

#### Basement Flooding Windsor's Approach to the Challenge A Presentation of Our City's Reduction Measures and Successes



#### Windsor, Ontario









## **Culminating Rain Events**

#### June 5 & 6, 2010

**90 mm** of rain fell in Windsor between 11:00 pm June 5<sup>th</sup> and 3:00 am June 6<sup>th</sup>

#### November 29, 2011

75 mm of rain fell

187.4 mm in November

**111.9 mm** more than our normal

In 2011 (Windsor's wettest year on record)

**1,568mm** of rain fell compared to the average annual rainfall of 844mm



### June 2010 Event

#### 2,281 flooded basement calls to 311



#### June 2010 Event





- 1,276 homes visited or surveys submitted
- **49%** of homes had downspouts connected
- 4.7% of homes had the power go out
- 90% of respondents say water came up through floor drain or plumbing



### The aftermath – June 2010 Event



445 tonnes of *extra* garbage as a result of flood damage



#### •Lots of press coverage

NEWS

- How did this happen?
- Why did this happen?

# •Pressure to do something to prevent it happening again.

• What can be done?





#### Windsor's Sewer Infrastructure

- 226 km of combined sewers and 24.5 km of over/under sewers.
- In the 80's installed sanitary sewers to eliminate septic tanks
- Aging infrastructure & private drain connections



- Many homes have crossed/mixed connections
- Annual Capital Sewer Program









### **Solution?**

Approximately **\$700 to \$900 million** worth of work is required to separate all of the over-andunder and combined sewers and complete the Priority 1 storm relief sewers. (**long-term**)

What can be done in the short-term?

What is the best **"bang for the buck".** 







•There is no instant or magic solution

•During the 2012 Budget Process, \$4,000,000 was allocated towards a 7-point program



### Short-Term Measures Implemented (At Source)

- In 2011, implemented a Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program (for existing residential properties)
- \$500,000 per year allocated





#### Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program Eligible Amounts

Install Backwater Valve(s) (Licensed plumber required)

Up to 80% of cost, (\$1,000 maximum)

Install sump pump to disconnect foundation drains to floor drains

Up to 80% of cost, (\$1,750 maximum)

Install backwater valve and sump pump

Up to 80% of cost, (\$2,800 maximum)

Disconnect foundation drains from floor drain and/or dye testing and camera work as required.

Up to 80% of cost, (\$400 maximum)

THE MAXIMUM ELIGIBLE SUBSIDY LIMIT IS \$2,800 PER HOME/UNIT.



#### Some advice:

Expect upward pressure on pricing and **lots** of interest from private contractors



#### TK WATERPROOFING When Foundations Buckle And Basements Flood, Experience Counts

Basements Flood, Experience Counts

Spring moisture problems and flooding have come early to local homeowners.

"This winter's continuous freeze/thaw cycles are terrible for basements," says Tom Kritzan, owner of T K Waterproofing, "Winter was prefaced by a very wet fall and now the excess moisture is trapped in the soil around house foundations. Basements are flooding. Our company has been really busy, repairing one buckled and cracked foundation after another. Thankfully, our loyal customers were patient during the rush demand."

When confronted with a cold wet basement, every homeowner understandably wants the problem resolved properly and immediately. "Started by my father, TK Waterproofing has been around so long that we know which methods are cost-effective and won't fail over time. Our workmanship has been proven in Windsor-Essex County homes for more than 30 years. We're not trying out new techniques in your basement, "Tom sys.

TK Waterproofing's experienced team finds the source of the trouble, inside and outside of the home, and corrects it. Their quality work includes rectifying bowed foundation walk; removal of damaged studs and drywall; repair of underground sewers; and replacement of sewer lines. Appreciating that floading and other problems seldom occur at a time convenient to the homeowner, TK Waterproofing is on call for emergency services during holidays and after hours.

One tried and true solution delivers a one-two punch to stop flood-handle the entire pr ing in high risk homes. First, TK Waterproofing's master plumber instalk a sewer backwater valve to prevent the municipal sewer from bacement is dry and backing up and dumping waste water indoors during a heavy minfall tal can be realized.

or sudden thaw. The second step is the installation of a sump pump in the basement, "This combination lets watter watter out without lettring sever overlow in, so if you get six inches of rain in a few hours, your home worit be flooded," Tom explains, "In most situations, it's a \$2,000 fix as opposed to a \$30,000 repriat rafter a major flood. Some homeowners in our area who have experienced repeated flooding are now heing dropped by their insures. This is a proactive fit that protexts you and your home. Owners of homes in Windsor are currently eligible for an 80% relate on a new backwater valve and sump pump system."

When foundation walls are sinking or buckling. TK Waterproofing new methods approved by engineers to restore structural integrity. "We collaborate with our pariner engineers to determine what is best for your home. It may be strengthening the foundation by adding structure with sted supports secured inside," says Tom.

"If a bowed or cracked foundation is built from hollow concrete block, we can straighten it up. Then we will drill small holes into the blocks so we can fill the core with cement. The new cement connects blocks to each other internally, creating walls that are stronger than they have ever been."

