

# WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

November 30, 2022

Issue # 316

## Notes from the Editor

This is our last newsletter for 2022. What a year it has been! Our boiler project is finished, and our new boiler is performing quite nicely. The planer guys are much happier because of the extra steam they are receiving for their in-floor heating. The sawmill is currently being fitted with all the components required to provide steam to adequately heat the sawmill, the bin sorter building, and even the concrete slabs underneath the new log infeed, the Sennebogen slab and the log deck waste slab. With lots of steam pressure left to keep our kilns operating at peak performance. This project was a definite success and exceeded all our expectations!

The sawmill project is still a work in progress. Robin will continue to update everyone in 2023.

As we move into 2023, we are bracing for extra challenges. The flu, cold and Covid are having an impact on our absentee rate. As expected, lumber prices are dropping, and log costs are increasing. Rising interest rates are having a negative impact throughout the world. Gas and diesel prices are horrendous. Pile on the increased prices at the grocery store and everyone is feeling the impact.

On a positive note, our team is strong, and our order file is adequate, and we will continue to meet our challenges head on. During my 30-year history with ELCO, we have experienced many struggles and we always manage to come out on top.

For the first time in 3 years, we will be hosting our Christmas Party at the Elmsdale Legion on December 10. I anticipate everyone will let loose and have a great time. Becky Grant and her crew are working on preparing our Christmas feast and I expect everyone to over-indulge. We have lots of great prizes and entertainment lined up. See you there.

Until next month, Merry Christmas.

Gennie

## Notes from the Safety Committee

The minutes from our last safety meeting are posted on the bulletin boards around the property. Please take a moment to review them and be sure to ask your supervisor or any member of our safety committee about any questions you may have.

Given the amount of food preparation that happens over the Christmas holiday, it's no surprise that the National Fire Protection Association reports that it's one of the busiest times for home cooking fires. Please don't leave pots and pans unattended while in use and unplug countertop appliances when not in use.

Tis the season for online shopping. Please be cautious when entering your credit card numbers online and make sure that it's a trusted and secure website. Scams are always circulating online and this time of year we are perhaps even more vulnerable. Always be suspicious of any emails you receive that request your credit card number online. Popular scams often "appear" to be from Canada Revenue Agency, Netflix, various banks, or to claim a prize you've won. When in doubt, ask someone else as it's likely a scam and you should **NOT** enter any personal information or credit cards in response to the request.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and safe new year. Play safe and always have a sober driver for your celebrations.

Until next year, Brian Myers, Trevor Hare, Nick Miller, Craig Isenor, Mark Wilber, Angie Kainola

### Notes from the President

Robin is currently on a European (Austria and Germany) tour visiting several mass timber manufacturing plants as well as machinery companies that build the machinery for mass timber manufacturing. He is travelling with Kevin Merriam of the MLB, Doug Ledwidge of Ledwidge Lumber, Patrick Crabbe (a Mass Timber Expert) with Bird Manufacturing, a few Nova Scotia sawmillers and several others.

This month, our team worked to grade lumber for testing to produce design values for our Eastern Spruce so we can have it certified for mass timber. This project required the commitment and support of the planer mill team, and they delivered in spades. Attached are 2 letters from Dan Tingley, the Senior Structural Engineer for Wood Research and Development. He speaks to his experience here at ELCO.

Also attached are 2 additional letters forwarded to me from Mark. One is from our insurance agent, Greg Roach and one is from Life Safety, the contracting company we have engaged to provide the sprinkler system for the sawmill.

Robin has become very good at composing group texts, and he sends us daily updates. However, upon his return, we will be sure to remind him to consider the time change when he hits send. The recipients of these updates (those who have their phones at their bedside) have been pinged at various times throughout the night. (LOL). I promise to hold Robin accountable for a full contribution when he returns. See the last pages of this newsletter for the inserts.

I am confident Robin sends his best wishes to everyone for a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season.

