



The marriage of wood and know-how!

The man that taught me my profession, my father Jude Baillargeon, once told me: "each door that we build requires special attention"; to this he added: "the respect that we have for our product is directly proportional to the respect that we have for our customer."

That is how, in a few words, Bruno Baillargeon, president of Les Portes Baillargeon Inc. sums up the philosophy of the company that was founded in 1985 in St-Ephrem in the Beauce area.

Employing today over 100 employees, the basic principals have not changed and the company is in constant progress. With an ultra-modern plant of 6450 m² (69,400 sq. ft.) and a volume of nearly 20 millions dollars (CAN), Portes Baillargeon is the most important Canadian manufacturer in the sector of architectural, institutional and commercial doors.

They offer customers a great choice of products such as fireproof doors, doors for radiology rooms and an important range of robust and ultra-robust doors that meet the different building standards. These doors ally beauty, solidity and durability, and they are available in a complete range of rigid panels, laminates and different wood species (yellow birch, ash, oak, walnut, cherry, maple and mahogany).

Since 1994, the marketing strategy was re-oriented to specialize in large dimension added value doors and develop export markets such as the United States, Europe, and the Arabian Emirates. This proved to be a successful change since the percentage of export sales has increased from 0% to over 30% while improving results on the Canadian Market. In Great Britain, for example, the exclusive distributor for Portes Baillargeon has great success with the fireproof doors that meet the required BS476022 homologation.

Efficient management at all levels

Considering that people are the most precious asset in any

World class doors !

organization, PORTES BAILLARGEON adopted, since a few years, a participative management program. Thus, committees composed of managers, foremen and employees were given the necessary authority to accomplish with success different mandates such as security and health and quality control coordination. The program also includes a participation in company profits based on results.

All these measures have created a new dynamic which helped improve the interaction between all participants. When someone presents us with a problem, says M. Baillargeon, we ask that person: "what is your solution ?"

Administration of the company is completely computerized and considerable amounts have been invested in the last years with customized management software. All the sectors of activity are integrated: sales, accounting, inventory, costing and production. The CNC machines are connected to the office where it is possible to transfer the programs directly. At all times, one can know exactly the status of an order in process or in production, tracking being done through bar codes.

In terms of quality management, PORTES BAILLARGEON obtained the ISO 9002 certification in 1995 and was recently among the first to be accredited for the superior norm, ISO 9001 – 2000, for which they are very proud.

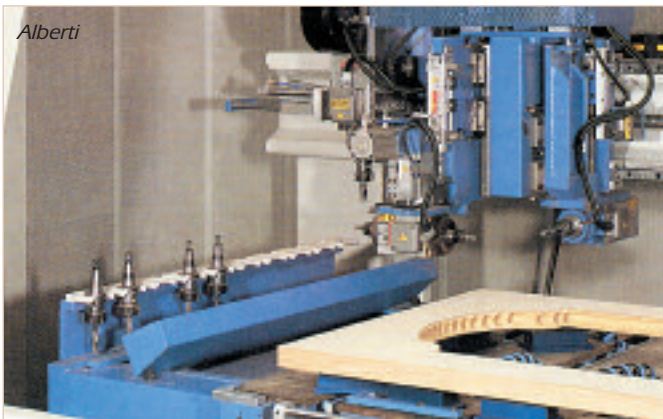




Alberti

Equipped for high output !

Facing a constant increase in volume, PORTES BAILLARGEON has regularly invested, more than 2.8 M (CAN) since 1998, for buildings and production equipment. At this level, it has been a real technological turn that was taken with the addition of numerical control (CNC) machines, always more sophisticated. We present here a review of the main equipments.



Alberti

Alberti DOOR/CN machining centre for doors

Even though PORTES BAILLARGEON was already well equipped for volume production with traditional lines (see below), they needed more flexibility for certain specialized value-added products that were key logging regular production. The objective was to be able to supply certain specialized products that were included in architectural contracts.

Alberti and Normand offered to them the DOOR/CN model, a machine especially designed for the machining of doors, and used since many years by important European manufacturers. The operating unit of the DOOR/CN offers two vertical routers, one 7.5HP and the other 11HP with HSK 63 type conique tool holders, and 2 horizontal routers including one with a double-spindle allowing for the

machining on the four sides of the piece. The main router of 11HP is completed by a tool changer with an 11 position magazine offering excellent flexibility.

