



# Wastewater Collection System 2025 Annual Report

Period Covering: January 1 to December 31, 2025

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(Prepared in accordance with CLI-ECA 287-W601, Schedule E)

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Annual Reporting Requirements

The annual Wastewater Collection System report summarizes the system's performance over the previous calendar year (2025). The intent of this report is to provide a record of compliance for the conditions outlined within the system's Environmental Compliance Approval No. 287-W601 (the ECA), which was issued on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Ear Falls Wastewater Collection System is owned and operated by the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls (the Township).

This annual report is submitted to the director and shall be made available to members of the public free of charge. The report has been prepared in accordance with Schedule E, Section 4.6 of the ECA and contains the following information at a minimum:

- a summary of all required monitoring data along with an interpretation of the data and any conclusion drawn from the data evaluation about the need for future modifications to the authorized system or system operations;
- a summary of any operating problems encountered, and corrective actions taken;
- a summary of all calibration, maintenance, and repairs carried out on any major structure, equipment, apparatus, mechanism, or thing forming part of the collections system;
- a summary of any complaints received during the reporting period and any steps taken to address the complaints;
- a summary of all alterations to the system within the reporting period that are authorized by the ECA including a list of alterations that pose a significant drinking water threat;
- a summary of all collection system overflows and spills, including dates, volume and duration of discharge, sampling results, any disinfection efforts, adverse effects, and corrective actions; and
- a summary of efforts made to reduce overflows and spills.

## 1.2 System Description

The Ear Falls Wastewater Collection System is owned and operated by the Township of Ear Falls. The collection system transports sanitary sewage to the Ear Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant, which discharges effluent to the English River. Sewage makes its way to the wastewater plant via gravity and the assistance of two lift pumping stations. The lift pumping stations are equipped with two submersible pumps that operate on duty and standby. One of the lift stations is equipped with an overflow, which would discharge into an unnamed ditch flowing into the English River.

## 2 Monitoring Data

### 2.1 Monitoring

In accordance with Schedule E, section 4.6.3, a summary of all required monitoring data and interpretation of that data must be included in this annual report. Licenced operators conduct monitoring of the Ear Falls Wastewater Sewage Collections System manually. Lift stations are checked daily, and pump run time hours are recorded to verify proper function. No other monitoring process or equipment is in place in the collection system. Flows are not recorded in the collection system but rather totalized at the wastewater treatment plant. There is no monitoring data to interpret or to draw conclusions from.



### 3 Calibration, Maintenance, and Repairs

#### 3.1 Planned Maintenance, Repairs & Minor Modifications

In accordance with Schedule E, Section 4.6.5 of the ECA, this report must include a summary of all calibration, maintenance, and repairs carried out on any major structure, equipment, apparatus, mechanism, or thing that forms part of the sewage collections. The Township’s maintenance program at the Ear Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant and wastewater collection system ensures that the sewage works, and related equipment are properly operated and maintained. Operators verify lift station functions daily. Significant maintenance activities, minor repairs and modifications that occurred during the reporting period are summarized in Table 1.

Date	Task
May 15, 2025	Installed signage at the Elm St. lift station to mark the overflow location.
Jun 3, 2025	Conducted lift Station cleaning and inspections with Larocque Ent.
Sept 25 to Oct 3	The Public Services and Operations Department conducted the annual flushing of the wastewater collection system.
Oct 2, 2025	Uni-Jet was on-site to inspect using CCTV cameras, sections of the collections system on John, McCallum, Marie and John Streets.
Nov 11-12	MJ Pipeline Solutions was onsite to conduct repairs to four (4) manholes along Scott Street.

#### 3.2 Calibration

This report must summarize the calibration of any piece of equipment that comprises the collection works system. The Ear Falls Wastewater Collection System does not utilize any monitoring or measuring equipment that requires calibration.



## 4 Operating Problems

In accordance with Schedule E, Condition 4.6.4 and 4.6.6 of the ECA, this report summarizes any operating problems encountered and corrective actions taken during the reporting period. For the purposes of this report, operating problems may be indicated by observed equipment and infrastructure failure, customer complaints, or overflow and spill events.

