

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

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Notes from the Editor

How young is too young for Cupid to shoot his arrow into one's heart? While in the Dominican this month, I am sure I witnessed a 3-year-old being hit by one of Cupid's arrows. I watched this 3-year-old boy break free from his family and head towards a set of stairs which lead to the resort's lobby. Luckily, a young lady (I am guessing she was about 12 years of age) was ascending down the stairs and offered her hand to the little guy and returned him to his family. The little guy readily took her hand and allowed her to escort him back to his parents. Accompanied by her parents, the young lady sat down with her parents as everyone got ready for the evening show. It wasn't long before the little tyke was on the run again. This time, he perched himself on the bench beside his newfound friend. As he inched closer and closer to her, he gazed up at her with love in his eyes. He settled in and continued to make eyes at her. Most of the adults in their near vicinity were as mesmerized as I was watching this love story unfold. The young man remained with her throughout the show and when the show was over, he requested and was granted a heartfelt hug from his new love.

The following evening, we were pleasantly surprised to find the two families together for the nightly show. The young man was firmly planted between his sister and his new love. His passion was still very evident. He was snuggled up to his new love and at the end of the evening, he stood in the center of the concert hall and blew her kiss after kiss as he watched her disappear under the light of the full moon.

Ah, young love!

Here's wishing each of you will make many cherished memories this year and for all your years to come, right Peter?

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.

January 25th was Bell **Let's Talk** Day. It is a day meant to encourage meaningful and educational discussions around mental health and emphasize the importance of seeking help as needed. We have said it before, but it is worth repeating. The winter months are often extra challenging for those struggling with their mental health. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, we encourage you to reach out to any of the resources below. **Help is available.**

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

We are still in full construction mode at the sawmill and will be for quite some time yet. This only heightens the need for everyone to work as safely as possible given there are lots of potential hazards present that would not normally be there during general operation. We appreciate everyone continuing to be safety focused and working toward keeping everyone safe.

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

Notes from the President

Reflecting on 2022, our new Hurst 300 hp high pressure boiler completed its first full year of operation on December 5th, 2022. Not all new equipment starts up and runs flawlessly. Yes, Rob and Warren had their challenges experimenting with different fuel mixtures but the boiler purrs like a very content kitten. Yes, the boys are now spoiled as they were used to drying lumber with a maximum of 15 psi steam pressure. In reality, their average was much, much less than 15 psi and they still managed to dry our lumber. Now, they consistently have between 90 – 100 psi, which they reduce to 12.5 psi to the kilns. They also deliver high pressure steam to heat the sawmill and low-pressure steam to the planer mill for heat. The heating system in the planer mill needs to be upgraded and we are working on it!

The sawmill now has a beautiful new building. As you know, this did not happen without many very complicated challenges. I could try to list them, but I am not sure I could remember all of them, and this letter would surely be too long. These challenges caused many evenings and weekends of long hours for several members of our team. As usual, they rose to each occasion, and we are now able to install the new optimized equipment. The first of 3 new machines is the board edger. It is now operating after dealing with numerous problems. It still has a few problems that need to be addressed.

This winter the optimized gang edger will arrive. Fingers crossed, the installation will take place later this year and will require a couple of weeks shutdown. We must be mindful of our ability to satisfy our customers' needs before we make the decision to shut down production for this installation. As always, we will give as much notice to our employees as possible. The third and final machine (an optimized quad) should arrive sometime in 2024. The quad has two chipping heads and four saws allowing for six cuts in one pass.

The Mass Timber project we have been working on is getting closer to reality. I spent two weeks in late November and early December touring several plants in Germany, Austria, and Slovenia.

Notes from the President, con't

Many buildings have beautiful Mass Timber columns and beams including grocery stores. I have visions of walking into a Sobeys or Superstore here and getting the same warm feeling that wood products offer us. The Europeans get it, support the local forest industry, build with sustainable, renewable, and environmentally friendly products. It is clear we are very far behind many European countries.

