

For Immediate Release
June 21, 2006

OWNER OF SUNDANCE FARMS AND NURSERY FINED \$2,500 FOR VIOLATION OF ONTARIO WATER RESOURCES ACT

ST. CATHARINES—Bruce Hemphill, owner and operator of Sundance Farms and Nursery, has been fined \$2,500, plus a victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to a violation of the *Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA)*.

Sundance Farms and Nursery, located on First Street Louth in St. Catharines, receives sawdust and manure from a number of sources, and then sells these materials to farmers and the public for fertilizer. The sawdust and manure are stored outdoors in a bermed area.

The Court heard that on July 6, 2004, the ministry received a complaint about discoloured water in Richardson's Creek in St. Catharines. A ministry inspection determined that the discolouration was caused by manure run-off coming from the bermed storage area at Sundance Farms. The run-off seeped off-site through the ground to an unplugged drain tile, where it then flowed into Francis Creek and ultimately into Richardson's Creek.

Hemphill pleaded guilty to one count of causing or permitting the discharge of a material that may impair water quality, contrary to section 30(1) of the *OWRA*, and was fined \$2,500.

Justice of the Peace Donna Cowan heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines on May 19, 2006.

- 30 -

Contacts:
John Steele
Communications Branch
(416) 314-6666

Disponible en français

www.ene.gov.on.ca