

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

July 31, 2021

Issue # 303

Notes from the Editor

Even if you are not a golf enthusiast, I encourage you to read the following. Last year and again this year, we played Wallace River Golf Course. This beautiful 9-hole (2881 yards from white tees, par 36) golf course is located on Wallace River banks just 15 - 20 kms past Tatamagouche.

This course is 19 years in the making and is a labour of love (and it shows in every detail) shared by the Weeks family through their design, consultation, construction, and hard work. In 2017, the course was officially opened to the public. Through word of mouth and an abundance of praise, their course is quickly growing a loyal fan base (including me)!

Ron Weeks and his son Al are always working around the golf course and make it a point to chat with everyone. Ron is one of those guys who is great at remembering names and addresses everyone by their given name even if he has only met you once.

There are many welcoming features on display at this course but one of the most unique is their Pay & Play system. The Weeks believe in the honour system and trust everyone to calculate their purchases and place their cash in the money box located on the front counter of the Golf Shop or use their Debit/Visa keypad following simple instructions beside the unit. If for some reason you require assistance, you can contact a family member working around the course. Their phone numbers are clearly displayed.

Oh, and the cost is well below the going rate.

9 holes = \$20

18 holes = \$30

Power cart rentals: 9 holes \$20 (double occupancy)
18 holes \$30 (double occupancy)

All prices include HST. 2 golfers, 18 holes with power cart total \$90. Can't beat it!

Until next month, I encourage everyone to get vaccinated, and enjoy a round of golf. Gennie.

Notes from the Safety Committee

2021 in Review

Jan	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Feb	1 lost time	0 medical aid
Mar	1 lost time	0 medical aid
Apr	0 lost time	0 medical aid
May	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Jun	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Jul	0 lost time	0 medical aid

Construction has started on the property, and we have a lot of activity behind the planer mill and boiler as construction crews work on the underground steam tunnel. The area is barricaded off very well and we applaud the safety efforts of Lindsay Construction and Kel-Greg Enterprises to keep their crews, and ours, safe while our yard is a construction site.

Every July 31st, our Safety Committee "cashes out" our safety awards points earned for the prior 12-month period and orders a safety award for employees based on how many points have accumulated in the bank. Each point has an approximate value of \$1. To be eligible for the award, you must have been an employee for at least 6 months of the safety-points year. Our awards will be ordered in the next couple weeks and will be distributed as soon as they arrive.

Our two-year term for our current safety committee members is coming to an end and we will be holding safety committee nominations and elections in August to establish our new committee. As a reminder, this is a two-year commitment, and we will need a representative from the sawmill, the yard, and the planer mill. Give some thought to who you believe would be a great asset to our committee and watch for the nomination sheets coming out soon. Current members are eligible to be re-elected.

Until next month, Nick Miller, Don Isenor, Darren Isenor, Craig Isenor, Angie Kainola, Mark Wilber

Notes from the President's Corner

Earlier this month, our friends at Lewis Mouldings in Weymouth, Nova Scotia experienced a catastrophic fire. This is a huge loss to the company, its owners, and their employees. Lewis Mouldings is a significant economic driver for the village of Weymouth. This is a sad situation, but the good news is they plan on rebuilding. As you know, we are switching out our boiler for a new, larger one. Our existing boiler is in great shape, so I reached out to Jamie Lewis to see if our old boiler might be suitable for their re-build plans. Jamie and a couple of his folks are coming to have a look and are hopeful our KMW boiler might fit their needs. This unfortunate event must also be an important reminder to us of just how important it is to be diligent with our fire prevention protocols.



Boiler Room Construction Update

We have finally put some concrete in the ground. The 25-year-old steam tunnel from the boiler room to the planer mill needed to be moved from its current position to accommodate the addition to the boiler room building. We dug up the old steam tunnel and were impressed with its condition. There was zero dirt or water in the tunnel after 25 years of being in the ground, proving how well this steam tunnel worked. By the end of this week, the new steam tunnel will be very close to being back-filled, and the following week we should see the start of the addition to the boiler room. This work also required the addition of a few more catch basins for drainage pipes.

The new boiler will arrive between now and the next newsletter. A new larger header, complete with new valves will be installed in the boiler room next week and be ready for connection to the new boiler.

