

**Heavy Construction Association of Regional Niagara
Report of Sewer Bypass Incidents in Niagara Region Compared to the Rest of Ontario
For the Years 2000 to 2008**

Niagara Region Municipality	Year 2000	Year 2001	Year 2002	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005	Year 2006	Year 2007	Year 2008	9 Year Total	9 Year Average	3 Year Average
Niagara Falls	74	54	46	80	86	99	45	45	79	608	67.6	56.3
Welland	2	4	37	48	69	53	29	27	59	328	36.4	38.3
St. Catharines	57	37	34	57	57	52	15	14	61	384	42.7	30.0
Grimsby	12	7	6	21	19	30	4	10	39	148	16.4	17.7
Fort Erie	8	7	8	6	13	21	6	8	20	97	10.8	11.3
Thorold	2	3	1	5	8	9	-	-	5	33	3.7	1.7
Port Colborne	5	-	5	-	7	5	-	2	5	29	3.2	2.3
Niagara-on-the-Lake	-	-	2	1	2	3	-	2	1	11	1.2	1.0
West Lincoln	-	-	2	-	1	3	1	2	11	20	2.2	4.7
Lincoln	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	3	7	0.8	1.0
Wainfleet	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.2	-
Pelham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL NIAGARA	160	112	141	221	264	276	100	110	283	1,667	185.2	164.3
Rest of Ontario	483	487	489	795	855	624	411	308	1,144	5,596	621.8	621.0
TOTAL ONTARIO	643	599	630	1,016	1,119	900	511	418	1,427	7,263	807.0	785.3
% that is NIAGARA	24.88%	18.70%	22.38%	21.75%	23.59%	30.67%	19.57%	26.32%	19.83%	22.95%	22.95%	20.93%

3

1

2

Source: Spills Action Centre, Ontario Ministry of Environment as reported in Better Farming magazine. Operators of sewage treatment plants are required to report sewage treatment plant bypasses to the Spills Action Centre as they occur. Bypasses occur in a town or city when combined sanitary (sewage) and storm sewers are overwhelmed by a rain storm or snowmelt event.

OBSERVATIONS:

- 2008 reported bypasses in the Niagara Region (283) and Ontario (1427) were the highest in the nine years studied.
- the Niagara Region accounts for 22.95 % of the sewer overflow incidents over the nine year period of 2000 to 2008
- Niagara Falls had the highest reported bypasses in the province in 2008 (79) while London was 2nd (64), St. Catharines 3rd (61), Welland 4th (59) and Toronto 5th (50)
- the Niagara Region has started to show a slight downward trend in the recent number of bypasses when the 3 year average (164.3) is compared to the 9 year average (185.2). The rest of the province has remained static when comparing the 3 year average (621.0) to the 9 year average (621.8)
- As weather is a definite contributing factor in the number of bypass incidents it is necessary to look at a municipalities bypass history over a longer time period to judge whether any corrective infrastructure action taken has been effective.