

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

September 2020

Issue # 294

Notes from the Editor

I suffer from sea sickness, but I try not to let this stop me from enjoying life. My sisters and brothers-in-law arranged a staycation to Briar Island to go whale watching. We were scheduled to depart on Wednesday, September 16th but the tour company decided it was going to be too rough and windy that day so they rebooked the tour for the following day, suggesting the weather would be better. We rented a house on Briar Island for Wednesday and Thursday, so we were good to go. When I woke early on Thursday morning, I was concerned the wind didn't seem any calmer than the day before, but the tour was a go, so I took a Gravol and hoped for the best. The tour was to begin at noon, and I thought it would be a good idea to take another Gravol just in case.

Before we departed, the tour guide reviewed the safety protocols and advised the seas were going to be a LITTLE rough and should anyone feel nauseous seasick bags were available and we should ask for one and avoid using the "head". I immediately raised my hand and said, "I'll take mine now".

We ventured straight out to sea and were about 30 minutes into the trip when the pilot idled the motor and searched the surroundings for any sign of whales breaching. It is this rocking from side to side that will get me every time. As I began to turn green, the pilot yelled something in excitement and pointed out to sea. He rapidly turned the boat 45 degrees and with that, the salt water breached the sides of the boat and everyone on my side of the boat was soaked! In desperation, I grabbed my seasick bag and was helped to the inside of the boat where I promptly lost my cookies. Everyone on the boat was clamoring to get a view of the pilot's sighting. Apparently, it was not a whale but rare species of bird! (WTF) We didn't see any whales, but the tour company was very gracious and gave us all vouchers for a return trip and I was back to myself in a couple of hours.

Until next time, bring on the Gravol! 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

Earlier this week we were able to hold our annual summer BBQ. Although it looked a bit different this year as we followed COVID protocols, it was a great meal and an enjoyable time together. Thanks to everyone on our prep/cook/clean-up team for pulling it off.

We are a month into the new school year and by most accounts, it seems to be going well. Our kids are adjusting to wearing their masks and socially distancing, and we haven't yet experienced the surge of cases being felt in other parts of our country and around the world. While we, as a society accept our new normal and follow the directions of our health officials, whether you agree with the protocols or not, our collective effort does seem to be working.

Hallowe'en is just around the corner. Again, a mixed bag of feelings on this annual tradition due to COVID-19 protocols. Whatever your Hallowe'en looks like this year, be safe, be smart, and have fun.

Finally, we were very saddened to hear of the workplace fatality at The Shaw Group. We have a close working relationship with the Shaw Team and our hearts go out to them, as well as Derek's family and friends. Many of our own employees have been friends with Derek since childhood.

Notes from the Safety Committee, con't

It is a stark reminder of how quickly something can happen and why safety really is and must be a mindset. Be safe out there.

If you see a safety hazard or have a safety concern, please speak with your direct supervisor or safety committee representative.

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

Notes from the President

My lovely wife celebrated a very special birthday this month. Chris does not typically like to draw attention to her birthday, but her family did not want to let this milestone pass without showing her how much we love her.

On the morning of her special day, I told Chris we were going to go downtown, just the two of us. I lead her to believe we were going to take a nice walk along the Halifax waterfront. I suggested she wear comfortable walking shoes. As we were about to pass the Irving Big Stop, I pulled in and she asked why but before an answer was required, we pulled up and 14 of her friends were standing in front of a bus displaying a banner which read, "Vegas in the Valley." Chris was very visibly overwhelmed. Leslie had hired the Valley Wine Tour bus to take the gals for a lovely wine tour day. Chris was clearly overcome.

When I left Chris with her friends, I had to rush to pick up the cake Leslie had ordered and get home to decorate and make things ready for their return. Darcy, Ty and Tristan were a big help. I finished my chores just in time for Rob McIsaac and his daughter, Alex to show up. They are professional caterers we particularly enjoy. When the bus full of ladies returned home, they were greeted by our two grandsons who stood with bouquets of flowers for their grandmother. More tears for Chris.

