

Honeyfield home owner still has some concerns

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Acton resident Preeti Varu wonders if she shot herself in the foot when she publicly complained to Town Council about conditions in the Honeyfield subdivision, built by Rinarin Limited, north of Highway 7.

"When I try to call the office, the person I need is always on the phone or out of the office, and I've called the sales office numerous times and no one has gotten back to us," Varu said on Friday.

Varu was not impressed with how the Town handled their complaint after her partner's car was damaged when it hit a raised manhole in the subdivision – the developer's contractor paid the repair bill – and she appeared before Council in February with a long list of complaints about work not completed in the subdivision, including lighting, paving and site maintenance by the builder.

A Town report said it would ensure that future claims would be dealt with in an expeditious manner and that it would lend the developer streetlight parts that it is missing. Varu notes occupancy permits shouldn't be issued until the streetlight system is operational.

"Sure, they fixed one light, but there's still a street light leaning over, there are broken storm drains, chunks of concrete and they haven't cleaned the street each Friday like they were supposed to," Varu said on Friday, adding there has been some improvement in the condition of the roads.

"I don't feel that very much has been done and I was thinking of taking some pictures and going back to Council to show them what still needs to be done," Varu said.

Varu, who moved in to the Honeyfield house in April 2003, said she could have just kept her mouth shut after their car hit the

raised manhole – the developer had raised them in preparation for completing the paving of the streets, but the weather changed and the job was delayed, leaving the raised manholes which several cars struck.

"I was worried about safety – I guess I could watch the dirt accumulate on the street and the streetlights fall over – I could have kept my mouth shut, but I want to take pride in my community," Varu said.

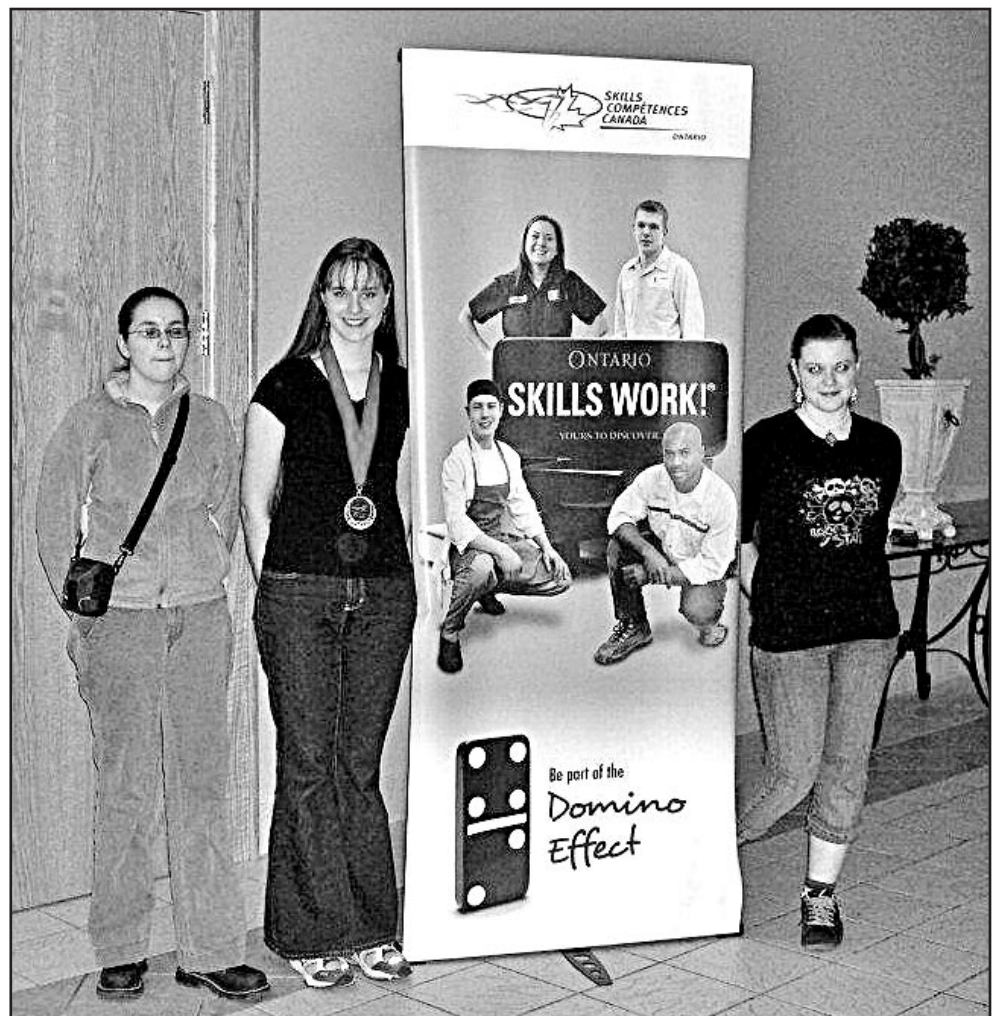
Town staff met with the developer to review all deficiencies late last month, including boulevard sodding, lighting and paving, and were confident Rinarin would fulfill outstanding subdivision conditions when the weather and conditions permit.

At press time, Rinarin had not responded to a request for comment.

On Tuesday as Town Council removed a holding provision for 17 additional single-family lots that will finish Rinarin's Honeyfield subdivision, Acton Councillor Clark Somerville asked that in light of the previous problems, what assurances they had that the developer would do what was required.

He noted the road would be torn up as the new houses are built and added they'd already had one email complaint about garbage in the area.

Town engineer Rick Henry said the developer intends to put surface asphalt down next week and prior to that, the streets would be swept and the developer would continue to sweep the street weekly on Fridays to keep the dust down during construction.



TECH QUEENS: Acton High School students showed off their technical prowess at a recent provincial Skills Olympics. Marnie Demand (left) earned a Bronze medal in mechanical computer aided drafting and design, Angela Henderson earned a Gold medal in architectural CADD and Bekky Gibson had a strong showing in the digital photography competition. - Submitted photo

AHS students win two medals at skills Olympics

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Acton High School continues to produce students with award winning technical skills as witnessed by the recent medals won by two students and the strong showing by another, at the 17th annual Ontario Technical Skills Competitions in Waterloo.

Angela Henderson earned a Gold Medal in the CADD (computer assisted architectural design) Architectural competition, and Marnie De-

mand earned a Bronze in the CADD Mechanical competition.

Bekky Gibson, the youngest competitor in digital photography, did not place in the top three, but showed creativity and poise in completing a series of creative photographic projects.

Over 1,100 students earned their way to the recent provincial competition by winning at their school and regional level. The competition at Waterloo was grueling – each competitor had six hours to complete a series of skill

specific tasks and was also marked on a five-minute job interview to make sure they have the soft skills to match the hard skills necessary to get and keep a job.

In the CADD Architectural competition, Henderson had to take the post, beams and floor of an old building and create an architectural design to turn it into a residential loft.

Her layout and detail work was judged the best of the 29 budding architects from across Ontario, and as the provincial Gold medalist, she advances to the National Skills competition in Halifax at the end of May 21.

In the CADD Mechanical competition, Demand, who learned of her Bronze medal finish a week after the event when the standings were revised because of a clerical error,

had to complete complex design drawings and a 3d model of components of a small engine, and then assemble them to complete a model of the motor.

Acton High School technical instructor Norbert Axtmann said the "ladies have all done Acton and Halton proud and made a firm statement about the role of women in our technological world."

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