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# RVCA News Release

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## \$15,000 In Fines For Unauthorized Stream Changes

MANOTICK, FEBRUARY 14, 2005 — Local conservation agencies are cracking down on area residents caught doing work that involves the alteration of watercourses without permits. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources recently brought evidence against two local entrepreneurs who were fined \$9,000 for unauthorized alteration of a small tributary to the Jock River.

Thomas Cavanagh of Ashton and Jeffrey Cavanagh of Stittsville pleaded guilty in an Ottawa courtroom on January 27 to altering a watercourse without appropriate approvals in place. The court records show that the Cavanaghs excavated the channel of a natural stream in former Goulbourn Township for a distance of approximately one kilometre in the spring of 2003. The stream was deepened, widened and channelized.

The work violated the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act resulting in an \$8,000 fine and the Conservation Authorities Act resulting in a \$1,000 fine. In addition to the fine, the defendants agreed to restore parts of the stream for better fish habitat, do some tree planting along the creek and remove the piles of excavated materials.

Shelley Macpherson, RVCA Regulations Officer, said "We encourage property owners and contractors to contact our office prior to any nearshore or in-water work to ensure that all issues related to the flood plain, habitat protection and sustainable development are considered." The public is encouraged to report any suspected resource violations to the local MNR office, Conservation Authority office or to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

The Goulbourn case follows two recently registered provincial court convictions in the neighbouring South Nation River watershed where \$6,000 in fines were handed out for altering watercourses without permission.

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For more information:

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