### 4.1 Equipment and Infrastructure Failure

Operating problems associated with significant equipment, infrastructure, and process failures occurring during the reporting period are summarized in Table 2. These events did not result in overflows, spills, or abnormal discharge events, as these events are referred to in Section 4.3.

Table 2: Summary of significant equipment, infrastructure, and process failures that did not result in a bypass, overflow, spill, or abnormal discharge event - 2025

Event Date	Event Description
May 25	Pump 2 at the Waterfront lift station failed and was replaced.
Aug 25	The check valves and piping at the Waterfront Lift Station were falling apart. Northern Gas Installers rebuilt the piping and installed new check valves.
Sept 16	The Elm Street Lift Station check valve cover fell off due to a sheared bolt. The bolts were replaced, and operations were restored.



## **4.2 Complaints**

Complaints that were received during the reporting period are summarized with any corrective actions taken in response by operators as per Schedule E, Section 4.6.6 of the ECA.

During the reporting period, one (1) complaint was received regarding the operation and maintenance of the Ear Falls Wastewater Collection System.

On February 24, 2025, a resident reported that sewage was backing up into their home. Upon investigation, it was determined that the backup occurred after the complainant attempted to clear a blockage within their private service connection. This action pushed debris from the private line into the collection system, resulting in a temporary blockage within the system.

In response to the complaint, the Public Services and Operations (PSO) Department was dispatched. Staff drained the affected manhole and flushed the impacted section of the Collection System, restoring normal flow. On April 17, 2025, the PSO Department was dispatched again to proactively flush the same section of the Collection System. No spill or overflow occurred as a result of this incident.

## **4.3 Overflows and Spill Events**

In accordance with Schedule E, Section 4.6.8 of the ECA, this report must provide a summary of all overflow and spill events. In addition, the ECA requires a summary of efforts to reduce overflows and spills in the system in Section 4.6.9. The collection system does not report overflows or spills frequently, and efforts to reduce abnormal discharge events are not applicable.

### **4.3.1 Overflows**

An overflow means a discharge to the environment from the Wastewater Collection System at a location other than the intended final effluent location at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Overflows are prohibited except in certain situations, and special reporting, sampling, and recording requirements apply in the event of an overflow.

### **May 8, 2025: Waterfront Lift Station Overflow – MOESAC Reference 1-O7V9CR**

During routine operational rounds, operators discovered that the Waterfront Lift Station was without power. Investigation determined that the main breaker had tripped and required resetting. As a result of the power loss, wastewater backed up into the waterfront public washroom and was discharged to the English River. Power was restored, and normal lift station operation resumed before samples could be collected. The lift station is not equipped with an alarm system; therefore, the incident was not identified until the routine inspection.

A worst-case scenario was reported to the Ministry's Spills Action Centre. Based on available information, the worst-case estimate assumed up to 24 hours of overflow, with approximately 100 m<sup>3</sup> of untreated wastewater potentially discharged to the environment. Notifications were made to the Ministry's Spills Action Centre, the local public health unit, and downstream users.

#### **4.3.2 Spills**

Spills are releases of pollutants into the natural environment from or out of a structure, vehicle, or other container that is abnormal in quality or quantity. Concerning the Ear Falls sewage works, spills include the release of all pollutants other than raw sewage.

There were no spills during the reporting period.

## **5 Alterations to the System**

In accordance with Schedule E, Condition 4.6.7 of the ECA, this report must provide a summary of any alterations to the system that occurred throughout the reporting period. Authorized alterations to the system are approved by the conditions in Schedule D of the ECA.

There were no alterations to the system during the reporting period.

## **6 Conclusion**

There is limited data available to draw definitive conclusions regarding the overall performance of the Ear Falls Wastewater Collection System during the reporting period. Even though a small number of unplanned emergency repairs and operational issues were encountered, they were resolved in a timely manner.

Based on the available information, the system operated mostly within its compliance requirements and design objectives throughout the reporting period.

The Ear Falls Wastewater Collection System is expected to maintain its favourable operational performance in the next reporting period, as planned preventative maintenance activities and routine inspections will continue to be carried out.