

**TOWN OF MORDEN**  
**POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL**

<i>Reference</i>	<b>WORKS AND OPERATIONS</b>	<i>Classification</i>	<b>POLICY</b>
<i>Subject</i>	<b>TREE ROOTS IN SEWER LINES</b>	<i>Pages</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Authority</i>		<i>Effective Date</i>	JANUARY 2004
<i>Approved</i>		<i>Index</i>	W/O-007

**ISSUE:**

Due to the fact that the Town of Morden has a lot of trees with root infiltration in sewer lines is a big problem. The issue arises when roots cause blockage, typically the determination is made as to where the trees are in relation to the property line, the sewer line is replaced or cleaned and billing is done according to who owns the trees. Another situation that raises an issue although rarely is when the adjacent property owner has trees that cause root problems for that person's neighbour.

**OBJECTIVE:**

To establish a policy that would make the owner of the tree(s) responsible for root problems. Subsequent billing would be done on the aforementioned basis.

**POLICY:**

1. The owner(s) of the trees, shrubs etc. shall be responsible for the costs incurred in restoring service in a blocked sewer line, whether it is the Town of Morden or a resident.
2. The Town of Morden Public Works Director shall decide on the method of repair. I.e. (when an older line is severely blocked it may be necessary to replace the line due to cracking, joints etc.) or simply cutting out the roots.
3. The Town of Morden's Utility Department shall inform the resident of what needs to be done and shall ensure the resident is aware of what the approximate costs are to restore service.