

# B&D Manufacturing building its future in Chelmsford

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Northern Ontario Business

After 27 years, three plants later and 100 employees scattered across Greater Sudbury, B&D Manufacturing will finally bring its industrial family under one roof with a 46,000-square-foot facility in Chelmsford.

The new site will accommodate the company's manufacturing, aluminum working and recreational production divisions, which were previously located in Sudbury, Onaping Falls and Chelmsford.

"All of our departments and sites work pretty well hand-in-hand," says Andre Ruest, general manager.

"It would make it that much easier if there's an issue or something that needs to be done if you can just walk down the hall and you don't have to set up a meeting and drive across town. That'll make a big difference."

Designed by Sudbury-based Nicholls, Yallowega and Bélanger Architects, the facility is being built by A3 Construction, also of Sudbury. Subtrades workers are also from the area, meaning that up to 50 local workers are toiling away at the site at any given time.

Although the new, expansive space marks an improvement over the total of 30,000-square feet available across the company's three local sites, Ruest says the new facility represents a much greater benefit than the 16,000-extra square feet.

As the company amalgamates its operations, various elements, which are redundant, will be able to be eliminated. For example, the single building will require a single administrative office rather than the three currently in use. This will translate into even more space that can be used for operations or manufacturing, creating even more efficiencies. This kind of streamlining is crucial as the company seeks to continue competing in the highly competitive mining supply and service market, Ruest says.

"Mining is really busy right now, and they want to produce the ore, and they don't want to wait for their products. If something breaks down, they want it fixed right away, which is a big thing and that's how we got where we are. We have a reputation for service, and we have to maintain that."

These aren't the only areas in which the company is hoping



A new 46,000-square-foot facility is under construction in Chelmsford to bring B&D Manufacturing's three Sudbury-area sites under one roof. Conceptual Drawing supplied.

the building will provide savings, as the rising cost of energy has convinced the company to take a "green" approach to the design of the new facility, Ruest says.

When completed, the building's external walls will feature some solar components, helping to heat the building.

High-efficiency interior lighting will also contribute to reduced energy costs, with a system of automatic timers turning off unnecessary lighting at less-than-optimal times.

Additionally, the facility will collect the storm waters from the roof and put them to use as "gray water" in the facility's toilets. In a similar vein, the building will feature waterless urinals. Such measures are expected to save B&D Manufacturing up to 25 per cent of its current energy costs.

The property represents the future of the company, Ruest says, as the Onaping site is already working at full production, with no room for growth. The company is considering hiring additional workers as manufacturing capacity increases, he says.

What's more, the finished building will only take up nine acres of the 117-acre property, leaving the remainder of the space open for additional expansion. Ruest says although no solid plans are in place for the space, the expansive property could be potentially developed as an industrial park and leased to other tenants.

"We haven't decided how we're going to go about it. Initially, we have to take the plunge and develop the road access and such, and we haven't finalized anything. It's something we're serious about doing, though."

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