



701 Main Street West, Suite 101 Hamilton, Ontario L8S 1A2 Tel (905) 540-8800 Fax (905) 540-4450 Toll Free 1 800-999-7419 Email: info@wilconblanchard.com

Email: info@wilsonblanchard.com Web: www.wilsonblanchard.com



November 25, 2011

Horizon Utilities PO Box 2249 STN LCD 1 Hamilton, ON L8N 3E4

Re: Wentworth Condominium Corporation No. 38

<u>Excessive Water/Sewer Billing</u>

As manager of the above noted property, I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors for the property at 11 Harrisford Street, Hamilton, ON, Account number: 410719-001.

We recently received a bill for this account for the period of August 26 to October 27. In addition to the anticipated amount of \$7,957.84, we were shocked to see an amount of a Prior Balance of \$48,935.93. Our account administrator, Shelley Merklinger, immediately called to question this amount. She spoke to a supervisor who gave her the following information.

She was advised that the reading for the billing date of April 22 to June 29 was noted as being excessively high and they assumed the meter had been read incorrectly, so they estimated the bill.

The June 29 to August 26 reading was apparently again excessively high, so again an estimate was billed. We were told that after that reading, someone checked the meter to see that it was working correctly.

I followed up with another supervisor, Kathy, the following day to get the same response. Kathy did advise me that she was forwarding this to the billing department so in the future these issues would be dealt with immediately to avoid such incidents. This tells me that Horizon Utilities has an obligation to advise their customers of any unusual readings.

We did discover in October, by chance when we heard water apparently running into a sanitary sewer, that there was a broken line coming from the hydrant on site. We immediately took steps to have the line repaired.

Our concern is the responsibility of the excessive billing we are now faced with. It is our opinion that Horizon Utilities has an obligation to provide us with accurate readings. If the first reading was in question, Horizon Utilities should have billed the reading out and checked the meter immediately. At that time we would have investigated and found the leak which would have ultimately prevented further excessive charges from accumulating. Rather, this excessive use charge was allowed to continue because the readings we were provided with did not accurately reflect the actual consumption. From at least April 22 to October, when we discovered and had the line repaired, we were being billed for water and sewer that was not being consumed when this could have been addressed in June.

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85 (c.gd) programme (g. 1905) 708 (c.44) A full three months of wasted water is being charged to the Corporation, which could have been avoided had we been given the proper information in June.

I would appreciate hearing back from a principal officer of Horizon Utilities regarding this matter and a resolution to this. We would expect that Horizon Utilities has an obligation to their customers to provide regular accurate readings.

Respectfully Yours, Wilson Blanchard Management Inc.

Dianne Gordon Property Manager

On behalf of the Board of Directors of WCC #38



December 7, 2011

Wentworth Cond Corp #38 Cannon Wilson Blanchard Mgmt Inc 101-701 Main St W Hamilton ON L8S 1A2

Dear Dianne:

### Re: Account No. 410719-001, 11 Harrisford St, Hamilton

This letter is in reference to your correspondence dated November 25<sup>th</sup> and our telephone conversation on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

The following will outline what transpired on the account and the resolution. On June 29, a meter reader was at the above location to obtain a meter reading. The reader inadvertently entered the reading from the low end of the water meter twice; subsequently, there was no reading entered for the high end of the water meter. The incorrect reading triggered the high end read to be estimated based on previous usages and an estimated bill was generated.

When the reader was at the location two months later on August 29, actual readings from the high and low end of the meter were obtained. When these two readings were analyzed through the system, the resulting variance report revealed extremely high usage. A service request was then initiated to validate the integrity of the previous reads. This service request had not been completed at the time the bill was produced and the invoice was issued with a second estimated reading. When the service request was received by our office and the readings were confirmed, the account was adjusted for \$48,935.93 to reflect the high usage that registered on the meter. A payment arrangement is currently in place to assist you in the remittance of the adjusted amount.

