

**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 2009**

Niagara Region Municipality	Year 2000	Year 2001	Year 2002	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005	Year 2006	Year 2007	Year 2008	Year 2009	10 Year Total	10 Year Average	3 Year Average
Niagara Falls	74	54	46	80	86	99	45	45	79	114	722	72.2	79.3
Welland	2	4	37	48	69	53	29	27	59	53	381	38.1	46.3
St. Catharines	57	37	34	57	57	52	15	14	61	71	455	45.5	48.7
Grimsby	12	7	6	21	19	30	4	10	39	30	178	17.8	26.3
Fort Erie	8	7	8	6	13	21	6	8	20	39	136	13.6	22.3
Thorold	2	3	1	5	8	9	-	-	5	4	37	3.7	3.0
Port Colborne	5	-	5	-	7	5	-	2	5	6	35	3.5	4.3
Niagara-on-the-Lake	-	-	2	1	2	3	-	2	1	-	11	1.1	1.0
West Lincoln	-	-	2	-	1	3	1	2	11	8	28	2.8	7.0
Lincoln	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	3	4	11	1.1	2.3
Wainfleet	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.2	-
Pelham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL NIAGARA</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>221.8</b>	<b>240.7</b>
Rest of Ontario	483	487	489	795	855	624	411	308	1,144	944	6,540	726.7	798.7
<b>TOTAL ONTARIO</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>8,536</b>	<b>948.4</b>	<b>1,039.3</b>
<b>% that is NIAGARA</b>	<b>24.88%</b>	<b>18.70%</b>	<b>22.38%</b>	<b>21.75%</b>	<b>23.59%</b>	<b>30.67%</b>	<b>19.57%</b>	<b>26.32%</b>	<b>19.83%</b>	<b>25.84%</b>	<b>23.38%</b>	<b>23.38%</b>	<b>23.16%</b>

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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:**

- 2009 reported bypasses in the Niagara Region (329) are the highest and Ontario (1273) are the 2nd highest in the ten years studied.
- the Niagara Region accounts for 23.38 % of the sewer overflow incidents over the ten year period of 2000 to 2009
- Niagara Falls had the highest reported bypasses in the province in 2009 (114) while Ottawa was 2nd (96), St. Catharines and London tied for 3rd (71), Welland 5th (53).
- the Niagara Region had started to show a slight downward trend in the recent number of bypasses but the last two years have certainly reversed that trend
- 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.