

RITCHIE BROS AUCTIONEERS INC

Form 40-F

February 22, 2007

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 40-F

(Check One)

Registration statement pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
or

Annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006
Commission File Number: 001-13425

Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Incorporated
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Not Applicable

Canada

Not Applicable

(Translation of Registrant's Name
Into
English (if Applicable))

(Province or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification
Number (if Applicable))

7389

(Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number (if Applicable))

6500 River Road, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada V6X 4G5 (604) 273-7564

(Address and Telephone Number of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Robert K. Whitsit, 4170 Highway 154, Newnan, GA, 30265-1429 (770) 304-3355

(Name, Address (Including Zip Code) and Telephone Number (Including Area Code) of
Agent For Service in the United States)

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

Common Shares

New York Stock Exchange; Toronto Stock Exchange

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Not Applicable

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act:

Not Applicable

For annual reports, indicate by check mark the information filed with this Form:

Annual information form

Audited annual financial statements

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report.

Common Shares: 34,673,100

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant by filing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. If "Yes" is marked, indicate the filing number assigned to the Registrant in connection with such Rule.

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Yes

No

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes

No

Forward-Looking Statements

This Annual Report on Form 40-F and documents incorporated by reference contain forward-looking statements (as such term is defined under the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995) that involve risks and uncertainties. These statements are based on current expectations and estimates about the Company's business and include, among others, statements relating to:

the Company's future performance;

growth of the Company's operations;

expansion of the geographic markets and market segments in which the Company conducts auctions, including the world market for used industrial equipment;

increases in the number of consignors and bidders participating in and the average size of the Company's auctions;

the Company's key strengths;

the average percentage of equipment sold at the Company's auctions that leaves the region of the sale;

the Company's ability to draw consistently significant numbers of local and international bidders to its auctions;

the Company's ability to attract and retain the best people, and to increase the productivity of its sales force;

the anticipated improvement, acquisition and development by the Company of auction sites;

the relative percentage of the Company's gross auction sales represented by straight commission, guarantee and inventory contracts;

the dollar amount of the Company's exposure to outstanding guarantee contracts;

the Company's ability to grow its gross auction sales at a manageable pace and increase its earnings per share;

the Company's auction revenue rates and the sustainability of those rates, and the seasonality of gross auction sales and auction revenues;

the Company's direct expense rates, depreciation expenses and general and administrative expenses;

the Company's operating leverage and economies of scale;

the Company's future capital expenditures;

the Company's M07 strategic initiatives, the timing of their implementation and the effect on its business, results of operations and capital expenditures;

the Company's internet initiatives and the level of participation in its auctions by internet bidders;

the proportion of the Company's revenues and operating costs denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar or the effect of any currency exchange fluctuations on its results of operations;

financing available to the Company and the sufficiency of the Company's working capital to meet its financial needs; and

the effect on the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations of the settlement of Caterpillar Inc.'s complaint to the International Trade Commission.

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In some cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by terms such as anticipate, believe, could, continue, estimate, expect, intend, may, might, ongoing, plan, potential, predict, project, should, will, these terms, and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. The Company's forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. While the Company has not described all potential risks related to its business, the important factors listed under Risk Factors in the Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations attached as Exhibit 3 to this Report on Form 40-F are among those factors that may affect the Company's performance and could cause actual financial and operational results to differ significantly from the Company's predictions. The Company does not intend to update publicly any forward-looking statements, even if its predictions have been affected by new information, future events or other developments.

Controls and Procedures

The Company carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, of the effectiveness of Ritchie Bros.' disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) as of December 31, 2006. Based on this evaluation, the Company's principal executive officer and principal financial officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

The Company's principal executive officer and principal financial officer do not expect that Ritchie Bros.' disclosure controls and procedures or internal control over financial reporting will prevent all error and fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the company have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of simple mistake or error. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by management override of the control. The design of any system of controls also is based partly on certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions.

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting for the Company as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934. The Company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed under the supervision of the Company's CEO and CFO, and effected by the Company's Board of Directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of the financial statements for external purposes in accordance with Canadian and United States generally accepted accounting principles and the requirements of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with policies and procedures may deteriorate.

Management has assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006. In making this assessment, management used the criteria described in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on its assessment under the framework in Internal Control - Integrated

Framework, management has concluded that internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2006.

Attestation Report of the Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Company's independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, has audited Management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting, as stated in their report which is attached hereto as part of Exhibit 2.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

During 2006 we replaced our existing accounting system with several modules of an ERP system, as a part of our M07 initiative described in our management's discussion and analysis. This implementation resulted in material changes to our internal controls; however, it was not made as a result of any internal control weakness detected as a part of our evaluation of our internal controls over financial reporting.

Other than the ERP system implementation, there were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Audit Committee Financial Expert

The Company's Board of Directors has determined that it has at least one audit committee financial expert serving on its Audit Committee. Ms. Beverley Briscoe has been determined to be such audit committee financial expert and is independent, as that term is defined by the New York Stock Exchange's corporate governance listing standards applicable to the Company for Audit Committee membership. The SEC has indicated that the designation of Ms. Briscoe as an audit committee financial expert does not make Ms. Briscoe an expert for any purpose, impose any duties, obligations or liability on Ms. Briscoe that are greater than those imposed on members of the Audit Committee and Board of Directors who do not carry this designation, or affect the duties, obligations or liability of any other member of the Audit Committee.

Code of Ethics

The Company has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the Code of Conduct) that applies to all employees, officers and directors. The Code of Conduct includes, among other things, written standards for the Company's principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer that are required by the SEC for a code of ethics applicable to such officers. The Code of Conduct is available at the Company's internet website, www.rbaction.com. The Company intends to disclose on its website within five days following the date of any such amendment or waiver, any amendment or waiver of the code of ethics portion of its Code of Conduct applicable to these officers that is required by SEC rules or regulations to be disclosed publicly, and to keep such disclosure available on the website for at least a 12-month period.

