

For Immediate Release
September 5, 2006

PRESIDENT OF M & D PORT-A-JOHN RENTALS LIMITED FINED \$25,000 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT VIOLATION

BLENHEIM—Maurice DeBrander, President of M & D Port-A-John Rentals Limited, has been fined \$25,000, plus a victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to one count of operating a waste management system without a Certificate of Approval (C of A).

Maurice DeBrander and his wife Dorothy DeBrander, operated M & D Port-A-John Rentals from 3527 Gray Line in Municipality of Chatham-Kent. As part of the operation, the couple hauled and disposed of untreated human sewage.

The Court heard that Maurice and Dorothy DeBrander had applied for a C of A to operate M & D Port-A-John Rentals on October 14, 2003 and February 5, 2004. The ministry formally rejected both applications as it was determined that the applicants would not be able to operate the business in accordance with the law and the operation of the waste management system would not be in the public interest.

In May 2003, the ministry received information alleging that the DeBranders were operating M & D Port-A-John Rentals, despite their not having a C of A.

An investigation conducted by the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch confirmed that the DeBranders were hauling and disposing of human sewage without a C of A. Specifically, the DeBranders' operation included vacuuming out the contents and cleaning the interiors of Port-A-Johns throughout the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and parts of the County of Essex. The pair then hauled the sewage back to their Gray Line property, where it was transferred into a septic tank, which was being used as a temporary sewage storage tank for hauled sewage from the Port-A-John business.

The investigation also showed that the DeBranders held verbal contracts with individuals, to supply and maintain anywhere from one to 16 Port-A-Johns. Those customers received bills on a regular basis, issued under the name M & D Port-A-John Rentals.

Upon conclusion of the investigation, charges were laid.

Maurice DeBrander pleaded guilty to one count of operating a waste management system without a C of A, contrary to section 27(1)(a) of the *Environmental Protection Act*. He was fined \$25,000 and put on probation for one year.

Justice of the Peace Robert Ponton sentenced Maurice DeBrander on August 3, 2006 in the Ontario Court of Justice in Blenheim.

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