

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

April 30, 2021

Issue # 300

Notes from the Editor

This month marks another milestone. It is the 300th issue of "Wood N You Like to Know".

Last week I was told no one was exceeding the speed limit on Hwy 102. Wait a minute, how can that be possible? What I should have been told was, "no testing was taking place on Hwy 102". The more tests, the more speeders will be identified.

This principle applies to COVID testing! An undiagnosed case of COVID does not mean it does not exist. If we find it, we can isolate it and trace close contacts.

Question: How many times per day would you say is an acceptable number of times to wash your hands?

Answer: The women in our office agree if we wash our hands as many times as we pee per day, we are good!

It is with sadness we announce the passing of James MacDougall on April 5, 2021. Jim was ELCO's Controller for over 30 years. He retired a few years after I started working here. My first encounter with Jim was during my interview for employment. It still makes me chuckle when I remember Jim asking me to take a typing test on the electric typewriter. At that time, I had been using a keyboard for many years and the feel of a typewriter was almost foreign to me. I don't know how many mistakes I made but I was acutely aware this challenge resulted in an epic failure. Apparently, my invitation to join the ELCO team was not dependent upon my "typewriter" skills.

Jim was a quiet gentleman, and I always appreciated his eagerness to learn new things. He re-introduced me to the benefits of carbon paper, and I introduced him to the sounds of a dot-matrix printer. Together, we attended a seminar on the magic of the internet. Rest in Peace Jim.

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
Mar	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Apr	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.

This week marked WCB's annual "Day of Mourning" where we honor those workers who lost their lives in a workplace accident. A stark reminder to always be alert to safety issues and if you see anything of concern, please speak with your supervisor immediately.

The words "Stay Safe" have become part of our daily dialogue as we find ourselves knee deep in our third wave of COVID-19. We hope no reminders are needed, but we're going to provide them anyway - Wear your mask. Social distance. Wash your hands. Keep your circle small.

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

TODAY'S SMILE: RON'S NEW WHEELS



Notes from the President's Corner

For the past several months I have been reporting on the status of the many capital projects we have on the go. Most of the decisions have been made. Next month, the Lindsay Construction survey team should be on site to start the process of constructing a new building over a section of our existing sawmill building.

Equipment wise, our first challenge will be to build a new log brow and log infeed system to the debarker. Part of the new building will go through the existing log brow. This has also been a complicated process, but our team now thinks we have ironed out most of the details.

The transformer pad mount for the existing transformer needs to be relocated and upgraded to a larger one. The wiring to the present transformer and the new one will be fed underground. This is also very complicated and needs to be done in conjunction with the concrete work for the addition to the sawmill building.

Our new boiler building also requires an addition to accommodate our new boiler. The new addition will encroach on the present steam tunnel going from the boiler room to the planer mill. The pipes in the steam tunnel are 25 years old and this presents an opportunity to move the tunnel somewhat away from the new building and replace it with new piping. In conjunction with this project, and because communication wiring has been a challenge over the years, new pipes and wires will be installed from the boiler room to the sawmill and from the boiler room to the planer mill.

Life Safety Systems has completed the sprinkler system in the planing mill and are now moving to install the sprinkler system in the bin sorter building. When the new sawmill building is erected, Life Safety will continue their work to complete the sprinkler system throughout the entire sawmill. Upon completion of the boiler room addition, the sprinkler system will be extended throughout the new portion of the building.

Notes from the President's Corner, con't

Our goal is to have all our production facilities fully sprinklered by the end of this year!

I am still working diligently towards the construction of a biochar plant here at Elmsdale Lumber. The process to rezone part of our property and obtain a development agreement with the Municipality of East Hants has turned out to be a long, engaging process. A question was raised as to whether we need to do an environmental assessment. Strum Engineering has determined, after a long, extensive study, an environmental assessment is not required. The Department of Environment, after studying Strum Engineering's report, have also concluded an assessment is not required. By the end of next week, I anticipate we will have addressed all the concerns raised by Councillors, municipal staff, and the public. The next step is to host a public hearing, followed by approval or disapproval from the Municipality. This should take a month or two. Keep posted.

COVID 19 and the numerous variants continue to ravage our province. Throughout most of the pandemic, Nova Scotians have adhered to the protocols and have managed to keep our province in better shape than most places in the world. The new variants have presented new challenges and have resulted in a new lock-down. Nova Scotians have beat this before and we will beat it again. Please continue to safeguard yourselves, your families, and your job by following the recommended procedures of Dr. Strang.

Chris and I, along with others here at Elmsdale Lumber, have received our first dose of vaccine. I am sure your time will come before too long. I urge everyone to get the vaccine. Vaccines are the key to getting out of this horrible mess!

Until next month, Robin.

