

## CHEYENNE APARTMENTS

# Managers, tenants trade charges

By Rob McKenzie  
and Ron Steele

*The London Free Press*

An apartment building at 88 Cheyenne Ave., hit by flooding earlier this month, continues to be awash in controversy.

As health inspectors examined the 54-unit block in northeast London Thursday, the building's husband-and-wife management team spoke of their efforts to keep the place clean and blamed tenants for conditions.

But present and former residents weren't ready to take the blame.

Doug and Marie Dawe have lived in the Corinthian Apartments at 84, 86 and 88 Cheyenne

for 17 years, and managed for two years. Earlier this month, more than 20 tenants evacuated 88 Cheyenne because of water flooding through the roof.

"You could put everyone in that building in Buckingham Palace and it would look like that (88 Cheyenne) in two days," Marie said as she swept the lobby of 86 Cheyenne.

Doug Dawe, interviewed as he escorted Middlesex-London health unit inspector Don Sullivan along the ground floor of 88 Cheyenne, said "It's the tenants' faults. It's not us."

He said "they damaged the apartment."

Tenant Lila Purves disagrees with the Dawes' contentions.

"I don't know any (neighbor) who damages the building. I think the damage is done by people from outside the building." Former tenant Barry Beechman described his stay at 88 Cheyenne as "horrible."

He said the building has structural damage, the roof and windows leak. He said his neighbors were alcoholics and there were fights and attempted suicides.

He moved less than a year ago after two years as a tenant.

Health inspector Walter Long said he and two other inspectors will report their findings today. The findings will be sent by the health unit to city hall, where it will be decided whether to take court action.