

IN BRIEF

From Herald News Services

Accountants feel economic pessimism

OUTLOOK • Canada's top accountants have become increasingly pessimistic about the domestic economy's prospects this year, according to poll results released Tuesday.

The quarterly survey, done by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Royal Bank of Canada, showed just 24 per cent of chartered accountants holding senior executive positions are optimistic about the economy for the coming year. That's down from 63 per cent in the poll conducted in last year's fourth quarter.

Half the respondents said they expect the stalling U.S. economy to negatively impact their company. As well, the average profit growth anticipated by these CAs for the year fell to 1.3 per cent from expectations of three per cent in the previous quarter.

Bombardier goes on hiring spree

AIRCRAFT • Strong business jet sales and plans for new aircraft programs have sent **Bombardier Inc.** on a hiring blitz, with the company looking for almost 800 new workers in Montreal.

Bombardier wants to hire 500 engineers for its new aircraft design program, which is working on plans for the Learjet 85, CRJ1000 and the CSeries.

Bombardier Inc. is also recruiting 100 workers over the next few months at its plant in Northern Ireland.

MacDonald Dettwiler strikes federal deal

AVIATION • **Macdonald Dettwiler and Associates Ltd.** said Tuesday in Montreal it has signed a contract worth up to \$4.7 million with the federal government to upgrade the radar systems for the country's fleet of CP140 Aurora patrol aircraft.

The deal with the Department of National Defence is to provide engineering services, repairs and spares for the Auroras, which were first acquired in 1980, the company said in a statement.

MDA, based in Richmond, B.C., was recently banned by the federal government from selling its space-technology division to a U.S. company for \$1.33 billion.

Via Rail raises fares amid rising fuel costs

TRANSPORTATION • **Via Rail Canada Inc.** is raising fares by five per cent next Tuesday to counter rising fuel costs.

Via initially planned to raise prices by two per cent on June 3, but that amount wouldn't offset the higher cost of diesel fuel used by trains, spokesman Malcolm Andrews said Tuesday.

The passenger rail service cited other inflationary pressure on items such as food served on trains.

"All of our suppliers' costs are going up," Andrews said. "We are not immune."

Victoria suburb plans \$1-billion development

REAL ESTATE • Colwood, B.C.'s city council has approved a \$1-billion development plan for the Victoria suburb that includes highrise commercial, office and residential buildings.

Plans for 5.7 hectares include at least a dozen highrise commercial, office and residential buildings of up to 29 storeys, including one or two hotels; 4,100 parking spaces on three levels of underground parking; public space; and a variety of housing for 4,500 people.

“The Market is going to have a bit of a French-country feel, which will tie in with the residential component of the park”

RANDY REMINGTON, REMINGTON DEVELOPMENT CORP.



Dean Bicknell, Calgary Herald

Randy Remington, president of Remington Development Corp., says the Quarry Park mixed-use project will have seven or eight restaurants, a grocery store and a bank, and will feature architecture inspired by France.

French flair coming to southeast retail centre

Restaurants join stampede to Quarry Park

MARIO TONEGUZZI
CALGARY HERALD

A local developer has plans for a 5.7-hectare regional shopping centre in southeast Calgary, complete with French flair, as part of the massive Quarry Park development.

The retail component will have an architectural style described as “inspired largely by the vernacular architecture of the northwest part of France.”

An application for The Market at Quarry Park is before the Calgary planning commission, which will discuss the proposal at a meeting Thursday.

Randy Remington, president of **Remington Development Corp.**, said The Market will include nearly 100,000 square feet of retail development.

“We’re expecting to have seven to eight restaurants. We’ve signed **Toronto-Dominion**. It’s going to be a free-standing bank. **Calgary Co-op** will be there with an inner-city market (concept), pharmacy, home-care division, liquor store, and right now we’re probably oversubscribed on restaurants,” said Remington.

“So we’re going through and picking very carefully so we have a variety of offerings from sit-down to full table service.”

The Market will also include a day care and there are also plans for a 100-room boutique hotel. The Market is expected to open in the fall of 2009.

“The Market is going to have a bit of a French-country feel, which will tie in with the residential component of the park,” added Remington.

The entire Quarry Park project, which had been previously announced,



is a 127-hectare work/live/play development on an old quarry site in the city's southeast, on 18th Street south of Glenmore Trail and east of Deerfoot Trail.

