



**HOSES AND TUBES** of a variety of dimensions and types all start from basic plastic pebbles, a part of the conversion of crude oil to raw materials. Plastoflex Industries presently has four extruder machines churning out miles of hose and tubing, and expects to add one more machine in the new manufacturing plant.

## Plastoflex diversifies operations in area

Flexibility is the key ingredient in the manufacturing of hose and tubing at Plastoflex Industries, Rockwood, where the last six years have seen a small furniture trim business expand into a highly competitive multi-use hose and tube production.

The latest expansion includes a brand new manufacturing plant estimated at a cost of \$200,000. The new 16,000 square foot plant is more than twice the size of the original plant and is expected to increase its manufacturing output by 100 percent, according to Ian Sommers, president of the company.

Originally known as the Ontario Plastics Co., the furniture trim plant began in 1967 outside of Acton, on Highway 7. Although still in the same location, changes in ownership within recent years have resulted in a new line of products.

Late 1976 saw Plastoflex

Industries emerge with synthetic hoses and tubing for industrial, automotive and farm markets and products for use in the hospital and beverage dispensing market.

"We felt it was time for the product line to change in order to increase our market, so we began branching into other fields," explained Mrs. Sommers.

Today, furniture trim is only a small part of the business, with industrial, farm and automotive markets representing 80 percent of sales.

Plastoflex caters to customers across Canada and the United States, with the greater amount of the products sold to distributors for the various markets. The exception is Canadian Tire, to whom Plastoflex sells directly.

Much of the success of the business can be attributed to the very nature of the product, according to Mr.



**IAN SOMMERS**

"It's a whole different concept to rubber, and we are penetrating market areas traditionally supported by rubber companies."

The move to synthetics has seen a steady growth of between 20 and 30 percent for the company, said Mr. Sommers and he expects the trend to continue.

Suppliers of air lines, water and oil tubing, fuel lines and

equipment for racing cars. Plastoflex products are much easier to work with and more flexible than similar products in metal, according to Mr. Sommers.

The hospital market, stated Mr. Sommers is fast becoming a good product line and the company "could be very likely heading into the direction of blood tubing." Present hospital products are restricted to tubes not in direct connection with the body.

"We supply a cross section of market areas, and that way we do not depend on one specific line," he said, adding that one hose or tube design could be used in six different market areas. "Everything we manufacture has to be flexible."

With a total of 32 employees, he admits Plastoflex is a small company in relation to such firms as B.F. Goodridge, and Goodyear and other major rubber businesses.

Probably the largest competitor to the business however, is Israel, which according to Mr. Sommers has both government subsidies and the aid of French technology to place them at the forefront of the rubber and plastic industry.

The process of converting crude oil to raw materials is a very costly, but all important technology, he explained.

"Our company is getting a good reputation however, and we stand as representatives of good service and good quality."

"We have to be sharp however, and aware of prices

to remain competitive." Mr. Sommers would not disclose sales figures for the last year.

Mr. Sommers admits high Canadian wages do make it more difficult competing against international, lower salaried manufacturers.

With five extruder machines presently churning out miles of hose the new plant, scheduled to be completed by the end of April, will include another machine. The plant expansion will also result in the addition of several employees by the end of the year, stated Mr. Sommers.

Further growth will then depend on progress of the new plant, he continued adding new development could take place in the next three years.

**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH WHAT'S COMING THROUGH The Acton Free Press**

The **AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP** meets at **St. Joseph's Church Hall** 64 Church E. Mondays at 8 p.m. Information 853-3310 After Hours 853-2504

### Obituary

#### Former Georgetown reeve John Elliott

Three days after the official opening of his new 50,000 square foot Georgetown Terminal Warehouse building, owner John Elliott, 54, died of a heart attack.

He was taken ill Friday night, after the opening ceremonies, and was taken to Georgetown hospital, Sunday night. He died Monday morning.

Mr. Elliott was well-known in the community as the C.N.R. station agent, as well as owner of the Terminal Warehouse and Custom Broker business. He was with the C.N.R. 29 years, and retired in 1975 due to ill health. He then devoted all his time to the Terminal Warehouse.

He served on Georgetown council from 1958 to 1965, inclusive as councillor,

deputy-reeve and reeve. He was a member of the building committee when the Halton Administration building in Milton was built.

He was one of the original members of Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service, as well as a member of Branch 120, Royal Canadian Legion, a member of Georgetown Lions Club, and a member of St. George's Anglican Church. He also served as chairman of Georgetown Red Cross.

