the municipal office if they believe that they have an illegal hookup that contravenes the town by-law and assistance is available to redirect the sump pumps or roof leads to a desired location.

Please remember that every little bit diverted away from the sewage plant will reduce water and sewer costs which ultimately affects everyone.