

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

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Issue # 315

Notes from the Editor

The perfect storm is brewing in the lumber industry. Interest rates are on the rise, the cost of logs is skyrocketing, the price of lumber is falling fast, and the order files are minimal. All these factors are having an impact on my anxiety levels. Ironically, Hurricane Fiona and Hurricane Ian may play a part in slowing the storm. The devastation caused by these two hurricanes is hard to wrap my brain around. The recovery, both emotionally and physically will be slow. The death toll from Ian continues to rise. But recover we must. We will rebuild. The law of supply and demand will kick in and the lumber market will be a beneficiary.

Here at ELCO, we continue to invest heavily in our future. The modernization of our sawmill will continue well into 2023. These upgrades will significantly benefit the next generation.

October 31st marks the end of our fiscal year. It is shaping up to be another successful year and the next month or so will be very busy for the accounting team. Your patience will be appreciated.

The reason for the delay in publishing September's newsletter can be attributed to Chris, her sister Rozelle, Linda Wilson, and I as we just returned from our annual trek to Las Vegas. Covid interrupted this tradition for 2 years, so we were more than ready for a visit. Since our return, I have been asked if things have changed in Vegas. The answer is "Yes". The streets appear as busy as ever but there are some notable changes. You will be hard pressed to find a buffet. In years past, we would visit the Gold Coast Casino for our breakfast. The Gold Coast is a little off the strip, but their buffet is worth the trip. On morning 2, we called an Uber to take us to the Gold Coast. Imagine our disappointment when we discovered the buffet was gone.

Notes from the Editor, con't

To add insult to injury, the free shuttle between the Rio, The Orleans and the Strip is no longer available. The Tix 4 Tonight has down scaled their locations and no longer offer tickets for the Caesar's events. The Botanical Gardens at the Bellagio are downscaled. These are just a few of the notable changes we experienced. This year, we did not make a trip to Freemont Street. Hopefully, things are returning to normal in this downtown experience. That said, we had a great time and are already looking forward to September 2023.

Until next month, 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.

We hope everyone has their power back after Hurricane Fiona, and that you did not sustain too much property damage. Some areas seem very unaffected, while other areas tell quite a different story. Please always work safely when cleaning up storm debris, including chainsaw best practices when clearing fallen trees and branches.

After an unfortunate delay for our annual BBQ due to scheduling and operational conflicts, we are happy to be holding it on Wednesday, October 12th. We are looking forward to seeing everyone together for a meal again. We will also be distributing our annual safety awards that day to all our hard-working team members. Thank you for always working as safely as possible.

Notes from the Safety Committee, con't

We have been working with the Forestry Safety Society to get our first aid certifications scheduled and we will be holding our first aid course here at the office on Wednesday, October 26. Thanks to Tara at the FSS office for her help getting this organized. We've got representatives from all parts of the property set to take part in the course, and we thank you for your commitment to this important training.

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

Notes from the President

This month, we purchased a new 2022 Volvo payloader/forklift. In the past, when we purchased a new machine, it would be assigned to the area with the heaviest workload. Our fleet consists of 3 units, one for the sawmill, one for the planer mill and one for the kiln. Depending on their availability, each driver would participate in other tasks such as loading lumber trucks, moving bark, sawdust, shavings and so on. Several years ago, we introduced a rotation where each operator/forklift (Phillip, Bubba, Trevor) moved from one location to another (sawmill, planer, kiln). This rotation has been working well. Aside from equalizing usage on each machine, the operators have become very familiar with the production from each plant (win/win).

Trevor has been driving the oldest machine and it was decided we should replace this machine with our new acquisition and therefore, Trevor was assigned to the new Volvo! Trevor is tickled pink. He told me this is the first time he has been assigned to a new forklift. When Gennie was surveying the new forklift, Trevor eagerly invited her to climb up into the cabin and sit in the driver's seat while he highlighted the many new features. He suggested she take a good look around. He pledged it would be in the same condition 5 years from now. Message received! Trevor, you keep your loader clean, and I think that is a great thing. I am super happy that you are super happy.