Over the years, I have considered the last week of January and the first week of February to be the coldest 2 weeks of the year. Here we are at the end of January with still no snow and many days with temperatures well above the freezing mark. The long range forecast for the first week of February promises to be much the same. I am cautioning everyone to get ready for pay back as surely, sometime in the next

Grocery store in Austria Look Up



Machine Shop in Slovenia Look Up



Notes from Eacan Timber

Happy New Year everyone! Let's hope 2023 is a fantastic year!

The holidays are now behind us, and routine is back at my household. Most evenings are filled running kids from place to place, visiting friends, playing sports, etc. With that comes structure to the weeks rather than sitting around the house eating too much food, drinking too much (coffee) and not exercising. Don't get me wrong; I LOVED the Christmas break. However, it is nice to get back into the swing of things.

The Christmas break seemed to knock the cobwebs off lumber buyers as well. December saw prices falling quite hard with 2x4 leading the way. Buyers were reluctant to purchase much lumber and yard inventories were lean. Fast forward to the second week in January and people woke up to the fact they didn't have enough lumber. And so, the buying started slow at first but others caught wind and the snowball effect started. In a couple days the lumber market tightened up. Buyers were no longer asking for a discount but paying higher than asking levels. Random Lengths has been proof with a few weeks of increased prices.

We're closing in on the end of January and I have to say it feels much better than a few weeks ago. Now we need it to hold!

Enjoy the balmy January weather.

Joel

Joel MacLaggan



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Notes from Woodlands

It's not like we ever feel we can consistently count on any winter for frozen harvest conditions, but this one has completely let us down so far. With hurricane Fiona cleanup efforts in full swing and the inability to consistently truck on seasonal roads, this winter has piled on another layer of challenges during an already challenging time. It does look like a cold snap is coming, but at this stage it is hard to expect any meaningful length of time to concentrate harvesting capacity on areas requiring frozen conditions. The other concern is a potential road closure announcement looming. For our ELCO harvest operations, at this point, unless we have reasonable confidence in a meaningful cold stretch, we are going to err on the side of caution and plan for all-weather harvest blocks.

The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables recently announced the roll out of the implementation phase of the High Production Forestry (HPF) leg of the triad model of forest management. Not to re-hash this all over again, but a quick review would explain that the Nova Scotia government, based on an independent review of forestry practices in Nova Scotia (Lahey Report) conducted in 2018, adopted what has been termed the "Triad model" of forest management on Crown Lands. This model is made up of three legs – one leg being protected areas, another being high production forestry with the primary goal of efficient forest product development, and the other leg, an ecological matrix allowing some forest management but ecologically based. The establishment of protected areas and ecological matrix have been well under way up to this point, but up until recently the HPF has not. This roll out of HPL is encouraging, as it is widely acknowledged for the triad model to be successful and a forest management "balance" to be achieved, that all three legs must be rolled out in their entirety. Getting this going will allow efficient, sustainable tree growth and ultimately, a reliable wood supply on Crown Land. In turn, this should alleviate some pressure from the rest of the Crown Land working forests to be able to support other values other than fiber production.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

The HPF land base is intended to make up 10% (185,000 hectares) of the triad forest and will likely take 35 years to fully implement. Roughly 0.5% has been initially rolled out to start the planning process with the remainder expected to be provided soon after once confidence is gained by confirming the suitability of the first batch of areas.

Site selection is based on several criteria points to ensure lands will allow for fast growth, efficient operations, and avoid sensitive areas not suitable for growing spruce. The intention is to focus the HPF zones on spruce plantation management, and the reason this will likely take 35 years to fully implement is what the expected time will be to convert the areas over to plantations. If the HPF leg is truly implemented and supported by our governments for the long term, we may finally be working toward the balanced management of our forest resource we have been talking about for a long time now.

