

# WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

October 29, 2021

Issue # 306

## Notes from the Editor

It seems like yesterday when Angie and I pulled the trigger on year end 2020. When we return to work on Monday, we will be starting the fiscal year 2022. For the next couple of months, we will be knee deep reconciling accounts. This year, the reconciliation for our capital projects will keep us very busy. Pam already has a significant jump on copying and cataloging the invoices for our internal audit.

I think Mother Nature might have injected Nova Scotia apples with a special steroid this year. I took this picture this morning (Oct 29). This crab apple tree lives on Hwy 214 on my way home. It is

on the same side as the electrical power grid just before the bridge over the Shubenacadie River.

Apparently, I have passed this tree on my way home for the past 17 years and never noticed she existed.

This picture does not do her justice. She is heavy with apples from top to bottom.



I am left to wonder if the deer population will be attracted to the “deer apples” strategically placed by hunters or if they will prefer to sample the blowdowns from this year’s astonishing crop.

Honeycrisp is the number one variety grown in Nova Scotia and it is also my apple of choice. An average apple has about 80 calories and contains no fat or sodium and research indicates an apple a day really does keep the doctor away as it contains so many health benefits. Also, apples ripen 10 times faster at room temperature than kept in the refrigerator.

Until next month, enjoy your apples. 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.

Halloween is this weekend, and we are hoping the rain stops in time for the trick-or-treaters. As we still have active cases of COVID-19, please exercise appropriate precautions when handing out candy at your door and encourage the kids to do the same when they go knocking on doors by social distancing as much as possible. Wishing everyone a safe Halloween.

Our projects and construction are still in full force around the property. As always, we remind you to proceed with caution when travelling through the yard.

Each year, we reward employees who have remained incident/accident free for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 years and so on. This year we will present:

- 1- 30-year jacket
- 6- 20-year jackets
- 1- 15-year jacket
- 1- 10-year jacket
- 1- 5-year jacket

The recipients are in the process of choosing their jackets. Congratulations everyone!

If you have a safety concern at any time, please reach out to your supervisor or a member of our safety committee.

Until next month, Brian Myers, Trevor Hare, Devin Castle, Craig Isenor, Mark Wilber, and Angie Kainola

## Notes from the President

### Boiler Project Update

Another busy month has passed for our 2 major construction projects. Our new boiler is getting closer to start-up. Last month I reported the boiler was in place and Marid was about to start putting together the steel beams and columns, making things ready for Lindsay's to begin the siding and roofing. Marid told us it would take a week to complete this job. After 3 days it was complete. Those guys really know what they are doing. Lindsay's have almost completed the roof and siding, and I anticipate this should be finished by the time you are receiving this newsletter. Portable Welders have been extremely busy connecting all the steam pipes and believe it or not, the all-important catwalks. These walkways might not seem all that important but there are 23 steps to the top level. The wire trays will be connected to the underside of the catwalks so the wiring can't be completed without them. Bergman Electric are now busy running wires and connecting all the controls to the control panel in Warren's and Rob's office.

All the many handrails needed to be painted yellow and the legs and kick plates needed to be painted black. Dwight was asked if he could spare a fellow from the planer mill for a few days and he sent us Matthew Blackwell. Matt is a machine! He has all the handrails painted yellow and the plates and posts are all black. At the end of the day last Friday, Matt had a relatively small amount of handrail left to paint. Matt looked at Warren and me and suggested he would like to stay to finish things, which he did and on a Friday night no less. Great job Matt. You made a massive job look easy.

### Sawmill Project Update

Now, to the sawmill. The new TS Manufacturing log screw conveyor is in place. Molnar Welding is now connecting their log deck to the screw conveyor. Again, Marid showed up and in a couple of days had the beams and columns in place.

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

Lindsay Enterprises poured the concrete floor for the mezzanine level which is for the log infeed system and the electrical room. The walls around the electrical room are nearing completion. This week and into early next week, Bergman Electric will be attaching their wire trays to the walkways being constructed by Molnar Welding. Kel-Greg Enterprises have had an extremely busy month with all the excavation work, gravel placement and making footings, walls, and concrete slabs ready to be poured.

