

Independent Shorts

- The Rotary Club of St. Marys has released their 2016 calendars. They are available now from Rotarians as well as a number of sponsors of the calendar including Sam's Home Hardware and Your Independent Grocer. The calendar's theme is "Historic St. Marys" and includes a selection of photos from local collections dating back to 1900.
- The first names and relations of the refugee family coming to St. Marys have been released by the St. Marys Refugee Sponsorship Group. As per the post on the group's Facebook page, the oldest woman, Warda, is the mother of three daughters: Marah, the eldest, Maha, the youngest, and Kawthar, who is coming with her husband Ajjid Al Hadid. They are also bringing their two children, Warda's grandchildren, Ahmad and Limar. "Warda will be traveling with her family to St. Marys very soon," reads the post. "No longer a statistic - they are people - they have names! Thank you St Marys!"
- Two films coming to theatres this weekend include "Love the Coopers," a PG-13 comedy about four generations of a family forced to spend Christmas together starring Ed Helms, Amanda Seyfried and John Goodman (sitting at 28 percent on the movie rating site Rotten-Tomatoes.com), and "The 33," a fictional retelling of the 2010 Chilean mining disaster that left 33 men trapped underground for more than two months, starring Antonio Banderas and Martin Sheen (rated, ironically, at 33 percent).

BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

Norampac



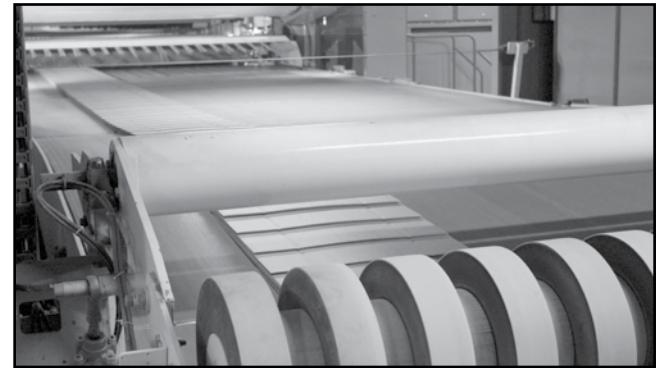
Our business of the week is Norampac, an international leader in innovative packaging solutions known for its fleet of high-tech corrugated packaging machinery and a fixture in St. Marys since the 1950s. Earlier this week, General Manager Steve Cousins spoke to the Independent at the 304 James Street South facility about the company's history and how it does business today. Since it was built in 1957, the Norampac facility has been owned by three different companies, Cousins said. First up was Hinde and Dauch, then, around 1967-1968, Dominion Tar and Chemical (Domtar), owned by Canadian business tycoon E. P. Taylor, acquired it. They became Norampac (North American Packaging) at the end of 1997 and first opened on Jan. 3, 1998, Cousins said.

"We were an amalgam of Domtar's packaging assets and Cascades' packaging assets, and became the largest in-kind pack-

aging company in Canada," he said. "I think we're about fifth largest in North America now. We have manufacturing assets in Canada, the United States and Europe."

As you can imagine, the type of packaging being made at the facility has evolved over the years as well, and today corrugated packaging is the main product being fabricated inside their 300,000 sq. ft. facility.

"It's structural," Cousins said. "It gives a package strength, rather than just heavy paper. So, you get some top-to-bottom compression. It really supplanted the wood packaging fifty or one hundred years ago." Norampac serves the packaging needs of over 400 customers on an annual basis, primarily providing cases to food and beverage producers so they can get items such as baked goods, cereal, canned goods and paper cups to restaurants and store shelves. "Everything needs a package to get



from the manufacturing site," Cousins said. "That's what we do. Probably 85 percent of it is food-related."

Because their cases are used to contain and ship such a volume of food products, Norampac sought and was successful in becoming the first corrugating plant in North America to receive a food safety certification.

Norampac is able to service the packaging needs of so many customers thanks to a state-of-the-art corrugated machine at the back of the production floor which, at 350 ft. long, takes up almost the entire length of the building. Using curling irons, steam heat and starch it mechanically transforms raw paper into the corrugated board used in their cases. According to production manager Anthony Bertrand, it can make 300 metres of corrugated board per minute, or almost enough to pave a road to Toronto with corrugated board in an eight hour shift. At just three years old, Cousins estimates it is the newest such machine in Canada. Every month,

the corrugated machine consumes 2,500 three-ton rolls of paper, Cousins said. In a normal month, the plant produces 100 million sq. ft. of corrugated products, which translates to over 800 tractor trailer loads of product, he added. Once it is pressed, the corrugated is cut and stamped into usable cases that match a customer's specifications by another bay of conversion machines. Their newest conversion machine was produced in Japan in 2011 and can cut 350 cases per minute. "We're doing up to 500,000 cases a day going to customers, some of them as big as my desk," Cousins said. "We ship all through southwestern Ontario, into Toronto, also in upstate New York and Michigan, and some of Ohio and Wisconsin as well."

The winter is what Cousins called their "slow season," but he said they're "always looking for a few good people."

For more information, visit Norampac.com/en or call 519-284-1840.

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