

Community

Subdivision residents feel frustrated and angry

By BEN DUMMETT

The Herald
Unfulfilled promises have left some residents living in the Canada Homes subdivision in the Georgetown South area frustrated and angry.

Canada Homes homeowner, Lee Alas, was just one of three subdivision residents who told the Herald Tuesday, Canada Homes has reneged more than once during the last year on a promise to install sidewalks, and curbsides in the area, as well as sod their respective front and backyards.

Ms. Alas, who lives on Webster Way, said when she moved into her house last June, Canada Homes told her her property would be sodded in the fall. However, when fall arrived none of the promised work was done.

The builder subsequently told Ms. Alas her property would be sodded and work would begin on the sidewalks and curbsides by the beginning of April, she said. Again, no work was started, said Ms. Alas. Ms. Alas received similar promises for work to begin May 1 and then May 15 but both went unfulfilled.

Ms. Alas is quick to point out the subdivision houses that face Mountainview Road South are sodded.

She points out the contract all the homeowners have with Canada Homes indicates sod work will be done weather permitting.

"There must be a different weather pattern for those houses (facing Mountainview Road), Ms. Alas concluded mockingly.

Webster Way residents Lee Anne Edwards and Monique Van Vliet tell similar stories of unkept promises. Both Ms. Edwards, who moved into the subdivision last December, and Ms. Vliet who moved into the community a few months ago, were first told work on the sodding, curbsides and sidewalks would have been started by April 1st, then May 1st

and then by mid-May.

"All we've heard is promises and we can't get any work done," said Ms. Edwards. She tells a story of how Canada Homes wouldn't even install a front walkway to her house forcing her and her husband to spend six hours doing it themselves.

Ms. Alas tells of another story where nails, used to install the foundation of her house were left still sticking out.

All three women have children and all agree there is no safe place in the subdivision where they can take their children to play.

"There are nails, glass, metal strappings, rocks, broken bricks and mud throughout the subdivision," said Ms. Vliet.

Contacted Wednesday, a Canada Homes spokesperson said sodding and sidewalks and curbside installation has been delayed because of circumstances beyond the builders control.

The spokesperson said sodding can't begin until work on the sidewalks and curbs have started. The spokesperson said sidewalk and curbside construction should begin any day if it hasn't started already.

When contacted Wednesday, Ms. Vliet said none of the work had started on her street.

When questioned about the hold-up of sidewalk and curbside construction, the spokesperson said "from what I understand there has been a problem." Asked what the problem has been, the spokesperson said "I can't divulge that information."

According to the subdivision agreement, Halton Hills Village Development Incorporated and not Canada Homes is ultimately responsible for the installation of sidewalks and curbsides.

No one could be reached at the development firm's Toronto office for comment at press time.

Meanwhile, another Webster

Way resident, Mrs. C. Perrot, has submitted a letter to the Town arguing the Town inspection of the houses has been inadequate.

To emphasize her point, the letter is accompanied by a petition signed by 89 subdivision residents, protesting Town inspection of their houses.

According to the letter, occupancy permits have been issued by the Town for houses which lack ground wires, cold air returns and have malfunctioning heat vents and exposed wires.

The letter and petition were addressed to Town Building Director Ron Shettell with carbon copies to the Herald. Contacted Thursday Mr. Shettell said the Town will investigate the concerns starting next week.

Residents also complain they are paying full taxes yet they don't receive full town services.

Town Deputy Treasurer Grant Usher said Thursday the property taxes homeowners pay depends on whether or not the person's house is fully constructed and not so much on whether or not the homeowner receives full Town services.

Halton Hills rural area residents pay full property taxes despite not receiving full Town services, said Mr. Usher.

While acknowledging the homeowners don't receive full Town services, they do have garbage pick-up and snow plowing services, said Mr. Usher.

Halton-Peel Assessment Office Evaluation Manager Gerry De Jong said Thursday the houses in the Canada Homes subdivision are being taxed on a 100 per cent assessment.

An assessment is based on the house itself, he said. Incomplete sodding has no bearing on the assessment of a house, said Mr. De Jong.

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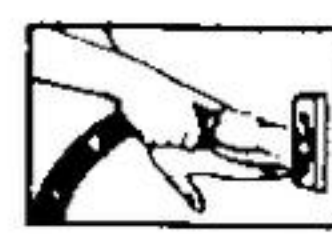
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