

Consulting company issues apology

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Milton Town Hall, he added.

In a press release issued by St. Mary's this week, Manjinder Gill, pavement service manager of the consulting company, issued an apology to the community and St. Mary's for proceeding with the pavement work before getting permits.

"We regret conducting the tests before receiving our permit, but assure the community that all tests were carried out according to the highest standards and did not in any way affect the integrity of the roads where testing occurred," Gill wrote.

St. Mary's is working with the City of Hamilton and Town of Milton to ensure the issue is resolved.

Paul Cripps, Milton's director of engineering services, confirmed that the consultants made enquiries before the boreholes were drilled but no permits were issued.

Town staff met with St. Mary's officials and their consultants last month to discuss the issue and "we're still investi-

gating," Cripps said.

The Town wants to determine where the holes were drilled and what type of restoration work was done to the roads.

The boreholes were drilled in early January near the proposed quarry site along 11th Concession Road East, Centre Road, Campbellville Road and Milborough Townline.

Coring of existing roadways is standard practice and a necessary component of the quarry application process, Moroz said. According to the terms of reference from the work program provided to St. Mary's by the City of Hamilton, St. Mary's must conduct a transportation analysis, which requires coring certain roadways to investigate pavement conditions.

"The work was carried out in accordance with the terms of reference from the City for our haul route study," Moroz explained.

Commenting on the consultant's failure to get the required permission before doing the work, he said, "We regret that.

This is not the way St. Mary's operates. We are taking appropriate steps to prevent it from happening again."

However, residents in the area who actively oppose the quarry are uneasy about mistakes being made this early in the application process.

"I'm incredibly disappointed," Graham Flint, chair of FORCE (Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment), said last week. "It's so early in the process, yet they've violated known local laws. How does this foreshadow what it's going to be like in the long run?"

Flint and McCarthy voiced concerns that the integrity of the 11th Concession, resurfaced and widened in the fall of 2005, has been compromised because of the drilling.

But Moroz insisted the roads weren't harmed. The holes were backfilled and compacted with the auger cuttings and the pavement surface was patched and compacted with asphalt, he said.

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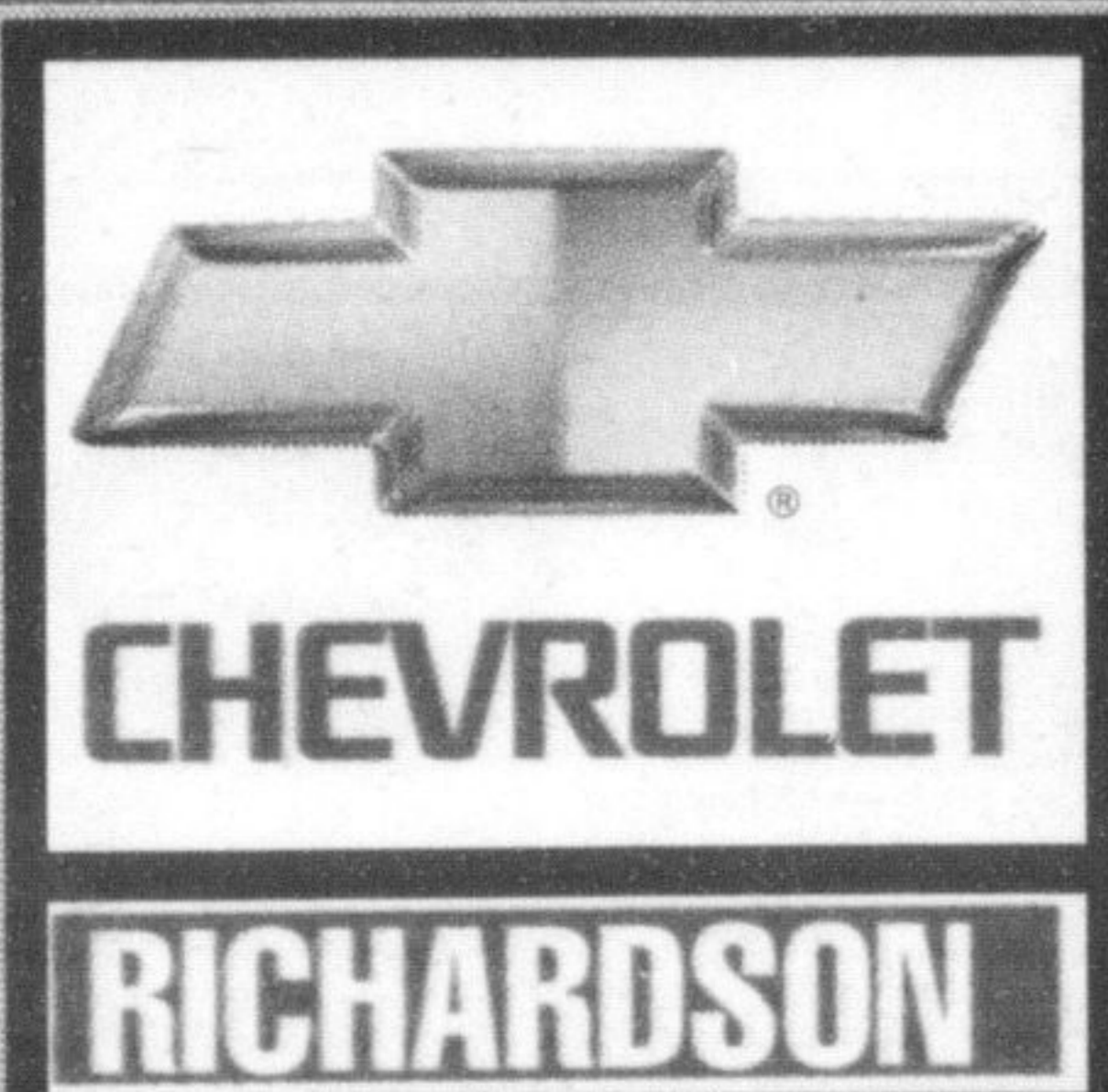
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