

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

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Issue # 298

Notes from the Editor

According to an article in “allNovaScotia”, Bluenosers spent a fair amount more in December 2020 than they did in December 2019.

The big winners were:

Cannabis	Up 33%
Building Materials	Up 16%
Electronics & Appliances	Up 15%
Furniture	Up 13%
Food and Beverage	Up 12%

The big losers were:

Clothing	Down 25% (no where to go)
Sporting Goods	Down 18% (no where to play)
Gas Stations	Down 10% (stay the blazes home)

On Saturday and Sunday, Feb 27 & 28, the Elmsdale Fire Hall has been designated as a rapid COVID testing site. The Health Department is encouraging all non-symptomatic people get tested. Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. No appointment necessary.

37-year-old, Iain Rankin was sworn in as Nova Scotia’s 29th Premier. He takes office with a shortened window to establish himself. A provincial election must be called by the spring of 2022. Rankin said he is immediately focused on governing and dealing with important issues such as jobs, the economy and tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of all Nova Scotian’s, I wish him success with all challenges. If he succeeds, we succeed.

Until next month, Gennie.

Notes from the Safety Committee

2021 in Review

Jan	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Feb	1 lost time	0 medical aid

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.

Darren and Nick will be around the property in the coming weeks to do our regular quarterly inspections – thanks in advance guys. If you see anything you think they should specifically draw their attention to, please let them know.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be installing a sprinkler system at the planer mill and increasing the size of the sawmill building. Both these projects will see additional traffic in our yard. Please pay careful attention to the extra vehicles driving through the yard and as always, respect the COVID protocols in place.

In true Nova Scotia fashion, our temperatures have been all over the map this month. Local municipalities are advising residents that it is no longer safe to be on frozen lakes and ponds as there is noticeably thin ice and open water in many lakes across the region. Stay safe out there.

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

Notes from the President's Corner

The old phrase, “measure twice, cut once” comes to mind as I watch our great team continue to plan for the next phase of our modernization of the sawmill and the upgrade to our boiler system. We need to have each of our production facilities fully sprinklered for insurance purposes and our own peace of mind. In the sawmill, this means completing the new modern building. To do this we must determine what equipment gets installed in the coming years. As you might well imagine, the options are almost endless. Off and on over the last few months, we have engaged Fritz Weirathmueller of FW Technologies. Fritz recently wrapped up a major project and has mostly signed on with us to assist in our planning and design. Many years ago, Fritz designed and built our combination bull edger. His uncle, Joe Weirathmueller, (nicknamed Joe 14 because nobody could pronounce his name) brought his young engineer nephew over from Austria. The two of them, including me, loved Joe and Fritz soon gained the respect of the Eastern Canadian sawmill industry and beyond.

Our team has been taking many measurements, reviewing proposed layouts, holding discussions with potential equipment suppliers, and consulting with Fritz via Zoom on the “big screen” in our boardroom.

Lindsay Construction has been contracted to build the newest addition to the sawmill building. They were the contractors employed on our last addition. Our team will meet with them again on Monday, March 1 to update them on our progress and work toward determining the new building footprint.

Everyone from all aspects of our team, from log intake to finished product, is participating in this project. A huge number of ideas have been tossed on the table, evaluated and this process continues.

Big changes are coming our way and I will attempt to keep you posted.

Notes from the President's Corner, con't

The end goal is to have a more modern sawmill that is fully sprinklered. With that goal in mind, the sprinkler system in the planing mill will be installed in the next few months, as well as the bin sorter building.

On another front, our boiler is a great working machine, but it is too small for our requirements and needs to be upgraded. This also comes with many challenges and we have been working on solving these for quite some time. Hopefully, we will complete this project sometime this year.

For me, I love watching our team bringing forward all the possibilities and working through the many challenges that need to be overcome. As a team, we have not just measured twice, we have measured everything many times and in many ways. I am confident the result will be great.

Until next month, Robin

Notes from Sales

Can you believe March 1st is this coming Monday? I would love to be packing my bags for a trip to a sunny destination over March Break with the kids but that does not appear to be in the cards for Spring 2021. I guess I will be like everyone else in North America and spend that saved money on renovations at my house.

Which brings me to the lumber market. The demand for dimensional lumber is being fueled by an increased volume of renovations to existing homes as well as new home construction. Historically, it has always been cheaper to buy a house than build one; until housing prices jump like they have done over the past few months. Increased housing prices on existing properties means people will be more apt to renovate their existing homes or build a new home. Either way it means more lumber is being sold from our local lumber yards.

