

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

October 2020

Issue # 295

Notes from the Editor

You are invited! On November 12, (from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m) we are hosting a flu shot clinic for our employees, families, friends, and our neighbours. This year, more than any other year in our recent history, anything we can do to help with the overall wellness of our citizens is the right thing to do.

To attend our clinic, you will be required to register on-line. If you visit www.bookmyshot.com/flu/2276, you will enter your basic personal information and select the number of people attending your appointment with you. Then you will click "Register". You will receive 2 follow up emails to complete the process.

If you would prefer our assistance with the process, we will be happy to help. Simply call 902-883-2276 and ask for Gennie or Angie.

For several years, ELCO has been hosting a flu shot clinic. For those of us who receive annual flu shots, this is a very convenient way to get your annual dose. This year, we will have protocols in place to sanitize after each vaccination, provide adequate distancing, and lots of hand sanitizer. We are very fortunate to have Bob MacDonald (pharmacist and good friend) returning to serve our clinic. Bob is familiar with most of our employees and families and is a great guy.

As we filter through this process, it is apparent that more of our employees are getting the flu shot this year than in previous years. To me, this demonstrates our team's commitment to adhering to the protocols suggested by our health professionals, such as frequent handwashing, social distancing and wearing masks. Everyone is committed to doing their part to keep everyone safe.

Until next time, keep up the good work and thank you.
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

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 any questions you may have.

Hunting season is a big deal here at ELCO. Just a reminder to our hunters; wear your hunter orange and have a fully charged cell phone with you (ringer-off, of course). Happy hunting, and please be safe out there.

It's COVID-19 Hallowe'en on Saturday! Should be one for the books. If you choose to participate in Hallowe'en this year, please remember to follow COVID-19 protocols to keep yourself and your Trick-or-Treaters safe. Happy Hallowe'en.

Thank you to our team for participating in our upcoming flu shot clinic. If you receive a flu vaccine, it will not protect you against coronaviruses, but it will help prevent the flu. Getting the flu could make you more vulnerable to other infections. Getting the flu shot may also save valuable healthcare resources for the care of patients with COVID-19. Again, thank you!

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

Notes from the President

October marks the month of ELCO's fiscal year end, so it is a good time to look back at the year. The year 2020 might be the year we want to look at through our rear-view mirrors. ELCO's first month of the year is November and last November, the lumber prices were quite reasonable. We were living under the imminent threat that the Nova Scotia government was going to shutdown Northern Pulp. January came along and that is exactly what happened. Northern Pulp was our largest log supplier and a huge customer as they purchased all our sawmill chips, bark, and pulpwood from our forest operations.

We have a wonderful 25+ year relationship with the Shaw Group as we supply sawdust and planer shavings to their wood pellet plant in Milford. After the Northern Pulp closure announcement, Shaw's came to the plate by adding equipment to increase their production of wood pellets and agreed to purchase our sawmill chips. Our sawmill guys added some parts to our chipper to dramatically reduce the size of our chips, which helps in the manufacturing of pellets. Selling sawmill chips to make a product that is ultimately burned rather than used for making high value paper products does not realize the same price level and the result is we are selling our chips for approximately half the price we were paid from Northern Pulp. This huge financial hit will continue well into the future, or until Northern Pulp might get their plant up and running again.

Just as we were adjusting from the reality of Northern Pulp shutting down, along came COVID-19! At first, COVID-19 was just a threat of this virus going worldwide. My anxiety level was high. What would happen if it became a pandemic? Construction would stop, lumber would no longer be needed, and we would probably have to shut down. What would this look like for our long-range plan? And what would it do to each one of you? Well, the pandemic did happen. Construction trades and their suppliers were deemed to be essential services. Who knew?

Notes from the President, con't

About 4 million Canadians went home for a few months. Idle hands and minds needed something to do. New decks, sheds and everything else were built.

Building materials became hard to get, including lumber. Lumber prices rose at an alarming rate and they are now backing off at the same rate. Most people might think we made a killing, but you need to understand two-thirds of our production is under long-term contracts which are negotiated each fall and early winter. Don't get me wrong, the higher prices sure helped to offset the loss of revenue for sawmill chips but only for the last few months and only on one-third of our production, but it was still a good thing.

It looks like for the rest of 2020, the whole world will be fighting the second wave of COVID-19. We are so fortunate to be living in Nova Scotia. Presently, we are deemed to be one of the safest places on the planet. Let's keep it that way by continuing to wear your mask, frequently wash your hands and social distance. Your health, your family's health and your job may depend upon it. We are Nova Scotia Strong!

With a lot of work and a bit of luck, we are hopeful that by late 2021 COVID-19 will be under manageable control. We eagerly anticipate that businesses will have resumed "normal" operations, global markets will have steadied and the lessons we learned in 2020 will be put to good use!

