

**Heavy Construction Association of Regional Niagara  
Report of Sewer Bypass Incidents in Niagara Region Compared to the Rest of Ontario  
For the Ten Years 2001 to 2010**

Niagara Region Municipality	Year 2001	Year 2002	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005	Year 2006	Year 2007	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	10 Year Total	10 Year Average	3 Year Average
Niagara Falls	54	46	80	86	99	45	45	79	114	59	707	70.7	84.0
Welland	4	37	48	69	53	29	27	59	53	20	399	39.9	44.0
St. Catharines	37	34	57	57	52	15	14	61	71	54	452	45.2	62.0
Grimsby	7	6	21	19	30	4	10	39	30	16	182	18.2	28.3
Fort Erie	7	8	6	13	21	6	8	20	39	15	143	14.3	24.7
Thorold	3	1	5	8	9	-	-	5	4	4	39	3.9	4.3
Port Colborne	-	5	-	7	5	-	2	5	6	2	32	3.2	4.3
Niagara-on-the-Lake	-	2	1	2	3	-	2	1	-	1	12	1.2	0.7
West Lincoln	-	2	-	1	3	1	2	11	8	5	33	3.3	8.0
Lincoln	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	3	4	-	11	1.1	2.3
Wainfleet	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.2	-
Pelham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL NIAGARA</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>176</b>	<b>2,012</b>	<b>201.2</b>	<b>262.7</b>
Rest of Ontario	487	489	795	855	624	411	308	1,144	944	618	6,675	667.5	902.0
<b>TOTAL ONTARIO</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>794</b>	<b>8,687</b>	<b>868.7</b>	<b>1,164.7</b>
<b>% that is NIAGARA</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>22.17%</b>	<b>23.16%</b>	<b>23.16%</b>	<b>22.55%</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:**

- 2010 reported bypasses in the Niagara Region (176) are the lowest since 2007 and are 156 less than 2009.
- The Niagara Region accounts for 23.16 % of the sewer overflow incidents over the ten year period of 2001 to 2010 (22.17% for 2010 alone).
- Niagara Falls had the 2nd highest reported bypasses in the province in 2009 (59) while Leamington was 1st (78), St. Catharines was 3rd (54), London was 4th (48) and Toronto 5th (41).
- While the reduced incidents in 2010 are certainly encouraging, especially considering the number in 2008 and 2009, an interim bypass incident report for the 6 months ended June 30, 2011 reports an alarming 279 incidents in Niagara for the year to that date. Unless there is virtually no incidents reported in the second half of 2011 it would seem that this year will set an unenviable record for bypass incident reports.
- 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.