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Growing fleet

Another employee and another truck for Tempco Refrigeration and Air Conditioning are indications of an expanding business. Providing service to the community are [from left] Matt McDowell, Jeanette and Tye Leishman with James, Ed Bakker, David McKenzie and Mark Long.



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Focus on heat pumps

Tempco Refrigeration and Air Conditioning provides variety of services

When Tye Leishman was growing up in Powell River, he was anxious to leave and explore other communities. Once he was away for a while, he realized what a wonderful place this is to live.

After 15 years away, he with his wife Jeanette came here to raise their son James close to his grandparents and aunt. They started working at Catalyst Paper Corporation and four years ago, set up their own business Tempco Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Ltd. It is a locally owned and operated union contractor that offers sales, service and installation of heat pumps, refrigeration equipment, sheet metal and electric installations.

Jeanette, a chartered accountant, keeps a sharp eye on the numbers. "I lucked out there," Tye says, adding, "in a small business, things can go sideways on the

numbers side. Having your own chartered accountant is as good as it gets."

The business keeps expanding. Tempco is now working in more new construction with the addition of Ed Bakker to its staff. A sheet metal specialist who has had his own business, Ed has chosen to join the Leishmans, Matt McDowell, Mark Long and David McKenzie.

Tempco has a major focus on residential heat pump sales and installation. A primary goal is to help homeowners make improvements to the comfort of their homes by installing new heat pump heating/cooling systems and improving air quality.

"A heat pump is simply an air conditioner in the summer that reverses the flow of refrigerant and heats the home in the winter," explains Tye.

Because of its mild cli-

mate, Powell River is one the best locations for an air-source heat pump. There are two types of units available. Forced air units use existing air ducts and are available with touch-screen programmable thermostats and ultra violet (UV) air purification. There are also ductless units, which can be installed in homes to replace existing electric baseboard heaters, or to condition a room where ductwork is not an option.

"Installing a heat pump is one of the single greatest things that someone can do to help out the environment and your wallet," says Tye. "Heat pumps lower your environmental impact compared to traditional heating systems because you're not burning fossil fuels."

Using only electricity, heat pumps are much more efficient than gas, oil or

electric furnaces.

"An installed heat pump will save 40 to 60 per cent on heating costs," says Tye. "The installation of a heat pump is a great investment for a home and there has never been a better time to purchase a new heat pump."

Just three weeks ago, the provincial government re-instituted an eco rebate that amounts to \$1420. In addition, York, which manufactures the heat pump units, is offering a US \$1,000 rebate until May 30. Tempco is the Powell River dealer for York heat pumps.

The company employs Red Seal government-certified tradesmen, including refrigeration journeymen, electrical journeymen, sheet metal journeymen and Gas B fitters.

Commercial clients account for an important part of the business as well. Tempco provides around-the-clock service, "because

there are times when we have to drop everything to be there for a refrigeration client," explains Matt.

"Being an electrical contractor enables us to complete a variety of different jobs from start to finish," says Tye who started as an apprentice with GT Electric in Powell River and became a journeyman in Victoria after a side trip to Australia.

"Jeanette and I are fortunate to be here," says Tye. "We wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

Whether readers are considering installing a new heat pump or already have an existing heat pump and want to ensure it is operating at maximum efficiency, they can contact Tempco at 604.485.5352 or office@tempcohvac.com.

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