



Intelligencer photo by Bill Hunt

Thousands of rice cakes are produced annually at the Trenton Quaker Oats plant. Here, Ted Phillips checks the quality of rice cakes in the flavoring room.

(for Quaker Oats products),” he notes. Each year the plant ships more than 13 million cases as far west as Alberta and as far east as Newfoundland, handling about 90 per cent of Quaker Oats’ products.

The company has garnered some significant kudos during the last year.

The American Institute of Baking gave it a ‘superior rating,’ “which is the highest quality rating given to food plants,” says Baker.



Quaker Oats also received an international award for quality from its parent company. Only a “handful” of companies around the world receive the award, he notes.

“We also have the best safety record of any Quaker Oats plant in Canada,” he says.

Those achievements were due in large part to the company’s skilled work force, which is trained in many aspects of production, or as Baker calls it,

“cross-trained.” He points to the company’s Health, Safety, Environment and Quality Committee, which completes a monthly audit of the plant, as one example of how the plant keeps its standards so high.

“There’s been a lot of great leadership from them,” he says.

To reduce waste the company recycles its corrugate, stretch wrap, metal and other materials.

Baker notes the Peterborough plant, which initiated the waste reduction program in the mid-1980s, has reduced waste to landfill sites by 90 per cent.

Small heater units were recently installed that allowed the company to place its two main boilers on stand-by.

“We think being kind to the environment makes good business sense,” says Baker.