

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

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Issue # 308

Notes from the Editor

Happy New Year! Every year I make the same New Year's resolution. I pledge to try and be a better listener. I have experienced very minimal progress, but I continue to be hopeful. As I age, it has become more and more difficult to measure my results as my recollection of events is hampered in the aging process. This year (my 65th), I made an additional resolution. I resolved to take advantage of the sunny days ahead and spend more time on the golf course. I checked this out plan with Angie and Pam, and they have agreed to cover my butt on those sunny days and allow me to indulge in a fantasy of better results on the course. Can't wait!

In addition to the challenges we are facing with our major capital investment projects, this month we experienced another untimely event; one which is not surprising but the timing sucks. The transmission in our 2008 Volvo wheel loader gave up the ghost. This is the oldest loader in our fleet and boasts close to 30,000 operational hours. Craig Stewart was told by a transmission repair company we must have a very good maintenance program because we did great to get that many hours. This comes as no surprise to team ELCO. For many years, Craig and Darren have taken extraordinarily good care of our equipment.

We are now down one loader in our three-loader fleet. The repair or replacement of this loader is going to take several weeks. We held a meeting with our three loader operators to discuss strategies on ways to continue to meet production demands without disrupting anyone's weekly hours. True to form, they worked together and formulated a plan to keep the two remaining loaders operational during each break. This would fill in 2 hours of lost production time out of a 9-hour shift. Their dedication to keeping things flowing is sincerely appreciated.

Until next month, 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.

The winter months are often extra challenging for those struggling with their mental health. For many people, COVID-19 is magnifying these challenges, and therefore it seems fitting to offer these phone numbers again. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, 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 24/7 - 1-888-429-8167

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

Mental Health Mobile Crisis - 902-429-8167

The Omicron variant of COVID-19 is having an impact on our daily lives, both at home and work. We're reminding everyone to play and work as safely as possible, and to follow the restrictions as laid out by our Provincial Health Department. Wear your masks, ensure you are adequately socially distanced, and wash/sanitize your hands frequently. We all have a continual part to play in getting back to "normal" as we learn to live with COVID-19.

As another reminder, our yard is full of "outside" vehicles, and the January weather we have been receiving has contributed to icy conditions around the yard. Please drive slowly and with extra caution as you travel through the yard.

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

Notes from the President

Our November 2021 newsletter contained your last project update, so I have lots to tell you.

Hurst Boiler technical support fellow Harry Suggs, Jr., more commonly known as HA, arrived from Georgia on the evening of November 29th and was ready to go to work the following day. HA and our local boiler expert, Blair Saulnier and our ELCO boiler team, Warren and Rob were about to put a lot of time in over the next 2 ½ weeks. During the first 2 to 3 days, HA, along with the help from Warren and Rob and Portable Welders, made some fine-tuning adjustments. They added a bunch of pipes here and there, numerous valves and check valves, etc. Finally, the boiler was ready to fire up.

Operating a bio-mass energy boiler is nothing like running an oil-fired boiler, where the fuel has a consistency that never changes. As it turns out, HA is an expert and a fantastic teacher. After several days of operation sorting out many issues with the help of the Hurst technical team in Georgia (also a very helpful and knowledgeable team), it was time for HA to get serious teaching our operators more about the ins and outs of their new boiler. He wanted Warren at night and Rob in the daytime for 3 days each, and then they were to reverse schedules. He wanted their undivided attention with no interruptions.

Only a few hours had gone by on HA's first day and we all knew we were going to get along just fine with our new friend from the deep south. A couple of days in, HA shared a story about a panic attack he experienced upon arrival. Blair picked him up at the airport and HA noticed Blair was hitting a 125 on the speedometer. It wasn't until the next day when he learned about kilometers verses miles per hour. It wasn't long before our nighttime temperatures were about to dip below freezing. When we started talking about 6 to 8 degree temperatures and poor HA's head was still thinking in Fahrenheit, I think he might have had another panic attack.

Notes from the President's Corner, con't

We did have to show HA some of our Maritime hospitality. One evening Mark brought some fresh live lobsters, a pot and burner and we cooked the lobster next to a snowbank and had a meal inside Portable Welders construction trailer.

