

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

February 24, 2023

Issue # 318

Notes from the Editor

I was never a student who enjoyed history. In these latter years of life, I have become more and more interested. One of my favourite journalists is Rachel Maddows on MSNBC. She explains things to her audience in an entertaining and understandable way. On February 22, she told a story and I have taken the liberty of trying to tell you what I learned from that broadcast. Throughout this article I am using an abundance of her words. I will tell you there is a surprise at the end of the story and if you hang in there, I hope you will agree that reading to the end was worth the wait.

The world's most powerful nuclear reactor used to be in Ontario, Canada, housed in a place called Chalk River Laboratories. It was built in the summer of 1947 and used mainly for research purposes. In December 1952, about 5 years into the life of the reactor, it exploded. A combination of human error and mechanical failure caused the reactor to melt down causing a series of explosions. It was a miracle no one was hurt. This was the world's first nuclear explosion.

There was great concern about what they were going to do with all the radiation. There was no model or manual on how to clean this thing up! Radiation had leaked into the atmosphere and the plant was flooded with radioactive material. The reactor itself was still radioactive. It needed to be shutdown, taken apart and removed from the site.

How do you do that without subjecting the folks doing the work to that deadly amount of radiation? To figure it out, our Canadian government enlisted the help from the US Navy. At that time, the US government had an elite nuclear submarine program and trained engineers who had experience in nuclear technology. They knew anyone working on the shutdown effort could only spend **90 SECONDS** inside the reactor before they would hit the limit for radiation exposure.

Notes from the Editor, con't

So, back in 1952, they assembled the best crew on earth to tackle this crisis. They developed a very specific plan that would take apart the reactor in 90 SECOND steps. One man would rush in and unscrew a bolt and run out and the next man would complete his 90 SECOND task, and so on. To develop this plan, they built a full-sized replica at a nearby playground and practiced every single step. That is how they took this thing apart, one bolt at a time, on 90 SECOND shifts and it worked! In just a few short years, the entire thing was safely up and running!

The man in charge of this incredibly risky, innovative operation was a 28-year-old from Georgia. He was a Lieutenant in the Navy with nuclear submarine experience. He was one of the only men on the planet who had the skillset to develop such a plan and to go down inside the reactor. His name was James Earl Carter. Jimmy for short. Later in life he would become the 39th President of the United States. In the words of Paul Harvey, "And now you know the rest of the story".

I listened to this story on February 23, 2023. At that time, 98-year-old Jimmy Carter was at home in Georgia in hospice care. Mr. President, thank you for your service.

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.

Notes from the Safety Committee, con't**Pinch Points**

When we talk about pinch points, we are not talking about something like a pinch on the cheek from your grandmother. We are talking about some part of your body getting caught in or between two objects where it can be pinched, crushed or even amputated. Pinch points are all around us in our daily work here at ELCO. Pinch point injuries can be anything from a minor cut from closing a desk drawer on your finger to a life ending injury from being crushed between a wall and a forklift. A pinch point is a place where a body part, usually hands or fingers, can be caught in or between such as:

- Between moving machine parts
- Between heavy crates or equipment while moving them
- A doorway either on a building or a vehicle
- Between moving parts of a power tool
- Between sliding parts or hinges on equipment
- Between the lid and a container when closing it

Guards on tools and machinery are in place to prevent pinch point injuries. Never remove or disable a machine guard or use a machine that has a missing or disabled guard. Never reach around, under, or through a guard and always report any guards that are missing or not working properly. If you need to put your hands near pinch points to repair, service, clear, or adjust equipment, make sure you turn off the machine and lock out the energy controls first. Look for possible pinch points before starting any job. Check the equipment you are about to use to see where a body part could get caught and plan your work to avoid those areas.

Give even the smallest task your full attention and don't take any short cuts. Pinch point injuries usually occur when you're distracted or trying to hurry the job to get done faster. Take your time and don't get pinched.

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

Notes from the President, con't

As reported in the past, the optimized board edger is now working and working well. To achieve this outcome, there were some major issues to overcome and as a result there was some damage to the feed table. We are currently assessing the damage, but it will surely be an extensive repair. Once the feed table is repaired, we anticipate the new edger will be a work horse for many years to come.

