

The long and winding driveway...

DRIVEWAY SURFACES are essentially divided into three main categories – aggregate, such as gravel or crushed stone, solid or seamless surfaces such as concrete or asphalt, and hard paved, using close fitting dry-laid interlocking paving blocks, bricks or stones.

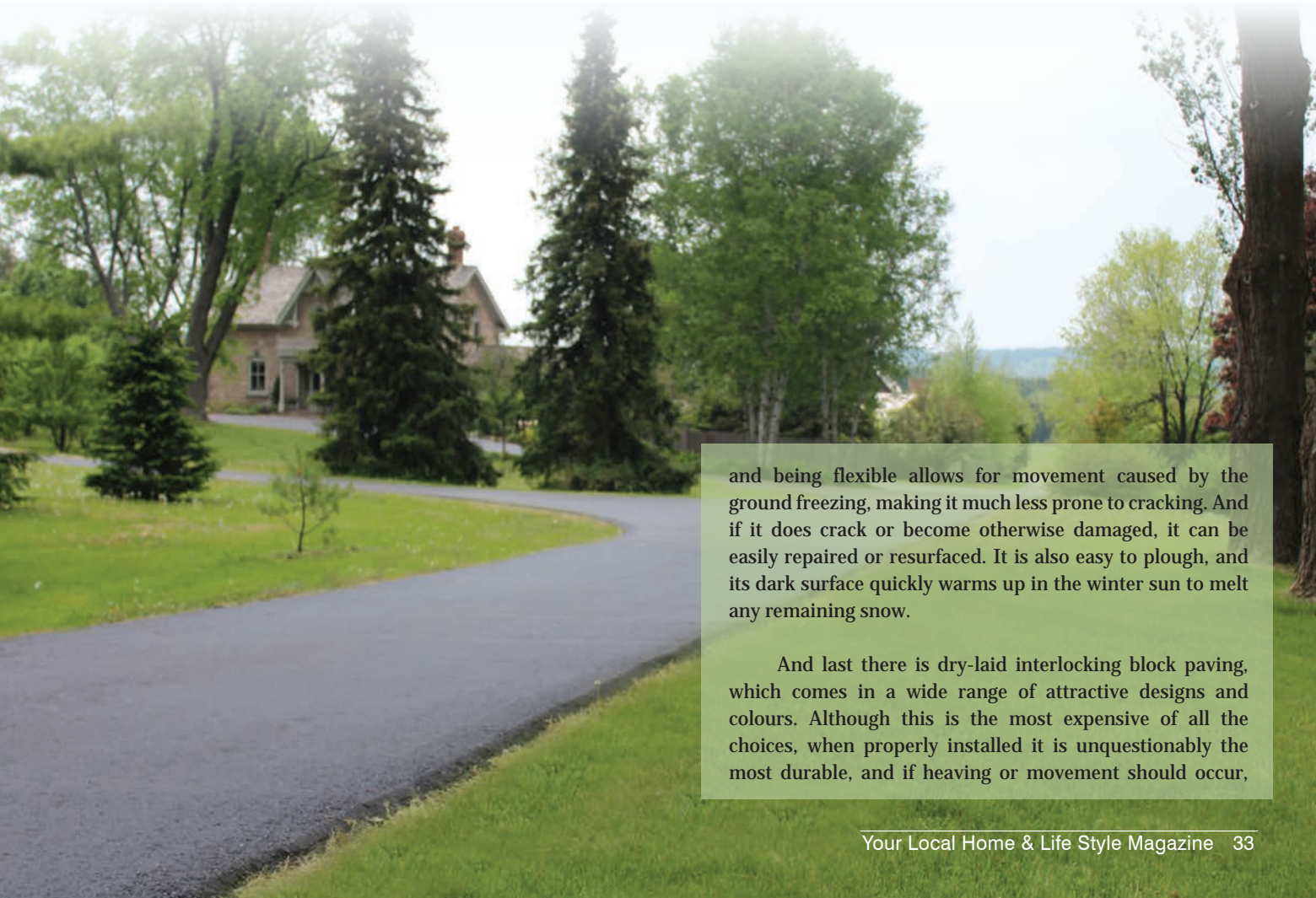
Each method has its pros and cons in terms of cost, aesthetics, maintenance and lifespan, all of which need to be considered when choosing the right type of driveway for your property, and in Canada there is another factor that has to be given serious consideration - the weather.

Gravel and crushed stone driveways are the least expensive to lay and have an added advantage that they allow water to reach roots that may extend under them from nearby trees and plants. On the other hand, rain, melting snow, traffic and snow-ploughing will all cause constant

movement and erosion of the surface, so they will require regular topping-up and grooming to maintain a pleasing appearance.

Concrete driveways are cast in large close fitting slabs to allow for expansion and contraction, and offer a choice of natural grey or coloured and/or various textured finishes, however they are not very common in Canada as they are prone to heaving and cracking in the winter, and once cracked, cannot be properly repaired or resurfaced. They are also relatively expensive to install.

Asphalt, although initially more expensive to lay than gravel or crushed stone, is the least expensive of the “hard” surfaced driveways, and by far the most popular choice in Canada for several good reasons. Properly installed, an asphalt driveway is pleasant to walk on, pleasing to the eye,



and being flexible allows for movement caused by the ground freezing, making it much less prone to cracking. And if it does crack or become otherwise damaged, it can be easily repaired or resurfaced. It is also easy to plough, and its dark surface quickly warms up in the winter sun to melt any remaining snow.

And last there is dry-laid interlocking block paving, which comes in a wide range of attractive designs and colours. Although this is the most expensive of all the choices, when properly installed it is unquestionably the most durable, and if heaving or movement should occur,

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individual stones can be removed to allow levelling and then re-laid at minimal cost – handy homeowners may even be able to do this themselves.

However, if your budget doesn't stretch to a fully block-paved driveway, consider the many interesting ways they can be used in conjunction with asphalt and other surfaces to create stabilising borders that are both decorative and functional, and/or elegant forecourts that enhance the entrance of any home – the possibilities are endless.


Bold and black...

Duane Breese first started paving and landscaping with his father at the age of 12, and as owner of Coppertone Paving in Orangeville for the last eight years, he wants potential customers to understand that not all driveways are created equal, and that if you're seeking longevity with minimal maintenance, the importance of proper installation cannot be overstated.

Long or short, straight or winding, a sound asphalt driveway requires a gravel bed of 12", so a Coppertone installation typically starts with hand dug test-holes to determine what's already down there, and whether or not excavation will be required.



Depending on whether the driveway is brand new or being laid over an existing one, after grading, the gravel bed will need anywhere from two to twelve months to settle before laying of the final surface, which in the case of Coppertone Paving is a 3" layer of "road-grade" asphalt for maximum durability. Properly installed and maintained it can last up to 30 years before needing to be resurfaced.

Coppertone Paving installs both asphalt and interlocking-block driveways, and has been serving commercial and residential customers in Orangeville, Caledon, Grand Valley, Shelburne, Dundalk, Erin, Guelph and surrounding areas since 1972. They also offer maintenance and sealing as well as snow ploughing and salting in the winter. 

Resource materials & photos provided by:
Coppertone Paving
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