

The Owen Sun Times
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Owen Sound, Ontario
June 25, 2009

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PPG lists plant for sale

Posted By **BILL HENRY, SUN TIMES STAFF**

Posted 6 hours ago

A Mississauga realtor is listing the massive former PPG building on 73 acres for \$6.1 million.

City officials released the news yesterday afternoon.

The building is 600,000 square feet -- that's 16 acres under its roof. It includes offices, truck bays, high ceilings, heavy power and enormous warehouse space, said Steve Furness, Owen Sound's manager of economic development and tourism.

The property owners made the listing deal with Avison Young Realtors and the city is "cheerleading."

"We see this as the leading opportunity for the city in terms of a built facility," Furness said.

Faced with a slumping glass market and as much as \$50 million to rebuild its furnace, the American-based owners of the former glass plant announced in September it would close early this year.

Hundreds packed the cavernous facility in May as an auctioneer dispersed the glass plant's remaining equipment, putting an end to the factory's 42-year history in Owen Sound.

Management said then the plant would be carefully mothballed, to keep open any possibility it could resume production with a significant investment.

The plant once had 500 employees in Owen Sound. Its closure put 170 people out of work and was a huge economic blow to the city. Officials have said PPG paid roughly \$400,000 in property taxes to the city and another \$400,000 in combined education and Grey County taxes. Vacant, the building taxes would drop by 35%.

Furness said the empty facility is well maintained and, along with the strengths of the local workforce and the city's other benefits, is now a key city asset in attracting manufacturing to Owen Sound. In the past, he added, discussions with potential manufacturers have been impeded by the lack of empty, available manufacturing facilities.

"It's a very large building and that may pose a challenge for smaller users, but here we have an opportunity to market a very large building and get a very large potential user in there," Furness said. "It's a large facility even for Toronto standards . . . who knows who might be interested?"

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More information about the building is available from Avison Young through their website or at 905-283-2322, or the city's economic development department at 519-376-1440 ext. 236.

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Upcoming Events

Articles & Blogs

Silencing the Majority
Last year, the Warton Echo published a letter in which I made a reference to a possible Council Season, a humorous, I thought, play on

Too politically Correct
Political correctness is out of control. A native of northern Canada, while visiting New Zealand, notices that they were selling marshmallow candy called Eskimos. This

Historic Apology
June 11, 2008 will forever be a historic day for Canada. While the Government's apology for the Residential school atrocities will go a long way

Interest and student loans.
The letter to the Editor by Eric Ross on May 5th regarding his student loan, clearly shows the politics that he has been taught by

Darfur Awareness
Not a lot of people are aware that there is a genocide taking place in Darfur as you read this blog. That is a real

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Calendar

Today
Oilphant Womens Institute Hall Bid Euchre
7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. All Welcome

Aerial Perspectives and Maritimes: Landscape Views art exhibition & sale

ALIEN EARTHS: Are We Alone? - Summer blockbuster exhibit at