

# Welcome

## Sault Ste. Marie Stormwater Financing Study Public Information Centre #1

Presentation at 5:30

Please complete the sign-in sheet, review display materials and fill out a comment sheet. The project team is available to answer your questions and address any concerns

**The City of Sault Ste. Marie is conducting a study to review and recommend a sustainable and fair funding source to:**

- support the current stormwater management program;
- help implement the recommendations of the Stormwater Management Master Plan and Guidelines;
- maintain and renew aging infrastructure;
- comply with Provincial regulations; and
- help protect the environment.

# CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE STORMWATER FINANCING STUDY

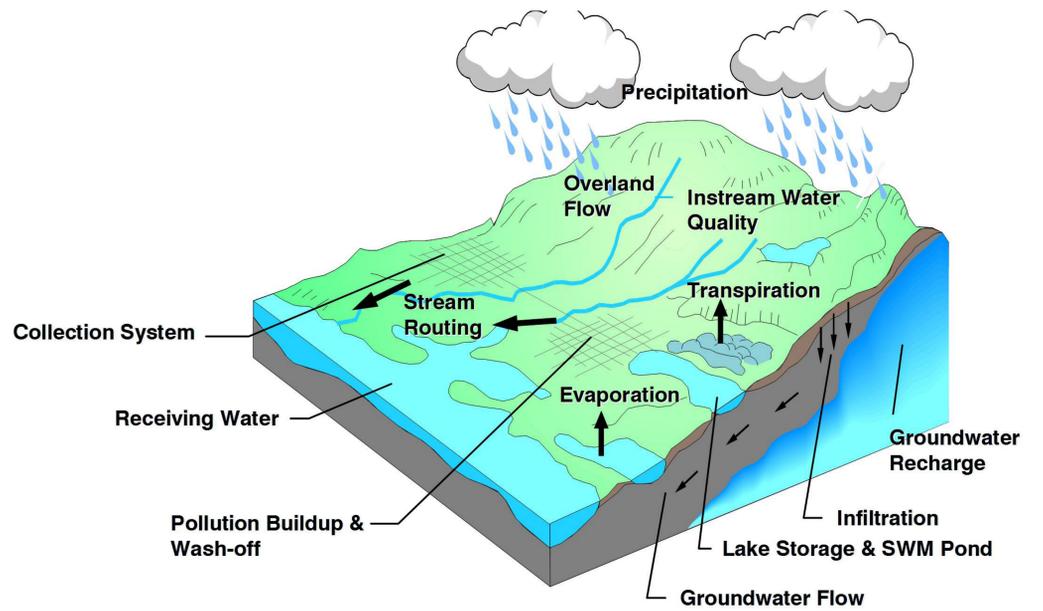
## Stormwater

Stormwater comes from the rain and melted snow that flows over land and into storm drains or streams, rivers, and lakes.

**Stormwater in Nature:** The natural landscape soaks up stormwater like a sponge, nourishing plants and replenishing streams, lakes, wetlands, and aquifers.

**Stormwater in Built Landscapes:** Impervious surfaces such as pavement and roofs prevent precipitation from naturally soaking into the ground. Instead the water runs quickly into storm drains, sewer systems, and drainage ditches.

Impervious areas create more runoff, transport it more quickly, and accumulate more pollutants than natural areas.



## Increased stormwater runoff can affect:

### Water Quality

Increased stormwater runoff carries a greater volume of pollutants to our rivers and lakes which contributes to closed beaches and habitat degradation.

### Flooding

Excessive stormwater runoff can lead to costly flooding of sidewalks, streets, properties, and buildings. It can also inhibit the recharge of aquifers.

### Erosion

Increased stormwater runoff can accelerate streambank erosion and road washouts.

### Debris

Flowing water carries whatever it can and deposits this material when obstructions are in the way. This can cause a build-up of debris that blocks the passage of water within the drainage system and may result in flooding.



### Stormwater Management in Sault Ste. Marie

The City's stormwater management systems protect the health and safety of the public and the environment by controlling the quality and quantity of stormwater reaching our lakes and rivers. Management of stormwater in Sault Ste. Marie consists of:



#### Inspection, Operation and Maintenance

Such as catchbasin and culvert cleaning, sewer and culvert flushing, cleaning and monitoring storm grates, storm pump station maintenance



#### Flood Control and Emergency Response

Recovery, clean-up and by-law enforcement



#### Snow Ditching

Snow removal



#### Rehabilitation / Capital Improvement Projects

Renewal, retrofit, and/or upgrade of stormwater infrastructure; design, permitting, construction, and inspection of new infrastructure

#### Administration

Staffing, computer resources, asset management, equipment



The City is responsible for managing all of these aspects of stormwater. However, the City's ability to effectively and adequately perform its duties are limited by available consistent funding.

In addition to the regular stormwater program, typical stormwater management challenges facing municipalities can include:

- **Urbanization:** Growth and development alters the amount of runoff and pollution
- **Aging infrastructure:** Pipes, culverts and outfalls have limited life expectancy
- **Changing design standards:** Systems designed to old standards may be inadequate with respect to current and future regulatory requirements
- **Lack of long-term planning:** Appropriate resources, facilities, and improvement projects must be proactively planned to address needs and problems
- **Climate Change:** Facilities must respond to rainfall events that are becoming more intense and frequent
- **Changing Regulations:** The Ontario Water Resources Act and the Environmental Protection Act provide broad authority over stormwater management. Changes in these regulations and guidelines can impact stormwater management for the City.



