

Town tests sewers this week

By **JOAN RANSBERRY**
Staff Reporter

A test, involving smoke similar to that used for film production, will be carried out in the older part of Stouffville, beginning March 27.

On Tuesday, Whitchurch-Stouffville council gave the go-ahead for the one-week test which is part of the municipality's sanitary sewer rehabilitation program. Paul Whitehouse, the town's public works director, explained that the municipality wants to locate where storm water flows are entering the sanitary sewer system.

The plan is to blow smoke into the sanitary sewer system.

If the systems are interconnected "smoke will rise" out of catch basins or the house eavestroughs where downspouts are connected to the sanitary sewer, said Whitehouse.

The reason for the test is to avoid having to treat storm water at the local sewage treatment plant.

If any house downspouts are found connected to the sanitary sewer, town officials will take action to have them disconnected, council learned.

Although the smoke is non-toxic, there's a slight chance that under certain circumstances smoke may enter homes, Whitehouse warned. "Although this smoke is

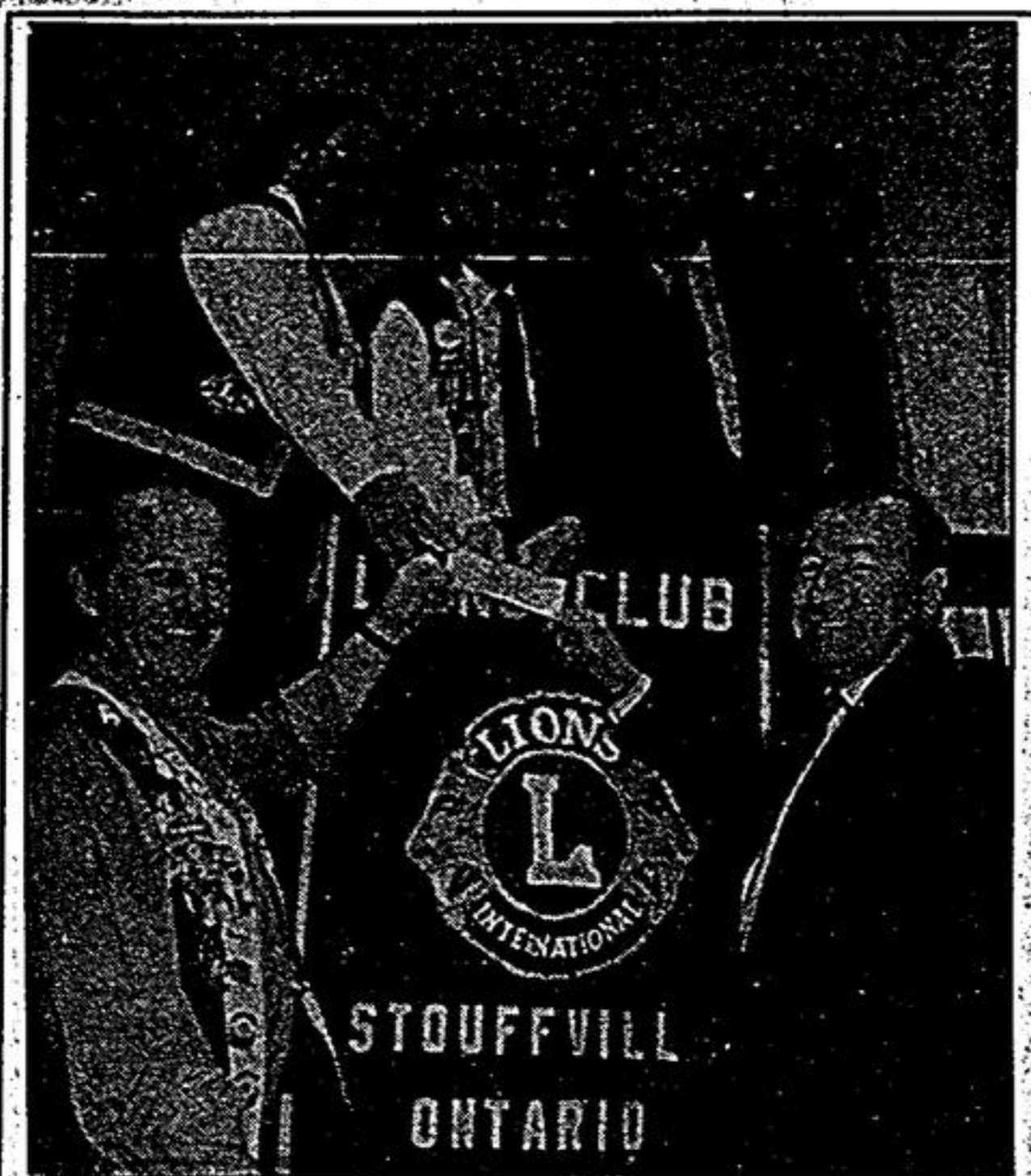
non-toxic and non-staining, people who are asthmatic or who are allergic to dust may experience some temporary discomfort," he said.

The town is in the process of sending letters to residents living in the test area.

People are being asked to make sure that roughed-in

plumbing drains are securely sealed. In the event that smoke does enter the house, it can be easily eliminated by opening a window for ventilation, Whitehouse advised.

Whitehouse also pointed out that this smoke test is carried out in a number of municipalities in Ontario.



Clockwise from bottom left, Mel Gornik, chair of the Lions casino committee, Lions Don Richards, Dave Barthau present a cheque for \$2,866.44 to the York Durham Heritage Railway's treasurer Ken Harding and Rob Pare last week. The Lions raised the money at their recent casino. Photo: JOERD WITTEVEEN

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