

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

April 30, 2022

Issue # 311

Notes from the Editor

This month, I would like to celebrate volunteers. I asked Google what the world would look like without volunteers, and she said, "A world without volunteers would be a world without 140 million people, an economy without \$400 billion dollars, a GDP that's 3 - 7% lower, and a world where millions of employees working for "not-for-profit" businesses would lose their jobs. Our community landscape would be a dried-up barren filled with loneliness and suffering. No one would be living up to their full potential. It is fully impossible to picture a world without them. I had a follow up question. "Google, what are the benefits of volunteering? She said, "Volunteering helps you connect with others. The effect on the community is one of the best recognized benefits of voluntary work. Unpaid volunteers are also the glue that keeps a community together. Volunteering helps you to relate to and develop your culture."

As a volunteer, personally I think a huge benefit is the social network you create for yourself. My circle of friends are all volunteers. Each year, the Municipality of East Hants encourages and receives nominations for a Shining Star Award. Our municipality believes our community is richer and stronger because of volunteers. From the year's Shining Star recipients, one is chosen as the Volunteer of the Year and will represent East Hants at the provincial award ceremony.

Please join me in celebrating one of this year's East Hants Shining Star and this year's Volunteer of the Year and my good friend, Becky Grant. Becky was nominated by another very good friend of mine, Tanya Burke. It is my honour to call each of you friend. Well done, Becky and I look forward to volunteering along side you from many years to come.

And congratulations to the ELCO volunteers. We have many to celebrate.

Until next month, keep up the good work here at ELCO and in your community. 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 & be sure to ask your supervisor or any member of our safety committee about any questions you may have.

We have officially reached 6 months accident/incident free, which gives us 80 points in our safety points bank to date. We still have a few more months to go before we cash out on July 31, 2022. With the level of construction on our property, 6 months accident free is quite remarkable. Congratulations to all, continue to work safely and keep up the great work!



May 2 - 8 is Mental Health Week and serves as a reminder for everyone to consider the impact our words and actions have on our own mental health and those around us. We all process things differently and have various levels of tolerance to manage the individual stressors in our lives. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, please reach out and make sure they/you get the help needed.

Until next month, Brian Myers, Trevor Hare, Nick Miller, Craig Isenor, Mark Wilber, Angie Kainola

Notes from the President

Hockey is part of Canada's DNA. Montreal was never a team that I cheered for but like thousands of other Canadians. I loved Guy Lefleur. He was a fabulous hockey player, a true gentleman, and I am sure he will be sadly missed. Yet, another page in Canadian history has been written.

Throughout this year, and part of last, I have been updating you on the progress of our massive upgrades, including the addition to the boiler building to accommodate our new boiler and the construction of an addition to our sawmill to accommodate the much-anticipated new equipment. Many of our ELCO team really stepped up and during this progress I have made it a point to recognize their extraordinary efforts.

As always, and without much fanfare, our planer mill crew continues to pump out quality products for our customers. Over the last several weeks, our planing mill crew experienced an outbreak of Covid. Subsequently, for several days they were very short-handed. They came together as a team and continued to make things happen. The Covid cases have resolved themselves and things have returned to normal. With that said, there is nothing normal about our planer mill team. They are above-normal! So, on behalf of the entire ELCO team, we offer you our sincere thanks for keeping our deliveries on time and everyone happy.

The new sawmill building is finally approaching the finish line. The winter months proved difficult. During the winter months, the steam tunnel to the sawmill was not in commission as the pipe going into the sawmill needed to be relocated, resulting in the loss of heat to the sawmill. The only available heat was the heat that was generated from the equipment and a few portable heaters. Needless to say, the men had to layer up their clothing, but with true ELCO spirit, they persevered. Because of the construction, the maintenance crew lost their workshop and consequently, it became more difficult to keep track of their tools. Also, much of the sawmill equipment have components that are temperature and moisture sensitive.

Notes from the President, con't

The winter weather did not let up just because we were in the middle of construction. Gaping holes in the roof, walls and a basement in disarray only added to the discomfort. Throughout, the sawmill crew continued to keep logs passing through saws and making great quality ELCO lumber. The whole crew must be looking forward to a new, brighter, modern building. They are certainly deserving.

