



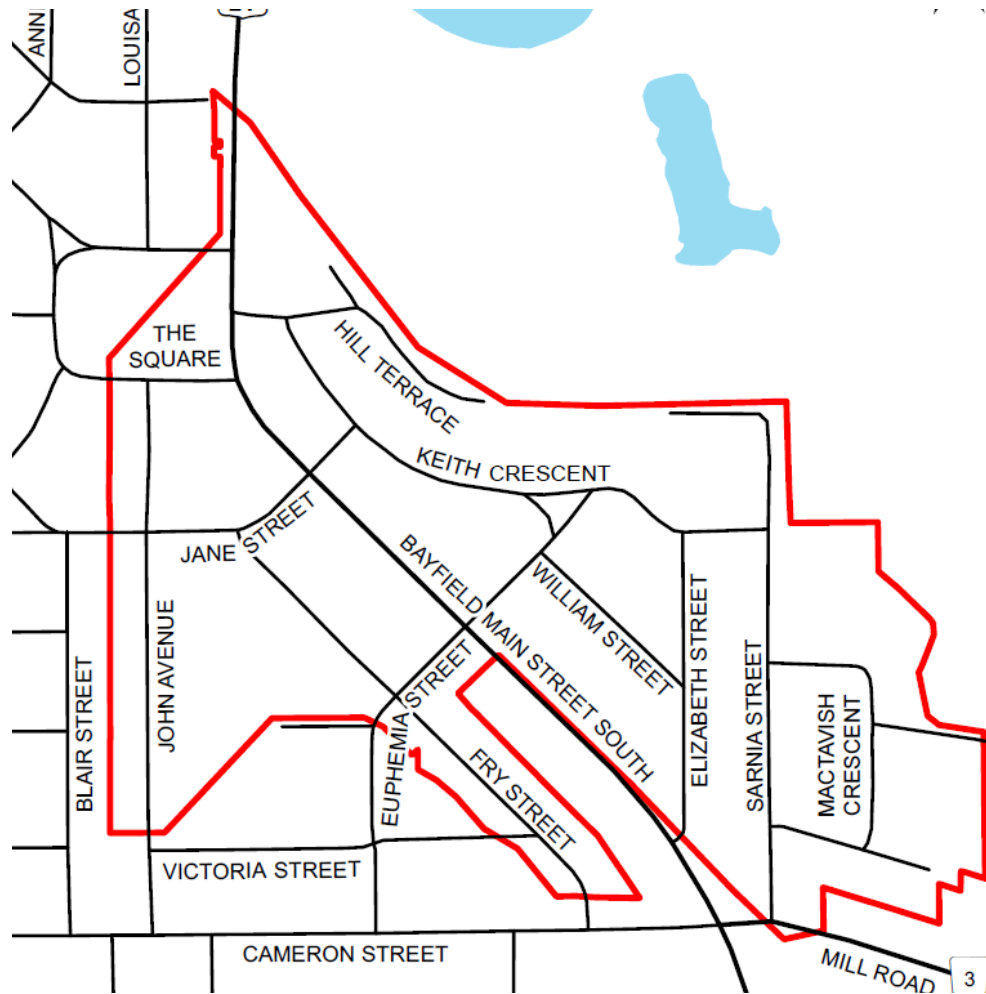
# **BAYFIELD SMOKE TESTING PROGRESS UPDATE**

**Latest Update: October 12, 2017**

**Please refer to the following map.**

### Planned Location of October 16-17 Smoke Testing

In order to identify sources of Inflow and Infiltration, COLE Engineering with support from the Municipality of Bluewater and OCWA will be conducting a sewer smoke fog testing program. The proposed area to be smoke fog tested is north of Cameron Street, east of John Avenue, south of Hill Terrace, and west of Mactavesh Crescent. The following map shows the boundary in which smoke testing is scheduled to occur, weather permitting. Updates will be provided as the work progresses.



#### Contact Information:

David Van Gelder (Project Analyst) at (905) 940-6161, ext 497,  
dvgelder@coleengineering.ca  
Rod Dupuis (Senior Operation Manger) at (519) 274-9242,  
RDupuis@OCWA.com



## **Smoke Testing Sewers in Your Neighbourhood**

Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) is working with Cole Engineering Group Ltd. (COLE) on an Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Reduction study. The study's objectives are to identify sources of rain water entering the sanitary sewers and to develop a plan to reduce these flows.

