

## **The Effect of Increased Electricity Prices on Valentine Hydrotherapy Pools Inc.**

Valentine Hydrotherapy Pools Incorporated (VHP) is a registered charity that has served the community for over 50 years. It has four pools, three of which are heated by a combination of solar and gas heating. The heated pools include one hydrotherapy pool, a 15 m pool and a 25 m pool.

The hydrotherapy pool is a facility for the disabled and the rehabilitation of injured people. The 15 m pool is also an hydrotherapy pool for the slightly more able and is used for toddler water safety training, learn to swim classes for smaller children as well as for aquarobics classes for mostly seniors. The 25 m pool is a public pool which is also used for swimming classes as well as the training of special Olympians.

VHP is a significant user of electricity and, unlike domestic consumers, has its account divided into a number of categories including energy charges, market charges, metering charges, environmental charges and network charges. Our previous electricity contract dated from March 2014 and this was replaced by a new contract in June 2017.

The new contract based on our January 2017 account details shows an increase in our bill of 43.55% when the new rates are applied. These new rates were based on a new three year contract. If we had accepted the best available one year contract there would have been an increase of 64.39%.

Even more disturbing than these horrific figures were those for energy charges which showed an increase of 151.91% for the three year contract or an increase of 225.12% for a one year contract. For further details see the attached table.

Neville Thomas BSc(Eng)

(Hon) Treasurer

Valentine Hydrotherapy Pools Inc.