## **Stormwater Management Master Plan and Guidelines**

The City of Sault Ste. Marie developed the Stormwater Management Master Plan and Guidelines to address stormwater quality and quantity concerns related to new and existing development. This plan, adopted by Council in 2015, identified a long-term, City-wide stormwater management approach, including:

- Improving snow disposal sites
- Education
- Point source monitoring plan
- Oil grit separators at various locations
- New Stormwater Management Guidelines

**The Stormwater Management Master Plan recommends approximately \$40M of new stormwater management works.**



# CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE

## STORMWATER FINANCING STUDY

### Stormwater Management Assets

The City's stormwater management system contains valuable infrastructure assets. Sault Ste. Marie's 2015 Asset Management Plan inventoried the stormwater infrastructure assets and identified the following quantities:



Storm sewers - 283 km



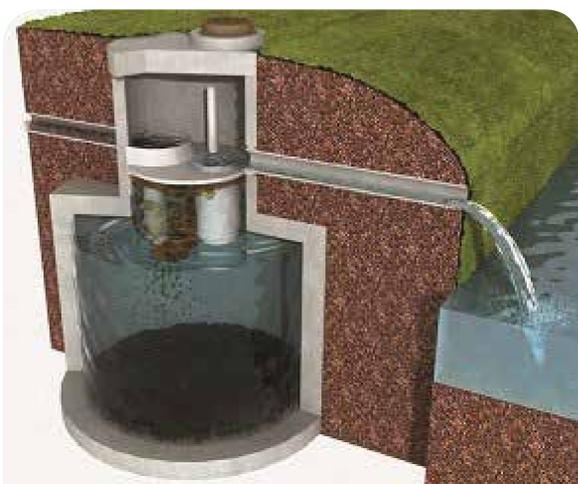
Catchbasins - 9070



Manholes - 4197



Pump Station(s) - 1



Oil-grit separators - 11



Ditches - 251 km  
Culverts - 9513



Stormwater Management Ponds - 11



Aqueducts and Flood Control - 4 systems  
(14 aqueducts)

**As this infrastructure ages, a regular renewal / replacement plan and funding will be required.**

### Current Stormwater Management Funding

At this time, stormwater management is funded through:

**Property Taxes (General and Urban-only tax levy):** The contribution each property owner makes to the stormwater program is based on assessed property value, and some properties are exempt from these taxes.

**Federal/ Provincial Contributions:** Grants, such as the Gas Tax Fund, are available through various government programs to help communities implement capital and operational programs.



To effectively support current and future demand on the stormwater system, and help implement the recommendations of the Stormwater Management Master Plan and Guidelines, the City is exploring alternative funding options.

## Stormwater Management Financing Study Overview

The City has initiated a study to investigate a fair and equitable, self-supporting, and dedicated funding source for stormwater management.

**To complete the Stormwater Financing Study, we will:**

- 1** Determine the appropriate and affordable level of service for future stormwater management program projects and activities
- 2** Identify and evaluate stormwater funding options and alternatives
- 3** Actively solicit feedback from a Stormwater Advisory Committee as well as residents and business owners (a second Public Information Centre is planned later in 2018)
- 4** Recommend a preferred option and determine the impacts compared to the current tax-based funding approach
- 5** Present project findings and study recommendations to Council



## Alternative Funding Options Under Consideration

The City of Sault Ste. Marie is investigating several stormwater management financing options:

- Do nothing (no change to current funding source)
- ~~Initiate new development charges (for new development)~~ Council has given direction that this study is not to consider DC's further.
- Changes to property tax funding
  - Increasing property taxes
  - Dedicated stormwater tax levy
  - Re-prioritizing tax revenue distribution (more funding for stormwater)
- Stormwater user fee

A user fee where users are charged based on how much stormwater they contribute to the stormwater management system - similar to a water and wastewater rate - could be applied in the following ways:

- A simple flat fee charged to all properties equally, or
- A variable charge based on the amount of impervious area on each property (i.e. the amount of runoff created by each property).

The following evaluation criteria will be used to identify a preferred funding option:

-  Applicability of funding method citywide
-  Eligibility to support capital improvement projects, operations & maintenance activities
-  Eligibility to offset costs for engineering, support, and overall administration of the stormwater program
-  Fair and equitable charges to the property owners
-  Long-term funding source dedicated solely to stormwater program expenditures
-  Effort to administrate
-  Environmental benefits including opportunities for incentives to reduce stormwater and pollutant loads

# CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE

## STORMWATER FINANCING STUDY

### Thank you for Attending!

We appreciate the time you have taken today. We value your input to this study and encourage you to stay connected:

- Please visit the **project website** at [saultstemarie.ca/stormwater](http://saultstemarie.ca/stormwater)
- Join our **mailing list** – leave us your email address so we can keep you up-to-date as the project progresses
- Contact us with any **additional comments or questions** at any time:

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\*Please remember to drop off your completed comment form in before you leave or send it to us by email before **March 20, 2018**

