

Aliens in Teeswater?

By: Alexander McCleave PR Associate

No aliens, unfortunately, but definitely some out-of-this-world machinery lifting. It was a beautiful sunny Wednesday morning in Teeswater, Ontario at the Gay Lea dairy site. I had the pleasure of joining a long-standing member of the Matcom family John Bernardo on site, to visit some Matcom employees and witness a very significant crane lift. Gay Lea has recently put forward a plant expansion and decided to install several new buildings.

The cones will help sift the milk and pour it into a large dryer. There was also the installation of a state-of-the-art dryer to produce different kinds of dairy ingredients for market. The dryer was fabricated by the Matcom team and looks fantastic. Its purpose is to heat the milk and create a power substance that can then be repurposed for other dairy products.

From firsthand experience, I have to say the Gay Lea site looks amazing. In late July of 2018, I had the pleasure of being in attendance for a complex crane lift at the Gay Lea Foods dairy site and it truly was a sight to see. “The Teeswater plant is only part of a \$140-million investment announced by Gay Lea.” As referred to on Gay Lea’s website under Our Story. This project was something that the co-op dairy farmers of Ontario wanted to invest in to provide for future generations of farmers. This is one of their sustainable, long-term growth opportunities that has the potential to allow dairy farmers to provide for the Canadian economy for generations.

The project initially began in early February and potentially be extending into late December. A few Matcom employees have been stationed there for the last few months helping to oversee the project and in part for the preparation of this lift. A day filled with some twists and turns, worked out perfectly. The lift was a success and both cones were dropped perfectly into their custom slots.

This was a big jobsite for me as I’ve never been to a site this big or a project that took up this much time. The site was immaculate and thoroughly thought out. There was one trend that I kept noticing throughout the day, how smoothly everything ran and how well thought out the plans were. Then I noticed something else, Matcom employees were really taking control of the site and leading the charge.

A special mention must go out to Gareth Haynes for taking the reins and helping to lead a very successful lift. I was amazed at the extra effort that all the Matcom employees put forward in order to make sure the project was a success.

One of the first things that I was told when I got on site was that most uneventful lifts and projects are the most successful. If you’re surprised on a jobsite, it normally means a bad thing has happened and something has gone terribly wrong. In this business no one likes surprises and excitement normally means trouble ahead.

Now for me, I was beyond excited throughout the day, but not cause of any surprises; rather the sheer sense of joy from watching this incredible lift. Everything moved in sync and the jobsite ran like a well-oiled machine.

Gay Lea Foods is a Canadian success story – and that story is far from over. The Gay Lea Co-op is so important to not only the farming industry in Ontario but the entire country of Canada. Gay Lea began in 1958 when a group of Ontario Farmers came together, because they understood that a team effort and one common vision they would be able to accomplish so much more for their families. Now Gay Lea Foods is a leader in the Canadian dairy industry and the second largest dairy co-operative in Canada. This organization has helped tons of farmers across Canada and has also contributed significantly to the prosperity of Canada.

Gay Lea Foods has grown to become one of the strongest forces within the Canadian dairy industry. Gay Lea continues to grow “with members on more than 1,395 dairy farms in Ontario and Manitoba, and more than 4,295 producer and investor shareholders.” As referred to on Gay Lea’s website under Our Story.

Gay Lea Foods main goal is to acquire more opportunities to provide sustainable, long-term growth for dairy farmers in Canada. The most recent opportunity is the expansion of a dairy manufacturing plant located in Teeswater, Ontario. “On November 16, 2017 the dairy product company had its top brass on site to announce a plan to invest \$60 million into its Teeswater plant.” According to Jonathan Zettel at Southwestern Ontario News. The link to his full article is provided below. This investment is massive for not only the community but the entire dairy industry. Gay Lea has invested in the future of Canada and themselves.

Thanks to everyone at the Gay Lea jobsite for making one of my first visits to a job site a great one. It was a day to remember and I will hopefully be back very soon! For footage and pictures see the link below we have both lifts on video and tons of pictures!

References:

1. Gay Lea “Our Story” <http://www.gaylea.com/about-us/about-gay-lea/the-gay-lea-story/>
2. Zettel, Jonathan “Gay Lea to invest \$60M into Teeswater Plant” <https://www.southwesternontario.ca/news-story/6969828-gay-lea-to-invest-60m-into-teeswater-plant/>