

For Immediate Release
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DAIRY FARM OPERATOR FINED \$5,000 FOR ONTARIO WATER RESOURCES ACT VIOLATION

KITCHENER—Orvie B. Martin, operator of a dairy farm in the Region of Waterloo, has been fined \$5,000, plus a victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to a violation under the *Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA)*.

Martin's dairy farm is located on Kressler Road in Woolwich Township. Manure run-off at the site is collected in a concrete manure storage tank.

The Court heard that on April 19, 2006, Martin pumped manure out of the storage tank to lower the level. The manure was discharged to the ground.

Martin went into the pasture to ensure that the discharge was being absorbed, but he discovered the discharge running into the field drainage tile, which leads to a drainage ditch that runs into Martin Creek. Martin took no further action.

The following day a downstream farmer reported to the MOE that the creek was much darker than usual in colour. Dead fish were floating on the surface.

Ministry officers who responded to the report saw that all fish and frogs downstream from Martin's drainage ditch were dead. The officers spoke with Martin who confirmed that his farm was likely the source of the manure contamination.

Following an investigation by the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch, a charge was laid.

Martin pleaded guilty to one count of causing the discharge of liquid manure into a watercourse, which may have impaired water quality. This was an offence under section 30(1) of the *OWRA*, and Martin was fined \$5,000.

Justice of the Peace James J. Ziegler sentenced Martin on August 14, 2006 in the Ontario Court of Justice in Kitchener.

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