Pitching hitting for Robin, Gennie

### Notes from Eacan Timber

The mornings are quite crisp after an amazing fall season. I took the opportunity to put up our outdoor Christmas lights a couple weeks ago before the switch in the weather. The tree is up and decorated. Honestly, it looks more like the North Pole around our house. I love it all BUT our Elves on the Shelf are due any day now. I hope they are not as mischievous this year. A couple years ago they went too far and wrapped the toilet. Luckily no one had a sudden urge to use the washroom.



The overall market is in turmoil. Buyers are bombarded with negativity surrounding the future, yet the local hardware stores continue to be busy throughout the fall and into the winter season. 2x4 is weak but the wider 2" has been solid. We have been working to secure treated blocks for the winter/spring production and I am pleased to say we nailed down a block of 5/4 and 2" material. Having a fixed price for a percentage of the mill's production for the coming months is a great relief.

I hope everyone is getting in the Christmas spirit as the countdown is on.

See you next weekend..... Joel

### Notes from Woodlands

As 2022 is approaching the end, it is interesting to look back at woodlands activities that transpired over this year. We experienced a high demand market for sawlogs that continues still, and with that, the price of sawlogs remained high throughout the year. This resulted in increased private landowner engagement; particularly, with harvesting but also included all forest management activities. The same challenges continued throughout 2022 in terms of facilitating harvesting with limited pulp and biomass markets. The absence of these markets has impacted some woodlot owners with a high percentage of low-grade wood product on their woodlots from completing harvesting treatments. Also, we started to see increasing downward trends in lumber prices throughout 2022 causing the industry concern about the ability to sustain the current high cost of sawlogs.

We also continued to see the trend where more and more private woodlot clients request thinning treatments. We have always tried to facilitate harvest plans that meet the landowners' goals and objectives for their woodlot, laying out options and recommendations to allow a woodlot owner to make the best educated decision for their situation. Although, outcomes are never entirely certain, with current pre-treatment assessment practices, results of a recommended treatment can be estimated to a certain level of accuracy.

Then hurricane Fiona happened, and it seems we are now in spot where many are questioning some of these harvesting treatment options. The reality is, from what I can tell, there has been considerable blow downs on both thinned stands, as well as untreated stands caused by hurricane Fiona. However, for a private landowner, the decision to choose some sort of partial harvest or thinning on their woodlot, leaving a significant amount of value behind, can result in significant financial consequences if the stand later becomes damaged from a wind event.

### Notes from Woodlands, con't

So, for now, our hurricane Fiona cleanup efforts continue, and will likely for the foreseeable future. We are still receiving a steady flow of private lots coming in for assessment which can be anywhere from a few acres to a few hundred acres. Although the smaller lots can be challenging to facilitate a harvest due to cost of floating in equipment, the care the landowners have for their properties is likely the same regardless of the size, and we try and appreciate that by helping with suitable solutions based on the situation even if it is not something ELCO can take on with our harvesting capacity.

As for what is next, there is no question that we need to continue our focus on conducting the best forestry practices we can. However, as wind events continue to happen at what appears to be an increased frequency, best forestry practices should continue to evolve as well. I would say it is likely that these conversations will be a hot topic of discussion well into 2023 and hopefully we can put the great forestry minds we have available in Nova Scotia to work on adjusting our path forward.

Happy Holidays!

Until next year..... Jason and Woodlands Team



## Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

### Be Honest

There are lots of Leaf's fans here at ELCO (I am ashamed to say). As Robin Wilber is willing to give anybody a job that is deserving of it, what I would like to know is how did you Leaf's fans feel (when you regard yourselves as Stanley Cup contenders) to lose to the last place team last year? Maybe you will get lucky and not make the playoffs this year and won't have to worry about choking in the first round again. We meet again on January 21<sup>st</sup>, so circle your calendars Leaf Nation. Rob, I want you to know I still have the 5-dollar bill you gave me last year. This year I have decided to save them all up until the end of the season and buy something big with the money this time. Thanks, and GO HABS GO!

