

**SIXTH ARTICLE IN OUR SERIES OF**  
**Keeping Our Water Environment Clean and Well**

**Are Your Downspouts Contributing to Flooding?**

Flooding has become an increasing concern for many communities. One of the important things you can do as a conscientious homeowner is to ensure that your downspouts are not connected to the sewer system. Downspouts carry storm water away from your home. The problem occurs when the downspout is directly connected to the sewer system that causes all of this storm water to flow directly into our lakes and rivers. This contributes to flooding, eroding banks and degraded fish and wildlife habitat.

A correct roof drainage system should include:

- Gutters on the bottom edges of your roof.
- Disconnecting downspouts that hook directly to the sewer system.
- Adding a downspout extension that drains water away from your house.
- Adding grading that provides a gradual slope away from the house.