

Lafarge's Stouffville gravel plant celebrates provincial honour

A Whitchurch-Stouffville gravel pit is the toast of its industry.

Lafarge Canada's Stouffville plant was awarded the award of excellence by the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association this month. The award recognizes years of dedication by the company to safety, environmental stewardship,

property enhancement, rehabilitation and community relations.

The award has been presented to 10 sites, including Lafarge operations in Dundas, Brechin, Uxbridge and Stouffville.

"Lafarge deserves this award as they have continuously raised the bar in industry standards. They are

committed not only on a corporate level, but on an individual level to continuous improvement and excellence," Greg Sweetnam, chairperson of association, said.

Lafarge employees joined neighbours and politicians to celebrate the award.

A sign designed and built by

Stouffville employees, was unveiled to commemorate the award. It is situated at the front entrance of the property, on Durham Road 30 north of Bloomington Road. The sign, made of granite, limestone and slate, took three days to install.

-Jim Mason

Trees 'had to go' for auto mall: town

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The cut trees are a sore point with Mayor Sue Sherban, who has been working for several years to have a municipal tree bylaw put in place.

"People are very concerned about their trees," she said.

Some residents complained to the town and The Sun-Tribune about the tree-cutting.

Although all procedures now in place were followed in this case, she believes a tree bylaw would provide a higher level of protection for trees in the municipality, allow for "a clear understanding of how to deal with this" and allow more public input before any trees are cut.

The street will more or less follow the laneway and then turn slightly south as it progresses further into the property, Tom Parry, the town's director of development services, said.

Before the trees were removed, the developer had a consultant do a tree assessment, tree inventory and file a tree protection plan, as required by the town.

A landscape architect and the town's consultant also assessed the trees to see if it was feasible to keep them.

The consensus was many of them weren't in good shape and their roots were beginning to intertwine because they had originally been planted too closely together. Also, they're not native to this area.

WOULD LIKELY DIE

A tree moving company was asked to look at the feasibility of moving the trees, but it was determined they would most likely have died if they were transplanted, Mr. Parry said.

"It is unfortunate that the trees had to go," he added.

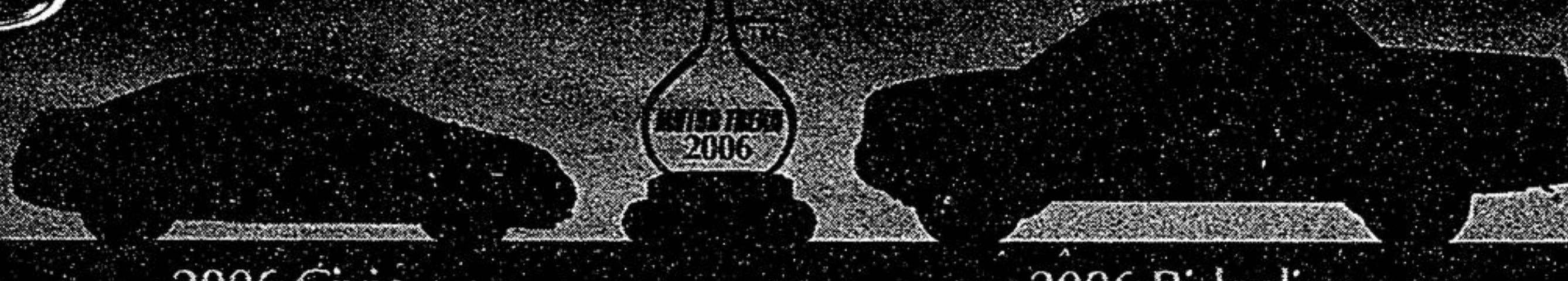
The tree protection plan for the subdivision means the hedgerows along the south side of the subdivision will be almost entirely preserved as well as other hedgerows and trees.

The farmhouse on the property is also being preserved, possibly to be used as an office.

For more information on the Stouffville Auto Mall, call Mr. Behar at The Behar Group Realty Inc. at 416-636-8898.



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