A few short days after you receive this newsletter, November 3rd will be here. I have nicknamed this day, "Trump Day". I am sure this will be the most watched election in history anywhere in the world. If Trump loses, Gennie will miss her morning entertainment as she always tunes into CNN and FOX to see what "BS" Trump conjured up the day before. If Trump wins, I fear for Gennie's and Angie's emotional health and overall well-being. Fingers crossed for an undeniable, undisputable, conclusive loss for Trump!

Until next month, Robin

Notes from Sales

Clearly, fall has arrived in Nova Scotia. The leaves have changed, and the nights are surely getting colder. Thanks to record prices for lumber over the past 6 plus months, it has been a fantastic time to be in the lumber industry. Over the past 4–5 weeks the market has started to turn, and prices are now trending downward. Most lumber buyers are waiting as long as they possibly can before buying, and this is contributing to the downward trend in prices. It seems most buyers have very little inventory and will have to step in and buy soon, which should help firm up prices.

Overall, prices are still healthy and the outlook for the coming months is very positive. New home construction has not slowed very much in Eastern Canada or the US. Halifax is extremely busy building both homes and apartments. The pressure treaters are also out looking to cover their needs for the coming season. All positive signs for things to come.

Until next month, Happy Halloween and hope everyone gets out and enjoys the fall weather.

Warren Beeler



Notes from Woodlands

As the weather has turned to more frequent rain events and the conditions in forest operations deteriorate, we soon will move Beaver Dam Enterprises to a suitable wet weather location. The plan is to work on Spence Managed Forest until year's end, where we can look forward to well graveled roads and solid ground in the woods.

As for silviculture, our PCT operations have somewhat resumed, as we try to continue with a modest program this year after settling in with the uncertainty created with the Covid-19 curve ball. Silviculture contractors have been faced with many challenges, especially when trying to obtain necessary labour from inside the province and outside.

Notes from Woodlands, Con't

Health protocols such as mandatory 14-day quarantine for anyone coming from outside the Atlantic Bubble has increased challenges attracting individuals for labour positions. This has limited capacity for some outfits, but fortunately most have found ways to survive. Continuing this work is essential for the long-term sustainability of Nova Scotia's forest industry.

As we approach the last weekend of October, Friday signifies the first day of general deer hunting season. Every year we try and work with hunters and encourage communication with those who frequent ELCO lands. Our main concern is the safety of our woodlands operations as well as trying to maintain a safe environment for hunters. From time to time, issues will arise where we will move into an area to start a silviculture or harvesting operation and unexpectedly invade someone's favourite hunting spot. We hope those using our lands can understand that we cannot suspend activities that people's livelihoods depend upon. Their work site must be the priority, and the legal distance required from an active operation is 402m. However, prior to the season, communicating with our woodlands staff can help avoid frustrations and a potential unsafe environment for both parties.

We offer a couple last reminders. Please use common sense when traveling on soft woods roads and please take your garbage with you when you leave. Stay safe, and happy hunting.

Until next time, Jason and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner**Where Are You Christmas?**

This month, we were told our Christmas party won't be happening this year due to COVID-19. It is better to be safe than sorry. Speaking of Christmas, it is fast approaching, and Odie has begun planning for our meal here at the planer mill. She will be hard pressed to top the last meal we had here, which was steak. It will be interesting to see what she's able to come up with on a limited budget. I'm guessing it won't be steak again.

Missing In Action

Earlier this month, Odie was a no show one morning. She didn't call in (as we are supposed to), and we were worried. A call was placed to check on her and we found her at home. She was a little perplexed as she reported she had called the planer phone number at 5 a.m. and left a message on the voicemail to say she wasn't feeling well and wouldn't be in. Who knew not everyone knows we have a voicemail mail at the planer except for Nick and me, I guess? Wires got crossed, but the most important thing is we found Odie, and she is doing fine. We addressed the situation and now we are all on the same page as to the correct phone number to leave a voice mail saying we are not able to come to work (902-883-2276).

Bambi Beware

Today, October 30th, is a big day for a lot of guys here at ELCO. It is the first day of hunting season with a rifle. We want to wish everyone good luck and more importantly advice to be safe. Although I'm pulling for everyone to get a deer, if only one of you are successful, I'm hoping it is our buddy Phillip. No, there's nothing in it for me as I haven't eaten deer meat in a long time, and I don't really miss it. I just enjoy watching how excited he gets just talking about going. He had me on his side. Good luck everyone.

We Love our Sweets

We were treated to some homemade cookies this month as TLRI made the most of her downtime following her surgery and did some baking and thought of us as she dropped off a couple of different bags of sweets. They didn't last very long on the lunchroom table. Very enjoyable, thanks so much and we hope you heal up quickly.

October Anniversaries

Gennie Himelman 28 years

**November Birthdays**

Phillip Isenor	November 21
Ron Miller	November 08
James Sawler	November 30
Robin Wilber	November 10

**October 50/50**

Oct 02	Mark Wilber
Oct 09	Gennie Himelman
Oct 16	James Hennigar
Oct 23	Amanda Hoogendoorn
Oct 30	Tara Isenor

