

BUSINESS

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E-Zee wrap fastest growing firm

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A Perdue plastic wrap company was the fastest-growing business in Saskatchewan during the past five years, according to a recent study.

The sales of Jim Scharf Holdings Ltd. have grown 900 per cent to \$4.5 million in 1997 from just \$455,000 in 1992.

That was good enough to rank 70th on the PROFIT 100 list of the fastest-growing businesses in Canada. Scharf Holdings ranked 15th in 1995 and 46th the year before.

The list is compiled by Profit, a Canadian business magazine.

Founded in 1986, the company is co-owned by Perdue couple Jim and Bruna Scharf. The company sells and exports several products, but the most popular has been the E-Zee Wrap 1000 plastic-wrap dispenser.

Jim Scharf said he was honored to make the list again.

"Things have been booming here for us. We started this in our garage," he said.

"We've got big things planned for this company."

Scharf said he doesn't see his location in Perdue as a disadvantage.

"It's been very good for us. What we do could be done from anywhere. We're centrally located (affording access to both coasts)," he said.

"Just get out there and do it. Believe in your dreams."

Scharf Holdings was the only Saskatchewan business to crack the top 100 on the list. Ontario businesses grabbed 56 of the spots, while the Atlantic provinces had only one company on the list.

The leading sector in the list was manufacturing, with 35 spots. Companies produced products ranging from night-vision binoculars to beer-making kits.

Image Processing Systems Inc. of Markham, Ont., which makes quality-control cameras for assembly lines, topped the list with a near-record 25,519 per cent growth over five years.