

Private Sanitary Sewer Lateral Replacement Grant Program

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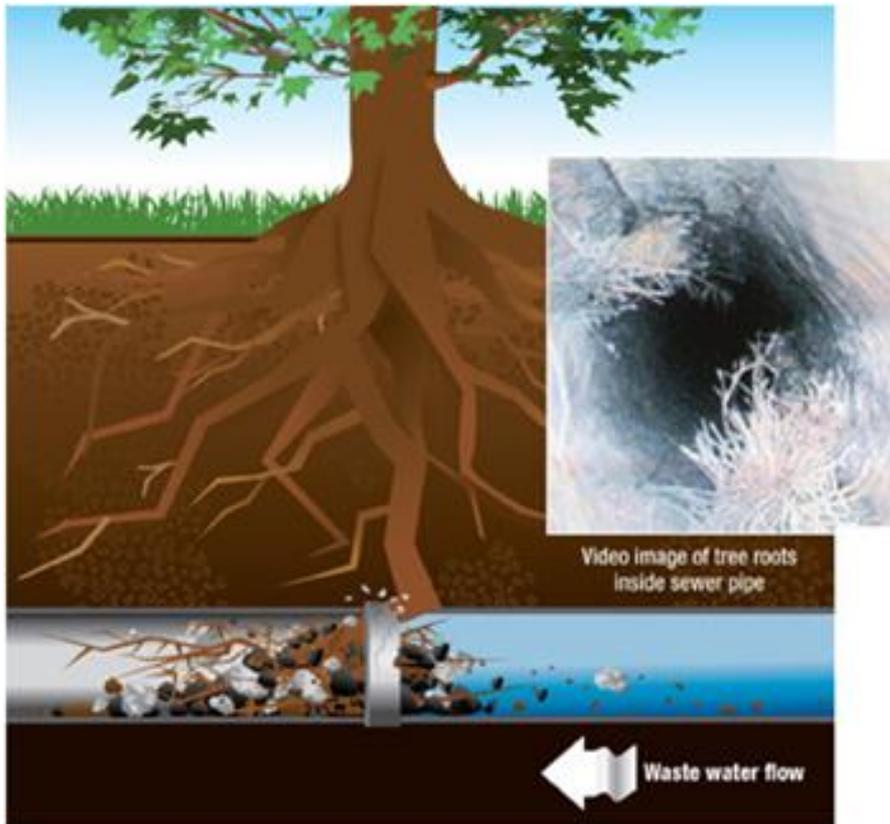
Updated May 27, 2016



Sewer Stoppages

- Sewer stoppages experienced by customers are a result of a blockage in a sewer lateral. Sewer laterals are pipes that carry wastewater from the sanitary fixtures and floor drains inside a home or business to the City's sanitary sewer system. Sewer laterals can clog with roots and grease, which can cause a back-up inside a property or spill from the line.
- A sewage spill can cause damage to property that is expensive to fix and may cause public and/or environmental health concerns. In addition, rainwater and groundwater may enter the sanitary sewer system through cracks or gaps in the pipes, which could have significant impacts such as unnecessary costs for treating water and taking up valuable capacity at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Proper maintenance of sewer laterals, including replacement and relining, is important to prevent potential sewer stoppages/blockages, as well as reduce in-flow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer collection system.

Sewer Stoppages Cont'



Sewer blockages can be caused by disposing of materials such as cooking oil, toys, “disposable” wipes or other objects that have been flushed down a household drain, sink or toilet. Blockages can also happen due to a deteriorated sewer lateral and tree roots getting through cracks in the pipe.

Responsibility

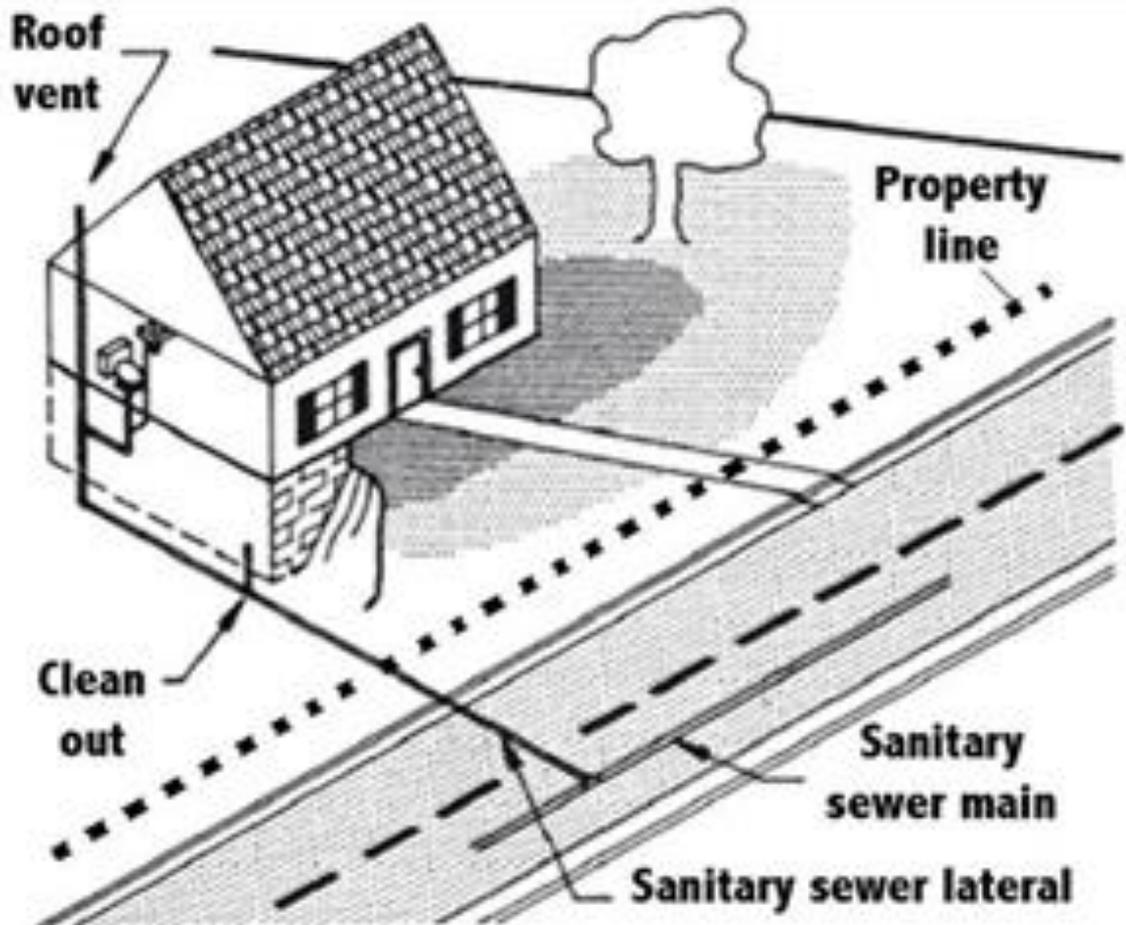
- Effective January 1st, 2014, in order to increase our level of service to customers, the City took over the responsibility for the *City side* of your sanitary sewer lateral.
- The property owner is now only responsible for the sewer lateral up to their property line. From the property line to the wastewater main in the street, the City has responsibility for clearing the blockage and sewer replacement as appropriate.
- The exception to this is if it's determined that the City side of the sewer lateral is blocked due to inappropriate materials such as toys, or other objects that have originated from the private side.
- As part of its annual road reconstruction schedule, the City has been replacing aging sanitary sewer laterals from the sewer main to the homeowner's property line. Many homeowners similarly need to replace deteriorating sewer laterals on their own properties.

