

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

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Notes from the Editor

Typically, my daughter and I do not share the same sense of humour. Often, I can hear her laughing out loud at something that doesn't tickle my funny bone at all. In the last month, she has shared two jokes and I have shared them with others over and over again. So here you go:

A woman took an extended break from her workouts at the gym. Upon her return to the gym, her trainer asked about her routine. She asked, "So, what kind of squats have you been doing?" The woman responded, "Diddly".

Cute right? Okay, check this one out:

A woman was shopping at her local Walmart and couldn't help but notice the bad behaviour of a young boy. He was accompanied by an older gentleman, presumably his grandfather. The woman overheard the man gently saying, "Hang in there William, we will be home shortly". "Keep calm William, we will be going home soon". She followed the couple to the checkout and witnessed the youngster grabbing items in the checkout lane and throwing things on the floor". The man continued to serenely say, "Hang in there William, it's going to be okay". "Keep calm William, we are almost through the line."

Although it was really none of her business, the woman followed the pair out to their vehicle and said to the gentleman, "I couldn't help but notice how you dealt with your situation, and I just wanted to tell you that William is a lucky little guy to have a grandpa like you." To which the gentleman responded, "Thanks, but my name is William, that little @###@'s name is Kevin".

Hope you enjoyed a laugh or at least a smile as we put the summer of 2022 into our memory banks.

Until next month, remember, laughter is really good medicine. 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 are pleased to be holding our annual BBQ on September 14th at lunch time at the Planer Mill. At the BBQ we will be distributing the annual group safety award, which has a value of \$80 this year. Well done everyone! As a reminder, you need to have been employed with ELCO for a minimum of 6 months to be eligible to receive the group award.

We continue to have lots of work crews on site working at the sawmill, and currently have high lumber piles throughout the yard. As always, please drive slowly through the yard being watchful for all potential hazards.

Back to school is here again. Some say it is the most wonderful time of the year. Be mindful of bus stops and sidewalks that will be full of children in the coming days, so please be vigilant while out on the roads.

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

Notes from the President

Over the past 2 to 3 years, we have seen a lot of construction here at ELCO. Approximately 3 years ago, we built a new building over the top of the sawmill trim line and removed the old building without losing any production time. This project was to install our new optimized trimmer.

Last year, we replaced our 150 hp low pressure biomass energy boiler with a 300 hp high pressure boiler. This project was also without its challenges.

Notes from the President, con't

The building needed to be larger to accommodate the new boiler and the domino effect resulted in a disruption of the steam tunnel to the planing mill. The steam tunnel needed to be rebuilt. Also, the shavings infeed to the boiler required alteration. Lots of concrete was jack hammered and the removal was a difficult process, some was removed by hand. A huge challenge for sure.

The new building over the sawmill is basically complete. We had to overcome lots of challenges with this build. We needed to complete a new log infeed system so we could remove the old system before the new building construction could begin. The old transformer had to be replaced with a bigger one. As the old transformer ended up inside the new building, it needed to be removed and the new transformer was positioned on a new transformer pad outside the new building and supplies the required amperage for the equipment, with room to grow. Numerous hours of discussion and planning resulted in a successful outcome for this part of the project but, in my opinion, the largest obstacle was moving the old electrical room in the sawmill. Bergman Electric, with about 8 of their guys (headed by Nick Miller) worked long hours into the night and weekends getting ready for the installation of the new equipment. As the new equipment is installed, this part of the process will be ongoing. The old electrical room is officially gone, and a new concrete floor is about to be poured in its place making ready for our new optimized board edger installation. Congrats to the Bergman Electric team (particularly Nick Miller), and to all our ELCO guys who dismantled wooden floors, walls, and roofs. We are now ready to begin installing the machinery built by McDonough Manufacturing out of Mactaquac, NB.

We have already installed much of the heavy infeed equipment for the board edger. Mitch, from McDonough, visited us a couple of times and worked very hard to make sure the equipment is in the exact position and lined up perfectly. Thanks Mitch, great job.

Our summer intern, Titouan Burgunder will be leaving us on September 14th. Thankfully, he will be here to enjoy one of ELCO's favourite events, our summertime BBQ.

Notes from the President, con't

I would encourage everyone to take this opportunity to chat with Titouan in between bites. His English has really improved since he first arrived. I can also tell you that my grandson's French has improved because of spending time with Titouan here at ELCO and on weekends. We have truly enjoyed hosting this young man. He was always ready and eager to take on any challenge thrown his way. Stephen Molnar tells me he was quick to learn and a pleasure to have this summer. I hope he will make a return trip in the future. We have been invited to visit him and his family and learn about sawmilling and forestry in France. Hopefully, we can make this happen. Thanks for everything Titouan and we wish you every success.

Notes from Eacan Timber

I find it hard to believe September is around the corner and the long weekend is upon us. I love the summer months and the opportunity to enjoy the weather with family and friends. However, I'm ready for a routine to start. Kids back in school, sports kick off the fall/winter season and most people's schedules become more structured.