Notes from the President, con't

As she thought the day's festivities were over, she invited everyone in for yet another glass of wine. Little did she know the party was to continue. The table was set, Rob and Alex greeted Chris and yes, more tears. During the day, husbands dropped off gowns as the ladies planned a fashion show. What a hoot!! The meal was fantastic, the ladies had a blast and I tucked Chris in quite late in the evening after all her honoured guests had left. I am sure Chris will not soon forget her very special day surrounded by family and friends.



2020 is a very different year for sure! Dealing with COVID-19, the closure of Northern Pulp, the mass shootings, and unfortunately, the list goes on, we have struggled to overcome many obstacles.

One tradition we enjoy is our annual summertime BBQ. Our first reaction was to simply cancel the event however, we came to the realization that this year we needed this bright spot in our day more than ever. Angie, Amanda and Gennie were up to the challenge of putting in place good COVID-19 practices. The fellows BBQ'd our steaks in Bays 1 & 2. Typically, our BBQ's are a lot of work but this year, the workload was times 2 or more. Thanks to everyone who saw the value in this social tradition we look forward to each year. Good friends and good food typically result in smiles and this year smiles are very important.

Notes from Sales

Kids are back in school and it does feel nice for the family to get back into regular routines. I don't know about others, but my kids are enjoying seeing friends and being more social. Who knows how long it will last before the excitement dwindles but, so far so good.

The warm summer evenings appear to be behind us only to be replaced by chillier (and darker) evenings. Crisp mornings await us as we all make our trek to work. I'm sorry for all the summer lovers, but fall is here.

October is typically a good time for building as most contractors attempt to complete projects and get houses roof tight prior to the white fluffy stuff.

Demand continues to stay strong as many homeowners have used their travel budgets and spent it on their homes. Time will tell how this extra spending will affect the market price for lumber.

Until next month, stay safe! Joel MacLaggan

Notes from Forest Nova Scotia

This month, we received this request from Forest Nova Scotia:

"With the success of Nova Scotia Needs Forestry, and the Christmas "Forestry Feeds Nova Scotia" campaign, we are launching a two-week food drive in support of local community food banks (September 28 – October 9, just in time for Thanksgiving!).

We are looking for sawmills/mills/forestry organizations across the province to host a two-week food drive (September 28 – October 9). The food can either be donated to a local food bank you already have a relationship with, or Spencer from Westfor, or someone from our office will match you up with a food bank in your community. We will provide you with posters to print off and emails to send around to your colleagues to ask them to donate. Food will be collected from September 28th until October 9th, but you can make it as long/short as you want."

Notes from Forest Nova Scotia, con't

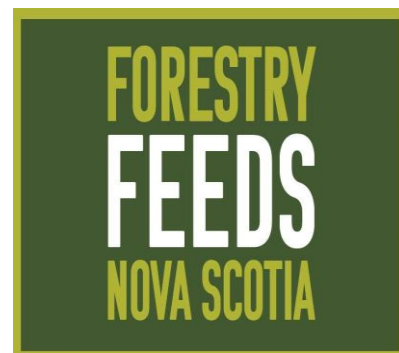
In response to this request, we have partnered with the Hants North Community Food Bank. For your convenience, we have distributed boxes throughout our site for your donations. Our folks have always opened their hearts to support our community. We anticipate our campaign will be very successful. In particular, this year has created an extra demand at all food banks throughout our province. Here at ELCO we are very fortunate that COVID-19 has not resulted in an interruption to our pay cheques or work schedule. Now, more than ever, is the time to pay it forward. Tell your family and friends!

Feed Nova Scotia has a suggested list for:

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

- soups and stews
- peanut butter
- cereal
- canned vegetables and fruits
- canned meat, fish, and beans
- rice
- pasta and pasta sauce
- fresh or frozen vegetables
- fresh or frozen meats
- baby food and formula
- meal replacement drinks
- canned and powdered milk

Thanks in advance for your support!



Notes from Woodlands

As I sit here writing this newsletter, I feel somewhat challenged to provide a quality report. It is not due to a lack of reportable news as there has been quite a bit of action this past month. Well, perhaps that is the problem, when lots of things are happening, it's hard to focus on one topic. Anyway, I think for this one I'll just give a brief update on some of the goings on.