We are never quite sure how a new piece of equipment will perform until it is installed and goes through its initial start-up. I must tell you I am impressed. Our new boiler purrs like a kitten. Thank you Hurst for building a great boiler, your technical support and most of all, for sending us a great guy. We had a great time and HA plans on coming back to Nova Scotia in the future and when he does, I hope he comes for a social visit for some more Maritime hospitality.

We had to replace the steam tunnel from the boiler room to the sawmill and replace the piping from low-pressure to high-pressure steam. Portable Welders are presently working on installing the high-pressure headers in the sawmill and hopefully we will renew the steam heat to the sawmill before the end of January.

It has been a challenge getting the new log infeed system fully operational to give us enough confidence to remove the old infeed system. We are working to overcome these obstacles and Marid is planning to install the columns and beams for the new sawmill building.

The work continues and our collective team is dedicated to achieving successful outcomes. Their steadfastness and knowhow are tremendous assets. What a remarkable bunch!

Until next month, let's collectively wish for better weather.
Robin

Notes from the Eacan Sales Team

Hello. My name is Warren Beeler. I have been working with the EACAN Timber team for 12+ years. I started in Logistics, and now spend most of my day selling lumber, OSB, and plywood.

Before EACAN, I worked in the trucking industry for 25+ years. That included a few years as an entrepreneur. I owned 5 tractors and 7 trailers, running the business out of our Lantz family home with my wife, Nerissa as bookkeeper, and our son Richard and me driving a couple of the trucks. I have driven into the ELCO yard to pick up lumber many times in the past.

In 1982, I moved to Lantz to be close to my parents. My father's family has been in the Lantz/Elmsdale area since the 1950's. I attended Grade 12 at HERH. Through a mutual love of music, I met my wife Nerissa (a Stewiacke girl) and we settled in Lantz to raise our family.

We have lived in the area 25+ years and raised 4 awesome kids. We were always active in community events including, hockey, soccer, Air Cadets, Girl Guides, Scotia Speed World, and anything music related. Our children are adults now. A couple are staying pretty close to us. Our oldest, Teresa MacPhee actively supports sporting events, including adult soccer and the Minor Hockey Association in the Corridor. Any of you involved in hockey have probably seen her at the Sportsplex in Lantz. Holly Beeler-Tattrie is a Grade 6 teacher at Riverside Education Center and a Captain with the Air Cadets (Madame Beeler to her Grade 6 children). Our youngest, Dana works for Music Nova Scotia. She lives in Halifax and travels extensively to support Nova Scotian musicians in finding places to play outside of their home province. As well, she is a musician who fronts the Halifax rock band "Hello Delaware".

Notes from the Eacan Sales Team, cont

All three girls graduated from HERH, the same as their mom and dad. My son Richard is a heavy-duty truck mechanic in Northern Alberta and because of COVID we have not been able to visit, and I am chomping at the bit to get out to see him. Richard was an excellent hockey player and soccer player (as per a proud dad!) and played in East Hants throughout elementary and into junior high. I happily coached every team he played on.

Music has always been a big part of our family. Nerissa and I played in a country rock band in Truro when we were first married. We also played in many bluegrass bands, including our family band (Grassworks) with Teresa, Holly, and Dana (and my brother, his wife, and my father). As well, I was the first bass player for the Exit 8 rock band. I really enjoyed playing music with others from the community.

As you can see, my family roots run very deep in the Corridor and because of my large extended family, many more of you may know me or a member of my family without my ever knowing. Some of you even went to school with me and trust me I do not remember much that far back (LOL).

Even though we now live in Bedford, Nerissa and I are very proud of our East Hants heritage, and we still spend several evenings a week either watching our grandson playing hockey or playing soccer ourselves or swimming at the NEW pool.

I will end by saying, I truly enjoy working at EACAN and getting to work closely with the ELCO team is a bonus.

Keep up the great work, and Happy 2022 to everyone I know, everyone that knows me, and everyone I haven't met yet.

Warren Beeler

Notes from Woodlands

With the start of a brand new 2022, activities in the woodlands are ramping up as we are experiencing what appears to be a temporary window of frozen conditions. As such, we are shifting harvest operations to blocks suited for frozen times. There are no guarantees on how long this will last, so we will take full advantage while we can. With the regular weekly weather events that seem to be consistent over the last month, we have noticed a drop in log deliveries. As our own harvest operations are taking advantage of frozen conditions, we hope our suppliers are doing the same and we will see deliveries ramp up soon.

