

Blow Press expands to meet market calls



TWO NEW TALL bays are being added to Blow Press' operations. Work is expected to be completed this week.

Blow Press Ltd. is raising its roof because industry demands more and more huge presses.

Construction of two new tall bays means the company is able to assemble four huge presses at once, according to punch press designer Heinz Becker.

The company already has a pair of two storey tall bays, and the new ones are being added to the existing ones at the rear of the plant.

Blow Press is on Perth Avenue, which is the first street north of Mill Street East, off Wallace Street.

Also new at Blow Press is a 35 ton Stahlkran Crane. It joins the older 20 ton crane the company used for years.

The expansion work is by Duiker Construction of Rockwood. The new bays, started three weeks ago, are to be finished this week. Mr. Becker said last week that construction was right on time.

Expansion means Blow Press can more quickly assemble large presses, such as the 80-ton machine completed last month. The monster is the largest press produced here, said Mr. Becker. It is used in Toronto to punch out automotive parts.

Next year's orders are for large machines, Mr. Becker said. Expansion means Blow Press is keeping pace with market demands. Before, Mr. Becker said, the company might turn out 15 small presses a year. Today three orders for small machines is considered quite a bit, he said.

"We had to have the change to meet the market," Mr. Becker said.

Blow Press has been in the business between 35 and 40 years.

Productivity should increase somewhat, but I'm not sure how much, he said.

Asked if he thought additional staff would be needed, he said: "Not really, no". The 80-ton press which the company finished in July was a 'Unimatic with external dimensions of about 14 feet by 8 feet. It has a capacity of 400 tons.

Forgery

A district man was charged by police with passing a forged document.

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Invite to view plans

Halton Hills Library Board plans to do a promotion job", in the words of board member Norm Elliott, on the proposed new library in Cedarvale.

Chairwoman Jo Lister agreed but suggested a public relations job might be better wording.

In order to do so the board

decided to ask architect Philip Brook to the next meeting, to show the plans and model of the proposed new library.

Mrs. Betty Fisher and John Ferguson, who helped initiate a 3,500 name petition against the new library, and who carried the fight to the Ontario Municipal Board, will be invited to the meeting.

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Acton makes compost for mushroom farmers

John Andersen's compost business began five years ago in Acton, and business has been mushrooming ever since. He sells compost to mushroom farmers in the area, and is the only person in Ontario to sell custom compost.

His compost is a mixture of hay, horse manure, corn cobs, brewers' grain, a chemical called Acto 88, gypsum, ammonia nitrate and potash. It is especially used

for growing mushrooms, and the more than one million square feet of compost he sells each year goes into the growing of 3½ million pounds of mushrooms.

Mushrooms, being a fungus, are not planted the way corn or wheat are. They are kept in compost beds in dark and cool buildings, to keep them away from the light that would kill them.

Long history
Mushrooms have a long

history as food, and in Caesar's time there were already laws governing the grading and selling of them. The first records of their cultivation occur in the time of the Sun King, Louis XIV, where they were grown on the floors of caves in France.

Mushroom technology has advanced since then, and the spores are now grown in silks, usually in six layers.

The basic method is the same, only different. A mushroom farmer still spreads the spores throughout a moist mulch and hides it from the light. What has changed most is the preparation of the mulch. Each growing area in Mr. Andersen's plant is sterilized by heating the air to 150 Fahrenheit, while the bed and the compost reach 160 degrees. They stay at this temperature for eight hours, and the temperature is kept around 130 Fahrenheit for eight days before the mushrooms are planted.

Canada produces 46 million pounds of mushrooms this way every year, importing another 40 million to keep up with the demand for those who prefer pepperoni and mushroom pizzas to the plain undressed variety.

Mushroom farmers from Hamilton to Simcoe use Mr. Andersen's compost for their work. He supplies 26 mushroom growers in Ontario, as far east as Bowmanville, on the other side of Toronto.

The materials he puts into his compost come from all over the area. He uses 85,000 bales of hay a year, and right now has 50,000 bales in a stack, "the largest haystack in Acton" he said, which measures 600 feet long by 40 feet wide by 14 feet high. The hay has been accumulating since January.

Eighteen people are employed at the farm, moving 35 to 40,000 feet of compost every week. According to Mr. Andersen, in spite of the piles of rotting hay and manure, "We never smell it. We've never had a complaint."



PREPARED COMPOST IS loaded onto trucks for shipment from McNair Mushroom farm on Highway 25 while John Andersen supervises.

Region passes

Halton Region's Administration Committee doesn't feel the region should contribute to the rebuilding of Cobalt. A fire in that municipality last May demolished 118 homes, 21 apartments and seven businesses.

The committee recommended no aid be given by the region after being advised that Oakville Council had voted to provide \$4,200 for the fund. The committee felt that because Oakville had acted upon the matter, it was best to treat it as an area municipality responsibility.

Burlington's Administration Committee has recommended city council make no contribution and that relief be \$300 damage.

Vandals damaged doors and windows of Fred Caruk's R. R. 2 place Friday. Guelph OPP estimate the damage at \$300.

Barn razed

Wednesday afternoon Acton and Milton fire departments were called to a barn fire, at John Milne's farm on First Line, Nassagaweya. The barn which was filled with hay and grain was completely destroyed in the blaze.

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JACK KYLE - Manager

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Jack and Jean Kyle have recently moved to the Georgetown area, and look forward to meeting new friends and neighbors.

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