

ONTARIO CONCRETE RAISING LTD.



**Saves time
and money**

Raising those sunken concrete slabs better than replacing

By MOLLY HARDING
Advertising features writer

You may have a nasty feeling when you remember the time the concrete slabs around the pool or on the front walk had to be replaced. The way the grass was chewed up, the gate that had to be taken off and the general disorder around the house can all cause nightmares when you look back on it. But chances are, if you had done things differently none of that would have happened. "When a concrete slab has sunk down into the ground and has made an uneven walkway or patio, you don't need to replace it at all," says Ben Audet. "What you need to do is have it raised and levelled so it won't sink again. And that's where we come in." The owner with his father, Conrad, of Ontario Concrete Raising, Ben says more and more people are seeing the inherent value of raising the concrete instead of replacing it.

It's huge in the United States, he says, and also in Windsor, where it was first introduced into Ontario. With his own three years in the concrete raising business, and with his father's background in construction and mechanicals, Ontario Concrete Raising is making sure Niagara's residents can also enjoy the benefits. It's a huge money saver – less half the cost of replacing the concrete slabs. It saves time – most jobs can be completed in a day, including raising and levelling a whole pool deck. And it won't disturb the surrounding landscape, so there's no grass or other replacement cost. "With most jobs, you find the concrete is still good, maybe only a year or two old," Ben points out. "So why replace it? Raising it and making it like new again is really economical." Raising concrete, or slabjacking, can be done on any concrete surface, using a portable concrete pump and equipment that can fit through any doorway. A series of small holes are drilled through the slabs, then grout material is pumped from a strategic entry point to fill the void under the slab and raise it to its original height. The material is environmentally friendly and it hardens and bonds to the subsoil, preventing further erosion and sinkage. Then the holes are patched with cement and the job is just like new. There are many causes of concrete sinking, Ben points out, including compacting, freezing and thawing, erosion and water

penetration creating voids under the slab. It's wise to watch for these things, as well as for animals digging around the slabs, because they will be weakened before you notice the slab has sunk considerably. Slabjacking can be done when the concrete has only just begun to show signs of misalignment and weakness and will not only fill the initial void, but will stabilize and strengthen the slab, preventing further damage and cracking. "The work can be done from March to December, but June through August are the busiest months," Conrad Audet adds. "When people get out to open up their pools they notice the damage to the concrete surrounding the patio or deck. That's when we can go in and do the work, and get it done in minimal time and with very little disturbance. We can work around anyone's schedule and there are no big pieces of equipment to disturb people. We warranty every job."

For more information, check online at www.ontarioconcreteraising.com, or to book an appointment or consultation, call Ontario Concrete Raising at 289-969-5438 (289-WOW-LIFT). Now is a good time, to ensure your work gets done in time for summer entertaining. Visit their booth at The Niagara Lifestyle Home Show, April 30 to May 2 at the Seymour Hannah Sportsplex.



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