This week, Beaver Dam Enterprises is wrapping up this year's Pockwock harvest. We feel it is a good time to pull out as we start to see a little more rain in the forecast and certainly do not want to push our luck working in this sensitive area. We completed approximately 35ha of an 80ha commercial thinning under Westfor management and plan to finish the job next summer. Beaver Dam Enterprises will then move from Pockwock to the Mi'kmaq Forestry Initiative (MFI) St. Croix lands to begin the first of two-selection harvest thinnings. The second thinning is actually adjacent to the Spence Managed Forest where we are pleased to have another opportunity to work with the Spence family and Jim Bremner to complete a selection harvest which should fill Beaver Dam's schedule to year's end. Along with the planned selection harvest treatments on the MFI land base, we have been working with the folks at the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq to conduct some road upgrades and building.

So far, everything is on schedule, although the heavy rain from the storm a couple weeks ago presented some challenges. Greg Grant has been working very closely with the excavator operators to see the construction through while minimizing impacts. We will get there by picking our days and a little luck with the weather. October will likely continue with much activity and I look forward to providing another update next month.

Until next month, Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Hindsight is 20/20

They say hindsight is 20-20. They also say perfect eyesight is 20/20. Unfortunately, this year 2020 has been terrible to say the least. It has been so bad that even "God" has put in his notice and will slowly transition out of Eacan Timber and Elmsdale Lumber. I can't say I saw this coming! Before you sail away into the sunset, I want to wish you and Debbie all the best and enjoy your downtime.

Golf Anyone

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards for anyone interested in going to our annual golf tournament. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Craig or me. We hope to see you there!

Employee of the Month

I picked up supper right after work last Friday from Pete'za Perfect. The traffic was so heavy it took me a few minutes to get across the road. As I waited for my order, I saw the cars at the mill were backing up in the yard as they couldn't get out because of the traffic. I finally got my order and now it was my turn to get out on the road. A nice young gentleman driving a white car managed to get out and he preceded to stop the traffic to allow me to get on my way. I will not forget your thoughtfulness and you made my day! Therefore, MR. LESLIE ISENER is named employee of the month.

Congratulations

Congrats to Rob Himelman and family on becoming homeowners at the end of the month. Just waiting to hear the date for the housewarming party. (lol)

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

Eating Crow

We have a meeting every Wednesday at the planer. This is attended by Angie, Gennie, Craig, Ronnie and our General Manager (when he's available-which hasn't been often as of late). I'm sure it's something work related and he's not just gone off golfing.

Anyway, after our last meeting I was asked, "What does that mean?" "What does what mean?", I asked. "What does Gennie mean when she says she eats crow? Apparently, he has never heard that expression before! Wow, I gave the person my interpretation of it, but perhaps at the next meeting Gennie can go over it to be sure we are all on the same page.

The Lantz Interchange

I was doing a grade check in early September with Charlie from the MLB when Robin happened to stop in and asked how it was going. Charlie said things were good. As we talked, Mark showed up in a bit of a sweat and told us he and his dad had been cutting some logs up back. Mark also told me something I would never have guessed. He said there was probably 6 to 7 hundred yards of woods between us and Highway 102. Our border runs from Elmwood Subdivision to behind the school in Elmsdale. Most times, as you drive on the highway there's very little buffer zone between the highway and the residential areas. A good example is where the new interchange is going in Lantz.

Yummy

Of all the meals I've enjoyed over the years here at ELCO, this Wednesday's was by far the best. I want to thank the boys for their expertise on the BBQ's and all the girls did a fantastic job. It was very well organized and ran smoothly. I would like to tell you something you could do to make it better, but I can't think of a thing!



September 50/50

Sept 04	Robbie Peters
Sept 11	Warren Hirtle
Sept 18	Jason Isenor
Sept 25	Gordie Beaman

October Birthdays

John Ashley	Oct 27
Trevor Hare	Oct 18
Odessa Jack	Oct 23



September Anniversaries

Rob Himelman	19 years
Darren Isenor	19 years
Jason Isenor	16 years
Angie Kainola	8 years
Nick Miller	14 years
James Sawler	42 years
Chris Wilber	26 years

