

Thinking about waterproofing?

Better check these pointers from the Better Business Bureau

Herald Special
Springtime in many areas is traditionally wet basement time as winter's snow and ice start to melt. It's also the season for fly-by-night waterproofing contractors to show out and begin their neighborhood search for misinformed homeowners.

Foundation and basement floor leaks often are not the cause of wetness and dampness, advises Paul Tuz, president of the Better Business Bureau, and a coat of white masonry go-frowled and brushed on the wall by a

waterproofing ryp artist can be as ineffective as any adhesive bandage stuck across an open crack in Hoover Dam. You usually find this out after the contractor has taken your money to another town.

Basement water troubles can stem from inadequate roof drainage; the water you see seeping through the foundation may be caused by overflowing roof gutters, or a misdirected downspout. Poor grading against the foundation at ground level can also cause a wet basement.

Not to be overlooked is a leaking pipe, condensation caused by moisture collecting on interior surfaces of walls and floors when the humidity is high, and bad neighborhood lot grading that can funnel ground water into your basement from a half-block away.

Before you listen to a contractor's analysis of the problem, make an analysis of your own, using these guidelines from the Better Business Bureau:

Waterproofing You Can Do

Capillary seepage is caused by absorbent wall materials such as cinder and concrete blocks. This material sometimes draws moisture from the ground by capillary action similar to the way a sponge soaks up water. You may notice that the problem is infrequent - only when there is lots of rain water or melting ice and snow present. If this fits the description of your basement, you may be able to stop the dampness with a coat or two of a quality basement waterproofing paint, applied according to the manufacturer's directions.

Condensation can be reduced considerably and sometimes eliminated by simply wrapping cold water pipes with pipe insulation. Also make sure that your clothes dryer is vented to the outside and that the washing machine is draining properly. Some air circulation such as cracking a basement window can work wonders in lowering humidity in a tightly closed basement. A dehumidifier sometimes helps.

If you doubt condensation is the problem, try taping a 12-inch square of aluminum foil to the basement floor and or wall. Make sure the edges are sealed tightly. Let the patch set a day or so, and then remove it. If there is water behind the foil, the problem is leakage. If there is moisture on the face of the foil, the problem is condensation.

Inspect the gutters, downspouts, splashblocks, and foundation grade. If the gutters are improperly pitched (the pitch should

be one-sixteenth-inch per running foot) of leaking, repair them. Joints in downspouts should be tight; splashblocks should be pitched to channel the water away from the house. The grade level also should be sloped away from the foundation so pockets don't form water pools.

Water seepage usually is caused by high ground water levels. The cure may be costly since the lawn may have to be re-graded or a sump system may have to be installed. A sump has a receiving tank to collect water below the floor level, a drain system, and an electric pump to move the water into the tank.

You can try hydraulic cement in open cracks to stop the water. But don't be surprised if this treatment doesn't work efficiently. Water pressure has more force than you might think; it can push the cement up out of the crack in a jiffy.

Severe wall seepage often requires excavation around the foundation

walls so a special membrane can be installed over the surface. Inside treatment is not always successful since the water pressure outside the walls can force the waterproofing inside to pop off the surface. In this treatment, drainage tiles often are laid around the bottom of the foundation to help remove excess water. Of all waterproofing techniques, the membrane-tile treatment, if done properly, may be the most effective.

Finding a Contractor Beware, cautions Mr. Tuz of ads promising quick and easy solutions to basement waterproofing. If you find that you can't correct the wetness problem yourself, look for an established waterproofer in your community. A

good place to start is with recommendations from friends and neighbors who have dealt with the same problem. Get at least three estimates. The contract should always be in writing with a warranty and Mr. Tuz adds that you'd be smart to check out the contractor's reliability report with the Better Business Bureau before signing anything.

Eight from Halton Hills graduate from Erindale

Five Georgetown and three Hornby area residents were among the 578 students who graduated from the University of Toronto's Erindale campus during that faculty's largest ever convocation June 16.

Of those from Georgetown, David Beamish and Mary McDougall completed the three-year Bachelor of Science program, Luke Solis Egan - a GDHS alumnus - graduated with high distinction in from the four-year Bachelor of Science program and Scott Turner, another GDHS

grad, finished his Bachelor of Commerce studies with high distinction. Donald Farkas of Delrex Boulevard completed a certificate and diploma program to receive his Certificate in Business.

Two Trafalgar Road residents were among the

grads: Gary Kokurewicz received a Bachelor of Commerce degree and Lisa Tallyn her three-year Bachelor of Arts degree. Also receiving her three-year Bachelor of Arts degree was Bina Tamino of the Ninth Line. The three Hornby area grads all previously attended White Oaks Secondary School.

In his convocation address, Erindale history professor Dr. Desmond Morton likened the current graduating class to that of the 1890s. He said both classes were and are "puzzled" and "perhaps dismayed" about their prospects but stressed that the future is theirs for the taking.

