

DOMTAR (con't)

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Domtar's 'closed-loop' system keeps water clean at corrugated-paper plant

By Chris Malette

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TRENTON — A year ago, 12 tonnes of dissolved organic paper and wood pulp byproducts were pumped daily by the Domtar corrugated cardboard mill here into the Trent River and on to the Bay of Quinte.

In January, company officials, provincial and local politicians marked the first full year of successful operation of a new "closed loop" treatment system. The water that flows from the plant "is as clean as the river water" that Domtar pumps into the plant for paper-making.

Hailed as the first system of its kind in North America, the closed loop system got a nod of approval from Environment Minister Norm Sterling at ceremonies in the plant's pulp mill. Sterling said Domtar's commitment to both the environment and a sound financial future have shown a "terrific commitment" by the company that operates 14 mills in the province.

"It's no good having a fat wallet," said Sterling, "if the environment of the province is not healthy."

All contaminated discharge from the mill, which had been tagged by environmental studies as a major contributing factor in worsening conditions of the Bay of Quinte downstream from the Trent River,

has now been eliminated, said Domtar's vice president of research, Bob Eamer.

Eamer said laboratory trials began on the closed loop evaporation process in 1991 and the system cost about \$10 million to perfect.

Dissolved solids from the process are used in a road dust binder called Dombind, which has been made available to a variety of municipalities and companies for trials in recent years.

Domtar senior vice president Pierre Fitzgibbon said improvements at the mill have

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transformed a 69-year-old facility with aging technology into a mill with a promising future.

"There is a bright and profitable future for this mill," said Fitzgibbon of the facility that has a payroll of \$20 million.

Though there were rumors Fitzgibbon and Domtar president and CEO Raymond Royer might announce a new second mill at the Trenton site, Royer only hinted that the \$100 million investment of a "second paper machine here" could come about if continued commitment and profitability are shown by employees at the Trenton plant.

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