Notes from the President's Corner, con't

Sawmill Construction Update

The first stage of installing concrete pads for the new log infeed will also start between now and the next newsletter. We will be adding another larger transformer to the sawmill which will require another underground feed from the main line on the west side of the property. A vast amount of planning and engineering needs to go into this stage which is near completion and hopefully will be finished within the next week or two.

The actual construction will happen in the next couple of months.

Designing and engineering the new sawmill building addition has also presented some significant challenges. The columns holding up the building and the roof need to miss all the existing equipment and needs to miss all the new equipment. Surveyor John Whidden has mind-boggling laser scanner which produces a Point Cloud 3D image. It is hard to process but he has taken millions of points of reference. We can now see (from any direction) the existing sawmill building and equipment and superimpose the new building and equipment and how it will all fit together. It is just crazy technology and very fascinating.

Order of Construction and Safety

The main part of the mill yard between the planer room and boiler room has been dug up to complete to steam tunnel work I noted earlier in my article. Craig Stewart has bordered this part of the yard with concrete jersey barriers. Everyone is being very careful around this construction site with an emphasis on safety. Safety concerns will be a bigger issue as the construction site gets larger. Good job everyone.

Until next month, Robin.

Notes from Sales

Thank you ELCO for allowing us to be a part of your informative, entertaining newsletter!

My name is Barb Curran. I hail from New Brunswick and have been with Eacan for 20 years. I worked in Alberta for 10 years before returning **HOME** to Atlantic Canada. I started at Eacan the year 9/11 hit. Brad Meisner was President and Ed Dumeah was the General Manager and our office was on Bluewater Road in Bedford. In 2005, the Eacan office moved to Waverley, which is where we still work. I have seen a lot of ups and downs at Eacan in the lumber industry and have seen a few people come and go. Each person has been integral to our growth.

I have three children – two girls and a boy. Lindsay is a nurse at the QEII and Miranda is an analyst at Eastlink – both are on their own. My son is 16 and a rugged hockey player and consistently speaks to me in a language that I am unable to understand! I think they refer to that as the generation gap!

Hockey is **really** big in our household. Father and son (Justin & Justin) are both avid hockey players – on the ice several times a week, so scheduling becomes our biggest challenge.

Our dog Lou (short for Lucifer, I swear) keeps us on our toes and loves sniffing the hockey gear for fun stuff to chew (hockey tape, socks, jock straps and cups, whatever, he doesn't care). If it stinks, he wants it!

Our entire family loves the water, but the boys enjoy the blades on the ice more!

As for the market; we've seen a wild ride in the past 16 months. The record market run started last summer and saw prices increase to historical levels. In fact, the peak prices were 2.5 times the last recorded high levels.

Notes from Sales, con't

As things opened, some people found other things to spend their money on other than home improvements and renovations. Concerts, sporting events, and travel in North America took away from the renovation market and hardware stores saw less foot traffic than in the previous months of the pandemic. We anticipate prices to level off and we are looking forward in finding a healthy trading level in the very near future.

Barb Curran



Notes from Woodlands

As I am writing this newsletter, Greg Grant is meeting the float to take Beaverdam Enterprises into the Pockwock Watershed to start harvesting. We will continue where we left off last summer on the 200-acre commercial thinning which should take us to the end of September. Back Country Farm and Forestry will also finish on the MFI harvest this week and will be moving back to continue harvesting for Westfor. We appreciate Westfor's cooperation to adjust their harvest planning so we could borrow Back Country for the MFI harvest. They were a great fit and did an excellent job.

If you frequent the woods, most of you are aware you are likely to encounter ticks. This has been a regular part of my life for as long as I have been a part of forestry. My wife Courtney has mostly managed and enforced tick protocols which has allowed me to remain relatively unscathed so far, with a few minor occurrences notwithstanding. However, a few weeks ago I had an instance that left me unsettled a bit. Apparently, a tick made its way to my foot somehow and found a home in between my toes where it remained undetected for a day or two. Eventually I noticed an irritating feeling and decided to investigate. When I did, I was alarmed to see a Wood Tick swelled up and apparently well fed. I quickly and carefully plucked it out and didn't think much of it.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

