

# BREAKING GROUND

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SPRING 2009



*Ice River Springs Water Company has invested more than \$20 million to build and equip a 273,000-square-foot production and distribution center in Kentland, Indiana.*

## Ice River Springs Is Newest Hamstra Group Client

**I**ce River Springs Water Company, the Feversham, Ontario-based bottled water company and largest firm of its kind in Canada, is growing. Now with operations in the U.S., the family-owned company recently tapped The Hamstra Group to construct a new facility in Kentland, Indiana.

Ice River invested more than \$20 million to build and equip a 273,000-square-foot production and distribution center in the Kentland Industrial Park, where it will manufacture and fill plastic bottles with water from a nearby spring. The company will also bottle purified water at the site.

Jamie Gott, Ice River president, says Indiana is key to its growth because bottled water shipped to customers in the Chicago area is now sent from Ontario. The

Kentland location reduces freight cost, fuel consumption and emissions, he says.

Eric Carlson was The Hamstra Group project manager for the Kentland construction. He says working with Ice River was a smooth and

enjoyable experience.

“This was a project we enjoyed very much,” Carlson notes. “Both of our companies believe in efficiency and team work, and it was a good match for both of us.”

For the project, The Hamstra Group built a 140,000-square-foot pre-engineered Varco Pruden building housing offices, raw material storage, a bottle and water manufacturing area, and shipping center. The facility has 21 loading docks. The structure features a standing seam roof with metal sidewall panels and was designed to accommodate future expansion. The project was completed last fall.

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*Ice River Springs plant manager Colin Duncan stands in front of just a few of the bottles of water the 1,200 bottles-a-minute line machinery turns out daily at the home plant.*

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*Above left: The new Indiana facility, shown here under construction, marks the company's third plant in the United States. Center: Ice River's brands include Canadian Essence, Canadian Mountain Springs, Ice River Springs, Aquara Spring Water, Camelot Products, Corner Bakery, Cott, Gold Mountain Springs, Indigo Books, Life Brand, Lipsey Mountain Springs, President's Choice Natural Spring Water, Ontario Gold, Sam's Club, Second Cup, Sunshine Joe's, Table Rock Mountain Spring Water, Wal-Mart, and Weis. Right: The loading docks.*

## Ice River Springs... *continued from page 1*

The Northwest Indiana facility marks the company's third plant in the U.S. In 2006, the company opened a similar facility in Morganton, N.C. and recently announced a second U.S. location in Claremont, N.H. The company has plans to open additional plants in Florida, Texas and Tennessee.

Jamie and Sandy Gott, owners of the company, got into the water bottling business somewhat by accident. They mortgaged their chicken farm to buy a fish farm because they wanted to catch the bottled water wave. But they never imagined that bottling the spring water that fed the fishponds would turn into a

multi-million dollar operation.

Initially, the couple continued running Aquafarms, a modest fish farm operation near the village of Feversham that once had been run by Sandy Gott's parents, while supplying tanker loads of spring water to bottling companies in Toronto.

"It started as a hobby and grew into a whole new business," says Jamie Gott.

Today, Ice River supplies private label bottled water to such retail giants as Loblaws and Wal-Mart Canada and is fast expanding into the United States. Its private label brands include Canadian Essence, Canadian Mountain Springs, Ice River Springs, Aquara Spring Water,

Camelot Products, Corner Bakery, Cott, Gold Mountain Springs, Indigo Books, Life Brand, Lipsey Mountain Springs, President's Choice Natural Spring Water, Ontario Gold, Sam's Club, Second Cup, Sunshine Joe's, Table Rock Mountain Spring Water, Wal-Mart and Weis.

Ice River also has become one of the largest plastic bottle manufacturing companies in the hemisphere. Operating under the business name Blue Mountain Plastics, the company produces bottles, caps, handles and preforms for the dairy, juice and vinegar industries, among others. It also saves money by manufacturing plastic bottles and caps for its own products.



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