Until next month, Jason and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Never Gets Old

Wow, what a game this past Saturday night at the Bell Center. With the Stanley Cup contenders Toronto Maple Laffs in town to play the bottom dwelling Montreal Canadiens. The Laffs have a lot of talent, and this is their year to go all the way. I know this to be true because all my Laff friends tell me this on a regular basis. With Austin Powers, Mitch (THE SNITCH) Mariner just to name just a couple of their high-powered forwards in the lineup, and the Habs with 9 regulars out of their lineup, this could be a mismatch for sure. With our leading scorer, GOAL CAULFIELD awaiting surgery, it sure didn't look good for us. At least, that's what the Laffs were saying. The Laffs score on the first shot of the game in just under one minute.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

High fives and smiles all around. We headed to the dressing room after the first period down 2-0. The Laffs had all the skill. but they were about to see a team with a lot of will in the second period. They tied it up after two periods. Nothing was settled in the third, so we headed into OT. It just wasn't in the cards for the Laffs as they have proven time and time again that they can't handle the pressure. That's a nice way of saying they CHOKE. The YOUNG LAD FROM LAVAL (our farm team) put the puck in the top corner in OT and once again the Laffs lost to the lowly Habs. Good luck in the first round. This could be your year I'm hearing (LOL).

Memories

Some people have a great memory, while others like me it is hit and miss at best. I am wondering what category you would consider yourself to be in Robin? A good example of this was in September. My sister was in the hospital, and I had to go to her apartment to pick up a few things. Upon entering, I noticed an envelope on the floor. I picked it up and it was addressed to "Carol's brother". Well, I am one of Carol's brothers, so I felt entitled to open it. It said, "You don't know me, but my name is Noreen, and I am a friend of Carol's. I have been picking up her newspapers and if you would like to take them to Carol I have them in apartment 308. If you don't want them, just let me know and I will recycle them for you. I gathered up what I needed from Carol's apartment and headed down the hall to 308. I was not very far down the hall when I noticed a guy bent over putting something in a Sobeys bag. We made eye contact as I passed by him, and we both said hello. I arrived at 308 and rang the doorbell. I heard a voice ask, "Can I help you?" It was coming over my left shoulder. It was the guy I had just said hello to in the hallway. I told him I was Carol's brother and about the note I just received. He said, "I'm Harold, Noreen's husband and you must be Peter, Carol's brother from Lantz. I told him he was right and asked how he knew it was me.

Notes from Peter Dillman’s Corner, con’t

I suggested Carol must have told him. He said yes but went on to explain that he knows this area and that he taught school in Milford. As I studied him further, I asked if his last name was Shaver. He told me he was indeed Shaver and I laughed and told him that I was in his Grade 9 Geography class. That would have been about 45 years ago. What a memory!

Now move ahead to December. I was working on a Sunday at the Legion when a young lady walked in. She looked like someone I had seen before, but I couldn’t place her. I asked if I could help her, and she told me she was there the night before with the ELCO Christmas party and she had just stopped in to see if her husband’s bar tab had been paid! Oh, I heard about you guys. That’s why we have a doorman, so no one slips out on their tab.

I told her I thought it was, but I would check with the girls who worked the night before and they would let her know if she did owe anything. She thanked me and started to leave. Hang on a second, how do I get in touch with you if need be. She wrote down her name and phone number, just in case. Upon checking, I am happy to let you know COURTNEY, you have a clean slate with us and come back anytime you like and don’t feel that you must wait for Christmas.

God

As many of you know, Mic Mac Mall has “Woody”, the talking Christmas tree. I was able to top that when I ran into God (I am guessing only longtime employees will know who I am talking about) just before Christmas at Mic Mac Mall. We had a chance to catch up. He is looking good and seems quite content. He mentioned to me he was possibly thinking about getting back into the workforce. I asked if he was looking to become a Walmart greeter? “No”, he assured me. He wouldn’t be looking at that. It was great to see him again and nice to know he is still around.

January Anniversaries

Jason Casey	22 years
Colin Hallahan	3 years
Leslie Isenor	30 years
Gavin MacDonald	2 years
Stephen Mombourquette	25 years
Robin Wilber	54 years



December/January 50/50

Dec 2	Shawn Preeper
Dec 9	Jim Sawler
Dec 16	Gavin MacDonald
Dec 23	Angie Kainola
Dec 30	Devin Castle
Jan 6	Phillip Isenor
Jan 13	Jason Casey
Jan 20	Darren Isenor
Jan 27	Matthew Blackwell



February Birthday’s

James Hennigar	Feb 17
Matthew Works	Feb 17

