

# Ballantrae Natural Resource Centre

## January 2024 Bulletin

The Ballantrae Natural Resource Centre (Wastewater Collection and Treatment Systems) was constructed in 1999 to provide wastewater collection and treatment services to the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club and the associated residential community located in the Town of Whitchurch – Stouffville, Region of York. The wastewater collection and treatment systems are designed to service up to 988 condominium residential units, one school, a recreation and community center, and a golf course and club house. Your home is serviced by this plant.

In early December 2023, an unknown quantity of what is suspected to be waste engine oil entered the wastewater collection system and eventually entered the associated wastewater treatment plant. This had an immediate and cumulative adverse impact on the wastewater biological treatment processes throughout the month of December. This event did result in improperly treated wastewater being discharged from the facility during the second half of December., exceeding the treatment plants regulated limits of Total Ammonia Nitrogen. The plant biological processes did recover well by the beginning of January 2024 and continue to improve.

This event was entirely preventable as materials such as waste engine oil should never be disposed of through wastewater/stormwater collection systems or to the natural environment. This is considered a hazardous waste and proper disposal methods must be adhered to. York Region provides hazardous waste disposal services for private residents, free of charge, at the **East Gwillimbury Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling Depot** located at 225 Garfield Wright Boulevard in East Gwillimbury, ON. Please visit the Region's website for operating hours and alternative disposal locations.

To prevent any future re-occurrences of similar events, we have put together the attached "Do's and Don'ts for Sewer Use" to provide additional information and guidance for best practices and things to avoid with respect to sewer use.

# The Do's and Don'ts for Sewer Use

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Here are some easy environmentally friendly practices that you can follow to help take care of your sewage collection and treatment systems.



## **DO:**

- Install water conserving fixtures, such as low flush toilets, water saving faucets and shower heads.
- Conserve water to avoid overloading the system—repair leaky faucets and toilets.
- Operate dishwashers and washing machines with full loads during off-peak hours whenever possible.
- Put solid waste items in the trash, not down the toilet, sink or drains.
- Flush only wastewater and toilet paper down the toilet.
- Limit the use of household cleaning products such as bleach, disinfectants, and drain and toilet bowl cleaners.
- Only use toxic drain cleaners in emergency situations.
- Dispose of hazardous products safely and properly at designated Hazardous Waste Depots.



## **DON'T:**

- Don't use the toilet, sink or drains to dispose of plastics, paper towels, facial tissues, dental floss, hair, tampons, sanitary napkins, personal wipes, disposable diapers, condoms, cigarette butts, kitty litter, food scraps, coffee grounds, etc.
- Don't pour cooking oils and grease down the drain.
- Don't use excessive amounts of household cleaning products.
- Don't put hazardous waste down the drain or in the sewer, including toxic, corrosive, flammable or poisonous chemicals.
- Don't pour harmful chemicals down the drain, such as paint, paint thinner, varnish, solvents, antifreeze, pharmaceuticals, antibacterial soap, gasoline, oil, kerosene, pesticides, or other organic chemicals.
- Don't add inappropriate sewer connections to the system, such as storm drains, roof drains, foundation drains, sump pumps, and pool/spa backwash.