



November 23, 2022

Dear Owner/Occupant,

RE: BURLINGTON STREET SEWAGE SPILL

On November 22, Hamilton Water maintenance staff uncovered, through their investigation of a separate maintenance issue, a hole in a combined sewer pipe in the area of Burlington Street and Wentworth Street North. This hole led to a sewage spill into a large storm sewer that was discharging into Hamilton Harbour.

Staff have concluded that the section of pipe within the area of Burlington Street East and Wentworth Street North services 50 properties. Your home or business is potentially within the catchment area for the combined sewer tied to this pipe and/or within the vicinity of the impacted outfall. There is no danger to your drinking water supply and there is no action is required from you at this time.

Hamilton Water's immediate priority upon discovering the leak was to protect the environment and mitigate the spill. Hamilton Water staff who discovered the leak yesterday immediately initiated field investigations and have since taken steps to stop the flow from leaking into the harbour. Crews remain on site with a vacuum truck to contain the leak, and Hamilton Water has initiated a construction project to install a new sewer pipe at this location which will stop the leak. This work is expected to be resolved by 10 p.m. this evening. Further system modeling will be undertaken to determine the most appropriate final resolution.

The City continues to follow the necessary notification protocol to the province and other agencies and have been in contact with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks as well as other key Hamilton Harbour agencies, stakeholders, and First Nations communities.

After a preliminary investigation, it is believed the hole was put in the combined sewer pipe in 1996. It appears that the contractor at the time was under the impression that all pipes were storm sewers and were designed to directly connect to box culverts leading out to the harbour.

You can expect to see a high level of activity in the area over the next few days with trucks and other vehicles as staff continue work to mitigate the current leak and begin to make the necessary repairs.

More information will be posted on www.hamilton.ca as it becomes available in the coming days. If you have any questions, please contact Hamilton Water's Community Outreach Educator (coh_water@hamilton.ca).

City of Hamilton
Hamilton Water