All the steel beams are in place and the roof is nearing completion. The walls are starting to go up and should be completed in the next couple of weeks. When the roof was in place, the Bergman Electric team, headed up by Nick Miller, installed enough lighting to brightly light up the sawmill. On Friday, April 29, Jason Molnar told me that it would be the last shift in the old building. It was now time to begin dismantling the roof of the old sawmill. I called Chris to come to the sawmill to witness this notable day in the history of ELCO. She was part of the team that was here in 1976/1977 when we built the "new sawmill". I can't tell you how many hours I spent here during that construction, but I can tell you I wore out 3 pairs of work boots and I am so glad you guys have picked up the torch and are making things happen this time. Just for fun, I can tell you the cost of building that sawmill was just under a whopping 1.2 million dollars. Now, we can't even buy one new piece of machinery for that amount of money.

So, last weekend, 8 of our guys stepped up to the challenge. They changed their titles to, "The Demolition Crew." This was truly impressive to watch to say the least. Thanks so much to Jason Molnar, Jon Molnar, Shawn Preeper, Leslie Isenor, Joey Preeper, Don Isenor, Brian Myers, and Mark. You guys put in a long hard weekend, and I must tell you I am unbelievably impressed with what you were able to accomplish.

Over the next months, we will install the crane system in the mill, remove the concrete walls from the old building, get ready to pour new

Notes from the President, con't

concrete floors, install a lot of electrical equipment in 3 new electrical rooms in anticipation of the installation of our new optimized board edger. In the following months, a new optimized gang edger will arrive and is scheduled for installation.

Next year, an optimized canter-quad system will arrive. This machine makes 4-saw cuts in 2 chipping cuts at one time. All three of these machines are made by McDonough Manufacturing, a Wisconsin company that has a manufacturing plant in Fredericton, New Brunswick. We are proud to support a Canadian manufacturer. The folks on the ELCO team that researched the manufactures for this project are confident this company makes robust machines with technically advanced components and will service us well into the future.

Until next month, Robin

Notes from Woodlands

I would imagine many of you reading this have noticed our log inventory is extraordinarily low. The early road closure and high demand for logs heading into winter resulted in slow deliveries that lasted for an extended period. This will require us to play some serious catch up over the next few months. As such, Stephen has been working with our suppliers to secure commitments going forward. We are also ramping up harvest capacity for the foreseeable future to help gain some ground and working with some of private woodlot clients as well as on our own freehold land. The weather looks like it is going to cooperate over the next week or so, which will hopefully allow for consistent trucking from active harvest sites. We are fortunate to have some great relationships with our suppliers, contractors, and the private woodlot owners who are willing to work with us during challenging times. Every component of the supply chain is important, and we greatly appreciate the hard work put forth from all parts of it.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

We started our planting program this week. I find every year it kind of sneaks up on me and this year is no exception. Although we do not have a big program planned, it is still important to get an early start to ensure success before everything greens up. We are off to a good start thanks to our contractors and we hope to have things wrapped up by the end of May. This might be the fastest from start to finish planting season I can remember.

Our pre-commercial thinning program is also well under way, and like the planting, we got an early start this year. This has resulted in our planned program already around half completed. Again, just might be another record. The spacing crews were very eager to get started and it shows with how fast they are going through the work! With the work force challenges we have been facing, I find this very encouraging to see a highly skilled, primarily labor-based sector, that can complete this very important service. Thank you and keep up the good work!

Until next time.....Jason and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Eacan Timber

We have been fortunate to read entries from the Eacan staff over the past few months. I hope you have enjoyed them as much as I have.

Amy (my wife) and I visited Montreal for a few days, and it felt as if the entire city was under construction. It's actually faster to walk downtown than to avoid one lane construction sites. The quantity of cranes in the sky is quite impressive. We noticed it last week in our own city as well. Halifax is growing.

Notes from Eacan Timber

There is a lot of talk about people spending less money on renovations and more money on travel, groceries, gas, etc. Although I agree the renovation business will slow, it should take a bit of time to see its true effect. Contractors appear to have a full schedule for the summer.

Lumber prices are historically high; over 50% higher than pre-pandemic highs. It will not be a surprise to see a correction this summer/fall to lower numbers than today's market price. However, new highs will hopefully see a "new normal" price as lives get back to normal.

In the end, our average lumber price for 2022 will be healthy. And as always, it is great to be your partner in sales.

