

Township of Malahide

A proud tradition, a bright future.

Municipal Drain Factsheet



What is a Municipal Drain?

Physically, a municipal drain is simply a drainage system. Most municipal drains are either ditches or closed systems such as pipes or tiles buried in the ground. They can also include structures such as dykes or berms, pumping stations, buffer strips, grassed waterways, storm water detention ponds, culverts and bridges. Even some creeks and small rivers are now considered to be municipal drains. Municipal drains are primarily located in rural agricultural areas of the province, including the Township of Malahide.

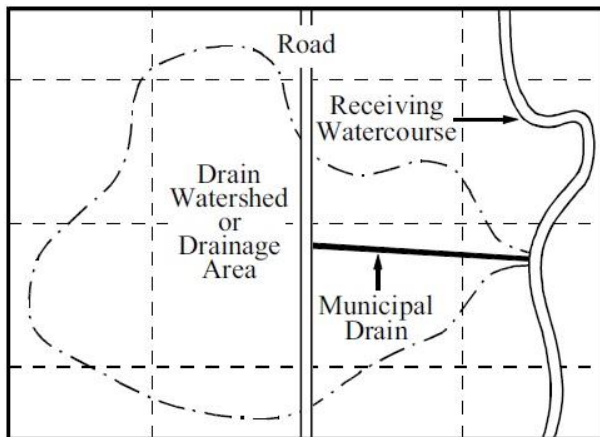


Figure 1. Plan of a Municipal Drain.

The Purpose of Municipal Drains

- ▶ Improve the drainage of agricultural land by serving as the discharge point for private agricultural tile drainage systems.
- ▶ Remove excess water collected by roadside ditches, residential lots, churches, schools, industrial lands, commercial lands and any other properties in rural areas.

They are a vital component of the local infrastructure. Without them, many areas of the province would be subjected to regular flooding, reduced production from agricultural land and increased public health risks.

Do's and Don'ts for Property Owners

You should:

- ▶ Confirm the location of existing municipal drains. You can review the drainage map available on the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs website or contact the Drainage Superintendent.
- ▶ Remove debris from any catchbasins that may be located on your property or the adjoining road. This type of ongoing preventative work can reduce the possibility of property damage during storm events.
- ▶ Before purchasing a property, investigate how municipal drains may affect the property.

You should not:

- ▶ Along every municipal drain is an unregistered working space that the municipality has the right to use to maintain or repair the drain. Keep this working space accessible and do not plant trees or build structures in this area. If you do, and it results in an obstruction to the maintenance equipment, you may have to pay the cost of removing that obstruction.
- ▶ Although they are "man-made", all municipal drains eventually connect with the many beautiful lakes, rivers and streams located in Ontario.

The Drainage Act is the provincial legislation regulating the construction, improvement and maintenance of municipal drainage works. This legislation is provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. If you require information regarding municipal drains, contact the Drainage Superintendent Bob Lopez at 519-773-5344 ext. 238.

Technical specifications for municipal drains can vary in certain areas and design capacities have generally increased over the last 50 years. Most drains installed today are designed to handle 38mm of rain in a 24-hour period.

The information provided in this document was obtained from the OMAFRA Municipal Drain Factsheet.

www.gov.on.ca/omafra