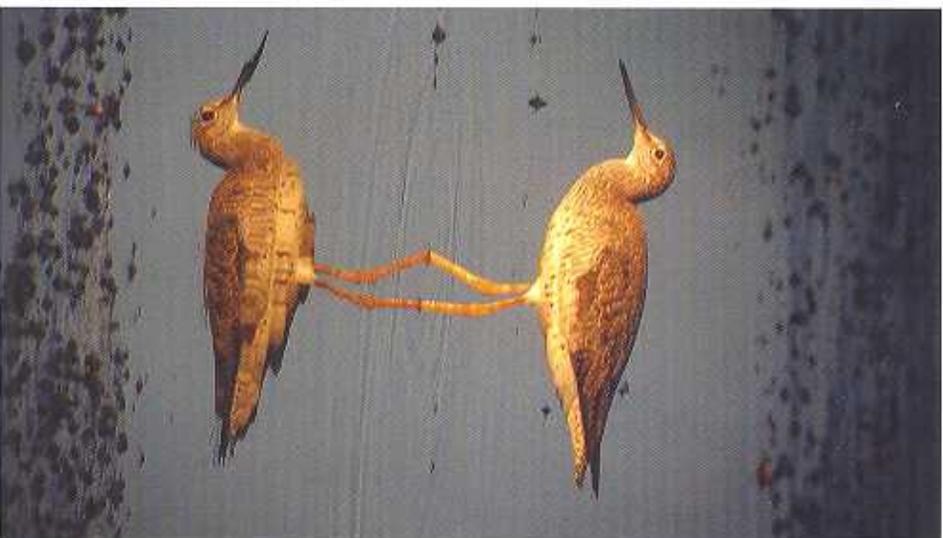## Panel 1

• **Call For Assistance.** It is important to hire a licensed plumber and to speak to your municipal office. We would like to assist you in dealing with this problem. Please call and schedule an appointment to discuss your improper sewer connection and possible remedies.

• **Report any Corrective Measures.** When an improper connection has been corrected, please submit documentation to your local government. Any remedial work must be reported.

Photos by Sandra Marraffino

Panel 2

Harrison, Town/Village of
www.town.harrison.ny.us
Town Engineer: 670-3070

Larchmont, Village of
www.villageoflarchmont.org
Village Engineer: 834-6230

Mamaroneck, Town of
www.townofmamaroneck.org
Building Dept.: 381-7830

Mamaroneck, Village of
www.village.mamaroneck.ny.us
Dept. of Public Works: 777-7745

Mount Vernon, City of
www.ci.mount-vernon.ny.us
Building Dept.: 665-2483

New Rochelle, City of
www.newrochelleny.com
Engineering Dept.: 654-2131

Pelham Manor, Village of
www.pelhammanor.org
Building Dept.: 738-8820

Pelham, Village of
www.pelhamgov.com
Building Dept.: 231-3320

Port Chester, Village of
www.portchesterny.com
Building Dept.: 939-5203

Rye, City of
www.ryeny.gov
Engineering Dept.: 967-7676

Rye Brook, Village of
www.ryebrook.org
Building Dept.: 939-0668
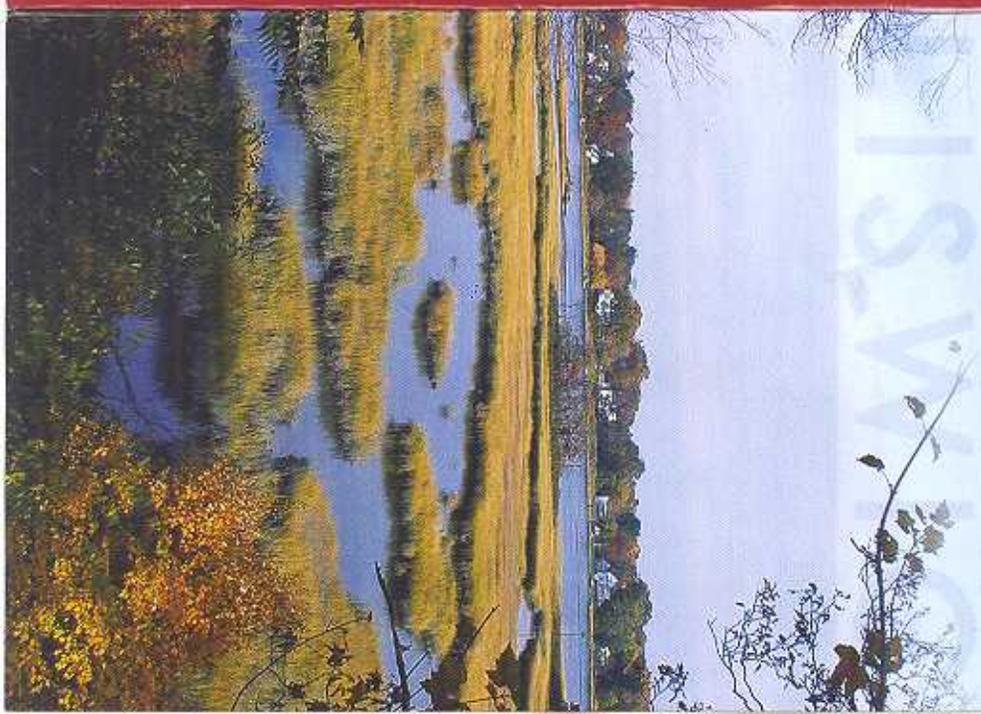
Scarsdale, Town/Village of
www.scarsdale.com
Engineering Dept.: 722-1104

Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council
www.LISWIC.org

LISWIC

Panel 3 (Cover)

Correcting Improper Sewer Connections

&

How You Can Help Clean Up Long Island Sound

LISWIC

LONG ISLAND SOUND

The Long Island Sound is a national and regional treasure. We all rely on its health and vitality for recreation, tourism and transportation. It is true that water quality has improved significantly since the 1970's when sewage treatment plants were placed in operation. But, with all of these technological improvements, why are the beaches frequently closed after a heavy rainfall? Why do dead fish occasionally wash up on the shore by the thousands during the late summer? Why can't we harvest shellfish anymore?

MAJOR SOURCES OF POLLUTION

Westchester County has two separate sewer systems. The sanitary sewer system is designed to take sanitary sewage from plumbing systems to the sewage treatment plant where it can be treated before flowing into the Sound. The storm sewer system carries rainwater directly to the Long Island Sound without being treated.

Because of the age of the sanitary sewer and storm water sewer systems, cracks, leaks and faulty joints have developed, allowing storm water and groundwater to infiltrate into the sanitary sewer system. Improperly connected household roof leaders, driveway drains, yard drains and sump pumps take storm water and send it directly into the sanitary sewer system. During heavy rains,

this additional water overloads the sewage treatment plants, causing untreated sewage to be discharged directly into Long Island Sound. The discharge can cause beaches to be closed due to high bacteria levels. In some areas, the excess water can even cause sewer backups onto streets and into basements.
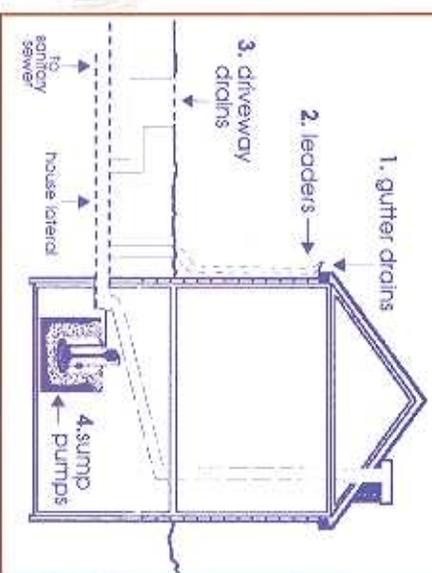
CLEAN WATER MANDATE

Local municipalities have been mandated by the County, State and Federal governments to correct any illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system and improve storm water quality. The County and local municipalities are repairing the cracks, leaks and faulty joints that exist in the municipal sanitary sewer pipes, but it is the responsibility of the individual homeowner to correct any illegal or defective connections to the sanitary sewer system that may exist and to reduce sources of storm water pollution on their property.

CORRECTING ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS

EXAMPLES OF ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS

1. gutter drains
2. leaders
3. driveway drains
4. sump pumps
house lateral
to sanitary sewer

- **Check Your Connections.** You may have not created the problem but as the homeowner, it is your responsibility to correct it. You may have bought your house not knowing an illegal connection exists, or a plumber or contractor that worked for you may have created the problem by not knowing or not following the laws. Illegal connections violate both the County's sanitary code and local municipal codes.

Failure to correct these problems now may impact the future sale of your home. Corrective action may be as simple as diverting roof leaders a few feet away from your home or business, reconnecting a driveway drain to the storm water system or to a drywell located on your property.