

**For Immediate Release
June 16, 2006**

BUSINESS OWNER FINED \$500 FOR VIOLATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

ST. CATHARINES — A local business owner has been fined \$500, plus a victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to violating the Environmental Protection Act (EPA).

Queenstar Auto Collision and Sales was owned by Edgar Gonzalez and was located at 142 Cushman Road in St. Catharines.

The Court heard that during an inspection on August 20, 2002, a Provincial Officer with the Ministry of the Environment learned that a paint spray booth on the premises was operating without a Certificate of Approval (C of A).

Following an investigation by the Ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch charges were laid.

Gonzalez pleaded guilty to failing to comply with a Provincial Officer's Order by failing to complete and submit an application for a C of A contrary to Section 9 of the EPA and was fined \$500 plus VFS. The Court was told that Gonzalez has ceased operating his auto collision and sales business.

Justice of the Peace Thomas P. Froese heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines on April 6, 2006.

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