

SXL Bearings Save Pulp and Paper Mill Thousands of Dollars each Month



Cascades Canada Inc., Quebec Pulp and Paper Plant

Recycled paper is a dirty product to create. The pulp is made from post-consumer waste that is mashed into a slurry with plenty of water to filter out contaminants and debris. At the end of the recycling process, the residues are sent through a trammel which is a giant, turning horizontal cylinder that is 123 cm (48") in diameter with internal baffles with a bearing inside diameter of 39 cm (15½"). The residues coming through it contain metal wires, glass, plastic, sand, water and anything else that could be found in a recycling bin or on the ground. The bearing at the end of the cylinder is often submerged when the water level increases. Eventually the debris reaches the bearing, damaging the seal and eventually causing the bearing to fail.

At Cascades Canada Inc. in Kingsey Falls, Quebec, the bearing and seal failure was not only a huge problem but also very expensive. Between replacing the \$3,000 roller bearing and losing 2 days of production, the

disruption was costing the company between \$4,000 and \$5,000 every six months.

Joel Fortier, head of mechanical projects at Cascades Kingsey, believed there had to be a better way of doing business. He was already familiar with Thordon products, having used them in other equipment that handles recycled paper products, (including the machines that make the takeout coffee cup carriers at Tim Horton's™).

"Recycled materials are not very clean," Fortier says. "I use Thordon products more and more when I need a grease-free bushing because they can withstand the wear!"

Users in various industries have found that Thordon's SXL grade material is resistant to abrasive conditions, unlike metal or rubber. Since installing the SXL in December 2008, the roller bearing at Cascades is still going strong. No maintenance and no disruption.

"It's still rolling," Fortier says, "and it rolls continually 24 hours a day, 365 days a year." Fortier has come to know Thordon products almost as well as his distributor does. He is continually identifying ways to solve machinery problems in new and novel ways using Thordon products.

"I knew it would work," Fortier says. "I have even joked that if Thordon were edible, I would have it in my breakfast cereal every morning." **NW**



SXL bearings installed in trammel

THORDON

THORDON BEARINGS INC.
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Printed in Canada