

# IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

Please Read Carefully

## Warton Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing

June 10<sup>th</sup> to June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019



This public notice is to inform you that Thompson Flow Investigations Inc. (TQI) will be conducting **smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system in your neighbourhood** within the above noted time period, weather permitting.

Smoke Testing will be undertaken to help the Town identify sanitary sewer line defects where unwanted rain, ground and snowmelt water can enter the sanitary sewer system which was designed to carry waste water. The reduction of these sources of rain water inflow to the sanitary sewers will help to prevent surcharging of sewers, basement flooding and excess treatment of rain water.

**The testing will be performed between June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

The test consists of blowing highly visible non-toxic “smoke” into the sanitary sewer system at manholes and observing the locations where the smoke exits to the surface (manholes, catch basins, roof top plumbing vents, connected downspouts, yard drains etc). The “smoke” that is used is manufactured for this purpose. It is non-toxic, odourless, non-staining (on clothing, draperies or furniture) and has no known effects on people or pets. If you come into contact with the “smoke” it is not harmful to your health and will dissipate within a few minutes of the test completion.

The fire department will be notified during testing. **Please do not be concerned if you see smoke coming out of your rooftop vents or street manholes. This is normal.**

During the testing, it will be necessary for **TQI staff to briefly enter onto your property (front and back yards)** to observe & record smoke exit points. TQI staff will be wearing identification badges, orange safety vests and will *not* need to enter into your home. **It is not necessary for you to be home during the test, as the primary concern is external deficiencies.**

Smoke should not enter your building, unless you have:

- A leak due to defective, damaged /improper plumbing (including traps, tubs, showers, pipes)
- Dry traps (infrequently used drains) or uncapped piping rough-ins

To help prevent “smoke” unnecessarily entering your building, **the Town asks you to pour a litre of water into your basement floor drains, and unused showers, sinks and piping rough-ins PRIOR to the start of testing on June 10<sup>th</sup>.** The water added to the traps will be effective for several months.

It is recommended for the property owner to correct any private pipe defects or missing traps in order to keep the sanitary sewer system as leak-free as possible and to avoid the inconvenience of the “smoke” or sewer odours entering your home.

If you have any questions, or if you or any members of your family have any health conditions that you feel we need to be aware of, please contact one of the following:

Karen Dennison, Project Manager  
Thompson Flow Investigation Inc. (TFI)  
416-806-8330 (also on-site)

Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works,  
Town of South Bruce Peninsula  
519-534-1400 x 133

The Town looks forward to working with you and having our contractor complete this work during the month of June.

## **SMOKE TESTING OF SEWER SYSTEMS**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. What is the purpose of smoke testing?**

The purpose of this testing is to find locations where rainwater is entering the sewer system from your home's downspouts and any cross connections. Smoke testing can help locate improper connections to the sewer system (i.e. downspouts connected to the sanitary sewer system) and as well any points where unwanted water is entering the system. If a source is found, steps can be planned to correct it.

#### **2. What are the benefits of smoke testing?**

"Smoke" testing is a cost effective and quick method of testing connectivity to the sewer system and locating potential improvements. The "smoke" vapour is harmless and will disappear after only a few minutes.

#### **3. What should I do to prepare for the smoke testing?**

When you receive notice that smoke testing will take place, you should ensure that all traps under your sinks, floor drains and any plumbing rough-ins have water in them.

#### **4. What does it mean if smoke enters my house?**

If smoke enters your home during the test, it means there are deficiencies in the plumbing pipes or traps (i.e. lack of water) within the house that may also allow potential sewer gas to enter.

#### **5. What should I do if smoke enters my house?**

If "smoke" does enter your home and causes you concern, note the location of the smoke and contact the **Project Manager** at **416-806-8330** or on-site to help explain the situation.

#### **6. If smoke gets into the house, what do I do? How long will it take for the smoke to clear?**

If any of the harmless "smoke" does get into your home, simply open a few windows for ventilation. The "smoke" will disappear in a few minutes after test completion.

#### **7. I have pets and will not be at home during the testing. Should I be concerned about their safety?**

The "smoke" is not harmful to people or pets. However, it would be a good idea to leave an upstairs window partially open for ventilation, should any smoke happen to enter your home during the testing process.