



St. Clair River Area of Concern

On the Road to Recovery!!

Eliminating Combined Sewer Overflows

Combined sewers are those that carry both household sewage and storm water. During times of heavy rainfall, the system can become overwhelmed, causing untreated sewage and storm water to bypass the water treatment plant and go directly into local waterways (called combined sewer overflows). Contaminants and biological pathogens may enter a waterway, potentially harming humans, waterfowl and aquatic biota.

The City of Sarnia has successfully reduced the volume of combined sewer overflows by 50% with updating old infrastructure and separating sewage from storm water sewers. Work continues today, to separate all combined sewers in the city. Upgrades to local Water Pollution Control Plants have further decreased untreated water entering the St. Clair River.

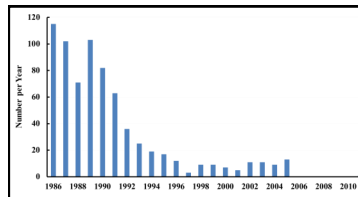
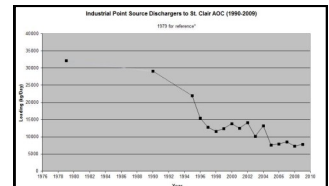


In addition to the separation of the Christina and Exmouth Street combined sewers in Sarnia, separation has also occurred on Devine Street (left). The Water Pollution Control Plant in Courtright was upgraded and expanded (right) while a new pumping station was installed at the Corunna site.

Legislation

A number of legislative controls have been enforced to reduce municipal and industrial discharges and spills to water ways. The introduction of the Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) regulation in 1988 along with implementation of the Spill Prevention and Contingency Plans in 2008 has significantly improved water and sediment quality in the St. Clair River.

Chemical loadings of 19 parameters from 17 MISA regulated facilities with discharges into the St. Clair River (OMOE, 2012). Large reductions have been observed since 1990.



Spills that have required a drinking water intake shut down have also decreased substantially since the early 90's (SLEA, 2012)

Industrial Initiatives

In addition to regulatory initiatives by governments, industries located along the St. Clair River have upgraded their facilities and infrastructure to reduce their impact on the St. Clair River. These improvements have included capital investment to upgrade industrial storm water retention ponds and the implementation of closed-loop cooling water systems and monitoring and diversion systems.



Suncor Energy invested \$3 million upgrading their industrial wastewater retention pond to withstand a one in 25 year storm event. Imperial Oil has implemented increased monitoring and diversion capabilities to reduce spills to the St. Clair River.

Some industries have created wildlife habitat on their properties. Examples include the CF Industries Naturalization Project and the Dow Wetlands (pictured above).



For More Information:



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