### Fill'er Up

One Thursday afternoon last month I was given the task of picking up a car from R/T Autobody and to get it delivered to Truro the next day. After picking up the car, the first thing I noticed was the gas light was on and the needle was down well below the empty mark. I decided to get gas on the way home after work that Thursday. As I made my way back to the mill, I heard them say on the radio that gas was expected to go up 5 cents per litre overnight. "Great", I thought, as a lot of people will want to fill up and the lineups will be long. Should I wait in line to save maybe a dollar? I am not one of those people. I just want to go home after work, but I buckled under the pressure and pulled into the Esso station after work. There were lines at each pump. I positioned myself in one of the lineups and prepared to wait my turn. There was a pickup truck in front of me. As I sat there, I looked on the driver's door for the gas cover release. I didn't see it right away, so I sat up straight in my seat and looked down. I saw buttons for windows, locks, child proof locks, but no gas cover release. I scanned the dash and didn't see anything there either. All the while, I am keeping an eye on the progress of truck in front of me.

## Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner , con't

Oh yeah, what was I thinking? The release must be under the seat. I reached around and didn't feel anything. WTF.

I took out the owner's manual from the glove box and opened it up to instrument panel page and held it in my right hand down on the passenger's seat. I acted nonchalantly as I was reading it. Crap, everything but a gas cover release! The truck in front of me was now leaving. As I pulled up to the pump, I decided to go inside and asked the young guy at the counter if he happened to know where the gas cover release is on a Honda? "No, can't say I do", he replied. There was a guy leaving who had just paid for his gas and overheard my question. He told me it was under the seat. I explained I had already checked there but didn't see anything, but I would check again. He followed me out. I tried again but found nothing. He asked if he could check, and I welcomed him to try. Nope, nothing! It must be on your door he suggested. We both stood there checking the door. The young guy from the station came out asked if we had tapped it. Huh, tap what? He walked past us and pushed in on the gas cover and bingo, the piece of XXXX opened. With all the high tech XXXX they put in vehicles these days and it came down to a push.





**December/January Birthday's**

Weslie Benoit	December 25
Colin Hallahan	January 22
Gennie Himelman	January 29
Bret Lively	January 27
Jason Molnar	December 22
Brian Myers	January 15

**November 50/50**

Nov 4	Phillip Isenor
Nov 11	Shawn Preeper
Nov 18	Joey Preeper
Nov 25	Gennie Himelman



**November/December Anniversaries**

Brian Myers                      23 years



----- Original message -----

From: Greg Roach <[GRoach@caldwellroach.com](mailto:GRoach@caldwellroach.com)>

Date: 2022-11-18 1:42 p.m. (GMT-04:00)

To: Mark Wilber <[Mark@elmsdalelumber.ca](mailto:Mark@elmsdalelumber.ca)>, Robin Wilber <[Robin@elmsdalelumber.ca](mailto:Robin@elmsdalelumber.ca)>

Subject: Insurance Renewal

Hi Gents,

We have some fantastic info for this year's renewal presentation. The sprinkler description, the site layout and distances, the materials safety description, updated thermographic scan (report to follow) and a great underwriting visit. Thanks for all your help putting this together.

May I ask for 1 more thing which you provided last year as well? An updated Certificate of Insurance outlining the builder's risk and liability provided by Lindsay Construction.

Thanks very much. Greg



**Greg Roach CIP, CAIB**  
Caldwell Roach Insurance



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Hillsborough, NB E4H 4W5  
1-877-353-0683  
www.woodrandd.com

Mr. Robin J. Wilber  
President  
Elmsdale Lumber Company  
604 Hwy 2  
Elmsdale, NS B2S 1A7

Dear Robin,

I wanted to take a moment to send you a letter thanking you for your hospitality last week during our grading project for the MTC prototype glulam beams for code submittal.

I want to particularly thank your office staff for their wonderful work in preparing our lunches. The lunches and snacks were tasty and everyone commented on what a difference it made for our grading productivity to have the lunches ready at breaks.

