

CHEYENNE APARTMENTS

Tenants pay \$10,000 of \$18,584 hydro bill

The remainder owed by the landlord will be paid as the money comes into a trust fund, a community outreach worker says.

By Dahlia Reich
The London Free Press

A group of Londoners took unusual pleasure Friday in paying a hefty hydro bill.

In fact, paying the bill was a victory after a hard-fought battle for this group — tenants of 95 and 105 Cheyenne Ave. in northeast London.

The tenants dropped off \$10,000 in cash to the London Hydro-Electric Commission in

partial payment of an outstanding \$18,584 bill owed by their landlord, Elijah Elieff.

On Monday, the courts gave the tenants permission to pay their rent into a trust fund that would be used to pay the utility bill. Several tenants have paid into the fund since December with the hope the courts would allow them to pay the hydro-electric commission rather than Elieff.

The commission (formally the public utilities commission) had agreed not to cut off power before the courts decided on the matter.

Ted Power, manager of customer services at the hydro-electric commission, said the cash payment, brought in a money bag tightly wrapped with rope that had to be cut off, was the most unusual he has received.

The remainder of the bill will be paid as the money comes into the fund, said Susan Eagle,

a community outreach worker who helped the tenants in their court battle. The tenants have been fighting Elieff for years about poor living conditions and unpaid utility bills.

Last month, Union Gas Co. cut off heat to the apartment building because Elieff owed more than \$5,000. The Middlesex-London District Health Unit ordered the heat restored, leaving the health unit with the bill. It has since been paid by the city and health unit, which gave Elieff 60 days to come up with the money.

If he doesn't, the city and health unit will take legal action to recover the money.

Eagle said the tenants were keen to pay the utility bill Friday to show they were following through with their commitment to direct the trust fund to the hydro-electric commission.