

November 7, 1934.

Henry Roper, Sr.,  
The Brookfield Construction Company,  
Halifax,  
Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Roper:

For the second time in a year the cellar of my house has been flooded to a depth of six inches and in each case I have been put to a great deal of inconvenience. I have lived in many houses and this has never occurred. I do not know why it does occur in your house, but, whatever the reason, there must be a way to prevent it, and I request that you do so at once.

On the first occasion I was told that the water backed up through a pipe or through a hole in the floor through which the sewer pipe enters. It may be necessary to have this hole in the cellar floor and to have soil uncemented around the pipes, but if so it should be possible to have a grating through which water which does enter could flow out. Incidentally it seems to me that the water is entering around the foundation of the house particularly at the back where the ground around the foundation has sunk several inches.

To add to my annoyance, caused by the flooding of the cellar for the second time, the plumber whom your son sent, opened the sewer to let the water out and by this morning nine-tenths of the water has gone but the cellar floor still has water all over it. By reason of the sewer pipe being left open my family was thrown into complete consternation this morning by reason of the appearance of a sewer rat half the size of a small cat and which was only killed after considerable difficulty.

It is not my habit to complain unless there is a perfectly good reason for it, but I do expect a firm of your reputation to take whatever measures may be necessary to see that this thing cannot occur again.

Yours truly,

VCM/EM.

# THE BROOKFIELD CONSTRUCTION Co.

LIMITED

## BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS

ESTABLISHED  
1860

TELEPHONE, SACK 31  
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CABLE ADDRESS  
'BROOKFIELD'  
CODES A.B.C. & A.I.  
WESTERN UNION

*Halifax, N.S.* November 10th. 1934

Prof. Vincent MacDonald  
Dean of the Dalhousie Law School.,  
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Mr. MacDonald;-

I have your letter of November 7th. and I am extremely sorry that you have had to put up with water running into your basement. You write that you have lived in many houses and this has never occurred before. It has never occurred to me either. There are dozens of houses in the best parts of the City that have been flooded by the last storm. Really in regard to stopping the water coming into a basement is beyond all control. The condition of your house is rather peculiar because you are suffering from the downspouts of all the houses on Jennings Street running down over the slope. As you know there is no sewer on Jennings Street. I have been to see the City Engineer about this matter, he told me that he could not force them to connect their downspouts until a sewer has been laid. However, we will do our best and have arranged to have a pump installed the same as in the adjoining house. This will take charge of any water that comes in through the walls or up under the floor of the cellar.

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I cannot understand how a rat got into your cellar through a 4" trap and as you know these traps are always filled with water. I had one of these unwelcome visitors in my cellar but I think it came in through a window or was brought there with vegetables or some other shipment of food. I do not think it possible for it to pass through a 4" pipe.

We are very sorry that the matter has happened but you will readily understand that we have no control over the storms and that the will of God is beyond our jurisdiction.

After the plumber has installed the pump, I will call out and see you.

Yours very truly,

