

# Drive clean test centre wants compensation

Owners of Acton Auto Tech – the area’s only authorized emissions testing location – would breathe a little easier if the province would re-reimburse them for testing equipment made obsolete by recent changes to the Ontario Drive Clean program.

The Drive Clean program requires vehicles to pass emission tests before they can be sold. Vehicles that fail can get a conditional pass – allowing owners to renew their licence plate sticker – if the owner spends \$450 on repairs which do not result in a pass.

The faster, more accurate technology now required to test vehicles for acceptable levels of pollutants like nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide meant Acton Auto Tech had to replace a \$110,000 machine it purchased for the testing 15 years ago. Only cars built before 1998 get the old test on what comes out of the tailpipe, the new equipment reads a vehicle computer history to see if it meets emission standards. The test can detect problems with poor performance, high emissions or poor fuel

economy.

Asking for help in a November, 2012 letter to Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott, Acton Auto Tech owner Floyd Foster said they spent \$13,531 on a new machine, \$1,900 for staff training and pays a \$242 monthly maintenance fee for the computerised equipment.

“We invested money, time and training of staff and it didn’t generate the revenue we were promised back in 1999,” Foster wrote, adding they want \$50,000 compensation for the old machine, which he said,

did an excellent job up to December 31, 2012.

Arnott forwarded Foster’s letter to the Minister of Environment, and on Thursday, Foster said that was the last he’d heard.

Partner and son Norm Foster said they do approximately eight emission tests daily. “Because no one else in Acton offered the (emission) testing, we took it upon ourselves to of-

fer it so Acton drivers wouldn’t be forced to go to Georgetown or Milton for their test,” Norm Foster said last Thursday, adding compensation would be “fair.”



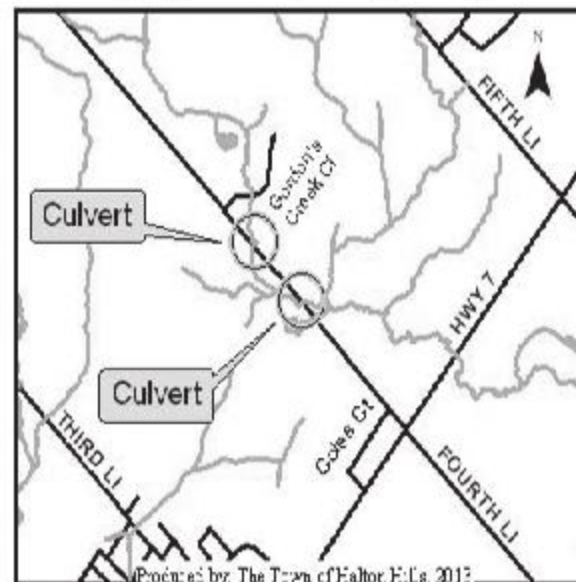
**DRIVE CLEAN CONCERNS:** Norm Foster, co-owner of Acton Auto Tech, calls the now obsolete Drive Clean testing equipment, shown to his right, a “large expensive paperweight” after the province changed the program, requiring the new equipment on Foster’s left. – Frances Learment photo

## TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

### PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013

#### Fourth Line Culverts (2) Replacements Between Highway 7 & Gordon’s Creek Court

The Town of Halton Hills is planning to remove and replace the existing two culverts starting in the spring of 2013 (see map below).



You are invited to attend a Public Information Centre to learn about the planned construction and discuss any concerns you may have with representatives from the Town of Halton Hills. This Public Information Centre will be an informal meeting, and you are invited to drop in at your convenience between the noted hours:

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Acton Arena & Community Centre Hall  
 415 Queen Street  
 Acton ON L7J 2L8

Please let me know as soon as possible, if you may have an accessibility or accommodation requirement at the Public Information Centre.

If you are unable to attend this Public Information Centre and wish to obtain more information or provide written comments, please address your concerns to:

**Mr. John Kwast, PEO-L.E.L., C.E.T.**  
 Manager of Design & Construction  
 Infrastructure Services  
 Town of Halton Hills  
 Tel: 905-873-2601, ext. 2310  
 Fax: 905-873-3036  
 Email: johnk@haltonhills.ca

1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2

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Deadline is Tuesday at noon

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