Please pass along this letter to your administrative team for me.

Everyone has such a positive attitude at your company, and it is clear to me why you are successful. People make a business, not equipment. Without our people, our companies are nothing!

You have a fantastic group of people producing a great product. Keep up the good work. We all look forward to working with you on this exciting project for MTC.

Dan Tingley Ph.D., P.Eng. (Canada), MIEAust, CPEng, RPEQ  
Senior Wood Technology/Structural Engineer Timber  
*Senior Structural Engineer and Wood Technologist  
Wood Research and Development*



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Dear Robin,

I wanted to take a moment to send you a letter thanking you for your hospitality last week during our grading project for the MTC prototype glulam beams for code submittal.

I want to particularly thank your managers/grader and planer room team for their significant work in helping us grade out the MTC lumber. The wood we graded was outstanding and frankly the recovery was phenomenal. This wood will make all the difference in doing the job right for MTC.

The attitude of your team and the managers, like Craig, who I worked directly with, was excellent. They were great and everyone commented what a difference it made to our grading productivity to have the planer room and equipment dedicated to the grading exercise and have everyone helping. It made the work go by so fast.

Please pass along this letter to your planer room team and your plant managers for me.

Everyone in your firm has such a wonderful attitude, and it is clear to me why you are successful. People make a business, not equipment. Without great people, our companies would be nothing!

You have a fantastic group of people producing a great product. Keep up the good work. We all look forward to working with you on this exciting project for MTC.

Dan Tingley Ph.D., P.Eng. (Canada), MIEAust, CPEng, RPEQ  
Senior Wood Technology/Structural Engineer Timber  
*Senior Structural Engineer and Wood Technologist  
Wood Research and Development*

----- Original message -----

From: "Tracey, Les" <[LTracey@lifesafetysystems.ca](mailto:LTracey@lifesafetysystems.ca)>

Date: 2022-11-18 10:55 a.m. (GMT-04:00)

To: Mark Wilber <[Mark@elmsdalelumber.ca](mailto:Mark@elmsdalelumber.ca)>

Cc: "Woodward, Kevin" <[kwoodward@lifesafetysystems.ca](mailto:kwoodward@lifesafetysystems.ca)>

Subject: Elmsdale Lumber Sawmill – Fire Protection Level of Protection Update

Hi Mark,

Now that we recently performed our hydraulic analysis & completed our detailed shop drawings, I can confirm the level of protection that will be provided in the sawmill for Phase 1:

#### N.S. Building Code Requirement

For sawmills, the minimum water density for fire protection, that would be acceptable in the Code, would be **0.30 U.S. gallons per minute (usgpm) per square foot (sq.ft.)**

#### Elmsdale Lumber Sawmill Phase 1

On the main level that we're currently working on, the wet sprinkler system will be able to provide a minimum water density of **0.44 usgpm per sq.ft.**, before the fire department responds to an alarm call, & a minimum water density of **0.41 usgpm per sq.ft.**, if the fire department assisted in firefighting. This level of protection equates to **47%**, without the fire department assistance & **37%** with the fire department assistance, above the minimum level.

1. Under the canopy area that we're currently working on, the dry sprinkler system will be able to provide a minimum water density of **0.37 usgpm per sq.ft.**, before the fire department responds to an alarm call, & a minimum water density of **0.34 usgpm per sq.ft.**, if the fire department assisted in firefighting. This level of protection equates to **23%**, without the fire department assistance & **13%** with the fire department assistance, above the minimum level.
2. On the main level that was already protected with wet sprinklers, we are in the process of changing out the existing 8.0K sprinkler heads with new 11.2 sprinkler heads. This modification will result in this part of the building having about the same level of protection as indicated above.

**As per our conversation, I would like to commend Elmsdale Lumber for requesting & allowing us to provide a superior level of fire protection with the current water supply available. Also, it should be noted that your company is the first, that I've had the pleasure to work with, to want the best available level of protection for your property.**

Regards