The sanitary sewer system is an underground pipe network that collects wastewater produced by houses, businesses, and industries. The purpose of the pipe network is to direct the wastewater to a treatment plant where the water is treated before being discharged.

I&I occurs when water enters the sanitary sewer through cracks or holes in the pipe network or through other connections such as catch basins or roof downspouts that are inappropriately connected. The increased flow and volume from rain water and groundwater fills the pipes and reduces the capacity of the pipe network and the treatment plant. This also increases the risk of overloading the pipe network and potential basement flooding.

In order to identify sources of I&I, COLE with support from the Municipality of Bluewater and OCWA will be conducting a sewer smoke testing program in your neighbourhood throughout the period of **October 16 to October 27**, weather permitting. Smoke Testing is a safe and easy way to locate any sources of I&I in the system.

**As work progresses, daily updates will be posted under the News section of the Municipality of Bluewater website.**

**The posted map will indicate approximately the area of Town where smoke testing has been completed and areas of Town, where smoke testing is anticipated to occur over the next 48 hour period.**

### **What is smoke testing?**

The smoke test consists of blowing a harmless white vapour into the sewer manholes and pipes and observing where the smoke exits from the system. The smoke is expected to exit primarily out of manholes on the street and the sewer plumbing stack at the top of your house. It is also possible for smoke to exit stormwater catch basins and downspouts on your house. The smoke used in the test isn't harmful to your health, has no odour and will disappear after a few minutes.

### **What you need to do?**

1. Only one (1) time pour one (1) pail of water into any infrequently used sinks and your basement floor drain before the smoke testing begins in your area. (In case you do not know where your floor drain is, please see the Frequently Asked Questions in this handout).
2. Call Cole Engineering (Robert Stewart (Project Analyst)) at (905) 940-6161, ext 418 if you have a health condition you think may be affected by the testing.

**Note: You do not need to be home for the smoke testing.**

### **Contacts**

A list of frequently asked questions is provided on the back of this notice. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact:

David Van Gelder (Project Analyst) at (905) 940-6161, ext 497, [dvgelder@coleengineering.ca](mailto:dvgelder@coleengineering.ca)  
Rod Dupuis (Senior Operation Manger) at (519) 274-9242, [RDupuis@OCWA.com](mailto:RDupuis@OCWA.com)

# Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What are sanitary sewers?

Sanitary sewers are pipes that are found underground that collect the wastewater produced by homes, businesses, and industries and direct it to a treatment plant.

## 2. What is wastewater?

Wastewater is the water that has been used by the community and disposed of; including any water that enters the sanitary sewers from toilets, sinks, showers, and other appliances.

## 3. What is Inflow and Infiltration?

Inflow and infiltration describes the relatively clean water that enters the sanitary sewers. In most municipalities, a separate storm sewer system is responsible for collecting rain water runoff. However, when rain water or groundwater enters the sanitary sewer system, it is known as inflow and infiltration.

## 4. What is the purpose of smoke testing the sanitary sewer system?

The purpose of the testing is to quickly identify improper connections and defects in the sanitary sewer. This ensures the sewer is working at its best and reduces the risk of basement flooding.

## 5. What should I do to prepare for smoke testing?

Please fill floor drains and rarely used sinks only once with **one (1) pail** of water prior to the start date stated on this notice.

## 6. Will smoke enter my home?

The smoke is not intended to enter your home, only the plumbing system. If you are at home and the smoke enters during testing, note the location of the smoke and contact David Van Gelder (Project Analyst) at (905) 940-6161, ext 497.

## 7. Is the smoke harmful?

No. The smoke is not harmful to your health, it dissipates quickly and it will not harm clothing, draperies or furniture. If the smoke is bothering you, leave the room and open a window.

## 8. If smoke gets into the house, how long does it take the smoke to dissipate?

The smoke will dissipate in a few minutes. If you are at home, open the windows to speed up the process.

## 9. I have pets. Should I be concerned?

The smoke is not harmful to pets. Windows can be left partially open to improve ventilation during the test.

## 10. Where is my basement floor drain?

The floor drain is typically a small perforated metal plate located in your basement floor. It is usually located near a low spot in the basement floor close to the furnace or laundry room. It is possible that the basement floor drain is covered and inaccessible, especially in a finished basement.