

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

9. BASIC AND DILUTED NET EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS

	2008	2007
Net earnings from continuing operations	\$ 645	\$ 374
Prescribed dividends on preferred shares in share capital	(47)	(57)
Net earnings from continuing operations available to common shareholders	\$ 598	\$ 317
Weighted average common shares outstanding (in millions) (note 23)	129.1	129.1
Dilutive effect of stock-based compensation (in millions) ⁽¹⁾		
Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding (in millions) ⁽²⁾	129.1	129.1
Basic and diluted net earnings per common share from continuing operations (\$)	\$ 4.63	\$ 2.46

- (1) The following stock options were outstanding but were not included in the computation of diluted net earnings per common share from continuing operations as the exercise prices for these options were greater than the average market prices of GWL's common shares for the year:

Option exercise price	2008	2007
\$72.21 – \$78.85	681,908	773,195
\$93.35 – \$111.02	621,274	665,540

- (2) GWL's capital securities are excluded as the Company intends to redeem such securities in cash.