Our new McDonough optimized gang edger is due to arrive soon. Our original plan was to install it this spring. Early this year we took on a few large lumber orders from our regular customers with a completion of June 30. To honor our commitment date, we have postponed the installation to a later date.

We are actively working with McDonough, Autolog, welders and electricians and others to have everyone on board at the same time. In preparation, the old wooden floor will be removed and replaced with steel flooring, which is much easier for clean up and additionally, it makes our insurers much happier. Upon completion of this phase, there will be very little wooden floor left and this remaining floor will be replaced with steel flooring when our new quad arrives sometime next year.

It is looking like things are coming together for the middle of August. This is no small undertaking, and we will be updating our team soon on our progress and plans. We are hopeful we can complete this installation in 2 weeks. I know our sawmill crew is up to this challenge of long hours and weekend work. They are excited about the prospect of a brand-new McDonough optimized gang edger.

Our biochar project is still alive, but only barely. I have a public information session scheduled for 7 pm on Tuesday, March 7 at the Municipal Office in Elmsdale. It is open to the public if you wish to attend. Let's see how this goes!

Notes from the President, con't

Our mass-timber project is also still alive but also not without its problems. The Municipality saved a large site for us in the Elmsdale Industrial Park. Because of the size of the property required, they had to do an environmental assessment. The Department of Environment found 3 Black Ash trees growing on the property and as a result, the project was shut down. I went looking for these trees. I found 2 of them. The 2 I found are 200 to 300 yards from anything we would be doing. I could not find the 3rd one. In my observation, they are similar to an oversized alder bush. In any event, that's the power of the Department of Environment. We are now actively looking for a new site.

Until next month, we have many irons in the fire, Robin

Notes from Eacan Timber

This month, I have a conversation to share with you.

Steve Foran is the manager of Chester Building Supplies. We have a program whereby they purchase all their dimensional lumber from ELCO. His store switched from #2 to Premium a few years ago. At first it was a battle to convince contractors and DIY customers to pay a little extra for quality lumber. However, they held firm to the belief there is value in paying for quality lumber with no waste. As Steve said to customers "Look at the pile of 2x4. You can use every piece".

Chester Building Supplies' beliefs fall in line with ELCO's mindset. "Produce a quality product that you're proud to put your name on and you'd get paid for it". We're very thankful to have key customers such as Chester Building Supplies.

I've extended an invite for Steve to come see the upgrades at ELCO and walk the site in a mill tour. If you see me walking around with a new face in the next little bit, it's most likely Steve. Be sure to say hello.

Joel MacLaggan, Eacan Timber

Notes from Woodlands

With no meaningful stretch of winter like conditions, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) announced the spring weight restrictions on Nova Scotia roads would come into effect Feb 26. However, after the announcement, we started into a cold snap, so they pushed the restriction date ahead to March 5. This does not raise the same level of concern as other years as a combination of circumstances has resulted in high log and stud inventories for most mills in the province. Although it is an unusually "good problem" to have going into road closure, it does create some considerations for the contractors and landowners as those who have planned harvests are now dealing with potential delivery quotas heading into spring. Mill inventories have been influenced by the influx of harvesting in Fiona damaged stands, as well as interruptions in sawing schedules at some mills in the province decreasing lumber production. We appreciate all the log suppliers, contractors, truckers, and landowners working with us as Stephen develops a strategy to handle the excess volume.

Earlier this year, we were approached by Rumcache Forestry Solutions, a forestry services company who does contract work with ELCO, to participate in the upcoming Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show. The folks at Rumcache took the initiative to organize and book a section of vendor booths dedicated to forestry for the first time in the show's history. This is a great opportunity to showcase the different facets of the industry including technology, current management practices, and career opportunities. Participants of the forestry section include Rumcache Forestry Solutions, Forest NS, Forestry Sector Council, Forestry Professionals of Nova Scotia, NSCC, Westfor and ELCO. We encourage anyone who plans to attend the show to stop by and check it out.

