

The London Free Press

Established 1849

PUBLISHED BY LONDON FREE PRESS PRINTING COMPANY LIMITED
A BLACKBURN GROUP INC. COMPANY
369 York St., London, Ontario, Canada P.O. Box 2280, N6A 4G1
Telephone (519) 679-1111

FRIDAY, Nov. 6, 1992

James E. Armitage, President & Associate Publisher
Philip R. McLeod, Editor

Patrick J. Collins, Director of Operations and Systems
Diny E. Dalby, Director of Communications
Ken Kawall, Director of Marketing

John L. Loebach, Director of Human Resources
Ian M. Pittendreigh, Director of Engineering
G. Wayne Smith, Director of Advertising

Tony Bembridge, Executive Editor
Helen Connell, Associate Editor
Mary Nesbitt, Associate Editor

Josiah Blackburn—Publisher 1853-1890 Walter Josiah Blackburn—Publisher 1890-1920
Arthur S. Blackburn—Publisher 1920-1935 Walter J. Blackburn—Publisher 1936-1983
Martha Grace Blackburn—Publisher 1984-1992

OUR OPINION

Sewage haunts tenants at Cheyenne apartments

No one should have to live in an open sewer. That's what has happened, however, to some tenants of 105 Cheyenne Ave. in London, who found excrement, toilet paper and sanitary napkins floating from the building's laundry room earlier this week.

Only when faced with the possibility he could be charged under the provincial Health Protection and Promotion Act did landlord Elijah Elieff take action and have the blockage cleared.

When told of the problem, Elieff had directed tenants and representatives from the Middlesex-London health unit to community worker Susan Eagle for redress. He told Eagle and a health unit official he didn't think the mess was his

The fact the buildings may soon be someone else's responsibility is no excuse for a continued pattern of neglect.

responsibility because the tenants are trying to get the apartment building and three others converted to co-op housing.

Elieff, however, is still the registered owner and responsible for the building's upkeep.

This is not the first time the health unit has been called to the Cheyenne apartments. A year ago, an order to spray for cockroaches was issued. The unit re-inspected the apartments in February and May, only to find the work hadn't been done.

In the most recent case involving the raw sewage, the health unit had two options: charge him under the act if he didn't comply within 24 hours or have the work done and bill him.

London city council also agreed to send in crews if city engineer John Jardine and medical officer of health Doug Pudden deemed it necessary.

Neither body should be deterred from prosecuting Elieff to the fullest extent of the law or from moving in immediately and cleaning up the mess.

The fact the buildings may soon be someone else's responsibility is no excuse for a continued pattern of neglect. Perhaps the only way to reach Elieff is through his wallet.

So far, it's the tenants who are paying the price. Their health and well-being should be worth more than unfulfilled promises.