

HOUSING

Today crucial deadline for Cheyenne co-op

The group wanting to purchase the buildings had until today to arrange financing but it hasn't been approved yet.

By Julie Carl
The London Free Press

Months of work on a co-op housing proposal for Cheyenne Avenue in northeast London could go down the drain today if an extension on a deal to buy the properties isn't granted.

But that hasn't stopped the organizers from calling on London residents to flood the Ontario housing minister's office with postcards backing their \$9-million proposal and asking for provincial support.

Marnie Coulson of Community Homes of Southwestern Ontario said Tuesday the Cheyenne Tenants Association's deal to purchase the buildings at 75, 85, 95 and 105 Cheyenne Ave. currently closes Oct. 31 with conditions which must be met today. The association cannot meet the funding conditions because the proposal has not been approved by the housing ministry, she said.

In an attempt to speed up provincial approval, the tenants' group and others behind the

proposal are asking London residents for support. They have had 10,000 postcards printed in English and Cambodian supporting the co-op plan.

"We have run out of options (to solve the problem) except asking the people for help," said community outreach worker Susan Eagle. "We cannot change the need for better housing on Cheyenne so it seems we will have to change the rules."

TO GET POSTCARDS: Cards backing the Cheyenne Tenants Association proposal are available at the Cross Cultural Learner Centre, 617 Dundas St., the city's department of social services in the Market Tower building, and Community Homes of Southwestern Ontario, 73 King St.

Councillor Pat O'Brien, who represents Ward 3 where the apartments are located, suggested tenants ensure their message is not missed by taping a cockroach to their cards. "Lord knows we have enough of ... a supply of them," he said.