

For Immediate Release  
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## PROPERTY OWNER FINED \$700 FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

**KITCHENER** — A property owner has been fined \$700, plus a victim fine surcharge (VFS), after being convicted of failing to comply with an order from the Ministry of the Environment.

The Court was told that James Wakeford purchased the property located at 62 Ainslie Street South in Cambridge, Ontario, in 1998 on an “as is” basis. Previously, this address housed a dry cleaning operation.

The Court heard that in 2001 excavation at the property revealed five underground storage tanks that were rusted, in poor condition and were leaking into the surrounding soil. The tanks contained various petroleum hydrocarbons (PHC) and perchlorethylene (PCE).

In 2003, as the registered owner of the property, Wakeford was issued a Provincial Officer’s Order by MOE that required him to retain a consultant to delineate the extent of contamination on and off the site.

Wakeford did not comply with the order and was charged following an investigation by MOE’s Investigations and Enforcement Branch. He pleaded not guilty to two counts of failing to comply with a condition of a Provincial Officer’s Order, contrary to Section 186 (2) under the Environmental Protection Act. He was convicted after a trial and was fined \$700, plus VFS.

Justice of the Peace Walter W. Rojek heard the case in the Ontario Offences Court in Kitchener, Ontario, on February 15, 2006.

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