

# WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

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## Notes from the Editor

Here's wishing everyone a Happy 2021. Late in December 2020, Netflix released a mockumentary, "Death to 2020". If you have an hour to waste and want to laugh a little, check it out. I don't think you will be disappointed.

As more and more people get vaccinated, I am hopeful we will see a substantial slowing of COVID-19 in 2021. In the meantime, we must continue to wear our masks, practice social distancing, and wash our hands more frequently. Interestingly, as I was following a school bus home the other day, I noted the students exiting the bus were all wearing face masks. The vast majority continued to wear their masks as they walked home. The kids in the grocery stores are all wearing their masks without complaint. When I questioned the young ones in my family about their thoughts on wearing masks, they all reported they are used to it now and it is not a problem. Good on them! Let's follow their example.

It pleases me when I hear someone on our team say, "I've been thinking", proceeded by a suggestion for change. It pleases me when someone on our team who is in a position to affect change listens and evaluates, discusses and change is adopted. One such event happened at our most recent weekly planing mill meeting. Peter Dillman suggested a change in process for cutting 16' lumber to 8' lumber at the sawmill rather than at the planer mill. His suggestion was evaluated, and change is coming. Thank you to Peter and to those who followed through. It is imperative we listen to the folks on the frontlines. They are the ones who have lots to offer. That is why I feel confident when I tell folks we have the best team in town!

Until next month, let's all pledge to listen more!

Gennie.

## Notes from the Safety Committee

### 2020 in Review

Jan	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Feb	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Mar	0 lost time	1 medical aid
Apr	0 lost time	0 medical aid
May	0 lost time	0 medical aid
June	0 lost time	0 medical aid
July	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Aug	1 lost time	0 medical aid
Sept	1 lost time	0 medical aid
Oct	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Nov	1 lost time	0 medical aid
Dec	0 lost time	0 medical aid

Winter months are often difficult for many people suffering with mental health. This year in particular, more and more people are struggling with mental health as they deal with the fallout from COVID-19, be it job loss or other financial struggles, physical health struggles, etc.

January 28, 2021 was Bell Let's Talk Day. It is an annual day meant to specifically draw attention and awareness to mental health to help remove the stigma, and to contribute to the funding needed for mental health research and programming. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health struggles, we encourage you to reach out to any of the resources below. The system is not perfect, but **help is available**. Make sure you talk to a friend, family member, advisor, or professional if you or someone you care about is struggling.

Provincial Mental Health & Addictions Crisis Line:

Available 24/7 - 1-888-429-8167

Mental Health & Addictions Intake - 1-855-922-1122

Mental Health Mobile Crisis - 902-429-8167

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

### Notes from the President's Corner

Winter is the time of year when Warren and Rob have a difficult time providing enough steam for the 2 dry kilns and heating both the planing mill and the sawmill. We are exploring several options, including the idea of installing a larger boiler. Warren has reached out to our local expert, Blair Saulnier, to discuss his recommendations. Craig Isenor reached out to DT Heating to troubleshoot the current system and it appears the in-floor heating system is working well, but it needs more steam to be effective. We are pricing unit heaters (same as in sawmill) and exploring other forms of heating. Craig has reached out to Ledwidge Lumber to evaluate the heating system they use to heat their planing mill. As always, careful and diligent planning will reap the best results. We will continue to update you on our progress.

We are continuing the work towards the next sawmill upgrade. A huge number of issues need to be carefully evaluated and resolved to ensure we make the best decisions. Fritz Weirathmueller, who designed and built our present combination edger many years ago, is providing us with excellent recommendations and advice. Sometime in February we hope to finalize our long-range plan and get started on a new building. Again, I will endeavour to keep you posted.

Covid-19 has impacted the way we do many things in our day to day lives. Organizations, schools, associations and companies have turned to technologies like Zoom or Microsoft Teams to host meetings or lessons. Using these apps, you can invite an unlimited number of people from across the world to your virtual meetings. I am sure these platforms were eventually going to be the norm, but Covid-19 sure stepped up the process and forced people to adapt. In the past year, I have been invited to participate in many Zoom meetings. This technology is great but learning how to use all the features offered by these platforms is a challenge. This week, East Hants Community Learning Association (EHCLA) hosted a course in our boardroom on the basics of Zoom to 10 of our folks. It was facilitated by Phil Laven.