When complete, it will include about 1.7 million square feet of campus-style office space for between 8,500 and 9,000 employees and 2,100 residential units of all types including single-family, multi-family and townhomes.

The massive Quarry Park redevelopment project is pegged in excess of \$1 billion.

At a Tuesday news conference at the site, Remington announced it had selected **Cardel Homes** as the exclusive home builder for the construction of the single-family homes and townhomes at Quarry Park. The total would be about 600 units.

The companies said the style of architecture will be French country and Georgian — “consistent with the European flair that will be prevalent throughout the residential development of the community.”

“Quarry Park will be one of the most desirable communities in which to live given its exquisite design features, including the interconnected parks, pathways and flowing streams,” said Ryan Ockey, president of Cardel.

The residential development will begin in November, with show homes available for viewing in spring 2009.

Cardel Homes will also be moving its corporate headquarters into the new 104,000-square-foot Cardel Centre in Quarry Park's North Campus in July 2009.

Remington and Cardel also announced Tuesday they have a proposal before the city to build a new southeast recreation facility at Quarry Park of about 200,000 square feet to be called the Quarry Park Education and Recreation Complex.

Remington, Cardel and a handful of other sponsors have committed more than \$10 million for the project. The city has announced it would like to build a recreation facility in the southeast and has approved a budget of \$70 million for it.

Ockey said the city is undergoing a “needs and preferences” study to determine the location and facility requirements for the residents of southeast Calgary.

The Remington/Cardel proposal includes two hockey rinks, indoor and outdoor soccer fields, two gymnasiums, an exercise gym, a lap pool, lounge, restaurant, community meeting rooms and a playground.

Cardel has also proposed to either purchase or lease adjoining land to construct a new facility for the relocation of Tanbridge Academy.

Tanbridge is a non-profit sports academy providing athletic training as part of the Alberta school curriculum for grades 4 to 12.

Ockey said the companies hope to have the southeast recreation facility under construction by next year and it would take three years to build.

AGRICULTURE

Bill limits wheat board voters

MIA RABSON
WINNIPEG FREE PRESS
OTTAWA

Small-time grain farmers from the Prairies will be cut off from voting in elections for the Canadian Wheat Board under legislation introduced Tuesday by Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz.

Bill C-57 will restrict the voters' list for the 10 elected members of the board of directors to “actual producers who produced at least 120 tonnes of grain in either of the two previous completed crop years.”

Currently there is no production requirement and Ritz said in a statement the changes will ensure only active farmers get a vote, not those who have retired, rented out their land or grow only small amounts of grain as a hobby.

“You earn the right to call yourself a farmer by growing crops, not by filing paperwork,” Ritz said in a news release.

Larry Hill, chairman of the Canadian Wheat Board, said he isn't sure yet how the change will affect the voters list. One hundred and twenty tonnes is not a huge amount of grain, he said, but he added that Tuesday was the first he'd heard of the change and the board hasn't had time yet to look at the idea.

The board meets for a regular meeting starting today and will discuss it then, said Hill.

“We will respond to the minister with what we think,” said Hill.

Liberal agriculture critic Wayne Easter said he wonders why Ritz is introducing this bill now when his other wheat-board amendments to open up barley marketing have not even been brought to the House for debate yet.

“I am suspicious of it,” said Easter. “I think there is more to this than meets the eye.”

Easter said he agrees that only farmers who actually produce grain and deliver it to the wheat board should be allowed to vote.

But he said this government has a poor record in democracy when it comes to the wheat board plebiscite held in 2007.

“I think we have every right to be suspicious now,” said Easter.

NDP Wheat Board critic Pat Martin said if this is just about ensuring only actual producers get to vote, the production requirement should be much lower. He said he plans to amend it at committee to be 10 tonnes, not 120 tonnes.

Manitoba farmer Butch Harder, a spokesman for Friends of the Canadian Wheat Board, said this is a “draconian” measure that is intended to rig the next elections so the government can put more anti-CWB-monopoly directors on the board.

“This restricts the right of the smaller producer to have a vote,” he said.

“It says if you're a big producer you have power and if you're small you have none. Are they next going to say people with low incomes shouldn't get to vote in the next federal election?”

Jeff Nielsen, president of the Western Barley Growers Association, which supports the government's bid to end the CWB monopoly, said this measure is welcome.

“This isn't ganging up on the wheat board, this is strengthening it,” he said.