The next couple months is also a time for contractors/builders to focus on cleaning up jobs in preparation for the "white stuff" (SORRY for saying those words). Every year is slightly different, but September/October are typically good for moving higher than normal lumber volumes. I don't expect much difference this year.

Retail lumber inventories are low for this time of year and there is an expected round of purchasing just around the corner. The negative information around inflation, increased interest rates, housing, recession, etc. has unnerved most buyers and they are relying heavily on just-in-time deliveries. But that means they need to purchase lumber every week to fill-in the holes created by the post Labour Day increased foot traffic. I trust everyone will have a nice long weekend. Stay safe!

Joel MacLaggan, Eacan Timber

Notes from Woodlands

When I first started working in the woodlands here at ELCO in 2001, we were investing heavily on pre-commercial thinning and plantation cleaning in our company woodlands. This work involves thinning naturally regenerated or planted stands when they are 6–10 ft tall, selecting the best trees available to remain while cutting all the surrounding competition to space the remaining trees 7 to 8 feet apart. This work allows us to select and grow the trees best suited to produce saw logs and dramatically increases growth rate. Fast forward 20 years, and although expected, it still surprises me that these stands now require what is called a commercial thinning. This work is very important for our long-term sustainability and involves thinning the stands once again, removing the poor-quality trees to further increase the growth rate and overall log quality of the stand. The main operational difference at this stage, however, is some of the trees cut can be utilized here at the mill to produce lumber, making this a harvest operation.

As such, this work has traditionally been completed using a harvester/forwarder combo. However, the challenge we face is the young stands are short and the diameters are small, making the production limitations and financial reality of the job challenging for contractors with very expensive harvesting equipment. Facing this problem, we started experimenting with different options, and are now trialing a system we hope will be more efficient and suitable for this type of work. The machine we are currently using in comparison to harvest equipment is a relatively inexpensive small excavator, modified with a shear head which can cut up to a 12" tree. The shear essentially limbs the tree while standing then grabs it with the grapple and squeezes it against a fixed blade using a very powerful hydraulic cylinder to cut it off at the stump. Another challenge it addresses is that we are not always producing saw log grade wood in these types of stands whereas in some areas the stands just require a cleaning where only unmerchantable trees are cut.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

For that reason, the shear is quite efficient where it can both clean the stands or process small logs and stud wood. We believe this will be much more suited and will also allow us to keep the larger "real" wood producing equipment right where it should be – in mature softwood stands making saw logs. We are still figuring out this new system, and I am sure there will be a few kinks along the way. At this point, we are fairly optimistic, and we will keep you posted on the progress.

Until next time, Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Reese Isenor's Corner

Introducing Craig and Dawn Isenor's 9-year-old daughter and one of Hardwoodlands 4H Club's youngest members, Reese!

This month, Reese competed in several events at the Halifax County Exhibition in Middle Musquodoboit.

She placed 5th in her division for Junior Showmanship, 4th in Junior Calf Class and 1st in the Halifax County Calf Class Open Show.

This is Reese and Lila. Lila was born in March 2022 and Reese has been working and loving her since April. Well done Reese!



Notes from Peter Dillman's CornerJesus Price Has Left the Building

Even though it is August, there is still lots of hockey happening. My Habs had the number 1 pick in this year's draft because of having the worst record in the NHL last season. JURAJ SALFKOVSKY was our pick and only time will tell if it is the right choice or not. We have in our system a young man from Enfield, RILEY KIDNEY, who, by the way, made the world junior team. Try to remember that when you feel like booing the Habs (LOL). The future looks bright, but it is a few years away. The bad news for the Habs is that CAREY PRICE, for all intents and purposes, is finished playing hockey. Knee problems have plagued him for the last 2 or 3 years. Management said in all probability he won't play this season. He only played 5 games last year, so the writing is on the wall. At 35 years old, missing 2 seasons in a row is just too much even for him. He won a lot of stuff in his career but not what every player strives for and that is Lord Stanley's cup. First game of the season and our new beginning is on October 12th against the LAFFS. Go Habs go!

Sticker Sicko

My car was vandalized earlier this month. I have my suspicions and a list of suspects that I am working away on. Luckily there's video from the camera at the kiln that points at our parking lot and we have pictures. I would just as soon not have to name names and let the guilty party step up and do the right thing and clear their conscious. But, if they don't then I will name the guilty sticker party next month and make it public.

August Anniversaries

Trevor Hare	33 years
Bret Lively	2 years

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

Notes from Gordie Beaman's Corner

I just received my 2nd booster shot (or as I call it, an oil change lol). It is good thing. I honestly feel we need to keep doing what we're supposed to do. Hopefully it will prolong our life. Labour Day isn't too far away and when it comes, I may go into labour and have a baby (LOL).

September Birthdays

Craig Isenor	September 23
Gavin MacDonald	September 09
Shawn Preeper	September 20
Corey White	September 22
Chris Wilber	September 27

August 50/50

Aug 5	Matthew Blackwell
Aug 12	Gordie Beaman
Aug 19	Roland Murray
Aug 26	Rob Himelman

