

... Dowcraft Readies Manufacturing Plant

By TIM O'BRIEN

Within less than a month, Dowcraft Corp. should open a new manufacturing plant in Jamestown which will create about 20 new jobs, company President Alfred G. Ford said Friday.

The company received a \$100,000 loan from the Jamestown Local Development Corp. at a meeting Friday afternoon. The money, to be loaned for 10 years at 5 percent interest, will be used to help Dowcraft convert the former Proto Tool plant to its new use.

The building will house two separate companies, both part of Dowcraft, Ford explained.

The first floor will be used for a new subsidiary called D.C. Rollforms, he said, while the second floor will use the Dowcraft name for a new line of floor-to-ceiling partitions.

Since spring, Ford said, the company has been studying production of rollforms. Rollforms are used in manufacturing to mold steel, rather than having the steel sheets broken off in large pieces.

The high-technology work will be done by tool-and-die operators, he said.

"We felt it was a project we could handle," Ford said. "We had the expertise."

Gene Sadowski, executive vice president for the Dowcraft Division, said the company had been using rollforms and decided to pursue making its own. "We just felt it would be a good way to diversify," he said.

To enter the new field, Ford said, Dowcraft needed more space. The company's two present locations are filled to capacity, he noted.

The company selected the former Proto Tool property because it has land that can be used for future expansion. "That will be coming down the line," he said.

The city of Jamestown is to provide a parking lot across the street from the new plant. "We're probably going to be in operation next month," Ford said.

The cost of the new facility to Dow-

craft is estimated at \$928,946. Those costs include \$90,000 to buy the property from the Jamestown Urban Renewal Agency and other costs for construction, renovation and equipment.

Besides the Local Development Corp. funding, Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency is to provide a \$150,000 loan at 5 percent interest over 10 years.

The Local Development Corp. also awarded a \$14,122 loan to Kroon & Boon Inc., which owns Olandt Print & Copy Shop.

The loan, part of the Downtown Greenlining Program to aid city businesses, will help pay expenses that resulted from the shop's changing locations.

The store switched locations with the former Logger's restaurant on 112 E. Third Street. The eatery is to open under a new name, The Boathouse Deli.

The JLDC loan is to help pay part of renovation and electrical-improvement costs totalling \$29,025. It is to be paid back within five years at 5 percent interest.

"This is really part of that two-project swap of space," City Development Director Curtis D. Johnson Jr. said.

Owner Mary Kroon noted the move is expected to create two to three jobs.

The shop is buying a new copier with a greater capacity and other equipment to help it deal with an increasing workload, she said.

"The relocating did go very smoothly," she said. "We moved on Saturday and Sunday and were back in business on Monday."

As collateral, the store is offering its furniture, fixtures and equipment.

The JLDC also awarded a \$8,325 commercial-energy loan to Samuel Paladino, owner of Dorian's Plus, 308 N. Main St. The money is to be used to install a new roof, remove an old air-conditioning unit and repair cornices.

The money is to be paid back at 5 percent interest over five years.