

**Heavy Construction Association
of Regional Niagara**



"People Building Communities"

P.O. Box 23, Thorold, ON L2V 3Y7

Municipal Clean Water Infrastructure Election Questionnaire

Name: _____ Municipality: _____

Signature: _____

In the wake of the Walkerton tragedy and our aging water infrastructure, the provincial government released its Water Strategy Expert Panel Report in July 2005 to address the safety and financial sustainability of water and sewage system across the province. This survey, sponsored by the Heavy Construction Association of Regional Niagara and the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association, is designed to determine candidates' views on how best to address the serious water and sewage infrastructure deficit in Ontario. The results will be used to identify those candidates who have supported and will continue to support clean water infrastructure investment.

1. What initiatives have you supported/will you support during your time in office that have improved or will improve water and sewage infrastructure in your municipality?

2. Do you intend to sit on your municipality's Public Works Committee? Yes _____ No _____

3. As a result of the Ontario Water Strategy Expert Panel Report of July 2005, it was recommended that municipalities establish separate corporate entities, dedicated reserve accounts to operate, maintain, repair and replace water and sewage infrastructure. Do you support these recommendations?
Yes _____ No _____ If No, please explain why not.

4. Do you support metering of water services to all residential and commercial customers, as opposed to an unmetered, flat monthly or yearly charge? Yes _____ No _____ If No, please explain why not.

5. Do you support the user pay principle and full cost account practices as the best way to promote water conservation and the financial sustainability of water and sewage systems?
Yes _____ No _____ If No, please explain why not.

6. Do you support access to a developer's site servicing letter of credit (Pay Assurance) by contractors for unpaid, legitimate bills involving properly completed site-servicing work?
Yes _____ No _____ If No, please explain why not.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. Please fax back your response to 905-227-2793 on or before October 25, 2006. The Associations wish to recognize and acknowledge those candidates who have contributed and will continue to contribute to the health and well being of their communities through clean water infrastructure investment.

Sincerely,

John Passero, President

**Heavy Construction Association
of Regional Niagara**



“People Building Communities”

HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL NIAGARA - CANDIDATES' QUESTIONNAIRE

<p>Please circle the number beside each question that best represents how you would prioritize each issue. The number are in order of importance as follows:</p>	<p>CANDIDATE'S NAME:</p>				
<p>1 = Very important / High priority 2 = Fairly important / Priority 3 = There is no 3 - You cannot be Neutral 4 = fairly unimportant / Low priority 5 = Not a at all important / No priority</p>	<p>DISTRICT:</p>				
<p>QUESTIONS:</p>	<p>1 = Very important</p>	<p>2 = Fairly important</p>		<p>4 = Fairly unimportant</p>	<p>5 = Not at all important</p>
<p>1. Renewing existing infrastructure (roads, water, sewers).</p>	1	2		4	5
<p>2. Full cost pricing of infrastructure (Developers pay full cost of investment)</p>	1	2		4	5
<p>3. Separation of storm and sanitary sewers.</p>	1	2		4	5
<p>4. Support for city's current infrastructure renewal fund.</p>	1	2		4	5
<p>5. Your concern over sanitary sewer overflows in to our waterways</p>	1	2		4	5
<p>6. Support for development incentives e.g. waver of development / impost fees coming up for review Jan 07</p>	1	2		4	5
<p>7. Privatization of some city services as long as it provides value to taxpayers.</p>	1	2		4	5
<p>8. Please list YOUR seven priorities:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p> <p>7.</p>					
<p>Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions. Results will be made available on the HCARN Website. Please return by fax to the HCARN c/o 905-227-2793 on or before October 25, 2006.</p>					

The Walkerton Problems Are Still With Us

The Provincial Government in addressing source water protection and treatment plants is only working on half of the problem. Those investments are wasted if clean, treated water is distributed through dirty, corroded and leaking pipes.

Infrastructure Deficit

A lot of municipal water and wastewater infrastructure is old and expensive to operate. Some municipalities lose up to 50 per cent of their treated water between the plant and the tap. Components are wearing out and need to be replaced. Toronto, for example, averages about 1500 watermain breaks each year.

The longer we wait to restore our infrastructure, the more failures such as paralyzing sink holes we will see and the more it will cost to fix them. The OSWCA has been sending this message to government for years. Watertight: the report of the Water Strategy Expert Panel, made recommendations to ensure we have a financially sustainable and reliable water and wastewater infrastructure.