Stay Safe, Joel McLeggan, Eacan Timber

Notes from Gordie Beaman's Corner**A summary of my new upgraded trimming position**

After working at my new task for nearly 2 1/2 years, I think my skills have improved. One thing you need to learn is what to do when the trimming chains stop. Most of the time you look at the tally number machine and it will tell you what the problem is, and you must know what to do. You also need eyes in the back of your head. There are numerous things that do come up from time to time and you must get to know them and learn what to do. With experience and time, you will achieve learning what those issues are and approach fixing them. Most of the time I can fix the problem myself but sometimes I need a helping hand. For an example, if there are multiple pieces of wood jammed on the reman belt, I might need some help but mostly I can handle it. Another thing is to watch the trimming chains as much as possible so no more than one stick is in a lug at a time.

Notes from Gordie Beaman's Corner, con't

If more than one slips into the chains, you should stop the chains and remove the extra piece of wood and place it on the lug loader, and then restart the chains. Most importantly, you must be ALERT as much as possible. If you are alert, hopefully this won't happen again. Unfortunately, one might sneak by you occasionally with multiple sticks in a lug (not often). In some ways, this trimming system is sort of opposite to what I once did for over 30 plus years. With this version, you don't have to handle as many pieces by hand like the old system. Also, behind where I'm standing there is a panel with buttons on it. I use it to adjust my speeds when necessary. As strange as this might sound, for the most part, I don't have to physically trim each stick like I used to, but there are times when I must. With the old system I was handling many, many sticks by hand, and now I can honestly say this is physically lightening the load on my shoulders. That is most of what I must do, and I am sure that there are other minor things, but in general that's all okay. This is what lifelong learning looks like at ELCO

Until next time, Gordie Beaman

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner**Road Trip**

On Saturday, April 23, with the sun shining, Maggie and I started out on a road trip. Our trip began in Dartmouth, where we got on the Marine Drive Trail. This trail takes you along the Eastern Shore all the way up to Aulds Cove. It is a beautiful drive along our coastline, passing through all the little ports and villages. Our coastline is second to none. We made a few stops along the way, including Liscomb Lodge. Although the lodge was not yet open, the gate was down and there were a few vehicles in the parking lot. I assumed they were preparing for their opening in May, so in we went. Their grounds are really nice with the river in the back of the lodge. Their website photos don't do it justice.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

Next, we stopped in Sherbrooke for some pop, chips, and a stretch. We were having a great time as we made our way through Port Bickerton. We were driving along with no signs of anybody else in sight when we started down a hill that slowly turned to the right. That's when I saw a red flashing light straight ahead of me. On my right, through the trees, I could see water. I came to a stop in front of the red light. That's when I noticed there was big building slightly to my right and beyond that there was a ferry! As I sat stopped on the road in front of the red light, I reached for my map (yes, I use a map, no gps or app for me). As I was looking at the map, trying to figure out where I went wrong, Maggie informed me the light had changed and was flashing. I looked up and the red light was now yellow and was flashing. Below the light a sign warned: "WHEN YELLOW LIGHT IS FLASHING PROCEED ONTO FERRY". I put my head back down to the map to try to figure out our location. Maggie said, "You gotta go!". To where I didn't know. Where was this ferry going? I pulled over to the side of the road as there was a large area to do so. Maggie urged me to go down to the building and get directions. She seemed to have forgotten one simple rule, "GUYS DONT ASK FOR DIRECTIONS". I seemed to have forgotten one simple rule, "HAPPY WIFE, HAPPY LIFE" so off down the hill I went.

Upon reaching the building I could see two huge wooden doors in the back. It appeared as if it was just a storage building, crap. As I looked out towards the ferry, I noticed a guy (who I assume was the captain) at the top of the ship waving his arm at me to come down to the ferry through the window of the room he was in.

I proceeded to walk on the ferry when a young guy appeared out of nowhere and was walking towards me on the deck. They say everyone has a double somewhere in the world. Well, I was greeted by our Brian Myers double. With my map in my hand, I told the young fellow I must have made a wrong turn somewhere, but I had no idea where?

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

I told him we were headed for Port Felix. He grinned and raised his eyebrows. He pointed to my map and told me I was in Isaacs Harbour. Okay, but how do I get to Port Felix? He pointed his left hand as we stood on the deck of the ferry and pointed outward. He told me to go across the harbour! So, you are telling me I need to be on your ferry. He said sarcastically, "If you want to get to Port Felix you have to get on the ferry." It was like I was talking to myself. I really took a liking to this young fellow. I asked, "When does it leave?" On the half hour I was told. "How much is it to cross? "It's free!" I ran back up the hill to the car (it was only approximately 100 yards or so). Out of breath, I told Maggie we were getting on the ferry. As soon as we got on board, the tailgate of the ship (for the lack of a better word), raised up and we were moving.

