

Dr. Ryan MacNeil

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West Hants Regional Council
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27 October 2024

RE: Sewer gas overflowing into homes in Windsor, again.

Mayor Zebian and Council,

I am writing today to advise you of yet-another instance of sewer gasses overflowing from Windsor's combined sewer and storm water system into our streets and into multiple homes.

Of course, you know that it almost always smells like Downtown Windsor has farted. That smell alone should tell us something is wrong with the town's bowels. And again today, the gasses in the system backed up into multiple houses.

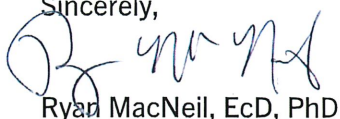
This has happened before. It is happening with increased frequency. It is undoubtably connected to the serious problem of sewer-and-stormwater regularly overflowing into many homes, yards, and public spaces. Today is only different because we were experiencing the overflow of gasses from the system—rather than liquids and solids. The gasses are easier to overlook and easier to clean up, but they are just as toxic to human health.

I have personally reported two similar incidents to your public works department in the past 12 months. On one of these occasions, I was told that I was the only resident who reported any concern about the sewer smell that had overwhelmed the downtown on that day. But I know others had reported similar incidents before, and I know others have reported them since.

Another homeowner who once reported this was told that it is a problem with the plumbing in our homes. But common sense tells us that the plumbing can't be bad in so many different buildings all on the same days. Unfortunately, no home is built for this. No home has a big enough plumbing stack to vent the volume of gasses that were exiting the town's sewer system earlier today. No home can pass this amount of gaseous backflow. The root cause of this plumbing problem is under our roads, not in our homes.

I saw no point in calling your public works department this time. They did their best to mitigate the problem with a vacuum truck not long ago. But staff are simply not in a position to resolve the systemic issue. My neighbors and I can only hope that this new Council will act faster than the previous Council. In the meantime, please don't fault me for establishing a paper trail.

Sincerely,



Ryan MacNeil, EcD, PhD