

October 2, 2020

Report To: Travis Rob, P.Eng., Manager of Operations & Facilities

From: Craig Miller, P.Eng., Environmental Superintendent

SUBJECT: Sewer Rooting – Request for Reimbursement

The Town has received requests from Ms. Shelly Ducharme (225 Third Street West) and Ms. Lauris Werenko (807 Fourth Street East) for reimbursement of sewer rooting that they had done. The invoice for 225 Third Street West is \$325 + \$42.25 HST for a total bill of \$367.25. The invoice for 807 Fourth Street East is \$310 + \$40.30 HST for a total bill of \$350.30.

The invoice for Third Street West does not indicate the location of the blockage or the cause of the blockage. The invoice for Fourth Street East indicates that the blockage was 85 to 90 feet from the cleanout in the house.

In both instances, the property owners had initially requested rooting services from the Town. Due to Covid-19 work restrictions, Town employees were not entering private buildings for work, including sewer rooting. Because of the Covid-19 work restrictions, we had been referring work out to local plumbers.

Town Bylaw 06/16 speaks to sewer blockages caused by tree roots, as follows:

2.6 Blockage - tree roots - liability

Where a sewer service blockage is caused by tree roots and the tree is located on Town property, the Town may assume liability for costs involved in clearing such blockage. Where the tree is located on private property and causes the blockage of a sewer service then the Owner of the property shall be liable for all of the cost involved in clearing the blockage. The Engineer shall be the sole judge of the location of the problem and as to whether or not the Owner is to be charged with any of the cost.

2.19 Maintenance responsibility - service lateral - building sewer - charges When authorized by the property Owner the Town will perform maintenance work with respect to cleaning of the service lateral and/or building sewer only. The Owner or Authorized representative of the Owner shall give the Town written authorization to perform such work by executing the appropriate Work Requisition form. The charge for maintenance services shall be determined as follows:

- a) A minimum service charge as outlined in the current Town's User Fee By-law will be charged to the Owner for maintenance services.

- b) Where it is determined by the Town that the location of the obstruction is on the Owner's property all charges incurred, less the minimum service charge shall be paid by the Owner.
- c) Where it is determined by the Town that the location of the obstruction is on the Town's property. This only applies to normal service laterals, property line to main (normally approximately ten (10) metres or thirty-three (33) feet) and not those made under special agreement with the Town. The Town may assume all costs for maintenance services to clear the blockage, except for the minimum service charge.
- d) Where it is discovered that the service obstruction is the direct result of a person(s) discharging or depositing items, i.e. female hygiene products, paper towels, etc. other than those deemed normal every day usage, regardless of the location of the obstruction (Owner's or Town's property), the Owner shall be responsible for the costs of the work done to clear the obstruction.

When the Town's employees perform sewer rooting services, the following charges may be incurred (all based on work being done during normal working hours):

Minimum Charges (regardless of where the blockage is): \$26.50

Minimum Charge if blockage is on owner's property or owner is at fault: \$117.40 per hour. (A typical sewer rooting is a one-hour charge).

The town does not charge HST on sewer rooting work.

The Town adapted to the Covid-19 pandemic in March and imposed work restrictions to ensure the safety of Town employees. Not entering private buildings for sewer work was one of the restrictions implemented. Unfortunately, this restriction has meant that the Town has not been able to offer sewer rooting services unless the property has an outdoor cleanout.

Because the work was completed by private contractors, we cannot validate the location of the blockage, if any foreign materials were found or if roots were also encountered on the property owner's side of the property line.

Both properties have some history of plugged sewers, but not a significant amount.

The Fourth Street East property does have trees on the boulevard on the town side. It is also of note that Ms. Werenko had called the Town requesting services and we referred her out. On the same day that she had her work completed privately, the town had resumed working on plugged sewers.

Google Street View pictures are attached of both properties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Craig Miller', is positioned above a faint yellow rectangular stamp.

Craig Miller, P.Eng.
Environmental Superintendent

Attached:

- Invoice from Ms. Ducharme
- Imaging of 225 Third Street West
- Property File information – 225 Third Street West
- Invoice from Ms. Werenko
- Imaging of 807 Fourth Street East
- Property File information – 807 Fourth Street East

2491570 Ontario Limited o/a JD Plumbing Solution INVOICE

RMB 79 - RR#1
Fort Frances, Ontario P9A 3M2

Invoice No : 2161
Date: 08/21/2020
Ship Date
Page: 1
Re. Order No

Sold to:

Ducharme, Ray
225 Third St W
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3A6

Ship to:

Ducharme, Ray
225 Third St W
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3A6

Business No.: 796804490

Item No.	Unit	Quantity	Description	Tax	Unit Price	Amount
			Plugged Sewer			
		1	Minimum Charge for Labour & Roto Router H K750		325.00	325.00
			Subtotal:			325.00
			H - HST 13% GST/HST			42.25
Shipped By						Total Amount 367.25
Tracking Number:						Amount Paid 0.00
Comment: Balance Due Upon Receipt. Thank You for your Business. Email JD.Plumbing@hotmail.com						Amount Owning 367.25
Sold By:						

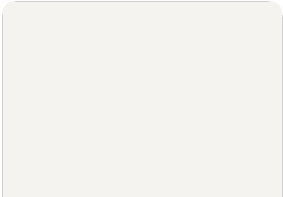


Image capture: Oct 2018 © 2020 Google

Fort Frances, Ontario



Street View



MAINTENANCE RECORD

ADDRESS: 225 THIRD STREET West

[illegible]

Andy Peters Plumbing & Heating

1336 Colonization Road West
Fort Frances, Ontario P9A 2T8
807-274-5169

INVOICE

Invoice No 6075
Date Sep 26, 2020
Ship Date:
Page 1
Re. Order No

Sold to:

Werenko, Lauris
807 Fourth Street East
Fort Frances, Ontario
P9A 1T3

Ship to:

Werenko, Lauris
Fort Frances, Ontario

Business No.: 859903866RT0001

Item No.	Unit	Quantity	Description	Tax	Unit Price	Amount
		2	rob labour unplug sewer	H	70.00	140.00
		2	Andy labour unplugging sewer	H	50.00	100.00
		1	Snake rental belluz	H	70.00	70.00
			Ran sewer snake through line twice to get unplugged. Found blockage at 85-90 Feet from cleanout in house			
			H - HST 13% harmonized sales tax			40.30
			HST			
Andy Peters Plumbing & Heating HST #859903866						
Shipped By: Tracking Number:						
Terms: Net 15 Due Oct 11, 2020.						
Comment: PLEASE PAY ON RECEIPT OF INVOICE Interest 2% mo (24% annum)						
Sold By:						
Total Amount						350.30

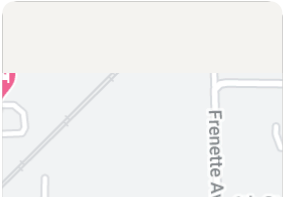


Image capture: Jun 2012 © 2020 Google

Fort Frances, Ontario



Street View



[illegible]

ADDRESS: _____

807 FOURTH STREET EAST

[illegible]