

CHEYENNE APARTMENTS

Maligned tenants defended as responsible and nice people

The landlord 'should be made to live in his own bloody disgusting mess,' says the superintendent of a neighboring building.

By Alison Uncles
The London Free Press

The superintendent of an apartment building next to 95 and 105 Cheyenne Ave. says it's not fair her neighbors have to "live in a pigsty."

"It's disgusting over there," said

Jude Hammond, who has lived at 85 Cheyenne Ave. for five years. Several residents of Hammond's building also said they felt lucky they didn't have to live next door.

Elijah Elieff, owner of 95 and 105 Cheyenne, was fined \$6,000 last week for not making all the repairs ordered to the buildings in

1987. He was given 15 days to pay but has said he won't. Earlier this year he paid fines totalling \$1,000 for failing to make repairs ordered in 1988.

Elieff said last week the Asian tenants in his buildings are "like little pigs."

Hammond disagrees.

HUMAN BEINGS: "Those people are completely responsible," she said Saturday. "Why can't they live like human beings rather than live in a pigsty that's not their fault?"

"What he's saying is way out of line. . . . I think he should be made to live in his own bloody disgusting mess for a month."

Hammond, who joined her neighbors last week in picketing Elieff's Dundas Street business, said two families from the adjacent buildings have moved into her building since September.

She said her neighbors sometimes lack hot water or operational washing machines and use showers or laundry facilities in her building.

HEARING TUESDAY: City building and health inspectors are to tour

the buildings today. A property standards hearing will be held Tuesday.

Elieff refused to comment.

Alderman Pat O'Brien, whose ward includes the Cheyenne Avenue buildings, said "most of the people (in the community) realize this problem has existed for a number of years, long before the Cambodian tenants arrived."

"As homeowners, (people in the community are) concerned about the calibre of the buildings because unfortunately they're a bit of an eyesore on . . . Huron Village, which is a well-kept subdivision except for those buildings."

Jerry Hickey, 68, has lived at 95 Cheyenne since 1982. Now he spends most of his time at a friend's apartment in Hammond's building. He makes it clear it's the building's state of disrepair that has driven him away, not his neighbors.

"I don't see anyone that doesn't speak to me. As far as I can see they're nice people. . . . Even some of the older people who don't speak English, they bow when we pass in the halls. They're really nice people. They'll do anything for you."