

Geographical location, access, labor market makes Georgetown attractive for manufacturing

Georgetown's geographical location, access to both east and west and availability of a good, stable industrious labour market were the three main reasons Hayes-Dana moved to town.

Ralph Burgess, manager at the plant said the geographical location of Georgetown to the market ranked first in their decision. The availability of a suitable work force, hopefully reducing absenteeism was the second most important factor and shipping routes the third.

Hayes-Dana is a Canadian company with the majority of the shares owned by Dana Corporation, Toledo, Ohio. The World-wide company has some 600 plants with the Georgetown operation the eighth manufacturing plant in Canada.

Hayes-Dana transferred their location from St. Catharines and after careful scouting chose Georgetown to re-open the operation.

The Georgetown plant which employs 20 people four of whom transferred from St. Catharines, manufacture and market truck-trailer axles, trailer suspensions and related component parts for the after market.

Burgess said Hayes-Dana products are sold to original equipment manufacturers who produce freight vans, platform, machinery haulers, tank and dump trailers. Their after market or replacement parts are sold to truck equipment dealers across Canada.

Burgess said Hayes-Dana is presently importing trailer suspensions, but are anticipating the gradual introduction of more Canadian made trailer parts for suspensions. "We eventually want to increase our Canada content," he said.

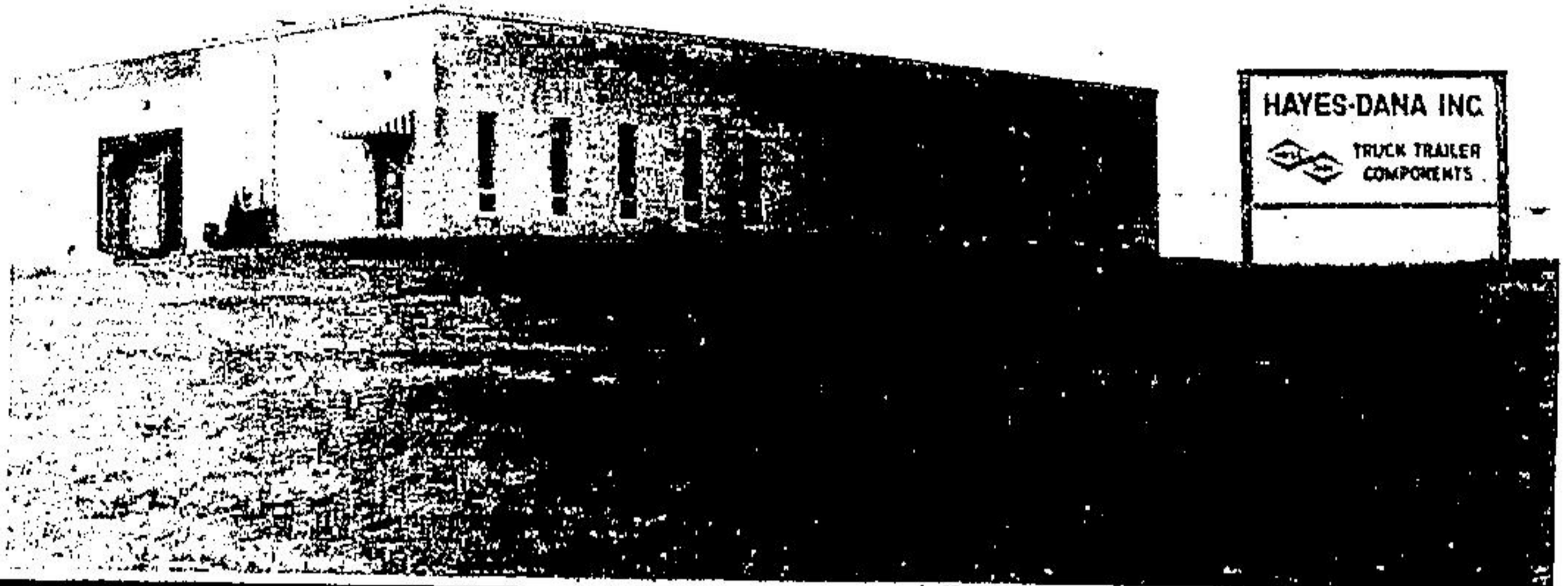
With hopes to increase Canadian content together with other factors Burgess said they are anticipating growth within the Georgetown plant. "Our production could be doubled in the next few years," he said.

Burgess said the labour market which encouraged them to move into town has lived up to their expectations. "We

have good, sound people here and we are encouraged and confident our complete work force will develop with these traits," he said.

Burgess said Hayes-Dana is pro Halton Hills in respect to hiring. "Hiring locally also tends to stimulate stability among workers," he said.

He described the present staff of Hayes-Dana as a team. "It may be thought of as 'corny' to refer to team effort. Here in Georgetown the term team effort is truly sincere on our part. As we prosper, the work force will prosper as will earnings, benefits and opportunities," Burgess said.



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INDUSTRY '80

New plastics firm

A new plastics manufacturing firm is opening this month in Acton.

The firm will be manufacturing custom vacuumed forms. Its products will be aimed at the point of purchase market and many will be used for cosmetic displays in retail outlets. In addition to displays Plastics Eighty will manufacture industrial components parts and some consumer products. The company will produce plastic fabrication, taking flat pieces of plastic, heating them and then bending them into various shapes.