Responsibility Cont'

The private sewer lateral service is located on private property, from the property line to the building.

The City portion of the sanitary sewer lateral is located from the property line to the municipal sewer main.

Maintaining the sanitary sewer lateral on private property is the responsibility of the homeowner.



Grant Program

- The number of stoppage calls for unblocking private sewer laterals over the past 10 years has seen an overall increase of almost 75%.
- In the interest of preventing potential sewer stoppages, the City began providing a one-time grant incentive to eligible homeowners beginning February 24, 2014.
- The grant covers half the cost for replacement or relining of the private sewer lateral to a maximum amount of \$1,500 per property.

Program Eligibility

To qualify for the program, eligible homeowners must:

- Be the owner of a property in the City of Brantford.
- Have not commenced replacement or relining of private sanitary sewer lateral prior to grant program approval
- Have current and paid property taxes at the time of application for the grant
- Building must have an existing sanitary sewer lateral, not still under a new construction warranty

Application & Approval Process

- Pick up an application form from the City's Environmental Services Department or from the City's website: brantford.ca/sewers
- Obtain at least one (itemized) quote from a licensed contractor for the replacement (or relining) work
- Quote must include the installation of a cleanout unless one already exists that meets current standards.
- Complete the application form, ensuring all registered homeowners sign it, with the quotes attached and return to the City: Environmental Services Department, City Hall, 100 Wellington Square, P.O. Box 818, Brantford, Ontario N3T 5R7 or Fax: 519-752-6775.

Replacement Process

Once approval for a sewer lateral replacement has been granted by the City, the homeowner(s) or contractor must:

- Apply for a plumbing permit from the City's Building Department*
- Note that utility locates are the responsibility of the contractor or the person doing the service replacement.
- Arrange in advance for an inspection by the City's Plumbing Inspector of the sanitary sewer lateral replacement



Replacement Process Cont'

- Proceed with replacement of the sanitary sewer lateral, including installation of a clean-out if necessary
- Complete a “Declaration of Work Completion” form indicating that the homeowner is satisfied with the work completed after an inspection is passed and submit to the City along with a paid invoice.
- * *A Plumbing Permit is not required for **relining** the sewer lateral.*

Drain Clean-Out Requirement

In order to receive the grant payment, there must be an existing sanitary building drain clean-out that meets current standards or the contractor must install a sanitary building drain clean-out OR a two-way clean-out located on the end of the lateral outside the building near the footings.



Payment Process

After approval and replacement of your sewer lateral, an electronic funds transfer payment for the grant amount totalling 50% of the paid eligible invoice portion, to a maximum of \$1,500, will be deposited directly to the homeowner's bank account upon the City's receipt of the following:

- A paid invoice of work completed by the contractor; or paid invoices for materials and equipment related to the private sewer lateral replacement if a contractor is not being used to replace the pipe,
- A satisfactory City inspection of the sanitary sewer lateral for replacement, OR a satisfactory City inspection of a pre and post video of the sanitary sewer lateral for relining.
- A completed Declaration of Work Completion form, indicating the homeowner is satisfied with the work completed

Payment Process Cont'

Please Note: Grant approvals are subject to the availability of funding at any given time, on a first come first serve basis. They will only be valid for six months from the approval date and will expire if:

- Construction is not complete
- Paid invoices are not received by the City
- Sanitary sewer lateral service replacement inspection is not satisfactory
- Any other forms are incomplete (i.e. Declaration of Work Completion form)

The General Manager of Public Works will have the authority to extend the grant period or any other variations necessary for successful implementation of this program. The City will not provide a grant for an amount greater than \$1,500.

Contact Us

For information regarding grant applications and processing, please call the Environmental Services Department at:

519-759-1350 ext. 5539

Or visit our website:

Brantford.ca/sewers

Questions