Coincidentally, my family was scheduled to head to Cape Breton the next day camping and when I awoke in the morning, I knew something was not right with my foot as it had swelled and felt funny. We decided to proceed with our trip anyway, so I threw a sock and sneaker on, and we headed on our way. It didn't bother me a whole lot on the drive up, until we arrived, when I took my sock off to have a look, and to our surprise my foot had swelled quite badly and where the tick bite was, started to grow these foul purple and green blisters. On top of that, you could clearly see an infection line starting to creep up my leg. Not messing around, I went to a nearby hospital, where they quickly hooked me up to intravenous antibiotics as they warned of the importance of controlling the infection spreading up my leg. It appeared I was a bit of a science experiment to them, as they could not determine why I reacted that way. I was quite confident it was not a Black Legged Tick, so Lyme disease was not an issue. However, at the conclusion of their diagnosis, the doctors felt it was a combination of some sort of reaction along with an infection from the tick bite that compounded the situation. Anyway, it all worked out in the end and my foot is pretty much healed, although still a little discolored. I must admit I probably became a little complacent leading up to this instance as finding them on my body is quite normal to me. However, I will take this as little reminder that I should remain aware of the risks going forward and our tick protocols will tighten up as a result.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge a very important milestone for a very important person to all of us here at ELCO. Downey Thompson will enter his 91-year next month as he celebrates his 90th birthday August 13th. I feel extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend time with Downey over the past 20 years, as his knowledge and wisdom has been a guiding light to say the least. Aside from his extraordinary memory, his passion for all things forestry new and old has never waived, and is just as strong today as is evident in the conversations we have. Happy Birthday Downey!
Jason and the Woodlands Crew

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

A Hole in, in, in THREE

As everyone knows, we have a few ELCO employees who golf. I actually started playing on a whim by going to an ELCO golf tournament years ago. After that first time I was hooked. I have traveled all over Nova Scotia and PEI playing and loving every minute of it. The competition and people I have met has been amazing to me.

There is a saying, "Sometimes you have to be lucky to be good and good to be lucky". This was never truer when I got a hole in ONE years ago. After teeing off and watching my ball roll up on the green and assumed it stopped, I bent over to pick up my tee. I heard my group start yelling. Upon standing up and looking towards the hole, my ball had disappeared. I was wrong, the ball had not stopped rolling. I got a hole in ONE. Most people play their whole lives and never get ONE and I made ONE. I was so pumped and so disappointed at the same time because everyone but me saw it. How unlucky is that I have often thought to myself over the years. I couldn't think of anything worse to top that for bad luck on a course. That was until last week when I heard ONE of our avid golfers teed off at Penn Hills on a par 3 hole and duffed it into the water. So instead of taking a drop he decided to hit 3 from the tee. After thinking of where he went wrong on his first shot, he made the necessary adjustments and hit the ball. As he watched it go towards the hole, he was probably thinking to himself - "THAT LOOKS DAMN GOOD". As he watched the ball go into the hole, just for a split second he thought a hole in ONE. With enthusiasm, his son quickly said, "Nice par Dad!" Hence, THREE FROM THE TEE, but more importantly reminding me that it always can be worse!

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't**Covid and Elections Go Together?**

We (Canadians) are slowly but surely coming out of the Covid pandemic. Most of the rest of the world appears to be struggling getting their people vaccinated. It's been a long, hard haul, but the end is in sight. Hopefully, everyone who wanted to be vaccinated has been. The reason I say those that wanted is because there are some people out there that don't believe it's real even after all this time. To each their own, I guess.

Speaking of "to each their own", we are now in an election. I just recently heard who our local candidates are and I'm trying to hear of their platforms and what they are going to do for me (LOL). I could hardly believe it when on my way home last Saturday, I saw an advance voting poll. What do these people base their vote on I wonder as the process has just started. Hopefully, everyone will exercise their right and vote. I know that won't happen and, it is what it is, but if you don't vote then don't bitch about it. Enjoy the upcoming long weekend people.

July 50/50

July 2	James Hennigar
July 9	Colin Hallahan
July 16	Rob Himelman
July 23	Stephen Molnar
July 30	Angie Kainola

**August Birthdays**

Jason Isenor	Aug 14
Jon Molnar	Aug 08
Roland Murray	Aug 03
Downey Thompson	Aug 13 (90 yrs young)
Stephen Thompson	Aug 24

**July Anniversaries**

Weslie Beniot	2 years
Christopher Myers	19 years
Mark Wilber	20 years

