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Local Industry Grows

Ferguson, QM Bearings expand in Ferndale

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Two companies that are going through a growth spurt are moving into a large facility in Ferndale.

QM Bearings recently completed a move into the former A&R building at 5345-A LaBounty Road, taking 17,000 square feet of space. The company was formerly located at 5506 Nielsen Ave.

Ferguson Enterprises will occupy the other half of the building. Ferguson is moving a portion of its business, the HVAC products and services, into the 15,000-square-foot location on Oct. 24 and will rename that portion of the company Air Cord. Ferguson will keep the other portion of its distribution business, which includes plumbing and industrial products, at 4318 Pacific Highway.

When the two locations are in place, Ferguson will have about 25 employees in Whatcom County.

“Splitting the company into two locations will give us the opportunity to grow both divisions,” said Casey Lyones, branch manager. “At one location, we were starting to bump into each other.”

QM Bearings designs, manufactures and markets Blue Brute brand bearings, Quick-Flex brand couplings and conveyor sprockets. The main customers for QM Bearings include companies in the pulp and paper, sawmill, mining and steel industries.

The company made the decision to move into a larger facility to handle the growth it’s been going through in the past two years. QM Bearings reported sales growth of 30 percent in its 2005 fiscal year and expects an additional 20 percent increase in 2006. The company does not disclose its annual sales numbers.

“We outgrew our old space,” said Don Yorston, company president. “At our new location, we have nearly twice the space, which enable a more efficient manufacturing configuration and allows extra space for growth.”

QM Bearings also plans on hiring three more employees in the next month to increase the work force at the Ferndale facility to 23. Headquartered in Ferndale, the company also has warehouses in Litchfield, Ohio; Prince George, B.C.; and Mississauga, Ontario.