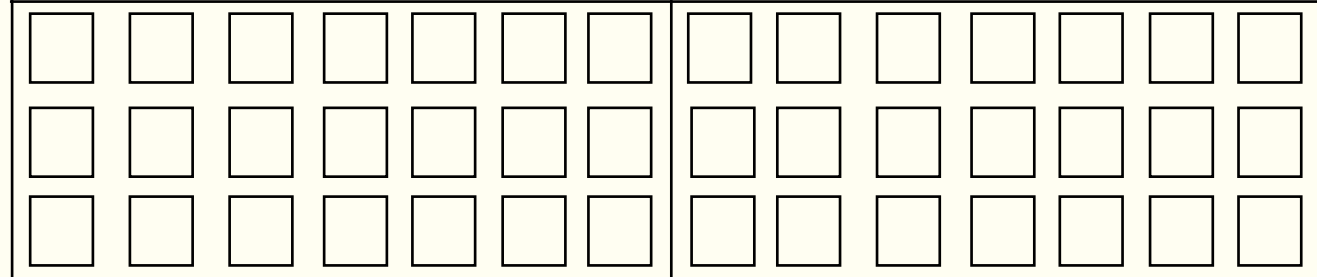
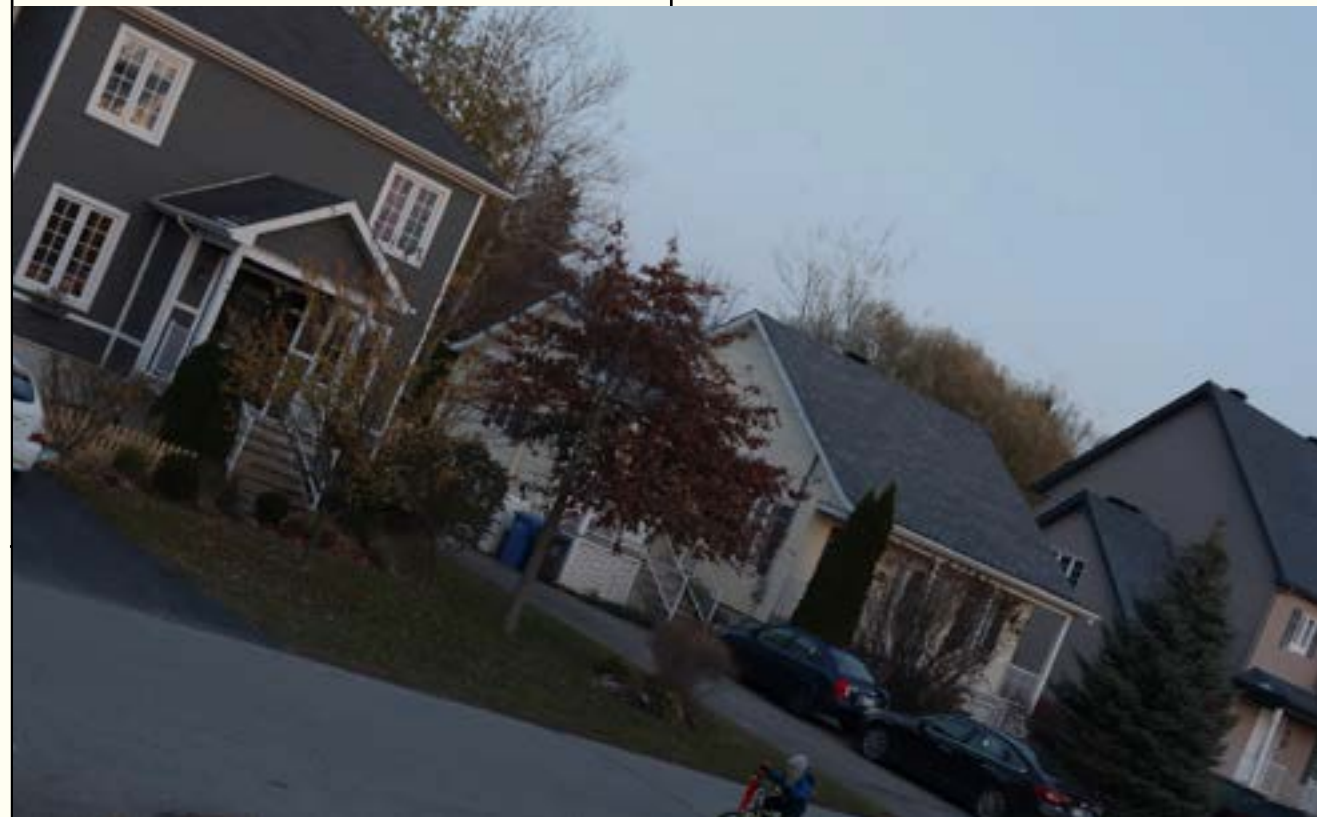
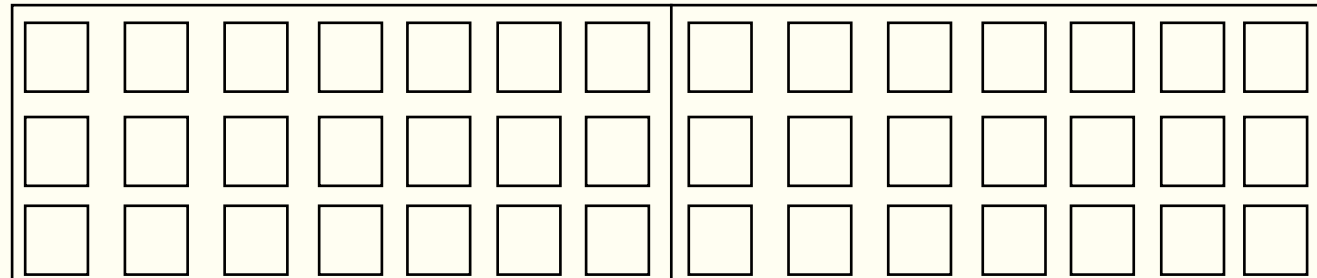