The DOOR/CN is thus able to accomplish practically all machining operations such as: lock grooves, mortising, profile grooves, apertures, drilling, finishing details and the final contour finish of the door.

From the control and programming viewpoint, the DOOR/CN operates in a Windows environment and is thus very user friendly. In fact, programs generated by AUTOCAD software are directly transferred from the office to the machine.



Extend light

According to Bruno Baillargeon, he and his people chose the DOOR/CN because Alberti was offering at a competitive price, a machine meeting all of their specifications. A determining factor was also the personalized contact. Alberti, being a family business close

to their customers, has always shown flexibility and they even developed an automatic loading and unloading system especially for PORTES BAILLARGEON.

EXTEND LIGHT GY 1000 double surface planer

For the preparation of the door centres in laminated and glued wood before veneering, PORTES BAILLARGEON has been using for the past 2 years an EXTEND LIGHT GY-1000 planer with a capacity of 1000 mm (39.37 inches) in width. Supplied with motors of 50HP for the top head and 40HP for the bottom tool head, this planer removes 5-7 mm in total on both faces, at a feed speed of 16M/min (55 ft/min) thus producing an ideal surface for gluing. The GY-1000 is also equipped with high yield spiral tool heads with disposable knives facilitating maintenance and reducing down time. On the white pine used by PORTES BAILLARGEON, excellent output is obtained since the lifespan of the knives



Extend light

normally exceeds six weeks. Owing to the addition of this machine and its reliability, this department tripled its production capacity in order to provide the needed volume.

KVAL equipment

Among the equipment that contributed the most to the growth of the company, it is important to mention KVAL. In fact, more than 80% of the production of PORTES BAILLARGEON depends on these machines. Specialized for more than 50 years in the machinery for door manufacturing, KVAL has equipped the most important manufacturers in North America and provided them with system machines for each type of work. In the case of PORTES BAILLARGEON, 5 KVAL machines share the work.



K-Val

First, for high volume items they use the ARCHITECT model that can manufacture commercial doors of 54mm thick (2 -1/8 inches, and 1220 mm (4 feet) by 3048 mm (10 feet) in size.

Equipped with a loading system, the ARCHITECT adjusts itself automatically to the width of the door, brings it in position, cuts the hinge pockets, and machines the complete cylindrical lock section, taking 20 to 30 seconds depending on the door.

PORTES BAILLARGEON also has a flexible production line allowing efficient processing of smaller orders or items requiring a more specific machining. Three machines operate individually or sequentially, the COMMANDER, the FACE and the EDGE.

The COMMANDER is an automatic machining centre for cylindrical locks and hinges. The FACE is a CNC machine providing surface machining whereas the EDGE is a CNC mortiser doing the work on the edge of the door.

All this is completed with a DL-2 machine dedicated to the cut-out openings and the drilling of the holes for handles.



K-Val



K-Val

Veneer press ITALPRESSE SCF-10

Among the recent investments, there is also an ITALPRESSE multiple opening press with 1320 x 3150 mm (52" x 124") platen dimension. Five doors can be pressed in one pass

with a cycle time of 1-1/2 minutes. This equipment allowed PORTES BAILLARGEON to increase the capacity of the production using a minimum of space. The installation is completed by a Black Brothers glue applicator.



Italpresse

Finishing shop

Always looking for new ways to add value to its products, PORTES BAILLARGEON offers since one year the services of its finishing workshop. It is possible for customers to obtain products already painted, stained or varnished. This additional service is very much appreciated by customers and helps to reduce delivery for the finished product delivered directly to the site, in the case of projects for example.

In conclusion

For the president, Bruno Baillargeon, PORTES BAILLARGEON must not sit on its previous successes. On the contrary, a global re-engineering exercise will begin in the autumn of 2002 that will question all the procedures, from sales to production, everyone contributing by bringing their ideas to the table. Thus future development will be decided based on realistic and feasible objectives. In this way, Portes Baillargeon will continue its development and growth in the future.

The NORMAND team wishes them success in their endeavours and is very proud to contribute to their success!