

Water and Waste Department

Sewer By-law Review

About the draft Sewer By-law

We have prepared a new draft By-law that:

- includes stricter requirements to further protect our wastewater, land drainage and river systems
- incorporates recommendations made by the Clean Environment Commission to the Minister of Conservation in 2003
- is written in user-friendly language
- is ready for review and comment

New restrictions on what you can put down the drain into the sewer system

- we have added 4 substances to the list of prohibited substances (Schedule B)
- we have added 39 substances to the list of substances with discharge limits (Schedule C)

New restrictions on what you can put into the land drainage system

 we have added a new list of 13 prohibited substances (Schedule D)

 we have added a new list of 45 substances with discharge limits (Schedule E)

New fees and licences

- a Grease Interceptor Licence will be required by any food service establishment that is required to have a grease trap (section 47)
- additional requirements and conditions for wastewater haulers, including a Wastewater Hauler's Licence (Part 10)
- new charges for businesses that put nitrogen or phosphorus down the drain in amounts that are over the By-law limit:
 - a per kilogram charge* in excess of 60 milligrams per litre for nitrogen
 - a per kilogram charge* in excess of 10 milligrams per litre for phosphorus

* charges under review

Increased enforcement program and new pollution prevention requirements

- Our monitoring program for restricted and prohibited substances will be increased.
- New reporting requirements will apply for persons responsible for spills or who have custody and control of a substance involved in a spill. (Part 9)
- Businesses that put prohibited or restricted substances down the drain will be required to submit a pollution prevention plan, starting with metal finishing companies. (Part 11)
- Dilution of wastewater to achieve By-law limits will be prohibited. (section 14)

Next steps We will:

- gather public comments until Friday, March 12, 2010 (e.g., from the meetings, email, Facebook, mail)
- prepare a report including the revised By-law and a summary of the public comments for City Council to review and consider
- post the report and revised By-law on the City's web site for public information just before the Council meeting