# A BROKEN HOME

FAMILY

FOUNDATION



Many aspire to one day own a house, a home to call their own. They save up for years on end. But for some unlucky homeowners, their dream come true can quickly turn into a nightmare. As is the case for various families in The West Island region. Their home's foundations having been built on weak ground are cracking and falling apart. A problem not to be taken lightly. In this essay, I will discuss how this problem started, and the effects it has had on people, both financially and emotionally.

Firstly, the ground's fragility in the Off-Island area was a result of the unstable weather, in the dry summers of 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991. Many more dry years came after until the ground moisture levels had declined immensely by the year 2000. Only to show signs of damage about a decade later in foundations that had been built on these grounds. Most homeowners who found these problems in their homes were completely unaware of the potential issues associated with the location of the home when they originally purchased it. Because "When purchasing a house, even house inspectors didn't know about these issues and assumed that if there were cracks it was due to a cheap ceramic floor" (Luna 2020). A big part of the problem was how unaware and uneducated professionals were about foundation cracks and about the potential issues they could cause in the future.







**Secondly, this is not something that can be avoided or postponed. Foundation repair is urgent and costly. Ranging anywhere from 35,000-110,000\$ for a standard family home.**

**It was only recently that “Cracked houses (Quebec renovation programs)” started appearing which still only financially assists and doesn’t cover the full cost of reparations. But homeowners who discovered problems before all these programs were available and cities started taking accountability were left with massive debts. Having to take out loans, or ask their relatives for money. Unfortunately, those who could do neither, had to sell their homes making no profit, or worse, had their homes taken away when declaring bankruptcy.**



Thirdly, the emotional toll these expenses take on a family is awful. Having to worry about losing your home can lead to “fights, divorces, depression, suicide, etc” (Luna 2020). So much stress is accumulating as the homeowner is trying to figure out how to get money to fix their home and it has even dragged out for years as St-Zotique residents have fought with the city to get financial compensation. Also, losing a home you worked so hard for is devastating. Having to tell your kids to pack their bags and to leave their rooms suddenly isn’t easy. The emotional consequences follow through the process and for many years ahead.

In conclusion, families have suffered throughout the past 20 years and it wasn’t their fault. They were full of hope for a bright future when they first purchased their homes but it cracked when they found out about their foundations. One can only hope that ‘Renovation programs” will help homeowners from now on with the unholy expense of reparation. But now that people are more aware of the issues, the future seems brighter.



