

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing

Tamarac Heights Subdivision | November 3-4, 2026

The Town of Port Hawkesbury, working with Strum Engineering and BioMaxx Environmental, will conduct sanitary sewer smoke testing in the Tamarac Heights subdivision. Work is expected to begin late morning Tuesday, November 3, and finish Wednesday, November 4, 2026. Testing will help identify potential leaks, damaged pipes, and improper connections that may allow rainwater to enter the sanitary sewer system.

What should residents expect?

BioMaxx crews will use a blower at sewer manholes to introduce non-toxic, non-staining test smoke and observe where it emerges. **The smoke is not a fire hazard.** Smoke from plumbing vents on roofs and manholes is expected. Smoke from roof downspouts, street catch basins, lawns or cracks in pavement may indicate a leak or an improper connection. Crews will document and photograph their findings.

The smoke is not flammable and is not a fire hazard. BioMaxx crews will carry identification and use marked vehicles. They will work outdoors, mainly on the street, but may briefly step onto lawns or driveways to photograph observations. Residents do not need to be home, and crews will not enter homes.

How can residents prepare?

Before testing on November 3rd and 4th, run water into seldom-used sinks, tubs, showers and especially basement or laundry floor drains. This fills drain traps and helps prevent smoke from entering the home.

What if smoke enters my home?

Smoke can enter through a dry or missing drain trap, a plumbing defect or, occasionally, pressure from a nearby blower. Smoke indoors does not necessarily mean plumbing is defective, and it may activate a smoke alarm. Open windows or doors to ventilate; if smoke comes from a drain, run water into it. Speak with a crew member or call the Town if you have questions.

Optional reporting of smoke indoors

If smoke enters through indoor plumbing, residents may tell a crew member or email **EMO@townofporthawkesbury.ca** with their address, approximate time, location of the smoke and a photo if available. These observations can supplement the final smoke-testing report, but reporting is **optional and not required for the study.**

Questions and additional information

Public Works: 902-631-8791 or 902-625-1975

Smoke-testing overview and video: biomaxx.ca/products-and-services/smoke-testing/

Frequently Asked Questions to follow.