

PRIMO WATER CORP /CN/

FORM 8-K (Current report filing)

Filed 10/04/01 for the Period Ending 09/25/01

Address	4221 W. BOY SCOUT BLVD. SUITE 400 TAMPA, FL, 33607
Telephone	813-313-1732
CIK	0000884713
Symbol	PRMW
SIC Code	2086 - Bottled and Canned Soft Drinks and Carbonated Waters
Industry	Non-Alcoholic Beverages
Sector	Consumer Non-Cyclicals
Fiscal Year	12/02

COTT CORP /CN/

FORM 8-K (Unscheduled Material Events)

Filed 10/4/2001 For Period Ending 9/25/2001

Address	207 QUEENS QUAY W SUITE 340 TORONTO ONTARIO CANA, 00000
Telephone	416-203-3898
CIK	0000884713
Industry	Beverages (Non-Alcoholic)
Sector	Consumer/Non-Cyclical
Fiscal Year	12/31

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): SEPTEMBER 25, 2001

COTT CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

CANADA

(State or Other
Jurisdiction of
Incorporation)

000-19914

(Commission
File Number)

NONE

(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

207 QUEEN'S QUAY WEST
SUITE 340
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5J 1A7
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (416) 203-3898

N/A

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

On September 25, 2001, Cott Corporation (the "Company"), through an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary, invested \$29.5 million in cash to form a new business venture, Northeast Retailer Brands LLC (the "LLC"), with Polar Corp. ("Polar"). The Company will have an indirect, 51% ownership interest in the LLC, and Polar, together with its wholly-owned subsidiary, will have a 49% interest. The foregoing description is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Press Release issued September 25, 2001 filed and herewith as Exhibit 99.1.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND EXHIBITS

(a) Financial Statements of Business Acquired - Not Applicable.

(b) Pro Forma Financial Statements - Not Applicable.

(c) Exhibits.

99.1. Press Release issued September 25, 2001.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

COTT CORPORATION

Date: October 4, 2001

By: /s/ Raymond P. Silcock

*Raymond P. Silcock
Executive Vice President &
Chief Financial Officer*

EXHIBIT INDEX

99.1. Press Release issued September 25, 2001.

Exhibit 99.1

COTT CORPORATION FORMS ALLIANCE WITH POLAR BEVERAGES TO SERVE NORTHEAST USA

(All information shown in U.S. dollars)

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 25, 2001: In a strategic move to enhance its position and its customer base in the Northeastern US, Cott Corporation (NASDAQ:COTT; TSE:BCB) today announced it was investing \$29.5 million in cash to form a new business combination with Polar Corp., the leading independent retailer-brand beverage supplier in New England. The new venture, Northeast Retailer Brands LLC, will add Polar's private label unit to Cott's position as the leading retailer-brand soft drink supplier in North America.

"Combining forces with Polar brings us a host of efficiencies and opportunities," said Frank E. Weise, Cott president and chief executive officer. "The strong customer relationships built over decades by Ralph Crowley and his team represent a powerful asset for future growth in New England and the Mid Atlantic states. We expect this alliance, the results of which will be consolidated in our financial statements, to add annual sales of \$55 million, and earnings per share growth for Cott shareowners, in its first full year."

"Adding Cott's marketing and merchandising skills to Polar's operations and logistical skills will bolster our efforts to help retailers win consumer preference," said Ralph D. Crowley Jr., Polar president and chief executive officer. "I am convinced that all our customers will benefit by also being able to work with Cott's research and innovation teams in formulating new products for our region."

Leading the new unit as its general manager will be John L. Dennehy who currently serves as Polar's vice president for private label sales. A 25-year professional in the beverage industry, Dennehy has been with Polar since 1998. Prior to that he served as general manager of Cott's operations in the Southwest United States.

Cott's presence in the Northeastern US is extended by this move which follows its Concord Beverage acquisition last October. "This new partnership significantly improves our ability to service our customers from facilities in Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts," Weise pointed out. "It also allows us to offer a full range of products and category management assistance to any array of major new customers."

Headquartered in Worcester, Massachusetts, Polar traces its roots back more than 120 years as a beverage bottler and marketer in New England and surrounding states, supplying many major retailers in the region. In addition, Polar has a number of other businesses that will not be part of the new combination with Cott: a range of proprietary brands, including Polar and Adirondack, and several national soft drink brand franchises.

* * *

CONFERENCE CALL

Cott will hold a conference call regarding the transaction that will be available via webcast and telephone at 4:00 PM EDT today. For those who wish to listen to the presentations, there is a listen-only dial-in telephone line, which can be accessed as follows:

North America only: 877-461-2816
International: 1-416-695-9753

To access the webcast, please visit Cott's website at www.cott.com at least fifteen minutes early to register, download, and install any necessary software. For those who are unable to access the live broadcasts, a replay will be available on Cott's website following the Conference Call through 12:00 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, October 2, 2001.

ABOUT COTT CORPORATION

Cott Corporation is the world's largest retailer brand soft drink supplier, with the leading take home carbonated soft drink market shares in this segment in its core markets of the U.S., Canada and the U.K.

SAFE HARBOR STATEMENTS

This press release contains forward-looking statements reflecting management's current expectations regarding future results of operations, economic performance, financial condition and achievements of the Company. Forward-looking statements, specifically those concerning future performance, are subject to certain risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ materially. These risks and uncertainties are detailed from time to time in the Company's filings with the appropriate securities commissions, and include, without limitation, stability of procurement costs for raw and packaging materials, competitive activities by national, regional and retailer brand beverage manufacturers, the Company's ability to integrate acquired business into its operations, fluctuations in currency versus the U.S. dollar, the uncertainties of litigation, and retailers' continued commitment to their retailer brand beverage programs. The foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive.

COTT CORPORATION CONTACTS

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