

Collingwood Ethanol produces Green Fertilizer.

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In the last year a new company has started producing environment friendly products in Collingwood. The former NACAN site has been transformed by Collingwood Ethanol into a plant that buys locally grown corn and processes it into several products. As the company's name implies, ethanol is the primary product. It is blended with gasoline to add a renewable energy component to transportation fuel. But the other products produced in the process are equally valuable.

A product called AMAIZEINGLY GREEN is actually a portion of the corn kernel that is called corn gluten meal. It is bagged and sold as an environmentally friendly fertilizer and weed control. As a fertilizer it supplies a slow release source of nitrogen. The same product also acts as a pre-emergent weed control. Many communities, including Collingwood, have recently banned the cosmetic use of chemical pesticides. AMAIZEINGLY GREEN is a key component of the new lawn care programs being developed that meet the new stringent bylaws.

Collingwood Ethanol buys corn from local farmers and in the process it has added vitality to this important sector of our local economy. The corn is then mixed with heated water and allowed to steep. Then it is ground using a wet grinding process that is very effective at separating various fractions of the corn. The next step washes away the external coatings of the seed and creates a fiber that is a product in itself. The gluten is separated in a filtering process. That leaves the starch fraction, which is used to produce the alcohol for fuel.

The corn gluten portion is dried and pelletized and placed into 9 and 18 kg, bags as a fertilizer and weed control product. It will be distributed throughout Canada and the US. under the name AMAZEINLY GREEN. The same product will be shipped in 2 different bags and marketed as a fertilizer and natural weed control according to rules set by the Federal Government. There are currently no rules that permit a product to be sold as both a weed control and fertilizer hence the need for 2 bags for the same product. For commercial applications the product is also offered in bulk totes.

Collingwood Ethanol has hired 100 local employees and contractors for 3 shifts and year round production. It supports the community in many ways, including an agreement with the Rotary Club of Collingwood South Georgian Bay to allow it to sell AMAIZEINGLY GREEN as a fundraiser throughout Canada. This initiative will support projects that Rotary Clubs initiate across the country and around the world.

Further information on AMAIZEINGLY GREEN will be featured in the next few weeks in this newspaper. A complete natural lawn care program will be described weekly as the season unfolds. For a preview also check Amaizeinglygreen.ca and Rotarycollingwoodsgb.org. The series will also be available on this newspaper website. Please order your AMAIZEINGLY GREEN using the Rotary Promotional Code to support local charities.