

## Stormceptor Shines in Severe Storm

On July 15, 2004, the City of Peterborough's streets turned into rivers and cars became rafts as a record-breaking storm dumped over three billion gallons of water on the region in under five hours—the equivalent of water flowing over Niagara Falls for 40 minutes.

Estimated to be a 200-year storm, thousands of homes and businesses filled with six to eight feet of water, forcing residents to evacuate and the city to declare a State of Emergency. At the height of the storm, storm sewer flow rates were five times higher than average, surging with stormwater filled with harmful pollutants. Emergency crews worked frantically to minimize the damage that was initially estimated at over \$80 million.

In fact, the cost to the city could have been much greater, both economically and environmentally, had it not been for the city's 46 Stormceptor Systems that effectively prevented pollutants from entering nearby lakes and streams.

### Peterborough's ounce of prevention

In 2001, Peterborough chose the Stormceptor oil and sediment separator because it removes more pollutants from stormwater than any other separator, treating the broadest range of particle sizes, as well as harmful hydrocarbons and heavy metals that attach to fine sediment.

To ensure optimum performance, a maintenance and inspection plan for the Stormceptor units followed installation. Each of the region's 46 Stormceptors was inspected by Minotaur Guardian Services shortly before the storm.

### Positive inspection results pour in

A week after the flood, Minotaur returned to inspect the Stormceptor units and found they performed exceptionally well during the heavy rain. The average amount of sediment found in the units was 6.5 inches. Considering the average sediment level was four inches in the months leading up to the storm, the sheer volume of pollutants retained during the storm was remarkable.

The Stormceptor Systems' patented scour prevention technology successfully retained oils and sediment despite the enormous flow of stormwater, reducing the dangers of releasing harmful pollutants.

### Stormceptor – calm during the storm

While extensive laboratory and field-testing had already proven the Stormceptor System's effectiveness, the Peterborough flood demonstrated just how well the Stormceptor works under extreme conditions. Minotaur's inspection report reinforces the exceptional performance of Stormceptor Systems, specifically, its ability to prevent scouring during the most intense rainfall. With units operating worldwide, Stormceptor performs and protects every day, in every storm.



#### Sources

- Report to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy (Peterborough Flood report). Presented by Fire Chief Lee Grant. Peterborough Fire Department Station #1, Office of Emergency Management.
- Environment Canada. *The Top Ten Canadian Weather Stories for 2004*. Available at: [http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/media/top10/2004\\_e.html](http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/media/top10/2004_e.html).
- Minotaur. Inspection of Stormceptors in Peterborough and Surrounding Areas Following the Major Hydrological Events of July 2004. 2004: Minotaur Services Ltd. (Ontario).



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