

## REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

# 2024 Storm Water System Performance

**To:** Warden and Members of County Council

**From:** Director of Public Works

## RECOMMENDATION

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1. That County Council receive Report PW 2025-34 entitled “2024 Storm Water System Performance” as information, including the attached 2024 Annual Storm Water System Performance Report.

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

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- This represents the first storm water system annual report as a requirement of the Consolidated Linear Infrastructure – Environmental Compliance Approval (CLI-ECA) that was issued in 2023 for the County’s storm water system that consists of storm sewers, culverts, and ditches.
- No operational or performance issues related to the County’s storm water system were identified.

## IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

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Following Council adoption of this report, the 2024 Storm Water Performance Report will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) in accordance with regulatory requirements and posted on the County’s website for public access by June 1, 2025.

## Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts as a result of this report. Any required actions that will result in expenditures have been accounted for in the 2025 Business Plan and Budget for Transportation.

## Communications

As indicated, the storm water system performance report will be posted to the County website as legislatively required by June 1, 2025, at [www.oxfordcounty.ca/your-government/corporate-performance/reports-and-publications/](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/your-government/corporate-performance/reports-and-publications/). A copy of Report PW 2025-34 will be circulated to Area Municipalities for their information.



## 2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

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Oxford County Council approved the **2023-2026 Strategic Plan** on September 13, 2023. The Plan outlines 39 goals across three strategic pillars that advance Council's vision of "Working together for a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable future." These pillars are: (1) *Promoting community vitality*, (2) *Enhancing environmental sustainability*, and (3) *Fostering progressive government*.

The recommendation in this report supports the following strategic goals.

### Strategic Plan Pillars and Goals

PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3
		
Promoting community vitality	Enhancing environmental sustainability	Fostering progressive government
	Goal 2.2 – Preserve and enhance our natural environment	Goal 3.1 – Continuous improvement and results-driven solutions

See: [Oxford County 2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#)

## DISCUSSION

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### Background

Oxford County owns and operates a storm water collection system that is approved under Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) Number 071-S701. The ECA incorporates the County's entire storm water network and was issued by MECP on February 3, 2023 as part of the Consolidated Linear Infrastructure (CLI) approach where historical ECAs are combined as

part of one municipal system. The CLI-ECA approach streamlines the approval process by providing pre-authorization for routine system activities and alterations that meet specified design criteria activities.

The County's storm water system consists of storm sewers, open ditches, and culverts within County road right-of-ways (ROW), and is interconnected with Area Municipality systems to control surface water runoff from overland flow to mitigate flooding and property damage. System maintenance is provided by County forces, except in Woodstock, Tillsonburg, and Ingersoll and some boundary roads where storm sewer maintenance is provided by municipal staff as part of associated service agreements.

The CLI-ECA conditions include, but are not limited to, development of an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) manual, monitoring plan, and annual system performance reporting. A review of the ECA is required in 2026 and will involve updates to the storm water collection system based on alterations and additions that meet pre-approval criteria and have been completed since the CLI-ECA was issued.

## **Comments**

The 2024 Storm Water System Annual Performance Report (Attachment 1) will be submitted to the MECP on May 29, 2025, and will be posted on the County's website by June 1 in accordance with regulatory requirements. This represents the first annual performance report related to the County's storm water system and will evolve in subsequent years to include additional efforts to meet performance requirements included in the newly issued CLI-ECA.

Highlights of the storm water system performance in 2024 include:

- No operation and/or performance issues were identified.
- One spill was reported from a motor vehicle collision on Oxford Road 29 that resulted in diesel fuel and hydraulic oil entering the roadside ditch. Impacted soil was removed and the ditch was remediated to acceptable conditions.
- Annual maintenance activities include ditch cleaning and catch basin cleaning.
- 27 complaints/inquiries were received and addressed during the reporting period.
- Alterations include infrastructure improvements related to land development and the County's annual capital replacement program.
- County's storm water system infrastructure investment totaled approximately \$3.45 million including annual maintenance activities.

## **2025 Storm Water System Initiatives**

In 2025, several initiatives will be undertaken in support of the County's storm water system asset management and to ensure compliance with the CLI-ECA that was issued in 2023, as briefly described below.

- An annual storm sewer inspection program utilizing closed-circuit television (CCTV) will be initiated in 2025 to establish infrastructure condition ratings that will support the County's asset management plan and prioritize capital improvements.

- Field survey to collect missing storm water asset data.
- Development of an O&M manual and monitoring program in accordance with regulatory requirements.
- Administration of storm water system alterations, record keeping, and compliance requirements will be transitioned to Water/Wastewater Technical Services with support from the Transportation Division.
- Submission to MECP of inventory of storm sewer catchment areas and treatment classifications.

## CONCLUSION

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The County's storm water system performed well in 2024 and remains in a state of good repair through annual maintenance programs such as ditching and catch basin cleaning and the capital replacement program that will be further supported by the annual CCTV inspection program and development of an O&M manual and monitoring program.

## SIGNATURES

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### Report author:

Original signed by

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Frank Gross, C. Tech  
Senior Manager of Transportation and Waste Management Services

### Departmental approval:

Original signed by

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Melissa Abercrombie, P.Eng., PMP  
Director of Public Works

### Approved for submission:

Original signed by

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Benjamin R. Addley  
Chief Administrative Officer

## ATTACHMENT

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Attachment 1 - 2024 Storm Water Performance Report