As I was getting out of the car, I stuck my head back inside and told Maggie we needed \$10 for the ferry. I walked over to the side of the boat and Maggie soon joined me and gave me a \$20 bill to pay for the ferry. We had a good laugh thinking we were lost and as it turned out, we just needed a 3-minute ferry ride to put us back on track. Maggie went back into the car, and I asked the young guy if we were his first passengers of the day. The time was approximately 12:30 pm. He said he had a few passengers that morning and he informed me in the summer they move about 200 people a day. When I got back to the car, I thanked him and told him at least he had a story to tell your buddies today.

Our next order of business was to find somewhere to eat, and we found that place in Guysborough. BIG G's to be exact. It's on Main Street and it's like Pete'za Perfect across the street from our mill, a pizza shop with seating. Two people were eating there when we arrived.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

When he came to the table he asked if we would like a drink. Absolutely! This is the only restaurant that I can recall that serves beer in a can. I assume everyone knows why beer in a can is better than beer in a bottle. Because you get more beer in a can than a bottle. 14ml more (just a little trivia for you). Maggie said her food was excellent and my 2 beers and onion rings were perfect as well. After we finished, Maggie offered me her bank card to pay for lunch. I got it I said. "Are you sure", she asked? "I'm sure, you paid for the ferry so I will get lunch".

I did tell her on the drive home that the ferry was free, and she promptly asked for her \$20 back. We had so many laughs and the weather was perfect. The only negative on the drive home was on Highway 104. They are doing the twinning and it is a mess with lane crossings and Bailey Bridges. I wouldn't want to navigate that drive at night.

Shopping Day

This month, I took a couple of days off to spend with Maggie before she goes back to work. We decided to go shopping for one day. Before we went, I cleaned out my closet and much to my surprise, a lot of my shorts and golf shirts had shrunk. I'm not sure if Maggie changed her brand of soap detergent or if she is using too hot of water, but I put a full bag of clothes in the donation bin at the Legion.

It is important I have some presentable clothes to wear in case I get invited out to a special function (right Craig I?) So we headed off to Dartmouth Crossing. We have a rule when we go shopping together, or should I say Maggie has a rule? She doesn't like me staying with her as she feels I am rushing her. So, I go do my thing and after a reasonable amount of time, I go looking for her. It is like a game of hide and seek. We went to Old Navy, Costco, Under Armour as well as Columbia. We went to LL BEAN last. It is a really nice store with lots of space and it is bright and colorful. They have a lot of nice stuff.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

As I made my way through the store, I came upon their shoe section. It is set up like Cleves with the shoes on the wall on a small shelf with the price and some info about them displayed below the shoe. As I gazed at the wall, I noticed they even had three different types of slippers as well. I stood there and look at the wall for about 3- or 4-minutes pondering who buys slippers at the price they were asking. The slippers were \$199.95. Don't get me wrong, as slippers go, these were the Cadillac of slippers, but seriously \$199.95? Maybe Walmart has ruined me? I pondered for the longest time who spends \$200 on a pair of slippers. I couldn't justify spending that kind of money on slippers unless I was wearing a pair of \$400 pajama bottoms. If I ever do spend \$200 bucks on a pair of slippers, I am wearing them to the gas station, the grocery store, the liquor store, etc. I would want people to see them for sure. Hey Pete, how you doing? Oh, I see you have new slippers. Yes, I do and they only cost me 200 dollars, steal of a deal.

May Birthdays

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



April 50/50

April 1	Angela Kainola
April 8	Stephen Mombourquette
April 15	Devin Castle
April 22	Rob Himelman
April 29	Leslie Isenor

Congratulations!

April Anniversaries

Don Isenor	30 years
Stephen Molnar	43 years
Robbie Peters	23 years

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con'tKarma

The regular NHL season is pretty much complete, and the playoffs are almost here. This has been the longest season in the history of my HABS. To go from the Stanley Cup finals less than a year ago to becoming the worst team in the league, with 2 games to go has been a tough pill to swallow. I look forward to seeing the LAFFS choking once again. My buddy Rob was over on Wednesday to bring me a gift as he is so thoughtful. I will think of you Rob every time I look down at the tee you gave me as I am swinging the club. But remember Rob, the first round is 4 out of 7. Getting to 3 won't cut it.