We hold weekly Tuesday morning construction meetings in the Lindsay trailer. These meetings are very important and involve Kel-Greg, Lindsay Construction, Molnar Welding, Bergman Electric and our ELCO team. The rush is on as we have programmers booked for the first week of December to begin activating these systems. Also, colder weather is about to arrive.

Fritz continues to arrive from Fredericton every week or two to make sure all the planning and engineering goes according to plan. Peter Cox, the Lindsay Construction engineer, is on top of things as well and is a huge asset to both our projects. All these companies and all their hard-working team members have really stepped up to the plate. This month I must make mention of 2 individuals. Lindsay Construction's Todd Moore (Job Superintendent) has learned the ELCO way. Todd is a great planner and organizer and an all-round good guy, and he always has a smile on his face. Todd lives about an hour from here and I mention this because most evenings when quitting time comes, he stays on site for at least another hour to an hour and a half planning the next few days with Mark and a few other folks from our team. Thanks Todd. I know all our team enjoys working with you and that includes me.

### Notes from the President, con't

My second employee of the month is Mark. Mothers and fathers should not fall short letting their children know when they think their children could be doing better. They should also not fall short letting their children know when they do a great job. It would take a book for me to tell you how many issues and problems needed to be solved to bring these projects to fruition. Mark is fully engaged and has a handle on all the extremely complicated and technical issues that have materialized and those he knows will be coming his way shortly. Several of our ELCO team and members of the other involved companies have told me how impressed they are with Mark's performance. Great job Mark and don't take the foot of the gas pedal.

On a completely different note, Stephen and Anne Molnar's daughter Katie got married to Ben MacNeil this past month. I remember when Katie was born! Oh my God, I am getting old! Katie was so shy, and she was an expert at hiding behind her mother. At the Children's ELCO Christmas party it was fun trying to coax her to let go of her mom's knee to take a seat on Santa's knee. Chris, Mark, Leslie, and I sincerely wish Katie and Ben a lifetime of happiness together. If Katie follows her parent's example, this will not be an issue. Until next month, Robin

### Notes from Sales

In late September and throughout the month of October, Craig and I have successfully negotiated orders with Marwood and Goodfellow. Marwood has picked up close to 3 million board feet of lumber. The order is mixed with 4" & 6" decking and some 6 X 6 and is due by the end of May 2022.

Goodfellow has signed in for nearly 4 million, with an order mix of 6 X 6, decking and a healthy mix of all sizes and lengths of 2". They also want to receive their lumber by the end of May 2022. It is shaping up to be a good year!

### Notes from Sales, con't

Hancock Lumber is a company based out of Maine. The company operates an eastern white pine sawmill as well as 9 lumber yards throughout Maine and New Hampshire. This week they inquired about making the trek from Maine to Nova Scotia to see Elmsdale Lumber. Of course, one would ask why a customer in Maine would make a trip all the way to Elmsdale, Nova Scotia; passing many sawmills along the way to see ELCO. Well, the trick is in your mill's reputation. The lumber yard hasn't purchased much of your product. However, the small sample they did purchase had a lasting impression and they want to buy more of the ELCO production.

Each of you should be proud of the job you do from sourcing raw material, sawing the logs, drying and dressing the product and wrapping your product and loading it on a truck (and every other step I missed). This reputation is due to all your efforts to make sure the name "ELCO" is well received in the marketplace. It truly makes selling the product easier. Well done everyone!

Joel MacLaggan, Eacan Timber

### Notes from Woodlands

Today marks the first day of deer rifle season in Nova Scotia. Therefore, our live harvesting and silviculture operations will be posted with "no hunting signs" to do our best to ensure both our forestry workers and those who enjoy our woodlands are safe from any avoidable situations. For those who plan to hunt this season, please respect the land, and have a safe, enjoyable hunt.

Road building contractors are still working away, attempting to finish planned road work for future operations. We had quite an extensive road building and upgrade program this year and Greg Grant has been working with the crews to complete our programs. Like most construction and forestry situations these days, there is lots of demand for work, coupled with operator and labour shortages, which

### Notes from Woodlands, con't

have presented challenges for completing our work. Greg has done a great job coordinating with the crews and at this point we feel confident we will be able get done what we need.