Despite the recent snow fall, our boundary line maintenance program is still plugging along. This work is contracted to consulting and silviculture company Rumcache Forestry Solutions, who devote a crew of forest professionals they have on staff to this project. We work closely with Rumcache to prioritize sections of line based on condition and relevance to our operations. The progress they made since 2019 to refresh our property boundaries is quite impressive with over 70 kms cut out, and re-painted. With close to 30,000 acres of land, you can imagine the magnitude of keeping our property boundaries well established. This work comes with many logistical challenges, and the crews must overcome access issues, often requiring them to ferry equipment long distances each day on foot just to start their workday. With that, the work quality and dedication to the job are much appreciated, so thank you Rumcache!

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the passing of a very special person in my life, the long-time partner of my mother and good friend Peter Oland. If his last name seems familiar, it is probably because you enjoy beer, and indeed Peter was a family member of the iconic Nova Scotia beer company Oland Breweries.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

He was a genuine, kind, outgoing character, who enjoyed life to the fullest. He started working for the family business in the 1960's sweeping floors, eventually became a master brewer, and worked a 35-year career for Labatts after they purchased the family company in the 1970's. Over the last decade, Peter went off on his own path and worked for different promotional companies providing services to many different industries including the forest industry. Peter quickly became well known to the folks at Westfor, Nova Scotia Forest Technicians Association, and even helped ELCO acquire some conference promotional material a couple years back. You will be missed Peter!

Until next month, Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Legal

After an extended timeout, I'm happy to report that my buddy Phillip has aced the driving test he recently took in Truro. Phil is once again the proud owner of a Nova Scotia Driver's License.

Thanks a Bunch

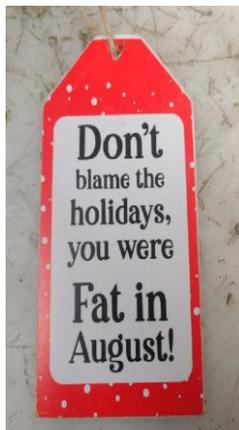
Nothing lasts forever, as I found out last week as I went to start my car only to find I had a dead battery. I want to send Liam a big thank you for giving me a jump and getting me on my way.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Chow Down

Over the last few months a few friends have come into the Elmsdale Legion that I haven't seen in a while because of the pandemic. There are those types of people that would notice something and not say anything and then you have people like my buddy Reggie who says what's on his mind (which I respect to the fullest). He recently dropped into the Legion. It was the first time I saw him in about 4 or 5 months. As he walked up to the bar, he said and I quote, "Holy Jesus, Peter boy you got some big since the last time we spoke." "Wow, I am not missing any meals", I replied. It is always nice catching up with old friends.

Later that day, Thomas was in. I mentioned Reggie was in earlier that day. Thomas said, "Yeah, I know. He stopped into the Enfield Legion and we caught up. He asked me if I saw Peter lately. He sure is sure packing the weight on."



No one has more fun with this then my brother. He often sends my sister e-mails, and he signs them, "Your brother, not the tubby one." My brother was down for a Christmas visit and to drop off some gifts. For Christmas he gave me a bunch of Burger King coupons and this heartfelt plaque for Xmas, which I keep in the lunchroom here at work.

Some people might be a little depressed with gaining weight, but I've always tried to find something positive out of any situation. For example, I've practically had an entire new wardrobe and I am getting a little more distance on my golf shots, just to name a couple of things.

February Birthdays

February 17	James Hennigar
February 17	Matthew Works



January Anniversaries

Jason Casey	21 years
Colin Hallahan	2 years
Tara Isenor	12 years
Gavin MacDonald	1 year
Frenchie	24 years
Robin Wilber	53 years



December/January 50/50

Dec 3	Jason Casey
Dec 10	Colin Hallahan
Dec 17	Gennie Himelman
Dec 24	Ron Miller
Dec 31	Nick Miller
Jan 7	Stephen Thompson
Jan 14	Matt Dillman
Jan 21	Craig Isenor
Jan 28	Jason Isenor