Notes from Sales, con't

I am constantly hearing about houses being sold well above asking prices, and in many cases from buyers outside of Atlantic Canada. Imagine selling a \$1 million condo in downtown Toronto and taking those funds to purchase a 2,500 square foot home for \$400,000 in the outskirts of Halifax? That leaves an additional \$600,000 to put in your pocket. That price may seem like a lot for Nova Scotians, but would we feel the same way if we were able to sell a condo for 7 figures? Probably not.

In closing, the housing market in North America seems very strong with more people being able to afford a home at current exchange rate levels. I am looking forward to a day that COVID is in the rear-view mirror. However, I hope strong lumber prices stick around for a LONG TIME.

Stay Safe!

Joel MacLaggan

**Notes from Woodlands**

Well, we did not experience much of a winter so far. At least not what we would consider winter conditions for forest operations. A couple weeks ago Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal announced restricted hauling starting this Monday for Hants County West with the remainder of the province scheduled to come into effect the following week. The spotty winter conditions thus far and the subsequent effects on logging operations have already presented some difficulties for log deliveries. Couple that with the high demand for sawlogs, the restricted hauling imposed next week, and keeping the log yard full will require some work to see us through.

As I have mentioned before, but feel is worth repeating, the relationships built within this industry are a big part of what gets us through these challenging situations.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

I will say, based on what I have witnessed Stephen T put in place with some of those key relationships over the last month or so, I doubt this time will be any different. On the topic of road closure, we were joking the other day about last year and how we were hoping we did not receive many logs because our inventory was too high! What a difference a year can make!

In 2016 Westfor Management Inc was formed to represent sawmills who rely on Crown wood harvested in Western Nova Scotia. Early in 2016 I met the newly appointed General Manager of Westfor, Marcus Zwicker. At the time I remember thinking I was not envious of the monumental task he undoubtedly had in front of him. He was essentially required to build the infrastructure of a system responsible for harvesting and silviculture on Western Crown Lands, which is regulated by the Department of Lands and Forestry, while providing sawmills with their contractual allocations. On top of this, Marcus often found himself in a position to have to defend Crown Lands forest management policy, a system he was tasked to implement but did not form. In my opinion, he juggled all this very well, and 5 years later has built an infrastructure of competent staff who, along with him, run this very challenging organization.

However, as we all know life changes and sometimes so does the direction we take. Marcus has decided to move on and begin a new chapter in his life starting in April. We would like to sincerely wish him the very best wherever his journey may go, and it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with someone who has the passion, knowledge, and work ethic as Marcus. I always enjoy our spirited conversations about forest management and hope to bump into him down the road. Of course, if such an opportunity comes around there is no risk of missing him, you always know when he is in the room!

Until next time, Jason and the Woodlands team

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Show Me the Money

As some of you know, Rob and I have a wager on the Habs vs Leafs games. Just a friendly wager between friends (which we are no longer by the way Rob). At the present time, Rob's up 3 games to 1, which means I am 10 bucks in the hole. We have 6 games left to play against each other so I am hoping to turn it around or it could be a later retirement date for me than expected.

Thanks

I would like to thank a few people. First, Tara for the cookies. As usual they were great. Remember, I am always here for you to sample your new and old recipes. That's what friends do for each other.

Last but not least, I want to thank Liam and Bubba for the shoveling, driving and pushing to get me out of a snow pile earlier this month. Cheers!

Snow Day

Some of my buddies at the Elmsdale Legion asked if I worked on Monday when we had the snowstorm. "We sure did", I replied. They asked if we really worked in that mess. "Yup, lumbermen are a different breed of worker. When you hear them pulling snowplows and mail delivery trucks off the roads, that's when we get down to business". LOL

Beep Beep

Well, push has finally come to shove, and Nick is going to go for his license in June. Nick has had his beginner's license a couple of times now but never went for the driving test. But that's about to end come June. This is a big deal. Not only for Nick but the rest of us as well. So much so ODIE PROMISED to bake a cake for the occasion.

One Man's Junk is Another Man's Treasure

Tyler is leaving us today. Hopefully for bigger and better things. For all the time Tyler was here I heard nothing but good things about him (but maybe I was listening to the wrong people). I want to wish Tyler nothing but the best as he starts his new job in Noel Road.

February 50/50

Feb 5	James Sawler
Feb 12	Ron Miller
Feb 19	Brian Myers
Feb 26	Robbie Peters



March Birthdays

Don Isenor	March 2
Phillip Isenor	March 8
Robbie Peters	March 12
Joey Preeper	March 24



February Anniversaries

Jason Barr	17 years
Gordie Beaman	35 years
Phillip Isenor	31 years
Ron Miller	34 years
Matthew Works	3 years

