Attention News/Labour Editors:

Summit View Homes Ltd. fined $44,000 for health and safety violations

BRAMPTON, ON, July 5 /CNW/ - Summit View Homes Ltd., a building contractor based in Richmond Hill, was fined $44,000 today for two violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act resulting from a failure to comply with stop work orders issued by a Ministry of Labour inspector and a failure to have a guardrail or protective covering for an opening on a work surface.

On January 15, 2004, a Ministry of Labour inspector visited a residential construction project located at Rogerson Road and Anabelle Avenue in Mississauga for a routine inspection. Summit View Homes Ltd. was the constructor of the project. The inspector issued orders, including orders for use of protective headgear, removal of waste material and debris, and use of guardrail systems or protective coverings around openings on a work surface. The inspector issued several stop work orders on the project until these issues were corrected and the stop work orders were withdrawn.

On January 15, 2004, a Ministry of Labour inspector witnessed openings in the main floor of two residential homes under construction. The openings led to the basement. No guardrails or coverings were used to protect workers from falling through the openings.

On January 19, 2004, Ministry of Labour inspectors visited the construction site and observed several workers employed by a subcontractor of Summit View Homes Ltd. and a local utility company working on the site in spite of the stop work orders.

Summit View Homes Ltd. pleaded guilty to:

- Failing as a constructor to ensure that the measures and procedures prescribed by section 26.3(2) of the Regulations for Construction Projects were carried out. This was contrary to section 23(1)(a) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Failing to comply with an order of an inspector, contrary to section 66(1)(b) of the act.

A fine of $22,000 per offence was imposed by Justice of the Peace Laurie Pallett of the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton. In addition, a 25 per cent victim fine surcharge was added, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

Court Information at a Glance

Location:	Ontario Court of Justice Courtroom B2 Brampton, Ontario
Judge:	Justice of the Peace Laurie Pallett
Date/Time:	July 5, 2005, 9 a.m.
Defendant:	Summit View Homes Ltd.
Matter:	Occupational Health & Safety

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www.gov.on.ca/lab/

For further information: Belinda Sutton, Ministry of Labour, (416) 326-7405; Jennifer Malabar, Crown Counsel, Legal Services Branch, Ministry of Labour, (416) 212-7508

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