Principal Accountant Fees And Services

KPMG LLP and predecessor firms have served as Ritchie Bros.' auditing firm since 1974. The aggregate fees billed by KPMG LLP and its affiliates during fiscal 2006 and 2005 are detailed below.

| | Fiscal 2006 | Fiscal 2005 |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Audit Fees | \$ 1,143,000 | \$ 627,000 |
| Audit-Related Fees | 248,000 | 105,000 |
| Tax Fees | 575,000 | 745,000 |
| All Other Fees | | |
| Total Fees | \$ 1,966,000 | \$ 1,477,000 |

The nature of each category of fees is as follows:

Audit Fees:

Audit fees were paid for professional services rendered by the auditors for the audit and interim reviews of the Company's consolidated financial statements or services provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

Audit-Related Fees:

Audit-related fees were paid for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company's financial statements and are not reported under the Audit Fees item above.

Tax Fees:

Tax fees were paid for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning professional services. These services consisted of: tax compliance, including the review of original and amended tax returns; assistance with questions regarding tax audits; assistance in completing routine tax schedules and calculations; and tax planning and advisory services relating to common forms of domestic and international taxation (i.e., income tax, capital tax, Goods and Services Tax and Value Added Tax).

Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures:

The Audit Committee has considered whether the provision of services other than audit services is compatible with maintaining the auditors' independence and has adopted a policy governing the provision of these services. This policy requires the pre-approval by the Audit Committee of all audit and non-audit services provided by the external auditor, other than any *de minimus* non-audit services allowed by applicable law or regulation. The policy outlines the procedures and the conditions pursuant to which permissible services proposed to be performed by KPMG LLP are pre-approved, provides a general pre-approval for certain permissible services and for subsequent reporting to the Audit Committee, and outlines a list of prohibited services. For fiscal 2006, less than 5% of the fees for the services described above were approved by the Audit Committee pursuant to the *de minimus* exemption.

All requests for KPMG LLP to provide services that do not require specific approval by the Audit Committee are reported to and documented by the Company's Corporate Secretary. If the proposed services are not covered by a pre-approval and the estimated fees for the proposed engagement are more than CA\$5,000, the engagement of KPMG LLP to provide such services requires specific approval by the Audit Committee. Any proposed engagement to provide services that requires specific approval by the Audit Committee pursuant to the terms of the policy is submitted to the Corporate Secretary for presentation to the Audit Committee for its consideration.

Additional Corporate Governance Information

Additional information regarding the Company's corporate governance practices is included in its Information Circular for the 2007 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and on the Company's internet website at www.rbauktion.com.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

The Company has no off-balance sheet arrangements that have or are reasonably likely to have a current or future material effect on the Company's financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources.

Contractual Obligations

The following table provides information about the Company's aggregate known contractual obligations as of December 31, 2006:

| | Total | Payments Due by Year | | | After 2011 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | In 2007 | In 2008 and 2009 | In 2010 and 2011 | |
| Long-term debt obligations | \$ 43,318 | \$ 237 | \$ 217 | \$ 42,864 | \$ |
| Operating leases obligations | 5,046 | 1,938 | 2,501 | 607 | |
| Other long-term obligations | | | | | |
| Total contractual obligations | \$ 48,364 | \$ 2,175 | \$ 2,718 | \$ 43,471 | \$ |

The Company's long-term debt in the table above is comprised mainly of term loans put in place in 2005 with original terms to maturity of five years. The Company's operating leases related primarily to land on which it operates regional auction units and to administrative offices. These properties are located in the United States, Australia, Singapore, India, China, Japan, Mexico, Italy, Canada and the United Arab Emirates.

Future scheduled interest expenses over the next five years under our existing term debt are as follows:

| | In 2007 | In 2008 | In 2009 | In 2010 | In 2011 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Interest expense on long-term debt | \$ 2,275 | \$ 2,260 | \$ 2,254 | \$ 1,990 | \$ 78 |

Audit Committee

The Company's Board of Directors has a separately-designated standing Audit Committee established in accordance with section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the purpose of overseeing the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Company and audits of the Company's annual financial statements. As of the date of this Report, the members of the Audit Committee include Eric Patel, Beverley A. Briscoe and Edward B. Pitoniak. Ms. Briscoe serves as Chair of the Committee.

Undertaking

The Registrant undertakes to make available, in person or by telephone, representatives to respond to inquiries made by the SEC staff, and to furnish promptly, when requested to do so by the SEC staff, information relating to: the securities registered pursuant to Form 40-F; the securities in relation to which the obligation to file an annual report on Form 40-F arises; or transactions in said securities.

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Signatures

EXHIBIT INDEX

Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of the Exchange Act, the Registrant certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 40-F and has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

**RITCHIE BROS. AUCTIONEERS
INCORPORATED**

By: /s/ ROBERT S. ARMSTRONG

Name: Robert S. Armstrong

Title: Chief Financial Officer and Corporate
Secretary

Date: February 21, 2007

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. | Annual Information Form of the Registrant dated February 20, 2007. |
| 2. | The following audited consolidated financial statements of the Registrant, together with the independent auditors' reports dated February 19, 2007 of KPMG LLP, Chartered Accountants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004;b. Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2006 and 2005;c. Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004;d. Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004; ande. Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (which includes reconciliation with United States generally accepted accounting principles). |
| 3. | Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for the year ended December 31, 2006. |
| 4. | Consent dated February 21, 2007 of KPMG LLP, Chartered Accountants. |
| 31.1 | Certificate of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31.2 | Certificate of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.1 | Certificate of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.2 | Certificate of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |