



# Background



## Our Industrial Pollution

In the past, knowledge about the effects of pollution in the Capital Region was generally low. Consequently, waste materials from various industries were often disposed of directly down the drain and in the harbours. Although some substances are broken down by natural processes, others remain bound in the soil and sand today.

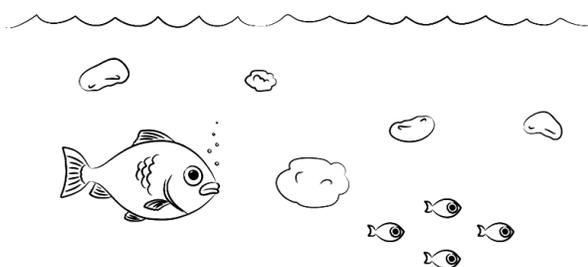
Gradually, practices changed overtime but as the population of Greater Victoria grew, the activities of individual people and small businesses had a greater cumulative effect. Industries must now follow strict regulations about how they manage their wastes.

## Our Food Service Pollution

Today, there are close to 1,500 Food Service businesses involved in the preparation, packaging, shipping, sales and service of food in the capital region. Together they can generate a variety of waste types.

The main problem is fats, oils, grease and other food wastes clogging, corroding and adding odours to the sanitary sewer system (e.g. pipes, pump and lift stations). Plugged and corroded sewer lines can result in sewer overflows and leaks which can be a serious public health and environmental concern. The odours can be unpleasant but also dangerous to sewage workers working in confined spaces.

The problem of fats, oils, grease exists throughout the sewer system but it is particularly evident in areas where there are concentrations of food service businesses. To ensure that plugging and corrosion do not occur, municipalities have been faced with significant maintenance costs (up to \$10,000 per city block) to periodically remove grease buildup in sewers.



## Local Regulations Preventing Pollution

The Capital Regional District (CRD) works in cooperation with local municipalities, electoral areas and industry to help protect local streams, creeks, the ocean and our environment.

The CRD services primarily focus on education and environmental monitoring however, when necessary enforcement tools are also available, such as fines.

### CRD Sewer Use Bylaw

The CRD and food service businesses worked together to develop regulations and best management practices to reduce or eliminate the amount of contaminants going down the drain or into the garbage.

Adopted in 1994, the CRD's Sewer Use Bylaw applies to any waste that is flushed, poured or otherwise discharged into a sewer that is connected to a CRD sewage facility. CRD Source Control officers work with and inspect businesses to ensure that they are meeting requirements defined in the Sewer Use Bylaw.

The objective is to protect human health, sewage infrastructure (e.g. pipes, pump stations and treatment plants) and processing, and the marine environment.

### Other Food Waste-Related Regulations

- **CRD Hartland Landfill Tipping Fee and Regulation Bylaw:** regulations for disposal of garbage landfilled at Hartland landfill and recycling facility, including the 2015 Kitchen Scraps Ban.
- **Municipal storm sewer bylaws:** regulations for disposal of waste into municipal stormdrains and watercourses.
- **Municipal plumbing bylaws:** requirements for installation and maintenance of plumbing and drainage equipment.
- **Food Premises Regulation:** requirements for fixtures, equipment and procedures for cleaning and sanitizing cooking and serving equipment and utensils. (Island Health)