

Project Case Study

Muskoka Lakeside Driveway, Ontario — Installed by Dream Pave

(Metric — mm / kg / °C)



Aerial view of the completed 700m² driveway winding through the Muskoka property to the water's edge.

Details

Application	Permeable Driveway
Client	Private Lakeside Residence
Installer	Dream Pave — StoneSet Canada
Colour	Locally Sourced Natural Canadian Granite Blend
Base	Compacted 20mm Clear Stone Drainage Aggregate
Area	700m²
Depth	18mm StoneSet Wearing Course
Time to Install	4 Working Days
Slip Rating	P5 (V)
Warranty	5-Year Limited Warranty

Project Features

Freeze-Thaw Resilience

A drainage flow rate of 60 litres per m², per second keeps water moving through the surface rather than sitting on it — reducing ice formation and speeding up thaw times through Muskoka winters.

High Slip Resistance

P5 (V) slip rating from wet pendulum testing, exceeding the minimum industry benchmark of 54, even in wet, icy or thawing conditions.

Locally Sourced, Locally Suited

A natural Canadian granite aggregate blend selected to complement Muskoka's granite and timber surroundings, bound with UV-stable resin for lasting colour.

Expert Ontario Installation

Installed by Dream Pave, StoneSet's dedicated Canadian distributor with unrivalled experience delivering resin bound paving across Ontario, backed by a 5-Year Limited Warranty and a 30+ Year Expected Lifespan.

Project Overview

Muskoka doesn't forgive weak materials. It's a region carved by glaciers, gripped by granite, and tested every single year by a freeze-thaw cycle that can crack concrete, heave pavers, and turn a beautiful driveway into a maintenance headache within a handful of winters. So when the owners of a private lakeside estate in the heart of cottage country set out to replace a tired driveway with something built to last, they needed more than a nice-looking surface. They needed a system engineered for the climate it was going into, installed by a crew that actually understood that climate.

That's exactly why StoneSet's Canadian distributor and installation partner, Dream Pave, was engaged for the job. Dream Pave has spent years building the deepest bench of resin bound paving expertise in Ontario — not just applying a decorative surface, but engineering full permeable systems from the base up, purpose-built to handle everything a Canadian winter can throw at them. For this project, that expertise was put to work across 700m² of new driveway, a build large enough to test every part of the system and every part of the crew.

Working over a compacted 20mm Clear Stone drainage aggregate base — an open-graded, angular stone chosen specifically for its ability to store and move water freely beneath the surface — the Dream Pave team installed a 18mm StoneSet resin bound wearing course across the full driveway footprint in just 4 working days. The result is a fully bound, fully permeable pavement that reads as natural stone, drains like an open aggregate, and comes backed by Dream Pave's 5-Year Limited Warranty, with the StoneSet system itself carrying a 30+ Year Expected Lifespan once Canada's freeze-thaw cycles are factored into the equation.

Built for Freeze-Thaw: Why Permeability Matters in a Canadian Winter

Ask anyone who has installed pavement in this country and they'll tell you the enemy isn't the cold — it's the water that gets trapped by the cold. Standing water on a driveway surface finds every hairline crack, seeps in, and expands by roughly nine percent the moment it freezes. Do that enough times over a Muskoka winter, where temperatures regularly swing through -25°C to -30°C and back again, and you get frost heave, spalling and the kind of surface failure that has nothing to do with the quality of the concrete or asphalt and everything to do with where the water was allowed to sit.

StoneSet's resin bound system was built around a different premise: don't fight the water, let it through. The finished wearing course carries roughly 13% interconnected void space, with a drainage flow rate of 60 litres per m², per second. Rather than pooling on the surface and forming the sheet ice that makes a driveway treacherous underfoot and under tyre, water passes directly through the StoneSet layer and into the 20mm Clear Stone drainage base below, where it can disperse laterally and continue draining away from the structure rather than lifting it.

That permeability is only half the story. The resin itself is a flexible polyurethane system — closer in behaviour to asphalt than to a rigid cementitious binder — which lets the finished surface flex fractionally with ground movement and thermal contraction rather than cracking outright. Independent ageing testing on the binder shows it retains the bulk of its strength after prolonged UV, heat and water exposure, which matters just as much through a baking July as it does through a brutal February.

The practical upside shows up every single day of an Ontario winter. Because there's no film of surface water left to freeze, StoneSet driveways are far less prone to the black ice and skating-rink conditions that plague solid concrete and asphalt after a freeze. And because the surface holds so little residual moisture, it thaws out dramatically faster once temperatures lift — often clearing itself well before the neighbouring slab has let go of its ice. For a lot of homeowners, that difference alone is enough to cut back significantly on de-icing salt and mechanical ploughing, both of which are notoriously hard on decorative surfaces and on the gardens and lawns that salt run-off tends to find its way into.

It's a simple bit of physics dressed up as a maintenance benefit: a surface that doesn't hold water doesn't hold ice, and a surface that doesn't hold ice doesn't need nearly as much intervention to stay safe and usable through the depths of a Canadian winter.

Winter-Ready by Design: The Science Behind the Cure

None of that performance happens by accident, and it's here that Dream Pave's experience really separates itself from a general paving contractor. Resin bound paving cures through an active chemical reaction between resin and catalyst, and that reaction is directly governed by ambient temperature and humidity — push the mix outside its window and you risk anything from a soft, uncured surface to a permanent cosmetic "bloom" where fine moisture condenses into the resin before it's had the chance to fully cure.