Another service provided by TK Waterproofing is locating buried and hidden sever pipes inside and outside a residence or burines. "With our locator system, we can trace lines and find underground pipes on private property, so you will know where they are before you begin a big construction project." Tom says.

If that project is renovating your kitchen, bathroom or newly waterproided basement, Tom, who is master carpenter, and his team can handle the entire project. from design concept to finish. A home theatre, guest suite, home office, fitness studio, music room...once your basement is dry and secured against flooding, your home's full potential can be realized.





### **Slowly Chipping Away at the Problem...**

#### Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program

 Table 1. Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program

Number of Applications by Electoral Ward With Eligible Work as Determined Upon Courtesy Inspection

As of: May 7 2013

|                | # of Applications<br>with Eligible |      | # of Applications | # of Remaining | # of Subsidies<br>Paid (as of May 7, | \$ Subsidies Paid<br>(as of May 7, | # of Remaining<br>Applications with<br>No Subsidy Paid |
|----------------|------------------------------------|------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Electoral Ward | Work                               | %    | Expired (*)       | Applications   | 2013)                                | 2013)                              | (as of May 7,  |
|                |                                    |      |                   |                |                                      |                                    |  |
| 1              | 257                                | 23%  | 42                | 215            | 210                                  | \$ 342,222                         | 5  |
| 2              | 63                                 | 6%   | 21                | 42             | 40                                   | 87,355                             | 2  |
| 3              | 74                                 | 7%   | 18                | 56             | 47                                   | 106,336                            | 9  |
| 4              | 116                                | 10%  | 39                | 77             | 64                                   | 155,300                            | 13   |
| 5              | 89                                 | 8%   | 22                | 67             | 59                                   | 118,164                            | 8  |
| 6              | 271                                | 24%  | 92                | 179            | 164                                  | 311,179                            | 15   |
| 7              | 111                                | 10%  | 36                | 75             | 70                                   | 98,580                             | 5  |
| 8              | 81                                 | 7%   | 28                | 53             | 46                                   | 90,042                             | 7  |
| 9              | 32                                 | 3%   | 13                | 19             | 17                                   | 18,811                             | 2  |
| 10             | 24                                 | 2%   | 11                | 13             | 11                                   | 23,960                             | 2  |
|                |                                    |      |                   |                |                                      |                                    |  |
| Total          | 1,118                              | 100% | 322               | 796            | 728                                  | \$ 1,351,949                       | 68   |

(\*) Note: Applications are considered to be 'expired' if a Building Permit has not been taken out within 60 days of the Courtesy Inspection



#### Downspout Disconnection Program







• The downspout is cut.



• The sewer standpipe is capped, preventing water from going in.



• The downspout is inserted INTO the elbow (if the elbow is put into the downspout it will leak).

> A downspout pipe extension is attached. A splash Board may be used to prevent erosion.

#### **Expanded the downspout disconnection program**

Downspout disconnection: •Reduces instances of basement flooding •Reduces sewage treatment expenditures •Adds sewer capacity •Reduces need for costly trunk sewer projects



#### **Downspout Disconnection**

- •Voluntary Program
- •Began in March 2012
- •1,933 downspouts have been disconnected so fa (1,128 in 2012, 805 in 2013).



•Additionally, there were 1,738 instances where disconnection could not be done because of drainage or safety issues.

#### **Other Measures in the Short-Term:**

- •Flow monitoring and hydraulic modelling of the City's sewer system
- •CCTV inspection 1% of capital allocated
- •Purchased permanent flow monitoring equipment
- •Targeted smoke and dye testing
- •Development of a Master Plan





#### **Installed more rain gauges for better data**



#### **Other Measures: (cont.)**

#### **Participate in the Insurance Bureau of Canada's**

study with respect to residential basement flooding being conducted in several cities across Canada

**Update the Rainfall Intensity Duration and Frequency (IDF) curves** through the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) in partnership with interested local municipalities



#### **Other Measures: (cont.)**

**Upgraded the information on the City's website** with respect to basement flooding and provided links to:

•The <u>How to Reduce the Risk of Basement</u> <u>Flooding</u> video provided by the Insurance Bureau of Canada;

•The Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction's (ICLR) <u>Handbook for Reducing Basement</u> Flooding, authored by Dan Sandink; and

•<u>Conversion of Sump Pump to Discharge Outside</u> <u>House.</u>



#### Conversion of Sump Pump to Discharge Outside House

**Existing Typical** 

Conversion



- Also included informational videos on the City's You Tube channel:
  - "<u>Downspout disconnection program</u>" "<u>Wastewater: Where does it go?</u>"
  - "Climate change adaptation plan"



## Large Project (\$\$\$)

### **Riverfront Treatment Basin (RTB)**

• **\$67 million project** (entire capital budget is typically \$100m of which \$60m is spent on roads &



#### **Riverfront Treatment Basin (while under construction)**



#### **Riverfront Treatment Basin once completed**



# **Thank You**