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Farms need insurance against wet weather

Herald Special
This year's wet weather is taking its toll of Halton crops and may well result in some farmers earning returns on crop insurance before the year is out if current trends continue, says assistant Halton agricultural representative Doug Miller.

Mr. Miller said after checking crops Tuesday he finds wide variation from good to very poor in Georgetown, Burlington and Milton areas. The wet weather has made crops

very uneven, especially cereal grain. However the weed problem is very bad because many fields were too wet to take spraying equipment and much of the spraying didn't get done.

What winter wheat farmers did get planted is good and out in head but weeds are causing problems for cast croppers who had soy beans planted.

The wet weather last fall interfered with planting wheat and this spring it

has left some farmers unable to get corn and soy beans planted.

Mr. Miller said there are fields under water all over Halton and getting hay harvested will be quite a challenge. What hay is coming off is mainly being used as hay silage. The hay crop was good but much of its value will be lost to overmaturity by the time it's off the fields because of the wet weather preventing farmers taking equipment into their fields.

Down on the farm

Continued from Page 1 do landscaping.

The high school student has taken drafting courses and done some landscaping part-time.

Working with Dave is Sharon Leslie, 19, of Rockwood. Though they share the same family name, they aren't related.

Sharon is the crew foreman, responsible for picking up crew members Bob Bingham, Cathy Beecham and Dave mornings and also for taking them home after a hard day's labor.

Although she was hoping to work on a pig or dairy farm this summer, Sharon has settled for the "migrant" work of going from farm to farm that the Experience program offers. Having worked on a farm last summer and having lived on one all her life, Sharon is quite at home with the goats and chickens and bales of hay. Her dad operates a mixed farm that used to be her grandfather's.

When she gets home, Sharon's farming chores aren't over. Together with her sister, Sharon raises rabbits and sheep. They need care, as does the cattle she shows at 4-H events and the Royal Agri-

cultural Winter Fair.

"It's not supposed to be a wet summer," Sharon moaned. "Next week we're scheduled to help with haying. But that depends on the weather. We won't be able to cut it or bale it if it's wet," she said.

So far, her crew has been out cleaning barns, trimming apple trees and building fences.

But before being sent out June 21 to assist farmers, the young people were given an orientation program in which they learned how to make rail fences, do weeding, bale up loose straw and do first aid.

"I knew it all except the St. John stuff (first aid)," Dave said.

Team member Bob is also eager for good weather to keep the crew busy.

"It beats sitting inside," Bob said. "I wanted a job where I'd be outside-you're inside all year for school."

In the fall, Sharon will be starting a two-year diploma course in agriculture at the University of Guelph and the rest of the crew will be returning to high school.

For farmers interested in hiring the four man crew, contact Patricia McCabe at 878-2314. They're available until Aug. 13.

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HOME OF THE WEEK

TRADITIONAL BRICK BUNGALOW

This charming brick bungalow is ideally suited to the medium frontage residential building lot, and provides in excess of 1,200 square feet of well-organized finished floor area, for present use. A full basement allows for the future development of additional accommodations and/or recreational facilities, at a later date. The low-profile exterior is finished in brick veneer and horizontal channel siding, with a brick chimney and shingle roof. Other exterior finishes may be applied according to the availability of materials, coats and owner's preferences.

The deeply weather-sheltered main entry leads into a compact reception foyer and outerwear storage area, from which traffic moves naturally left into the spacious L-shape living-dining room combination. The living room features a raised-hearth masonry fireplace and a wide, front-facing picture window for view and natural light. The dining area separates from the kitchen via convenient pocket door, for privacy and ease of access when serving formal dinners.

The spacious, galley-format kitchen-dinette combination provides a step-saving work triangle configuration, abundant cupboard storage facilities and ample countertop work surfaces. The large dinette area invites the custom installation of built-in banquet-style nook furnishings. The rear entrance foyer is immediately accessible from the kitchen, as is the access to the full basement. The kitchen-dinette may be completely isolated from the rest of the living area by means of space-saving pocket door, for privacy and hygiene.

All three bedrooms are positioned to the right of the floor plan and well away from the main living area for freedom from disturbance when entertaining. Each has generous closet storage facilities

and good exposure for view, ventilation and natural light. The master bedroom connects via convenient pocket door to the vanity area of the central bathroom, thus enabling it to do double duty as an ensuite bath.

The four-piece central bathroom separates the commode, tub, and one vanity sink from a second vanity sink and a linen storage closet. This natural separation eases "morning traffic" jams, and could easily be made more emphatic through the installation of a pocket door or bi-fold doors during construction. This bathroom layout is ideally suited to variable uses, according to individual owner requirements. For example, the vanity could have a double sink, an additional toilet could be located in the towel closet opposite the vanity and a new towel closet located beside the linen over the stairs. Should a Jacuzzi be desired, a shower could be installed opposite the vanity.

Plans for design No. B2-1248 may be purchased either by the single set, at a cost of \$130.00 for the first set and \$25.00 for each additional set, or by the package. A five-set plan package, including the first set, is economically priced at \$185.00 and an eight-set package, also including the first set, is only \$225.00.

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