StoneSet's system accounts for this with distinct binder formulations for different conditions — including a winter binder carrying a higher catalyst load specifically for low-temperature applications — and a strict set of site protocols around temperature and humidity. As a rule of thumb, installation doesn't proceed at all once temperatures fall to 0°C, and extra care is taken any time the mercury sits below 8°C alongside high humidity. Dream Pave's crews monitor surface and ambient temperature throughout the day using calibrated thermometers rather than a phone forecast, adjusting catalyst dosing batch by batch to keep cure times inside the ideal window.

On a build the size of this Muskoka driveway — 700m² spread across 4 working days — that kind of real-time judgement call happens dozens of times over. Morning batches laid in the shade of the tree line cure differently to afternoon batches in full sun; a shift in the wind can change surface temperature by several degrees inside an hour. Getting that consistently right, batch after batch, day after day, across a driveway this size is exactly the kind of repetition Dream Pave has built its Ontario reputation on.

Local Stone, Timeless Character

Performance was only half the brief. The driveway needed to belong to its surroundings — to sit comfortably against granite outcrops, cedar and pine, and the muted, weathered palette that defines Muskoka's cottage architecture. The aggregate blend selected for this project was 100% natural Canadian granite, locally sourced and crushed to size, chosen to echo the tones of the surrounding rock and timber rather than fight against them.

Unlike exposed aggregate concrete, StoneSet contains no cement matrix between the stones. The finished surface is visually "stone full," with the aggregate itself doing all of the design work rather than sharing the stage with a grey cementitious background. Bound using StoneSet's UV-stable resin system, the result is a rich, natural stone driveway that will hold its colour and character for decades, not just for its first summer.



The finished driveway ties the lakeside home, tennis court and gardens together within Muskoka's granite and pine landscape.

Installation Methodology — Dream Pavé Expertise

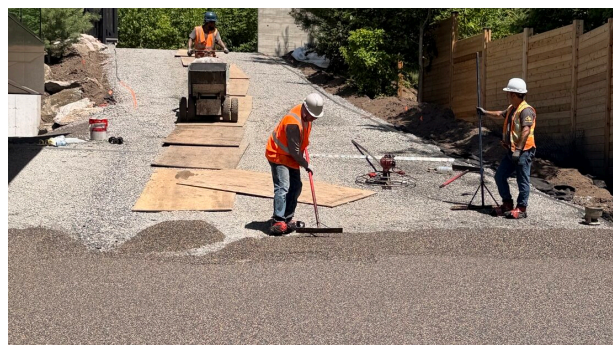
With 700m² of driveway to complete, sequencing mattered as much as material selection. Dream Pavé's crew mixed and laid the StoneSet wearing course on site, working systematically across the footprint to maintain a consistent finish, correct falls toward drainage points, and proper jointing throughout — all while keeping the 20mm Clear Stone base undisturbed and free-draining beneath. The entire installation, from base confirmation through to the finished, trafficable surface, was completed in 4 working days.

This is where Dream Pavé's experience really shows. Resin bound paving is a hand-laid trade — mixing ratios, working time, ambient temperature and even how a trowel is drawn across the surface all affect the finished result. Compressed timelines on a project of this size leave very little room for error, and Dream Pavé's crews have built exactly the kind of repetition and site discipline needed to hit that mark consistently, project after project, across some of Ontario's toughest sites and seasons.

As Ontario's most experienced resin bound paving installer, Dream Pavé doesn't just apply the StoneSet system — they engineer around it, adapting base preparation, drainage detailing and installation sequencing to suit everything from lakeside cottages to commercial developments across the province. This driveway is a clear demonstration of that capability: a large-scale, fully permeable, freeze-thaw resilient pavement, delivered on time, and built to perform through decades of Canadian winters.



Dream Pavé's crew shaping the curved path sections ahead of final grading and planting.



Hand-finishing the StoneSet wearing course to a smooth, consistent surface.



The finished entrance, where the StoneSet driveway ties seamlessly into the property's gated stone and steel entryway.

Performance Benefits

- Fully permeable wearing course with a drainage flow rate of 60 litres per m², per second
 - P5 (V) slip resistance, exceeding the minimum wet pendulum benchmark for pedestrian and vehicular safety
 - Approximately 13% void content, reducing surface ponding and minimising ice-sheet formation
 - Faster surface thaw following freeze events, helping reduce dependency on de-icing salt and mechanical ploughing
 - Flexible polyurethane binder, resistant to cracking and buckling through repeated freeze-thaw cycles
 - UV-stable, natural stone finish that will not yellow or discolour over time
 - Backed by Dream Pave's 5-Year Limited Warranty, with a 30+ Year Expected Lifespan for the StoneSet system
 - Installed by Dream Pave, StoneSet's dedicated Canadian distributor and installation partner
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About Dream Pave

Dream Pave is StoneSet's exclusive distribution and installation partner for Ontario, supplying and installing StoneSet resin bound paving systems across residential, commercial and municipal projects. With unrivalled hands-on experience installing resin bound surfaces in the Canadian climate, Dream Pave brings site-specific expertise in base preparation, drainage design and cold-weather installation practice to every project they deliver.

About StoneSet

StoneSet is a fully bound, fully permeable resin bound paving system used across driveways, footpaths, pool surrounds and public infrastructure. Engineered for high permeability, high slip resistance and long-term durability, StoneSet is designed to perform in the harshest environments — from coastal salt exposure to Canadian freeze-thaw cycles — while delivering a natural stone finish that lasts.