

RCCAO podcast tackles gaps in Toronto's water works

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VAUGHAN, ONT. — Two guests on the latest podcast from the [Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario \(RCCAO\)](#) argued that Toronto's extensive labyrinth of sewage and stormwater pipes was not designed for the modern era and it's going to take time, money and commitment to fix the system.

Patrick McManus, executive director of the [Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association](#), and Dennis Cancian, executive director of the [Ontario Formwork Association](#), offered the analysis on a podcast entitled [The Big Pipe – Project Plans for the Future](#) that was released Aug. 17. It is the eighth instalment in a nine-part series called Conversations About Construction.

The podcast focuses on why Toronto is experiencing more flooding and how it's being addressed. A big part of the problem, they noted, is that very little has been invested in underground infrastructure to increase capacity.

“We have what is referred to as a combined sewer system in Toronto and that is putting both household sewage and stormwater into the same pipe underneath roads,” said McManus. “In newer cities those things are built separately and are diverted into different pipes and it makes it

easier to manage peak flows. But in Toronto the sewer system is designed on a very, very old model.”

The podcasts cover topics related to the residential and civil construction sectors. Dave Trafford, a broadcaster on Newstalk 1010 in Toronto, leads the discussions. The final podcast in the series is scheduled to be released Aug. 24.