

Subdivision called 'absolute disaster'

By ALAN SHACKLETON
 Claremont's George Johnson has had it' waiting for completion of work on his home and property.
 Mr. Johnson and family moved into their residence on Brock Street, south of the Four Corners, last November. After all this time, the house is still awaiting needed repairs plus a finished backyard and a proper septic tank.
 "The whole thing's a joke," said a frustrated Johnson Monday.
 The final straw was this past

weekend when work on his backyard and septic tank, ordered by the Durham Board of Health to be finished by Oct. 31, wasn't done.
 Johnson's home is one of five on the west side of Brock Street across from the Canadian Legion that was built by a firm based in Scarborough.
 The houses are priced in the \$250,000 to \$300,000 range and Johnson said most of them are plagued by similar problems.
 "The backyard's a mess, an absolute disaster," Johnson said. "There's no landscaping,

the septic tank hasn't been properly covered and there's raw sewage on top of the ground."
 The sewage problem was what moved the Durham Board of Health to order the work completed by Oct. 31.
 Johnson had hoped the edict might prompt the developer to finish the job, but there was no sign of activity until Monday afternoon, Nov. 2, when a bulldozer was left 'parked' on his property.
 "I assume the bulldozer means somebody is intending to do some work sometime," John-

son said. "But the point is it should have been finished by Saturday at the latest."
 Johnson added that threats from government agencies seem to be the only way to get the developer moving.
 "I'm only one person, and I'm having a terrible time here," he said. "There has to be some kind of legislation passed to force builders to finish what they started and what home buyers paid for."
 Johnson pointed out that the developer of his home is involved in other building pro-

jects in the Town of Pickering, and to him, that doesn't seem right.
 "I don't think they should be given any more building permits until they finish the work in this subdivision," he said.
 "I'm completely frustrated," he continued. "You pay this much money for a house and this is what you get. I've got a half-acre of backyard out there and I can't use any of it."
 Company representatives could not be contacted for comment.

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