

# WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

October 31, 2023

Issue # 325

## Notes from the Editor

It has been 2 months since we last chatted. That's what happens when the Editor spends the last few days of September in Las Vegas. So here we are on the last day of October, and it is our fiscal year end. Lots of accounting chores to be done over the next few weeks. Angie is going to be very busy!

The office gals would like to acknowledge that Greg Grant is our honorary office bitc#\$\$. He is not afraid to pitch in with the daily office chores. He will wash the dishes, wipe down counters, sweep the floor, happily run any errands, all without being asked. We have each decided that Michelle also deserves credit for training him (or maybe he came to her already equipped because his mom Rosalyn prepared him). Either way, we are putting the rest of the males in the office on notice that he is available to mentor them.



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 & be sure to ask your supervisor or any member of our safety committee about any questions you may have.

It is officially Hallowe'en. Be sure to go through your kids' candy before they dig into it to make sure everything is safe, and if you must, do some taste testing as part of the process, and do it in the name of "safety" 😊.

We will be doing our quarterly inspections in the coming weeks. This is a preventative inspection we conduct internally to make sure we are putting our safest foot forward and are keeping our work environments tidy.

We have lots of new faces on the property, so together with the new faces and the seasoned faces, please feel free to see a member of our safety committee if you see anything that needs attention.

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



## Notes from the President

As you will agree, many members of our team are proud parents and rightfully so. A few of us are proud grandparents as well, including me and Chris. In the future, I will profile our 13-year-old Tristan but for now, I would like to share this about your fellow worker and our grandson Ty. Ty came to work with us two summers ago as an introduction to the forest industry. This past summer, at 17 years of age with a bit of experience, he could be trusted in and around sawmill equipment. During his first week, I asked Stephen Molnar to send him home at the end of the day hot, sweaty, and tired. To make sure there wasn't any perceived favouritism, I avoided visiting the sawmill as much as possible. Also, during that first week, I thought about having a conversation with Ty about being on time everyday and the importance of setting an example. I decided to avoid this conversation as I knew this was already part of Ty's DNA.

So, here's the rest of my story. Last year, in Grade 11 at HERH, he was elected Captain of the hockey team. I am told this almost never happens as the position of Captain is normally reserved for Grade 12 students. The roster also includes one or two Assistant Captains. Trying not to be too nosy, I asked around about the criteria when choosing Captains. I learned the elected Captain may or may not be one of the best hockey players on the team, but leadership qualities are definitely an essential skill on and off the ice. This would also include being on time, every time. Now in Grade 12, he continues to hold the position of Captain.

The RCMP reached out to HERH hockey team looking to partner with them for a fundraiser and public awareness game. The game will take place on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m. at the Sportsplex in Lantz.

All the proceeds from the game will be given to the Braeden Bannister Memorial Fund. Braeden was a Grade 10 student at HERH. He was a member of the HERH hockey team and a junior firefighter. He tragically passed in 2019. The Braeden Bannister Memorial Fund was set up in 2020 with two goals.

## Notes from the President, con't



### OCTOBER GAMES

HERH	VS	GILLIS
[ AWAY GAME, ANTIGONISH ] OCTOBER 18TH, 6:30 PM		
HERH	VS	NNEC
[ HOME OPENER! LANTZ ] OCTOBER 21ST, 7:30 PM		
NNEC	VS	HERH
[ AWAY GAME, TRENTON ] OCTOBER 27TH, 7:00 PM		
HERH	VS	GILLIS
[ HOME GAME, LANTZ ] OCTOBER 28TH, 7:30 PM		



**Notes from the President, con't**

One, to give back to the community of East Hants and two, to ensure that every school in East Hants has a life-saving AED (Automatic External Defibrillators). Their fund has been actively fundraising and continues to support local students, athletes, and several local groups. To date 16 AED's have been placed in local schools.

Can the young bucks come out on top? We will see. Good luck boys!

