

From the Buffalo Business First

[:http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2015/10/14/pride-pak-to-build-new-15-5-million.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2015/10/14/pride-pak-to-build-new-15-5-million.html)

Pride Pak to build new \$15.5 million Medina manufacturing site

Oct 14, 2015, 11:58am EDT Updated: Oct 14, 2015, 1:15pm EDT



[David Bertola](#)

Reporter- *Buffalo Business First*

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Google+](#)

Pride Pak Canada Ltd., which had been looking at existing Medina locations to house a manufacturing facility, has decided instead to build a new, \$15.5 million in the Orleans County town.

Pride Pak is a Mississauga-based fruit and vegetable processing company that plans to build a 62,000 square-foot facility on 13 acres in Medina Business Park. After the facility opens next year and is expanded in subsequent years, Karr anticipates that 300 to 400 could work there.

Earlier this year, [the company had been kicking the tires on the former](#) BernzOmatic hand torch manufacturing site, which is owned by Columbus, Ohio-based Worthington Cylinders and closed last year.

Pride Pak exports about half of its products to the United States.

CEO [Steven Karr](#) had wanted to be in production by the end of this year, but ultimately it was decided to build the new plant. He anticipates the facility opening in June 2016. Orleans EDA vice president [Gabrielle Barone](#) said that the 13-acre site provides water, sewer and power infrastructure to meet Pride Pak's needs.

"Everything is working out, and in a few weeks, we should be putting a shovel into the ground," Karr said.

The Orleans County planning board will review the project next week, and the permitting process should be completed at a Nov. 3 Medina village planning board meeting.

Karr said that the Medina facility should lower costs associated with shipping product back and forth over the U.S.-Canada border.

"We think that it's best that we open up over there and work with local farmers as well," said Karr, who added that the company buys about 80 percent of its raw materials from U.S. farmers.

The initial facility would cost about \$12 million. Two build-outs would bring the total project to \$15.5 million.

"Once we start, train all the people on food safety and get it running smoothly, we'll add lines and expand the operation," Karr said.

Pride Pak employs about 200 at its Mississauga facility. The company also operates a site in Newfoundland.

David Bertola covers small business, energy and marketing