

Domtar

# \$10-million investment helps Trent and Trenton

*Company mulling over another \$171-million in capital expenditures*

TRENTON — Trenton's Domtar Packaging is getting out of the river — the Trent River.

The company achieved a technological feat late last year that general manager Bob Campney says has paved the way for the plant's future prosperity.

The company has arranged for the removal of the brown-colored process effluent from the Trent River after years of delicate negotiations with the Ministry of the Environment and Energy and a \$10 million equipment outlay.

Campney says unless you fish in the Trent River near the mill, you aren't likely to notice the difference. And, he says that's unfortunate because of the effort that's gone into the new technology.

The plant can now boast of zero discharge into the Trent.

"The Domtar Packaging Trenton mill is the first integrated pulp and paper mill in the world to successfully use evaporator technology for effluent elimination. Every employee can be proud of this environmental accomplishment," says Campney.

While the brownish effluent wasn't pretty to look at in the past, Campney says it was never an environmental hazard and Domtar has never been charged by the ministry for contravening any environmental guidelines.

Now, Campney says, plans are being mulled over about a potential five-year, \$171 million capital expenditure program at the Trenton mill.

It was a long haul, he admits, in diverting the obviously brown effluent from the river and negotiations to remove it from the process began with the province in the mid-1980s.

The initial outlay for the process was \$10 million and Campney says another \$1 million will be spent annually on the technology.

"The brown colored discharge wasn't doing any harm to the river, it was just unsightly. People didn't like the colour, yet they drink Coke or coffee. There's a perception that only clear is clean, and that isn't necessarily the case," says Campney.



*'The Domtar Packaging Trenton mill is the first integrated pulp and paper mill in the world to successfully use evaporator technology for effluent elimination. Every employee can be proud of this environmental accomplishment'*

**--General manager  
Bob Campney**

at the Domtar mill in Cornwall, and possibly Trenton, to reduce the condensed liquor product to sodium carbonate — which is similar to washing soda — and reused to cook the wood pulp for eventual transformation into corrugated cardboard.

Campney says Trenton's central location and upgrades at the mill make the operation more viable to-

day than at any other time, good news for a city rocked in recent years by plant closures.

Domtar has a work force of about 125.

Campney says about 60 per cent of the mill's market is to other company-owned operations, while it competes on the world market for its other customers.

The new evaporation system, much like a giant heat pump, sees two motors of nearly 5,500 horsepower used to evaporate the process effluent. A recirculation system sees evaporated water condensed and reused in place of river water. The river water which is still used in the mill for cooling purposes is returned uncontaminated to the river.

Campney explains that today the Domtar process water is no longer effluent, but is evaporated with waste "liquor" from the pulp cooking process into a road binder or dust suppressant that has been used by most townships within an 140-kilometre radius of the Trenton plant since the mid-1950s.

The new process actually yields 20 per cent more of the road binder.

Meanwhile, plans are also being considered to build a recovery boiler

*Intelligence  
Apr. 31, 1996*