June 29	19020 High 56628 Low	15,320 m3 3,923 m3
August 29	25530 High 60169 Low	6,510 m3 3,541 M3

The Supervisor of Meter Reading and the Manager of our Billing Department have both reviewed their policies and procedures and we have completed re-training of our employees to ensure that this type of error does not happen again.

Horizon Utilities Corporation strives to provide our customers with accurate readings and invoices. We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused and thank you for bringing this to our attention. If you should have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Shelley Parker

Director, Customer Service Horizon Utilities Corporation

905-521-4909

Horizon Utilities Corporation Customer Services Department 55 John Street North, Hamilton, ON L8N 3M8 – (905) 522-9200 340 Vansickle Road, St.Catharines, ON L2R 6P7 – (905) 984-8961 Mail to: PO Box 2249 STN LCD 1, Hamilton, ON L8N 3E4

Fax: 1-866-731-0451





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December 13, 2011

Horizon Utilities PO Box 2249 STN LCD 1 Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3E4

Re: Wentworth Condominium Corporation No. 38
11 Harrisford Street, Hamilton, ON
Excessive Water/Sewer Billing - Response to your letter of December 7, 2011

Thank you for your response to our concern regarding the above-mentioned Condominium Corporation.

Your response is similar to the verbal responses we had received from two different supervisors when we initially received the water bill.

This does not explain why Horizon Utilities can not assume part of the responsibility. Are they not obligated to provide their customers with accurate and timely readings for their billings?

While this is of some comfort to know that procedures are in place to prevent this from happening again, it does not solve our issue.

I contend that had we been billed in April, according to your reading, we could have prevented further loss and unreasonable costs for the unit owners of this Corporation.

We feel we must take this issue further and communicate with the regulatory board or utility commission. It is not acceptable for Horizon Utilities to expect payment in full, as the situation would not have gone on so long if we had been provided with a proper reading in April.

The Corporation was given the option to pay this in two installments but even the installment is equal to more than three times the regular amount payable.

I trust that Horizon Utilities will again review this and accept responsibility and adjust the billing.

Respectfully Yours,

Wilson Blanchard Management Inc.

Dianne Gordon

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Property Manager

On behalf of the Board of Directors of WCC # 38



Horizon Utilities Corporation PO Box 2249 STN LCD 1, Hamilton, ON L8N 3E4 www.horizonutilities.com

Questions? See reverse for contact information.

### Your Bill

Billing Period For Apr 22, 2011 To Jun 29, 2011

WILL BE WITHDRAWN ON OR AFTER Aug 05, 2011

Your Water/Sewer Charges

Water Usage Charges Sewer Usage Charges \$4,883.10 \$4,883.10

Total Water And Sewer Charges

\$9,766.20

Prior Balance

\$0.00

Total Amount You Owe

\$9,766.20

WENT COND CORP #38 CANNON

Account Number: 410719-001

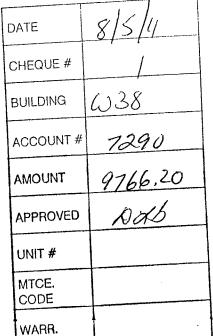
Service Address: 11 HARRISFORD ST HAMILTON ON

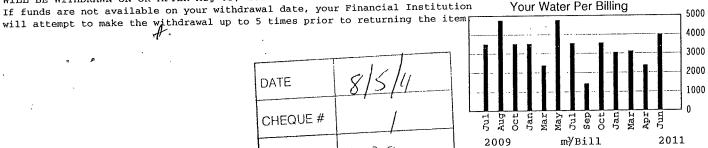
Date Your Bill Was Prepared:

Jul 15,2011

Thank You For Your Payment:

\$6,172.00





Historical Usage	This Year	Last Year
Water-m <sup>3</sup> /day	58.43	. 58.98

Conservation Tip

Toilets can drain your finances! A silent leak in a toilet can waste up to 45 litres of water per hour equaling 394,200 litres of water a year. That would cost \$887.74!

MOST LEAKS ARE EASY TO LOCATE AND INEXPENSIVE TO REPAIR. A WATER LEAK OF 1 DROP PER SECOND WASTES 10,000 LITRES OR 10 CUBIC METERS OF WATER PER YEAR.

