



Alynne Huebsch, of Vanier Dr., illustrates a "repair" job done on the driveway of her new home by Silver Paving Co. Ltd. Several residents of Bronte Meadows and Timberlea developments have been expressing anger at what they feel is standard work carried out by the contractor.

This paving job ruffles homeowners

By STEVE ARNOLD
Champion News Editor

Residents in two of Milton's newest developments are searching for some type of action to take against a Brampton-based paving contractor.

The homeowners, in the Bronte Meadows and Timberlea developments, are angry at what they feel is standard work done to the driveways of their new homes by Silver Paving Co. Ltd.

In addition to a petition presented to Town council recently, the residents are also considering legal action and an appeal to the mediation program offered by the Better Business Bureau of Toronto. The residents believe their driveways did not get as much asphalt as was specified in their contract with Silver and subsequent "repairs" were carried out only after repeated complaints and amounted to nothing more than tar patches over cracks.

To date, the Timberlea and Bronte Meadows homeowners have been acting apart from each other. Individuals from each development contacted the Champion independently to tell their stories.

Neptune Kroll, of 450 Vanier Dr., paid Silver Paving \$600 for her 19 foot by 25 foot double driveway and had problems with it from the beginning.

"We waited a full seven days before we drove on it for the first time and the problems started right away," she said.

From the very first time a car was driven onto the new driveway, she said, tire marks and cracks appeared. The right edge of the pavement sank several inches under the weight of a parked car.

"When a car comes onto that pavement, it looks just like a cake going up and down," she said, adding that even six weeks after the paving had been down it was still soft to the touch.

The standard contract between the residents and the company called for three inches of hot asphalt, complete regrading of the driveway, checking for weak spots and the supply of stone "as necessary."

At 428 Vanier Dr., Ralph and Alynne Huebsch had similar complaints about the work done on their driveway.

"We're quite prepared to take action over this, but we really don't know what else we can do," Mrs. Huebsch.

She noted that after several complaints to the contractor a repair job was done on the cracks that had appeared in her asphalt, but the patches simply peeled away

because they hadn't been applied properly.

"To get our money back right now really isn't going to make all that much difference. What we want is a suitable driveway, and, to not be able to wear a pair of shoes on the driveway is absolutely ludicrous," she added.

On the east side of town, Mark Standige, of 543 Hayward Cres., circulated a petition among his neighbors expressing their dissatisfaction to Milton council, which eventually will assume responsibility for the development.

He paid Silver \$450 for a single driveway and learned later that others in his neighborhood had been done by another contractor for as little as \$270.

Paul Tuz, president of the Better Business Bureau of Greater Toronto, said Silver Paving is registered with them and carries a B-1 rating, which means "he has responded to and adjusted the majority of consumer complaints brought to his attention by the Bureau."

"We consider a B-1 rating to be an acceptable trade background," he added.

Angelo Bellone, owner of Silver Paving, told Milton council Monday night that the problems had been caused by a bad foreman on the job and that he would make everything right again.

After the meeting, Mr. Bellone said he first became aware of the problems in Milton last Thursday night at 5 p.m. and was in town Friday morning attempting to solve them.

All of the needed repair work, he said, had been completed by July 24. "Everything has been fixed now. If anything is wrong now I take the responsibility myself. Anything that will be done now will be done personally by me, no foreman, superintendent or nothing. I'm going to do everything."

Mr. Bellone told councillors that in some cases there have been problems with driveways settling because of sewer or water mains running beneath them.

"I'm willing to repair anything that's my fault," he said. "But if a driveway settles because of a sewer it has nothing to do with me but I'll go back and fix it anyway to keep the customer happy."

"The guy who did this kind of mess for me is no longer with me," he said, adding, "I'm not trying to put anybody down, I'm trying to work out these problems but some people are trying to crucify me."

Councillors climb on restraint wagon

Wage restraints and program cutbacks are among the ideas being examined by Regional councillors as they climb aboard the spending restraint bandwagon.

Councillors last week expressed their general support for a Lambton County resolution calling for wage restraints in government.

In addition to taking a hard line with staff during next year's salary negotiations, a study has also been ordered into the steps that can be taken now to trim some money from the 1982 budget.

Restraint and spending cutbacks have become a politically popular idea since the release of the latest federal budget calling for a campaign to limit wage growth to six per cent next year as a means of reducing inflation.

The steps approved by Halton Regional council, however, didn't have the complete support of all its members.

"All this is, is a political statement that capitalizes on the popularity of the word restraint," said Burlington

Coun. Walter Mulkewich.

"This is a back door, low key approach to something very dangerous because we are trying to fool people into thinking we are doing something about inflation by picking on one group, namely Regional employees," he added.

Rather than picking on its employees, he continued, Halton should be reviewing its budgeting procedures and priorities, which would be the way to actually accomplish something.

"We should dig our shoes in and show some leadership, rather than just words," Mr. Mulkewich added.

Burlington Coun. Steve Toth said he didn't think it would be right for the Region to "backtrack" on its contracts with employees to limit them to a six per cent raise, but he felt some benefits could be gained by carefully reviewing staff openings before they are filled.

"We should be very careful not to replace people who leave unless we really need them," he said.

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