



Letter from a Concerned Resident

Dear RA:

Climate change effects on storm water management impacts our community, homes, and contributes to surface and basement flooding which is a concern for all residents!

The city stormwater management bench mark is outdated. The 100-year storm event (worst case was Hurricane Hazel on Oct. 15, 1954 which became the stormwater management measurement standard), is no longer applicable with the increased intensities of current major storm events that are occurring more frequently (10 to 20 years) than the expected 100 years. An example of that is the heavy rain storm of July 8, 2013 that produced the single wettest day in the history of the Greater Toronto Area and resulted in basement and road flooding.

Roughly one month after the July 8, 2013 floods, the Insurance Bureau of Canada estimated that insured property damage from that weather event was greater than \$850 million. [The City of Toronto's response to the flooding was to initiate over a ten-year period the expenditure of \\$3.1 billion beginning in 2014](#) to improve storm water and wastewater collection systems and their ability to handle extreme weather occurrences. Our community is currently undergoing its part of the city Environmental Assessment (EA) study to address Basement Flooding Protection. Basement flooding causes are due to increased storm flow and failure of infrastructure to handle the flow.

When stormwater or increased ground water seeps into the home (drainage failure) it is due to:

- Poor lot grading or drainage
- Weeping tile system failure to handle increased flow (foundation drains)
- Failure to handle increased flow by sump pump (in some homes) used to pump weeping tile water
- Overflowing eavestroughs due to failure to handle flow
- Some areas have combined storm and sanitary sewers which overflow

- City roadway storm sewers failure to handle flow.



Combined sewer systems have one pipe.



Separated sewer systems have two pipes: sanitary sewers and storm sewers.

The bottom line is that the Official Plan for Toronto, and for Kingston Road in particular, threatens our community. Kingston Road, with the proposed contiguous 11 storey buildings and paving over green spaces with hard surfaces of roofs, asphalt and concrete and glass will eliminate healthy, vibrant green space that promotes infiltration of rain and melting snow on your properties. An example is the sizeable canopy of trees at Windy Ridge/Ravine/Kingston Road (look at the maps). Also, many new infill private residences are installing greater hard surface paving driveways for 3 or more vehicles on what was only a double car driveway. Some are eliminating front yard soft landscape areas for hard surfaces, which adds to increased runoff and reduced capability of city storm drains to handle the increased flow. The perfect storm: more hard surfaces and more rainfall, resulting in flooding in our community. The climate change storm intensities in the future are not known, and cannot be fully mitigated by our city stormwater management plan.

It is not just the immediate neighbourhood's issue -- developments that build on and under, and hard-surface, every square foot of the available space, such as what is proposed for 3291 Kingston Road and new proposed developments are demonstrably hazardous and a flood threat to the community, and everyone.

Sincerely, Concerned Resident

For more details:

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/climate-change-floods/>

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/managing-rain-melted-snow/basement-flooding/>

Basement Flooding Protection Program map:

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/managing-rain-melted-snow/basement-flooding/basement-flooding-protection-program/basement-flooding-protection-program-map/>