HERE ARE A FEW INTERESTING FACTS REGARDING YOUR WATER BILL:

1 CUBIC METER (M3) OF WATER EQUALS 1000 LITRES
1 CUBIC METER (M3) OF WATER EQUALS 220 GALLONS
Next Scheduled Reading Date is tentatively set for Aug 26, 2011

Please see reverse side for further information. Amount owing after the due date is subject to interest @ 19.56% per year.

## Web Information Did you know you can sign up to view your bills on our website? To apply for access please go to www.horizonutilities.com/apply

Your Usac	e For This F	Period							Rate Class:	Commercial
	Meter Number	Meter Type	Reading Is An	Number Of Days	Reading At Start Of Period	Reading At End Of Period	Multiplien	Measured Usage	Adjustment Pactor	Adjusted Usage
Water Wtr Aux	570110024 570110024	0150 0150	Estimate Estimate	68 68	3700 52705	3750 56628	1.0	50.00 3923.00		



Horizon Utilities Corporation PO Box 2249 STN LCD 1, Hamilton, ON L8N 3E4 www.horizonutilities.com

Questions? See reverse for contact information.

### Your Bill

Billing Period For Jun 29, 2011 To Aug 26, 2011

Your Water/Sewer Charges

Water Usage Charges Sewer Usage Charges \$4,452.97 \$4,452.97

Total Water And Sewer Charges

\$8,905.94

Prior Balance

\$0.00

### WENT COND CORP #38 CANNON

Account Number: 410719-001

Service Address: 11 HARRISFORD ST HAMILTON ON

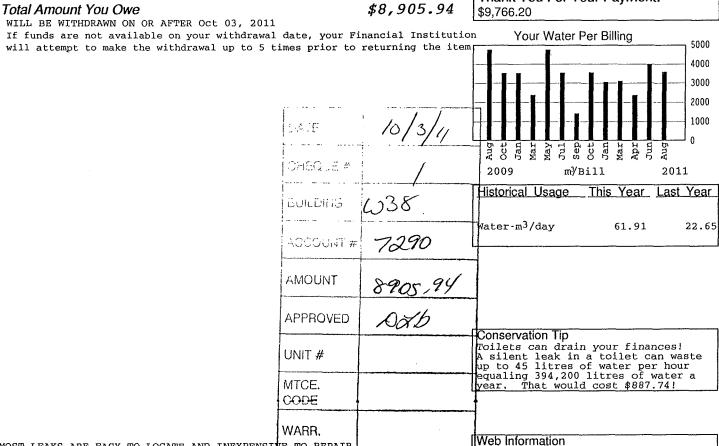
Date Your Bill Was Prepared:

Sep 13,2011

Thank You For Your Payment:

Did you know you can sign up to view your bills on our website?

To apply for access please go to www.horizonutilities.com/apply



MOST LEAKS ARE EASY TO LOCATE AND INEXPENSIVE TO REPAIR A WATER LEAK OF 1 DROP PER SECOND WASTES 10,000 LITRES OR 10 CUBIC METERS OF WATER PER YEAR.

HERE ARE A FEW INTERESTING FACTS REGARDING YOUR WATER BILL:

1 CUBIC METER (M3) OF WATER EQUALS 1000 LITRES 1 CUBIC METER (M3) OF WATER EQUALS 220 GALLONS Next Scheduled Reading Date is tentatively set for Oct 27, 2011

Please see reverse side for further information.

Amount owing after the due date is subject to interest @ 19.56% per year.