**Sawmill update**

Since my last update, a couple of major projects have been completed. Sometime ago, we purchased a new 100 HP screw compressor. We sent our old one off for a rebuild but we wanted to have two so we could alternate the usage time. This way we could also send the old one away for repairs without interrupting production time. At the same time, our air dryer was having major issues and it also needed to be sent away for a rebuild. In the meantime, Atlantic Compressed Air was kind enough to lend us an air dryer. These new pieces of equipment were destined for a new dust free compressor room. This room is now complete and both compressors are up and running along with the air dryer and it looks awesome. Great job guys.

When we built the new portion of our sawmill building over our old building a few parts of the old building remained. One portion was a large extension to the old building that housed the setworks for our carriage. The setworks will have to be moved sometime in the future when our third and final optimized McDonough piece of equipment called a Quad arrives. In the meantime, what to do with this large piece of the old building that was in the way of our current work. As usual, Jon, Jason and Stephen devised a plan for its removal and now that piece of the building is in the history books. You know our new building is big when an excavator can operate within the building and is nowhere near the current equipment.

**Notes from President, con't**

All this work is being completed in anticipation of our scheduled shutdown beginning January 6, 2024, when we will install our McDonough Optimized Gang Edger. Part of me is sad to see Fritz's Valley Machinery Gang leave the mill after about 30 years of service. The other part of me is excited about the future of optimization here at ELCO.

Until next month, Robin

**Notes from Eacan Timber**

We may have been robbed of a good summer, but now we are solidly into FALL, which is fine by me. Not too hot, not too cold. You can layer up and take a walk and not sweat or freeze to death. I'll take it.

The Meisner family has been busy. Our son Max is now two and a half and he's a little tornado, walking and talking up a storm. Lots of firsts happening. First movie in the theatres, first skate, first time sleeping in a big bed, first back talk. All very exciting and exhausting stuff.

Also, Max is going to be a big brother as we have ANOTHER one on the way in January! Holy smokes. Also, my sister Jessie Rose and her partner Alex are having a baby as well, due in February. Babies everywhere this winter. Mom and Dad are both excited as they are prepping to get ready to go from one grandkid to three. Can they handle it? I'll keep you posted.

Fuel prices are still sitting high as we approach November, but truck availability seems to continue to be in our favour. We are lucky to have dedicated hardworking companies that we have dealt with for years hauling our lumber from our mills to our customers. Properly shipping orders is a group effort between the drivers and the mill and we do appreciate the attention to detail and the patience that goes along with making sure that the proper product is shipped out.



### Notes from Eacan Timber, con't

Cheers to everybody. Enjoy the rest of the Fall season! PS. The next time you are chatting with Joel MacLaggan, he has just celebrated his 20<sup>th</sup> year at Eacan! No small feat. Great shift from our President so far, and only forty more years to go.

Evan Meisner



TF. 833.252.8410    C. 902.223.1155  
T. 902.860.2092    F. 902.860.3600

### Notes from Woodlands

As most everyone is aware, on October 3 and 4, LICO hosted the Canadian Woodlands Forum (CWF) Fall Meeting. This annual event is made up of a 2-day program. Day 1 consisting of presentations and Day 2 consisting of a field tour. Every year, the CWF will partner with a company member to host the event. ELCO has been a proud member of the CWF for many years and up until now, has not hosted a fall meeting. So, when the opportunity was presented to us, we felt it would be a good time to showcase some of the advancements we are making at the sawmill as well as the woodlands.

We expected around 120 participants for Day 1 of the event, with Day 2 traditionally drawing a smaller crowd, perhaps 80-100. However, we ended up with around 180 for Day 1 and 150 for Day 2. Day 1 of the conference was held at the Cineplex in Dartmouth Crossing, where along with a full slate of presenters, Robin and Mark did a great job representing ELCO with their respective presentations. Day 2 kicked off with participants meeting at the mill, loading onto 3 buses and heading to the Elmsdale Fire Hall to enjoy a great breakfast hosted by TBT Catering, where owners Becky Grant, Tanya Ashley, and Tanya Burke, worked incredibly hard to feed the crowd that was much bigger than we expected.

