

**For Immediate Release
June 14, 2006**

SUMMER CAMP OWNER FINED \$1,500 FOR VIOLATING THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

BRACEBRIDGE — A summer camp owner has been fined \$1,500, plus a victim fine surcharge (VFS), after pleading guilty to violating the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Camp Agudath is located at 3793 Muskoka Road, 118 West, Port Carling, in the District of Muskoka.

The drinking water systems for the camp are classified as non-municipal seasonal residential systems, serving designated facilities, and fall under Ontario Regulation 170/03.

The Court heard that on August 7, 2004, the Ministry of the Environment received a report from the Muskoka-Parry Sound Health Unit that indicated that *e. coli* and total coliform bacteria had been detected in samples collected from one of the systems at the camp. On August 10, 2004, in response to the adverse water sample, Provincial Officers from the ministry, accompanied by representatives from the Camp, conducted a follow-up inspection of the system.

The Court was told that during the inspection the officers reviewed the log book maintained by the Director, who was trained to operate the system. The Director admitted that the concentration of free chlorine residual was not being monitored in the distribution system daily as required under O. Reg. 170/03. Following an investigation charges were laid by the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch.

Agudath Israel of Toronto pleaded guilty to failing to ensure that a distribution sample was taken at least once every day and was testing immediately for free chlorine residual, contrary to Section 9-3(3)(a) of Schedule 9 of O. Reg. 170/03 under the SDWA and fined \$1,500, plus a VFS.

The Court was told that since the inspection the camp has increased the number of trained persons to three, prepared a comprehensive checklist of all testing and documentation requirements and has retained an engineer to improve the system used for checking chlorine residual.

Justice of the Peace Susan Robillard heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in Bracebridge, Ontario, on March 23, 2006.

- 30 -

Contacts:
Mark Rabbior
Communications Branch

(416) 314-6084

Disponible en français

www.ene.gov.on.ca