He is survived by his wife Norma, daughters Brenda (Mrs. L. Sissett) and Lois, and son Ross, and brothers Art, Ennie, Ernie and Robert.

Funeral services are to be held Wednesday morning (today) at St. George's Church, with interment at Greenwood Cemetery.

#### Otto Winther funeral Mon.

Funeral service was held Monday at Brampton for Otto Heinrich Winther, who died in Acton last week. A resident of Acton for just five weeks, he had been reported to police as missing. His body was found in a field near the Disston plant by two children.

He was 76 years of age. No foul play was suspected. Apparently the body had been hidden from view in the field.

Mr. Winther was a resident of Brampton for seven years

and lived before that in Toronto.

He is survived by wife Etta Margaret Dolson of Brampton, brother Liese and Peter of Tonder, Denmark and Carl of Argentina. He was predeceased by his parents, a brother Hans and sister Helena.

A private funeral service was held at the McKillop-Coates funeral home for relatives and close friends. Spring interment will be in Hornings Mills cemetery.

#### Architect is named

Famous for projects such as the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto and the new Metropolitan Toronto Library, the firm of Raymond Moriyama, Architects and Planners, has been selected to do the preliminary design work for the Macdonald Stewart Community Art Centre in Guelph. Plans to convert the historic Macdonald Consolidated School to an art centre were made public last July by the Project's four sponsors: Wellington County Board of Education, City of Guelph, County of Wellington

and University of Guelph.

The building will be available in the summer of 1978, and renovations, which are expected to take about a year to complete, will begin in autumn. Currently terms for lease in Macdonald Consolidated School, the property of the Wellington County Board of Education, to the new corporation that will operate the art centre are being worked out. Harry Worton, M.P.P., will present a private member's bill for incorporation of the Centre to the next session of the Legislature.

#### Roads poor hold spending

Hallon Reglon's Public Works Committee will recommend spending only 80 per cent of the provincial subsidy for regional roads, even though the region is reported to have the highest percentage of miles known to be deficient in its roads system of any region or county in Ontario.

The community refused to even consider using more of the provincial dollars available for roads, during its meeting Wednesday.

Milton Councillor Jim Kerr said the regional roads would fall even further behind proper standards, if more money isn't spent.

Acton Councillor Pat McKenzie said he felt the committee should consider spending more money on

#### Tailgating is dangerous

In winter, treacherous road surfaces make tailgating even more dangerous. Often, it results in an accident that delays hundreds of other road users, says the Industrial Accident Prevention Association.

#### Prayer

World Day of Prayer this Friday.

### Obituary

#### Rockwood man dies in Guelph

Funeral Service was held for Leonard Nightingale of Rockwood, Thursday, February 23, at Shoemaker Funeral Home.

Mr. Nightingale, son of Arthur and Emily Nightingale, originally from England, was born on December 20, 1900. He moved to Canada in 1913 and settled in Rockwood where he lived for 65 years. Married in Rockwood in 1923. Mr. Nightingale was a rural mail courier for 38 years. He was a

#### Liberal

The meeting to elect the Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe Liberal candidate for the next federal election will be held in early April.

Further information about the exact date and place will be forthcoming in advertisements in the near future. The riding executive is very pleased with the high calibre of the two candidates who have agreed to run for nomination to date.

member of St. John's Anglican Church. He died suddenly on February 21 at Guelph General Hospital at the age of 77.

Officiating at the service was the Rev. R. McMurray. Interment followed at the Rockwood Cemetery. Pallbearers for the funeral were his grandsons, Rick Roadknight, Guelph; Ed Roadknight, Guelph; Jim Clark, Limehouse; David Norton, Guelph; Bob Clark, Georgetown and Reg Nightingale, Glen Huron.

Leonard Nightingale is survived by his wife Florence Mabel Glendinning, children, Len of Hollyre; George, Waterloo; Ida, Limehouse; Emily, Guelph; Bella, Rockwood; Ray, Rockwood; Wayne, Rockwood and Don, Fergus.

Brothers are Dave and George of Guelph. Sister is Florence Cargill of Campbellville.

Mr. Nightingale is survived by his 33 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

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**MEET Otto Jelinek, M.P.**

All interested citizens are invited to attend an informal gathering to meet and hear 'Otto Jelinek' who is seeking the Progressive Conservative nomination for the federal riding of Halton.

**Saturday, March 4, 1978 8:00 p.m.**

**ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH HALL**  
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 853-2764 OR 853-1248  
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