### Notes from Woodlands, con't

Afterwards, we shuttled everyone off to Renfrew where we cycled through 4 stops on our woodland holdings. The tour started with some past work completed by Downey Thompson demonstrating how our management style started and some considerations that come with being stewards of a multi-use land base. We then proceeded to our second stop, which consisted of 3 live demo sites. A mechanized pre-commercial thinning site, a commercial thinning site, and a final harvest site, showcasing our sustainable approach on our high production forestry areas. This stop also showcased our relationship with Scotian Wind, and how this partnership can co-exist on an industrial land base.

After we rotated our guests divided into 3 groups, through the 3 sites, we loaded on the buses and headed back to the mill. There, the TBT ladies were ready for us and served up a delicious lunch of lasagna soup and tea biscuits. Once everyone was full, we divided back into 3 groups and rotated folks through the sawmill, planer mill and boiler room. The mill tour went off without a hitch, and from what I hear, our tour guides kept everyone informed and entertained.

When I hesitantly raised my hand last spring at a CWF board meeting to offer hosting the event, I knew it was going to require some effort. However, as it turned out, I think I underestimated the amount of planning that goes into something like this.

Angie especially stepped up, took the reins, and worked tirelessly with the Becky, Peter, and Trinda from the CWF to make the 2-day event happen. Her exceptional planning and organization skills have been much appreciated by all involved.

### **Notes from Woodlands, con't**

Another big thank you is necessary to Rob, Warren and Mork who worked very hard Wednesday parking the visitors and moving tables and chairs back and forth between the Elmsdale Firehall and mill yard. Also, a big thanks to all the other supervisors who acted as tour guides for the 150 participants we were tasked with navigating safely around the property and buildings. Lastly, a big thanks to TBT Catering for doing a great job feeding our guests and adapting to the increased numbers. From all accounts, the event was a success, and the feedback so far is that everyone enjoyed it. Thank you to all that participated, and the CWF, it was an honor to host!

Until next time, Jason and the Woodlands Crew

### **Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, here at the planer we did not have a Christmas dinner on our last day of work last year. No worries my friends as plans are well underway for a feast this year to try and help make up for last year. Thanks to Slink and Matt who took 2 truckloads of recyclables up to the depot to help with our menu selections, everybody is throwing out ideas as to what we should feast upon. So, I guess time will tell what we will be eating!

The first thing I would like to say this month is, I can't believe how fast the month of September went by. This was our best month here at the planer production wise as we exceeded a million feet in a week. Do you know what a million feet gets you besides tired? What would you say if I said COFFEE AND DONUTS! Well, that's what we got. We also had a practically new Keurig machine donated to us for our lunchroom room from Uncle Andy. (He is everybody's Uncle Andy).

### **Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't**

We also had a BBQ which was and is always great to have a free meal and just when you think it can't get any better, it does! We received our safety award. This year we were able to score a gift card from your choice of Sobeys or Superstore in the amount of 270.00 dollars. Can't wait to see how October shapes up but we will be getting off to a good start with a holiday early in the month.

### **Notes from Gordie Beaman's Corner**

Today is a very beautiful day and I thought that I'd get a photo of myself standing next to this beautiful sign where I work at Elmsdale Lumber. This amazing company has been in existence since 1917 AWESOME 🍀 I've been working here for many years, and I thank God for the extra gear he gave me that I didn't know that I had to survive this long physically, and hopefully I may have some more years in me before it is all said and done 🍀



**WOW!!**

October/November Birthdays

John Ashley	October 27
Trevor Hare	October 18
Leslie Isenor	November 21
John McGrath	November 06
Ron Miller	November 08
James Sawler	November 30
Robin Wilber	November 10 <b>DAM ANOTHER ONE</b>

Sept/Oct 50/50

Colin Hallahan	Sept 01
Phillip Isenor	Sept 08
James Hennigar	Sept 15
Chris Myers	Sept 22
Leslie Isenor	Sept 29
Craig Isenor	Oct 6
Greg Grant	Oct 13
Dwight Isenor	Oct 20
Jason Isenor	Oct 27



September/October Anniversaries

Gennie Himelman	31 years
Rob Himelman	22 years
Darren Isenor	22 years
Jason Isenor	19 years
Angie Kainola	11 years
Nick Miller	17 years
James Sawler	45 years <b>Amazing</b>