Major challenges

The Province faces three major challenges. The first is correcting the historic pattern of under-investment. According to the Panel's report, the gap between what we are investing at our current rate and what we need to invest is about \$18 billion. We need to find about \$1.2 billion more every year, for the foreseeable future, to correct that imbalance.

The second challenge is addressing issues of organization and governance. We need to improve the way our water systems are organized and managed. More than 300

municipalities provide water or wastewater services, and there are nearly 1200 treatment plants in the province. Approximately 85 per cent of those plants serve fewer than 10,000 people. We need to rationalize the organization of our water systems, and combine some of the smaller systems to achieve economies of scale.

The third challenge is ensuring the future affordability of water. Our water systems must generate enough revenue to pay for the maintenance, repair and replacement of water and wastewater assets as needed.

The Expert Panel made recommendations for each of these challenges. They call for:

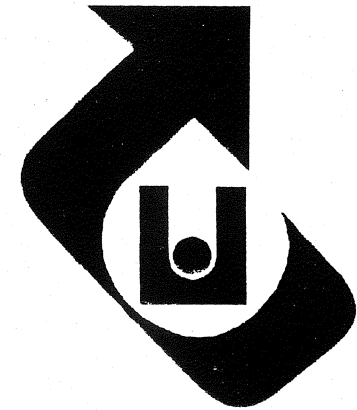
- The creation of larger water services based on a business planning process led by municipalities;
- The creation of new municipal water utilities;
- Water rates that recover the full cost of providing water and wastewater services;
- And for the creation of an economic regulator to ensure we achieve clean, safe, affordable and reliable water services.

The Ontario government has been slow to respond to the Panel's recommendations. Those recommendations were released more than one year ago. Not only do we need to know how the Ontario government will address these issues, we need action now, not just studies and reports.

Please call the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association at 905-629-7766 for more information on how you can help to ensure a safe, healthy and prosperous future for your community.

Municipal Election 2006

**The information contained
in this pamphlet could help
you win the upcoming
municipal election**



**Ontario Sewer and Watermain
Construction Association**
5045 Orbitor Drive, Unit 12, Suite 300
Mississauga, ON L4W 4Y4
Tel: 905-629-7766 Fax: 905-629-0587
www.oswca.org

It's about protecting public health, and keeping your community strong.

About the Infrastructure Underground...

The pipes that bring fresh, clean drinking water to your homes and businesses and the sewers that take away the waste are part of your community's core infrastructure. This underground network of arteries and veins underpins your whole municipality.

Why is it So Important?

If we don't make the necessary investments in our water and sewage infrastructure, we put at risk public health and safety, the environment and the economic vitality of our communities.

The Problem

What's out of sight – and underground - is often out of mind. This and the fact that there are many other competing priorities have contributed to decades of neglect of Ontario's water and sewage infrastructure. Governments at all levels and of all political stripes have ignored the critical need to upgrade, repair and replace aging and deteriorating water and sewage systems.

The result is:

- Encrusted watermains that not only limit water flow (which can impede the job of firefighters), but also prevent chlorine from properly disinfecting water.

- Leaking watermains that are costly for everyone: up to 30% of our treated drinking water is being lost into the ground and often gets retreated as it infiltrates leaky sewers.
- Crumbling pipes that carry both sewage and storm water bacteria can cause basement flooding, pollution in our rivers and lakes and closed beaches.
- Broken watermains and sewers can continue to cause sink holes, which have disrupted homes and businesses for months at a time. One sink hole can cost millions of dollars in emergency repairs.
- Many communities are now experiencing serious and costly water and sewage problems.

According to an Angus Reid Public Opinion Poll:

- Over 90% of Ontarians think a dedicated water and sewage reserve fund is a necessity at the municipal level.
- The vast majority are willing to pay more on their water and

sewage bill to create and sustain such a fund.

- 82% of Ontarians are willing to pay more per month on their water bill in order to ensure the safety of drinking water and the proper collection and treatment of sewage.

The Solution

You can act to protect the health and safety of your constituents and the economic health of your community by making the investments necessary to maintain and sustain safe water and sewage infrastructure. You can:

- Insist on realistic budgets and dedicated reserve funds for the operation, maintenance and replacement of core infrastructure.
- Lobby the provincial and federal government to use infrastructure funds to upgrade critical core infrastructure.
- Support full cost pricing and recovery for water and sewage services to ensure they are financially sustainable and to promote water conservation.

Clean Water is Everybody's Business