Notes from Sales

Lumber, as well as panel prices, continued to set records in the month of April. Most mills are now quoting late May/early June with prices well above last Friday's Random Lengths print. Prices are being quoted \$100 to \$150 above print depending on the item. 2x4 and 2x6 10' prices are extremely high and almost impossible to find.

Eacan's reload business out of Dartmouth, as well as our US reloads, continues to be very busy. For our customers, it seems to be a matter of "what do you have and when can I get it", as opposed to pricing? With this kind of demand in North America pricing should continue for the month of May. Currently, there is no indication of a slowdown. So, strap on and enjoy the ride as the trip back down won't be as much fun!

On another bit of news, in April, Louanne and I were blessed with the birth of our first grandchild. Our son Evan and his wife Sarah became first time parents to Max David Bradford Meisner. What a gift! There is no better feeling than holding your grandson for the first time.

We also have a new family member at Eacan Timber as Austin Nixon accepted a sales position with us. Please join me in welcoming Austin to our team. Since our announcement to the marketplace yesterday, we have received nothing but positive feedback from our customers. We plan on having Austin out to visit ELCO soon to meet the staff and tour the mill.

Enjoy this market and please stay home and stay safe!

Brad Meisner
President



Notes from Woodlands, con't

Despite a bit of rain lately, conditions in the woods are drying out surprisingly fast. The consensus seems to be this is a result of a lack of snow accumulation this past winter. This has subsequently allowed for slow but steady deliveries during road closure. The roads re-opened on April 26 for Colchester County to Yarmouth County with the remainder of the province scheduled to reopen this Monday. However, as we enter late spring, the demand for sawlogs and stud wood remains high which will require acute attention to the ebbs and flows of the contractor and supplier base.

Sometime in May we plan to pick up where we left off last fall with planned harvest operations on the Mi'kmaw Forestry Initiative St Croix lands. In 2021, this partnership will see us participate in the completion of a 250-acre commercial thinning, as well as an irregular shelterwood harvest trial operation. The trial area will see us test a treatment that will be implemented on Crown Lands going forward on the Matrix component of the triad model. From the perspective of the Department of Lands and Forestry, the harvest trial which is setup by their Forestry Division will establish permanent sample plots to study the results of the treatment over time. The harvest trial also provides a platform to evaluate productivity measures from a contractor perspective and the feasibility of such treatments going forward. We are pleased to have the opportunity to participate in what we feel may contribute towards implementing the triad approach to forestry successfully.

Lastly, like many folks this time of year, I am looking forward to getting in a little fishing. Although the latest COVID 19 restrictions may require some modification to those plans, I am sure I will still enjoy trying my luck for trout within government COVID protocols. So, for those who plan to do the same, let's hope for good times and tight lines safely.

Until next month, Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

All Dressed Up with No Place to GO!

Everybody knows what Carhartt stands for, right? I didn't until early this month. I see it everywhere in the planer. Carhartt hats–Carhartt pants–Carhartt shirts and I am guessing the list goes on and on. It turns out to be a very popular workwear clothing brand younger people wear. And I know this how? Because I was gifted with a t-shirt, so I just put 2 and 2 together (LOL). I am saving it for a special occasion. You know, like if I was invited to a meeting say at the INN ON THE LAKE or someplace like that.

So Long, Farewell

I have met a lot of people over the years here at ELCO. I like to think I am a good judge of character. I was surprised to learn one of the nicest people I have had the pleasure of meeting is leaving us and although I don't really know her all that well, anytime I spoke with her she was always upbeat and very personable. So, I want to wish Amanda and her hubby all the best with their new endeavour.

Ladies First, Sometimes

At the end of our Wednesday morning meetings we are always asked, does anyone have any questions, comments, queries or concerns? After that was said by the person running the meeting, I started to speak when I was told to "hold on Peter, Odie is speaking, ladies first". I apologized as I didn't hear her talking. In my defense, she is a LOW talker. After she was finished it was my turn to speak.

So, imagine my surprise when I heard the same individual who was running the meeting that day cut off a nice lady in a Honda by the gate just a few days later. After a near miss, he made eye contact with the lady, smiled and gave her a thumbs up and proceeded on his way. My question is this, "what happened to ladies first"? Or did I misunderstand you when you said, "ladies first"? Perhaps you can clear this up for me sometime. By the way, just as a footnote, a friendly smile and a thumbs up might work with the ladies you cut off but remember I'm no lady.

April 50/50

April 1	Weslie Benoit
April 9	Rob Himelman
Apr 16	John Ashley
Apr 23	Colin Hallahan
Apr 30	Tara Isenor



May Birthdays

Greg Grant	May 15
Warren Hirtle	May 15
Chris Myers	May 27
Craig Stewart	May 18



April Anniversaries

Don Isenor	29 years
Stephen Molnar	42 years
Robbie Peters	22 years
Amanda Hoogendoorn	3 years

