

# No special treatment on Unionville streets

By ALEX NEWMAN  
Bridle Trail residents in Unionville have voiced concern over what they term "unnecessary improvements to the streets and sidewalks in their area."

"The streets are only one or two years old," exclaimed one irate woman who wished to remain anonymous.

Bridle Trail residents felt there was nothing wrong with the pavement on their streets. "Workmen started making curbs. We (residents) thought maybe they were checking underground lines. The next thing we know trucks from Miller Paving were here scraping the asphalt."

When the residents discovered that work was ordered by the Town of Markham, they felt valuable tax dollars were being spent uselessly. "No wonder our taxes are so high here in Unionville," the woman complained, adding she paid about \$1,000 more than in any other area she lived.

While residents resented wasteful expenditure of tax dollars, they were perplexed that many streets — especially in older

areas throughout Markham were still in a terrible state of disrepair.

Tony Masongsong, assistant director of engineering for the Town of Markham, explained that because the Bridle Trail subdivision had not yet been assumed by the town, "developers and builders are required to rectify all deficiencies before transferring the subdivision to Markham."

Assuming a new subdivision is standard procedure in every municipality, once 85 per cent of all residents have moved in. Expense for repairs prior to this rests entirely on the shoulders of the subdivider. Mr. Masongsong says that contrary to wasting tax dollars, these improvements done by the developer and builder will prevent maintenance later, and therefore save tax dollars in the future.

Town building and subdivision inspectors investigate every aspect of a subdivision before transfer — curbs, streetlights, paving — to ensure acceptable workmanship. "On Dalecroft, the surface may have looked alright,

explained Mr. Masongsong, but the asphalt had to be ground down because of drainage problems in the area."

Mr. Masongsong pointed out that mill rates are consistent throughout Markham and that taxes reflect property values. "This doesn't mean certain areas get preferential treatment. They are repaired when necessary."

The resident had mentioned a huge crack at the end of Dalecroft "not two feet away from the new paving job." When The Weekender relayed this information to the engineering department, Mr. Masongsong said if the crack had not already been reported and placed on a work order, it would be brought to the attention of the inspectors.

Ron Moran, Markham regional councillor was familiar with the subdivision and the work being conducted. "The Town is just making sure everything is in place — sanitary and storm sewers, water lines, walkways. All this work is done for the protection of the taxpayer and doesn't cost them a nickel."



## In the fast lane

We know the pace is fast here in Markham, but this topsy-turvy sign at Markville Shopping Centre is the limit. Even those of us up on our metric weren't fooled by this one.

— Bruce Etheridge

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