Our log inventory is floating along at comfortable levels, with good consistent deliveries for now. We have moved Beaver Dam Enterprises onto ELCO lands to clean up some corners that have limited logs while the pressure of maintaining a steady log flow has subsided. Having said that, wet weather is likely coming, and other circumstances can quickly require us to pivot, which we are prepared to do. That's just the nature of the beast.

Until next time, Jason Casey and the Woodlands team

### Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

#### ELCO Open

We finally got out on Sunday, October 17th for our annual golf tournament as it was cancelled earlier this month due to bad weather conditions. I asked before the tournament who all was going. The name Blair was mentioned. I said, "I don't think I know him". "He is the guy who sold us the new boiler!" "Well, that clears that up!"

The morning of the golf looked like it might rain but we met up at Penn Hills at 8:30 as our tee off time was 9:04. After we were all there, we drew for partners. We drew in Blairs absence as he was running a little late compared to the rest of us. Warren Beeler (who works for our brokers Eacan Timber) was teamed up with James (who works in the woodlands with Jason Casey). Rob was with Ted (who is retired and comes down to the mill to BBQ for us from time to time). Craig picked the short straw and got stuck with yours truly and Bubba was partnered with Blair.

The sky was gray, and the wind was strong as we teed off. At the halfway point the scores were Bubba and Blair 37, Rob and Ted 38, Craig and Peter 39 and Warren and James sitting at 40, so it was anybody's game. Long story short, everyone made some good shots along with some that were not so good.

### Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

The weather held for us, and we got it in without getting wet (except for some balls that hit the water). The final scores were as follows: Warren and James finished 4th with 84, Bubba and Blair finished 3rd with 79, Craig and Peter finished up with 78, and the winners, Rob and Ted finished with 76 and all our 20 bills. It was a lot of fun and it was good to see the guys outside of work.

#### Covid Update

Well, here we are almost two years later and in the fourth wave of this pandemic. I am as optimistic and positive as anyone, but I am starting to wonder when this is going to turn around our way. Last week, Maggie informed me I needed to get a booster Covid shot as a lot of countries won't recognize two different shots and that's what I have (AstraZeneca and Moderna). Apparently, if I want to go somewhere, anywhere actually, I need the booster. Not that I doubt my wife's wisdom, but I wanted to make sure, so I called the NSHA Covid line for some info. After getting through, which by the way wasn't on the first attempt, I listened as the recording gave me several options as to my queries, but none matched my question. I wasn't being picky, I just wanted some info to help me along. It advised that all other inquiries should leave a brief message and they would return my call within 72 hours. So, I left my question and within 24 hours I received my answer. They were prompt, I will give them that. Mr. Dillman, we received your question and I have your answer and it is not the one you are looking for, but I do have it. Our goal as a province is to ensure all residents have access to a vaccine shot(s). Some other provinces are giving a third shot for travel, but we are not at this time. So, there you have it, s..t out of luck" for the moment. It does make me wonder however, if the province has enough shots for everyone and I know and I am sure you do as well that some folks haven't or won't and won't be getting a shot, what the -uck do they do with all those leftover doses??

**Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't**

**Thanks**

I have been over to the mill a few times this month grading some 2x10, and Jay has been a big help giving me a hand. I wanted to let him know it doesn't go unnoticed. Speaking of Jay and the mill, while I was over there I saw something I would like if our heat doesn't pan out this year with the new boiler that is being installed. I asked Jay how it works, and he told me it works really well and that is the heater below the grate out in the bin building. I know we are going to see how the new system works but it doesn't perform well it is good to have a plan B just in case.

**And Your Steps Quiet**

I want to take a moment to wish all hunters and wannabes here at ELCO good luck with the upcoming deer hunting season. May your sights be true and your steps quiet. Be sure before you pull the trigger that it is the right thing you are killing. Good luck to all.

**Oct 50/50**

- Oct 1            Jon Molnar
- Oct 8            Peter Dillman
- Oct 15          Greg Grant
- Oct 22          Ron Miller
- Oct 29          Tara Isenor

**October Anniversaries**

Gennie Himelman    29 years

(Editor's note: Looks like I should commit for at least one more year.)



**November Birthdays**

- Leslie Isenor            Nov 21
- Ron Miller                Nov 08
- James Sawler            Nov 20
- Robin Wilber             Nov 10

