

North Shore report

New course at James River-Marathon

By Wendy Parker
Special to the News

One of the big challenges facing James River-Marathon and its 450 employees this year has nothing to do with pulp markets or the forestry business.

The company is struggling with spiralling property taxes brought by a mining boom in the nearby Hemlo gold fields.

As the biggest employer and industrial taxpayer in Marathon itself, James River has found itself paying for municipal service expansion to feed gold mines outside town boundaries.

Since James River bought the mill four years ago, "the town has basically doubled in size, and it's still growing," said G.A. Byrne,

president and resident manager of the Marathon pulp facility.

"It has caused us some real concerns about how the industrial tax base is apportioned, because the mines are outside the municipal boundaries...At the moment, we are carrying 50 to 60 per cent of the town tax base and, of course, we can't continue to do that."

He estimated that the company's local tax bill has gone up 35 per cent in the past three years.

Parent corporation

"In essence," he said, "that is going a long way to wiping out the benefits we are getting from putting money into the mill to make it competitive."

It's a problem he hopes to see

resolved by the end of the year.

James River-Marathon's enterprise parent is James River Corp. of the U.S., with Buchanan Forest Products holding the remaining 20 per cent.

Ownership of the mill goes back only to 1983, when the Virginia company bought the facility from American Can.

"The whole thrust for this Marathon mill since James River purchased it has been to modernize the plant and make it cost-competitive in the long term," Byrne said.

"And to make it a market-quality pulp mill. Not as a captive mill for the James River Corporation."

This year, only 15 per cent of the facility's production will go to other James River mills, Byrne said. The balance is sold on the open market in Canada, the United States and Europe, with 15 to 20 per cent finding markets in England, France, Germany and Belgium.

That means about 30,000 to 35,000 tons of the company's annual production of 170,000 to 175,000 tonnes will probably go to Europe this year.

Market competitive

This thrust to the open market places higher quality demands on James River-Marathon than it would experience as an in-house pulp producer, Byrne said.

"It also directly affects where you put capital in order to achieve that objective."

Right now, the open market is highly-competitive, he said, "but it is also an excellent market and it has been now for over a year."

He expects the situation to continue for the next two to three years.

Apart from the issue of property taxes, Byrne sees the company's main challenge as the completion of its modernization program, "which of course directly impacts on our cost-competitiveness in the marketplace."

In the four years that James River has operated the mill, it has spent about \$65 million to \$67 million, with spending plans for another \$25 to \$30 million in the next few years, Byrne said.

He anticipates capital improvements in the order of \$10 to \$12 million this year.

As 20-per-cent owner, Buchanan handles the mill's timber requirements and does the forest management work required to keep James River-Marathon in compliance with its operating plan.

Environmentally, the results have been good, Byrne said, and the company sees no difficulty living up to an FMA.

Next three years

"Through the previous owner and the owner before him as well as ourselves, I think we have had a pretty good reputation for managing our licence," he said.

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Wear a smile

A smile is an outer reflection of an inner condition. None is so rich that he can get along without it, and none so poor but is richer for its benefits.

Nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give. It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and Nature's best antidote for trouble.

It cannot be bought, begged or stolen, for its is of no earthly good to anybody until it is given away.

S.J.L. 1984

THANK YOU

OJAVEE, E.

The family of the late Endel Ojavee would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all their neighbors and friends for their comfort and support during the loss of our husband and father. Special thanks to the nursing staff of Port Arthur General Hospital, the nursing staff of McCausland Hospital Drs. Marion Bailey, Joannes, Adey, Gooding, and Schmidt. Special thanks to Pastor Mark Moss for his comfort to Endel during his last few weeks & for the time he spent with the family. Thanks to all who sent baking, flower arrangements and those who made charitable contributions. Your thoughtfulness will be remembered.

Rosa Ojavee and family.

THANK YOU

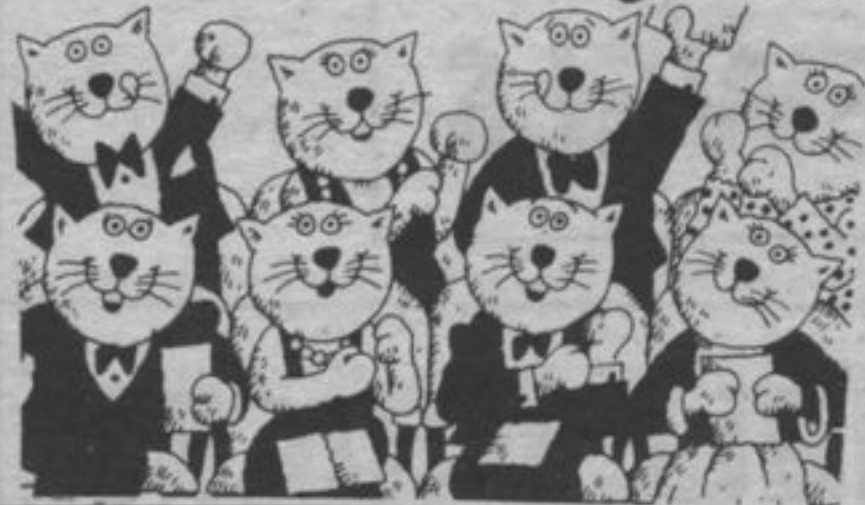
I would like to thank my family and good friends who sent cards and visited me in the Port Arthur General Hospital and Westmount Hospital. Thank you for all the phone calls & gifts, Russ for the lovely fruit basket and Clara for the Surprise Get Well basket. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated.

Patrick Jones

THANK YOU

We want to extend a huge THANK YOU to all our friends who sent us off with a bang. It was great! We are really going to miss the coffee sessions and "The Spotted Dog". We'd also like to give an extra thanks to the helping hands we received. Eight and a half years sure add up a lot of memories.

See you soon!
Love, Dan, Sue, Joel and Jamie Brideau.



THANK YOU

Jaime Lynn would like to thank Veronica and Helga for being with my Mom when I was born. A job well done Helga!!!!
Love Jaime.



Holy Terrors

Teachers and students alike from Holy Angels School in Schreiber dressed up for Hallowe'en on Friday, October 30, 1987. See if you can tell who are the teachers and who are the students.

THANK YOU TO ALL

I would like to thank all of my patients for their kind patronage & wish you the best in your future.

Dr. Chris Bailey.



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OBITUARY

OJAVEE, Mr. Endel, age 72 years of Terrace Bay Ontario passed away at Terrace Bay Hospital on October 31, 1987. born in Kuimetsa, Estonia, he served in the Second World War and settled in West Germany. By the end of the war he was in Belgium and later employed by the United States Army. He immigrated to Thunder Bay Canada with his wife Rosa and daughter in 1952 and worked for several years as a woodcutter in the Hearst-Longlac area. He later moved to the Schreiber Terrace Bay area where he remained until his death. he is survived by wife Rosa, sons Jaak & family of Kamloops, B.C. Peeter at home and Elisabeth of Toronto, also survived by 4 grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister and brother of Estonia and several nieces and one nephew. Cremation has occurred and a memorial service will be held at a later date.