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For Immediate Release
April 3, 2006

BEST WAY STONE LIMITED FINED \$95,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

NEWMARKET, Ont. – Best Way Stone Limited, a Woodbridge, Ont.-based manufacturer of decorative brick stones used primarily for landscaping, was fined \$95,000 on March 31, 2006 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in the death of a young employee.

On December 7, 2004, a labourer was working alone on a conveyor line and was placing a plastic protective covering on a stack of bricks in preparation for shipping when the labourer became trapped between a moving hoist line and the brick stack. The labourer was dragged partway on top of the brick stack and died after suffering a blow to the head and a crushing injury. Just prior to the incident the labourer had managed to bypass an electronic beam which, when disrupted, would shut down the moving hoist line. Normal practice when entering the area was to walk through the beam in order to shut down movement. The incident occurred at the company's plant at 8821 Weston Road in Woodbridge.

A Ministry of Labour investigation was unable to determine why or how the labourer bypassed the electronic beam because there were no witnesses to the incident. However, tests confirmed the beam was functioning properly.

Best Way Stone Limited pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to instruct and supervise the worker in order to prevent entry into the danger zone of the hoist line's moving mechanism. This was contrary to Section 25(2)(a) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace Linda Hefkey of the Ontario Court of Justice in Newmarket. 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
453 Davis Drive, Courtroom T-2
Newmarket, Ontario

Judge: Justice of the Peace Linda Hefkey

Date / Time: March 31, 2006, 1:30 p.m.

Defendant: Best Way Stone Limited

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

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