

06-118

For Immediate Release
November 2, 2006

BANNERMAN CONTRACTING LIMITED FINED \$50,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

WOODSTOCK, Ont. – Bannerman Contracting Limited, a Kincardine, Ont.-based company that is mainly involved in aggregate crushing, washing, screening and trucking in southwestern Ontario, was fined \$50,000 on November 1, 2006 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in serious injuries to an employee at a gravel pit near Woodstock.

On September 9, 2005, a worker was on top of the belt on a conveyor greasing head pulleys when the belt unexpectedly started moving and carried the worker over the conveyor's top end causing the worker to fall to the ground. Prior to the incident, the worker had been helping to reposition and set up equipment used to process "aggregate" (rock). The incident occurred at a gravel pit at 944969 Clark Road in the Township of South-West Oxford, just south of Woodstock.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found a second worker energized the conveyor while the first worker was on top of it. The second worker did this so the wheels could be turned to finalize the conveyor's positioning. However, this caused the belt to move and the first worker to fall.

Bannerman Contracting Limited pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure all energy-isolating devices were properly engaged, locked and tagged out before the worker began greasing the head pulleys, as required by Section 185(7) of the Regulations for Mines and Mining Plants. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace F. Michael McMahon of the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock. In addition, the court imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

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Court Information at a Glance

Location:	Ontario Court of Justice 415 Hunter Street, Courtroom 4 Woodstock, Ontario
Judge:	Justice of the Peace F. Michael McMahon
Date / Time:	November 1, 2006, 10 a.m.
Defendant:	Bannerman Contracting Limited
Matter:	Occupational Health & Safety

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