Notes from the President, con't

Last month, I mentioned Bergman Electric and the number of evenings and weekends they have worked throughout our modernizations for the past couple of years. This month, I would like to touch on that subject once again. The 250 hp and 300 hp motors on the new optimized board edger each required 2 large wires be pulled through pipes in the concrete floor. They barely fit and required a lot of strenuous pulling.

One of the guys pulling was Tom McLellan. Tom is in great shape but as I watched this tug of war, I thought to myself that he must be the oldest guy on the pulling team. Upon a successful completion, I asked him how old he is. He responded, "Same age as you". Oops, that makes him 72 years young. Tom has been with Bergman Electric for 40 years and claims he has enjoyed every minute of it. He has been a fixture around here for the same number of years. Tom never gets too excited, even when things aren't going as well as he would like. He takes his time, sorts out the issues and gets things fixed. A quick survey of the wiring systems throughout our property will reveal Tom's attention to detail. His wiring systems are extraordinarily tidy and well labelled. You can put a price on most things in this world, but Tom's calm nature and smile are priceless.

Construction continues at the sawmill, and we continue to work together to overcome the obstacles as they occur. Our team has been challenged with many learning curves and as predicted, they are adapting quite quickly. Our future looks brighter because of these investments.

Until next month, Robin

Notes from Eacan Timber

Most of us have seen first-hand the mess left behind by Hurricane Fiona. Haligonians were lucky compared to what we are seeing in Port-Aux-Basques, Cape Breton, North Shore, and PEI. The storm left many people with damaged homes and cottages. I am personally waiting for an adjuster to come look at the extent of the damage at my cottage. As much as I would love to clean up and fix things right away, I am waiting until the insurance company sees it. This means it will be tough to get things completed prior to the winter arriving. On a much larger scale, Florida is in for a massive rebuild as storm surge has destroyed entire communities. The amount of destruction we have seen in the past couple weeks is quite humbling.

Interest rate increases, coupled with the inflationary numbers has most households pairing down on non-essentials. Budgets are most likely a common talking point around the dinner table. The bump we saw on remodeling throughout the pandemic appears to be on the back burner for now. Families are mostly focused on taking care of what they have now. That does not mean primary residences will not be built, rather a slowdown on renovations. In the end, demand will be there as will supply. We are amid a post pandemic price correction, but I do not expect things to get as low as we have seen historically (in the \$300/m).

Hopefully everyone's power is back on in time to cook a turkey for Thanksgiving. Have a great long weekend and stay safe!

Joel MacLaggan, Eacan Timber

Notes from Woodlands, con't

James Leggate, the owner of James Leggate Forestry Ltd, has completed silviculture work for Elmsdale Lumber Company for 25 years on our company freehold land, as well as Crown and private lands we help manage. A few years before I met James, he purchased his own 600-acre woodlot in the late 90's along with a house in Five Mile River where he, wife Christina, and their two teenage children call home today. Their woodlot, at the time was considered one of the biggest clear-cut areas around, with nearly all the property recently harvested when James acquired the land.

Notes from Woodland's, con't

James was uniquely positioned as a silviculture contractor to handle the task of reforesting the property over the next two decades. James, and his father James, have done much of the work on the property and more recently James' 16-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter have also been actively involved. Having the opportunity to fund some of the treatments through ELCO's silviculture program, it was a pleasure to see the woodlot progress. Overtime, the property developed into a healthy, diverse, well managed forest. The treatments James completed over the years include planting, early competition control, and pre-commercial thinning.

The remarkable amount of work James invested into his property has not gone unnoticed as he was recently awarded the 2022 Nova Scotia Woodland Owner of the year. This award recognizes the outstanding stewardship work James has demonstrated and as part of the celebration, there will be a large public field day on their property Saturday, October 15th from 9 am to 4 pm. The field day will include touring around the woodland property, visiting various trails and forest treatment areas, as well as exhibits and demonstrations by a variety of individuals and organizations. A hearty barbeque lunch will be available to purchase and will be served under a large tent by Sizzler BBQ Catering. The event will occur rain or shine. The Leggate woodland property can be found in Five Mile River, Hants Co., near Kennetcook. All are welcome to attend, and if interested the civic address for the field day is Woodland Road entrance is 6079 Highway 236 - just look for the signs. ELCO will be participating at the field day as some of the earlier treated areas are now again reaching a harvestable state, we have an agreement with James to perform an active small scale commercial thinning operation ongoing at that time. Other features to be enjoyed at the field day include a portable sawmill, wildfire prevention and suppression, conservation enforcement, forest insects and diseases, Provincial Protected Areas program, growing forestlands for carbon credits, tractor and winch equipment, woodland road funding and construction.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