Until next month, Jason and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's CornerShow Me the Money

Although it doesn't happen very often, it does happen from time to time. Rob took some of my money on the last Habs-Leafs game. It wasn't even close (5-1 Laffs). The season series is now 2-1 Habs. We play once more before we hit the golf course and wait for the Laffs to get knocked out in the first round to join us. Go Habs go!

Jessy's Girl

I am guessing most of you know we have another pizzeria across the street from the mill. It is in the old Elmsdale Pizzeria spot. Our buddy Nick goes for pizza religiously every Friday and if he has Friday off, without fail he goes on Thursday. He has always gone to Pete'za Perfect since it opened across from us 2 or 3 years ago. Before that, Nick and Matt went to Pete'za Perfect when it was up by the Royal Bank. Nick always gets the BIG slice and can of Pepsi for \$5.75, taxes in. Nick said the pizza is good, his only complaint is they don't sell Coke. About 3 or 4 months ago, Pete'za Perfect raised the price of their BIG slice to \$8.00, taxes in. We had a pool going up here at the planer on whether Nick would continue to go to Pete's. For those who don't know Nick, let's just say he is somewhat thrifty (I will be honest- he is CHEAP). I lost the pool as he decided to keep going as he told me it was the only treat he gets.

There is a new kid in town, Jessy's Pizza. Well, on Friday a couple of weeks ago, Whitey took Nick with him to Jessy's for lunch. When Nick got back, he was so excited as he told me the pizza was good and they sell Coke and the best part of all is that its \$6.50, taxes in. That's a saving of \$1.50 a week. This might not sound like much to most of you out there, but I will equate it like this; "if you won the lottery, you wouldn't be any more excited than Nick is saving that \$1.50.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con'tIs that you Pam?

I would like to take a minute and give a big shout out to Pam who works in our office. I do not really know Pam and couldn't tell you what it is she does in the office, but I am sure she does it great. Upon leaving work recently, I mistook Pam for her office sister. Once again, I would like to apologize, and I am looking forward to perhaps having the chance to meet you sometime.

September 2021

Does anyone remember September 2021 and what happened here at ELCO? If you don't, then I will remind you. It was the day everyone from a foreman down received some COVID CASH from ELCO. I remember at the time what I decided to spend this windfall on. I also remember Robin saying, and I quote "YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEND IT. YOU CAN ALWAYS SAVE IT.

What!!! Actually, I did take your advice until late in January that is. It was then I threw caution to the wind and blew it all (LOL). Maggie and I are going south to an island not known for their cuisine as much as they are for their world-famous cigars. I quit smoking years ago but there is no way I'm going to Cuba and not having a CIGAR AND A STIFF DRINK IN MY HAND. I had some money left but I was feeling like a woman at Walmart on the first day of a sale and kept going. I then booked a room at the Casino in New Brunswick for a golf trip later this summer and still had some covid cash left. No sense stopping! As well, I will be going into the Lighthouse Room for a night of poker at the casino. So, I am looking forward to this year after last year. I hope everyone has their best year ever. It will be what you make it, so try your best!

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

Weather Update

As I write this on Thursday morning, March 2, it looks like we are going to get a dumping of snow, anywhere between 15 to 25 centimeters. I don't put a lot of stock into the weatherman's predictions as I find them to be spotty at best. I am old school and I look for other signs that indicate certain weather patterns to me, such as that NEW Nissan SUV I saw a lady trying to get up into this week at the office! That told me right there the snowstorm was real and on its way. Be safe and if you have 4-wheel-drive you are sure to make it into work, while others, like myself, will have to play it by ear and see if we should chance venturing out into Mother Nature's wrath.

Editor's note: Hey Pete, I see you made it to work this snowy morning. Good on you! FYI, my new tank made it down our unplowed, unpaved subdivision road and didn't spin a wheel! Yippee.

February Anniversaries

Jason Barr	19 years
Gordie Beaman	37 years
Phillip Isenor	33 years
Ron Miller	36 years
Matthew Works	5 years

Congratulations!

March Birthdays

Don Isenor	March 2
Phillip Isenor	March 8
Robbie Peters	March 12



February 50/50

Feb 3	Craig Isenor
Feb 10	Pam White
Feb 17	Phillip Isenor
Feb 24	James Hennigar
Mar 3	Matthew Works