### Notes from the President's Corner, con't

Phil was absolutely fantastic. He arrived with some spare laptops and a well thought out agenda. The meeting was scheduled to last from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. In the end, we signed off at 3:30. I learned a lot, but I know our younger crowd learned a lot more (LOL). After our meeting, Amanda mentioned she would like to attend a course on EXCEL to improve her skills. Gennie lights up when she hears that someone is interested in learning something, so I think she is on it Amanda. Thanks to Phil and EHCLA. Job well done! We are fortunate to have you in our community.

Last week, Francis Campbell, a reporter with the Chronicle Herald and resident of Enfield paid me a visit. He is interested in our Biochar project and requested an interview with me. Over the years, I have learned granting an interview does not necessarily guarantee you will be represented fairly or correctly. As I have been dealing with the potential Biochar project for quite sometime and try as I might, I just can't find a negative side to the project. To my pleasure, Francis presented the project just as I had hoped he would, fairly and accurately. I will post a copy of the article on the lunchroom bulletin boards if you are interested. The cameraman who accompanied Francis took some still pictures and also produced a video of the meeting. The video is posted on Saltwire. If you wish to view it, Google saltwire.com. When you arrive on the Saltwire site, search biochar and the article and video should pop up. Search to the bottom of the page for the video.

So far, I have received lots of positive responses and questions regarding this project. A few days following the publication of this article I was at the check-out in our local Sobey's store and a lady asked if I was the gentleman who is planning on building a biochar plant. When I told her she had the right culprit, she went on to tell me her son is a second year UNB forestry student and he thinks this project is fabulous and a great thing for the Elmsdale area. They live on Elmwood Drive adjacent to our mill and have done so for the past 18 years.

### Notes from the President, con't

She told me in all the years she has lived there, she has never had any issue with ELCO as a neighbour. Her son wishes to speak to me, and I invited him to come for a tour when he gets to come home from New Brunswick when the borders reopen. I am always open to chatting with students, especially forestry students at UNB. Some day in the future, when you see me touring a young fellow throughout the mill property, it might just be a UNB graduate.

We are so fortunate to be able to continue production throughout the pandemic but, luck is a small part of the reason we have remained COVID free. Our team continues to work safely and adhere to the protocols in place both here and at home. You are a shiny example of what we have come to expect from Nova Scotians throughout our province.

Keep up the good work everyone. The vaccine is coming. Until next month, Robin

### Notes from Sales

It seems as if there has never been so much construction going on in Nova Scotia. Metro Halifax and the surrounding area is growing rapidly, and new homes and businesses are needed to keep up with the demand. Everywhere you look there is a new building going up. Housing starts, North America wide, are trending up and so are lumber prices. The crystal ball reveals we are in for a great spring and summer season. Now if COVID would just do the opposite of the lumber market, that would be the best trend of all. Stay safe everyone.

Warren Beeler



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### Notes from Woodlands

It is great to be back reporting to you in a brand-new year. I hope everyone enjoyed a much-needed holiday break. As we start 2021, it seems to be trending towards some colder temperatures, a little late perhaps, but still a positive sign for forest operations. However, as we head into February, any favourable conditions we receive will be short-lived as spring breakup is right around the corner.

Over the last couple of years, I have updated you many times on the implementation of the Triad approach to forest management on Nova Scotia Crown Land. Although the Department of Lands and Forestry are in the early stages of implementation, we are starting to see glimpses of what parts of this management regime may look like. To recap a bit, the fundamental basis of the triad model is the practice of a balanced three leg approach. One leg being protected lands, preserved from any forest management or significant human impacts. Another leg, the high production forestry land base will be designated to prioritize the growth and yield of high value forest products (primarily sawlogs and stud wood). The third leg, which will make up the largest share, is called the Ecological Matrix. This leg is intended to support forest management activities, but where biodiversity and timber objectives are combined (harvesting and silviculture practices permitted in a lighter touch ecological minded way). Opportunity for meaningful consultation during this process has been somewhat limited to a small group of stakeholders, although we have had some discussion around draft guidelines and reports released, giving us some detail of what it may look like.

One such release made available last week was the draft Nova Scotia Silviculture Guide for the Ecological Matrix. We will allow time to review the proposed guide and take advantage of the opportunity to comment on it. Although it is a complex document, and there are probably more questions than answers at this point, we want to support this process and be engaged.

### Notes from Woodland's, con't

We feel the best way we can do that is by being engaged throughout all stages of development including implementation. We hope very much that the Department of Lands and Forestry will allow us the opportunity to do so.