Your Usag	ge For This F	Period							Rate Class:	Commercial
	Meter Number	Meter Type	Reading Is An		Reading At Start Of Period	Reading At End Of Period	Multiplier	Measured Usage	Adjustment Factor	Adjusted Usage
Water	570110024	0150	Estimate	58	3750	3800	1.0	50.00		
Wtr Aux	570110024	0150	Estimate	58	56628	60169	1.0	3541.00		



Your Bill

Billing Period For Aug 26, 2011 To Oct 27, 2011

Your Water/Sewer Charges

Water Usage Charges Sewer Usage Charges

Total Water And Sewer Charges

\$7,957.84

Prior Balance

*\$56,893.77* 

Total Amount You Owe

WILL BE WITHDRAWN ON OR AFTER Dec 01, 2011

If funds are not available on your withdrawal date, your Financial Institution will attempt to make the withdrawal up to 5 times prior to returning the item

\$3,978.92 \$3,978,92

\$48,935.93

HAMILTON ON Date Your Bill Was Prepared: Nov 11,2011 Thank You For Your Payment: \$8,905.94 Your Water Per Billing 5000

PO Box 2249 STN LCD 1, Hamilton, ON L8N 3E4

Questions? See reverse for contact information.

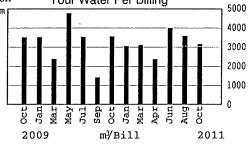
WENT COND CORP #38 CANNON

Account Number: 410719-001

Horizon Utilities Corporation

www.horizonutilities.com

Service Address: 11 HARRISFORD ST



Historical Usage	This Year	Last Year
Water-m <sup>3</sup> /day	51.13	63.66

CHEQUE # BUILDING ACCOUNT # **AMOUNT** APPROVED UNIT# MTCE. CODE WARR.

Conservation Tip

Find out if you have a silent toilet leak. Put a few drops of food colouring in the toilet tank, wait 15 min. If the toilet bowl changes colour, you've got a leak!

\*\*\*\*IF YOUR PRIOR BALANCE IS PAST DUE, THE DUE DATE ON THIS INVOICE DOES NOT APPLY TO YOUR PRIOR BALANCE, PLEASE REFER TO YOUR INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE NOTICE. \*\*\*\*

Web Information

Did you know you can sign up to view your bills on our website?
To apply for access please go to www.horizonutilities.com/apply

### Next Scheduled Reading Date is tentatively set for Dec 30, 2011

Please see reverse side for further information. Amount owing after the due date is subject to interest @ 19.56% per year.

Your Usa	ge For This F	Period							Rate Class:	Commercial
	Meter Number	Meter Type	Reading Is An	Number Of Days	Reading At Start Of Period	Reading At End Of Period	Multiplier	Measured Usage	Adjustment Factor	Adjusted Usage
Water	570110024	0150	Actual	62	25530	25580	1.0	50.00		
Wtr Aux	570110024	0150	Actual	62	60169	63289	1.0	3120.00		

Ww.

# GROVES LIMITED

800 Rennie et
Telephone: 905.546-..17
Facsimile: 905.545-5318
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 3474, LCD # 4
Hamilton, Ontario L8H 7M1
www.wmgroves.com

INVOICE

J067915

NUMBER

Oct 21/11

INVOICE DATE

W.C.C. #38 / 11 Harrisford Drive c/o Wilson Blanchard Mgmnt #101 - 701 Main Street West HAMILTON, Ontario L8S 1A2

NOTATION:

11 Harrisford Drive, Hamilton Emergency Watermain Repair in Parking Area

Attn: Dianne Gordon, PM

Page 1

Reference # WM Repair Sls Cat / Slsm OTHER/HSE

Job Number G2011 Wm. Groves Limited 2011 Our GST/BN No. BN 10572 5592

Description

Qty

Unit Price

Amount

G2011 Emergency services provided to excavate and repair 6" watermain located in the parking area, backfill with granular material, compact and place cold mix asphalt, all work as directed.

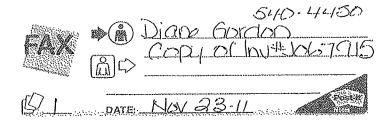
August 10, 2011 Services Rendered

LS

1.00 @

\$4,275.00

4,275.00



T E R M S : NET DUE AND PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT OF INVOICE; 2% INTEREST PER MONTH, 24% PER ANNUM, ON ALL OVERDUE ACCOUNTS.

Subtotal HST 4,275.00 555.75

Total

4,830.75

Municipal • Industrial • Domestic • Construction and Repairs

Waterworks Sewers Concrete Equipment Rentals