Wetland protection, wildlife, geological resources, nature trails, beaver dam, water courses and speaking with many experts on various forest related topics will also be available. It should be a great day, and we encourage anyone interested to stop by. Hope to see you there!

Until next time, Jason and Woodlands Crew

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Hopefully everyone has their power back. As I write this, Roland is still waiting. Yes, it's true, you don't miss something until it is gone. We came out of it good here at the old folk's home in Enfield with just a few limbs and branches on the ground. Maggie had to work on Saturday, but her boss said she didn't have to come in until 11 am. I drove her to work basically to get out of the house. Most of the wind was gone by then. After getting her back to Airplane Golf Course, she learned she had no phone service along with no power. The course was closed for the day. Then why did she go you ask? Because her boss wanted her there for peace of mind I guess and to do a little cleaning. That's not as silly as it sounds as I have sat here in the dark in the winter waiting for power. It is what it is. I gave Maggie my cellphone and headed home.

When I got home, I picked up JD and headed to Dartmouth to pick up a car at Portland Estates. R/T Autobody was expecting it the first of the week and they said I could drop it off anytime as they had a drop box for keys. Upon getting the car out of the underground parking, we headed for R/T's. At R/T's, I parked the car and headed for the drop box located by the front door. When I opened it up, I read the note which said, "PLEASE PUT KEY IN ENVELOPE AND SHUT DOOR. CHECK AND MAKE SURE KEY WENT THROUGH". As I stepped back and looked at the drop box, I didn't see any envelopes anywhere. Well, I will have to come back. As I headed back to the car, I saw a man and woman at the end of the next building over putting something in a dumpster. I noticed the man had stopped and was looking at me.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

Upon driving over to see who he was, I discovered it was Thane of R/T Autobody. I haven't seen him in years. We caught up a little bit and then I told him of my problem. He said I didn't need an envelope. My key will go right through. So, what's the purpose of mentioning an envelope when you don't need one? I suggested he could put it in the drop box as I had already given it a go. I gave it to Thane and he said it would be no problem.

So, home I go. After sitting there for about ten minutes wondering what I was going to do with myself, with no tv, or coffee, I had one of my lightbulb moments. I went to my dresser and got a pair of socks and went out and got in my car and left. Yup I was headed to Airplanes with a pair of dry socks on the passenger seat and my clubs are always in the trunk. When I got to Airplanes and opened the gate and went through, the gate closed behind me. It was 2 pm when Maggie spied me and said I was way too early because she didn't get off until 5 pm. No problem, I have the course to myself. I did 9 holes and the sun peeked through a couple of times. There wasn't as much damage as I thought there would be. Maybe 6 or 7 trees down and lots of limbs and branches. My score was not that good but on a more positive note, I came out with 35 more balls than I started with. I had all the time in the world to have a look see at some spots where a lot of people, myself included, sliced in the woods from time to time. I got to get out and burn some cabin fever off as we were all waiting for the power to be restored.

Thanks a Bunch

I want to say thank you to Whitey and Phil for helping me out recently with a couple of issues I was having. It will not be forgotten. I will return the favors.

October Birthday's

John Ashley	October 27
Trevor Hare	October 18



September Anniversaries

Rob Himelman	21 years
Darren Isenor	21 years
Jason Isenor	18 years
Angela Kainola	10 years
Nick Miller	16 years
James Sawler	44 years

Congratulations **NICE GOING!**
GREAT! Way to Go!
 Yea! **FELICITATIONS**
CHEERS Take A **BEST**
BOW! WISHES!

September 50/50

September 2	Shawn Preeper
September 9	Brian Myers
September 16	Joey Preeper
September 23	Warren Hirtle
September 30	Gavin MacDonald

