

MNR wins case against cottage owner

A Coldwater cottage owner has been fined for unauthorized work on Crown land.

James Malcolm pleaded guilty to unlawfully constructing a road on public land without a Public Lands Act work permit. He was fined \$2,500 and placed on probation for three months.

The court heard that between January 1 and May 23, 2011, Malcolm constructed a road on Crown land to provide access to his cottage on the Severn River. The road construction included the removal of trees, excavation of the forest floor and the deposit of crushed limestone. Malcolm did not request or receive the appropriate approvals from the Ministry of Natural Resources before the road was constructed. Malcolm has taken action to restore the site in accordance with an approved restoration plan.

Justice of the Peace Constance Hartt heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Orillia, on July 15, 2013.

An application for a work permit must be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the work permit issued, prior to any construction work being conducted on public land.

To report a natural resources violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your local ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).