We will keep you posted.

Until next month, Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team



### Notes from the Sawmill



Everyone at ELCO recognizes this face. For our external readers, let me introduce you to Stephen Molnar. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, Stephen had hip surgery. On Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, Stephen was in the office for a visit. He is now using his crutches as a support tool only and demonstrated he can walk unassisted. He also tells us he is not experiencing any pain.

Please take a close look at the above picture and note the end of Stephen's crutch. It is equipped with an ice pick to prevent slips when walking on ice and snow. Stephen explained they are good for ice and snow but if the snow is too deep, they get plugged and do not provide much protection from slip hazards. This leaves me to wonder how he discovered this reality.

Just goes to show, you can't keep a good man down!

### Notes from the World of Email

Here is a short test.

It was sent to me by email from John Morrison. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Hope you do to.

#### The Charles Schulz Philosophy

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schulz, the creator of the 'Peanuts' comic strip.

You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just ponder on them and read straight through, and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday.

These are no second-rate achievers.

They are the best in their fields.

But the applause dies.

Awards tarnish ...

Achievements are forgotten.

Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier?

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most.

### Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

#### Father Time

So, I heard my old friend's wild and younger days have finally caught up with him and he had to get his hip operated on. That's nothing to be ashamed of Stephen. As a millwright, you would know better than anybody nothing lasts forever, and things require maintenance. You know I heard it somewhere that breaking a hip is the number one thing that happens when old people fall. Not that you fell, I'm just making an observation (LOL). Anyway, be patient and try to be a good patient for Anne. Hope you are feeling better soon!



Notes from Peter Dillman's CornerGreat Minds Think Alike

Maggie decided it was time for some new furniture, but she wasn't alone as Doreen was thinking the same thing. We purchased a new sofa from Leon's at their Boxing Day sale. Rob informed me they did as well at Leon's. Maggie and Doreen actually bought the same sofa but just different colors. They really liked their sofas, but they must wait until at least the end of April at the earliest to get them.

Basic Math 101

Maggie and I went shopping on December 27th as we were looking for some new furniture and what better time than Boxing Day as this is usually good day for getting deals. We started at Berry's, then on to the Atrium, before ending up at Leon's. We were looking at sofas-loveseats and when we saw one we liked, I suggested to Maggie she should sit down and try it out and let me know what she thought. This was a good idea but after a couple of hours of standing and walking everything was bound to be comfortable. We finally picked out a loveseat we both agreed upon. After paying for it (this would be me), Maggie collected the paperwork and we headed home.

Later that week we received flyers and wouldn't you know it, there was one from Leon's. The very loveseat we had purchased was now on sale. Leon's has a 60-day price guarantee. Ah ha, I'm getting some money back. Three hundred dollars to be exact. I asked Maggie to call them as I was going to work. All day at work I thought about what I could do with this unexpected money. I quickly decided to buy myself something as it was basically free money (LOL). When I arrived home that night, I asked Maggie if she called Leon's and she said she had. I asked when I would get my \$300. She said in about 3 weeks, but it wasn't \$300. I told her is most certainly was and she said no it isn't, it is \$132. Nope, you are wrong I said. I paid \$1279 for the loveseat and it is on sale for \$979.00, and the difference is \$300.00. Maggie informed me that I didn't pay \$1279 for the loveseat. Maggie explained it to me the same way Leon's explained it to her.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

As she explained it to me, she was holding the receipt for me to see. It says the loveseat was \$1,111.46 plus tax which equals \$1279. It turns out we did have to pay the tax and it wasn't tax free as advertised. Somebody must pay the tax and Leon's must remit the tax, so that is why it is rung in at \$1,111.46. Turns out it really is not tax free. It makes you feel like you are getting a deal when you are not exactly. Anyhow, I received my cheque within two weeks. Oh, they did give me \$132.00 plus the tax on it which brought it up to \$152.35. What to buy, what to buy?

January Anniversaries

Jason Casey	20 years
Tara Isenor	11 years
Stephen Mombourquette	23 years
Robin Wilber	52 years

February Birthdays

James Hennigar	Feb 17
Matthew Works	Feb 17

December/January 50/50

Dec 4	Matthew Works	Jan 8	Craig Stewart
Dec 11	Jon Molnar	Jan 15	Tyler White
Dec 18	Greg Grant	Jan 22	Frenchie
Dec 23	Roland Murray	Jan 29	Nick Miller

