

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

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Notes from the Editor

Meet 4-year-old Mylo.



Recently, Mylo visited the Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show at the Halifax Exhibition Centre. ELCO and Tidal Tractor and MC Power co-shared a booth at the show. One of the prizes at our exhibit was a remote-control toy excavator. This toy was on display for visitors to play with. Mylo was eager to put his skills to the test. He immediately knew he was playing with an excavator and identified all its features.

Also, he announced that forestry equipment was his favourite type of equipment, and he would soon be going to the Atlantic Equipment Show in Moncton on March 28. He was as excited to go the equipment show as most 4-year-olds would be to be going to Disney.

When it was announced Mylo was the winner of the toy excavator, Angie called to give Mylo the good news. Mylo lives in the Valley, and it was agreed they would stop by our mill on their way to the show in Moncton. When he arrived, Mylo was presented with his prize, issued an ELCO hardhat, and given a drive in Bubba's forklift. He happily shared his knowledge of all things forestry with the office staff. What a great kid! Robin and Angie also offered him a job when he becomes of age.

Drop by for a visit anytime Mylo. It was a pleasure to spend some time with you. 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.

We are in the process of scheduling a first aid course. This will be a one-day course held on a Wednesday in our boardroom. We will be looking for a couple people from all departments to participate in this training. If you would like to volunteer on behalf of your department, please notify your supervisor or your safety rep and we will add your name to the list.

Until next month,

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

Notes from the President

Remember the flood last July? Last year, we had the driest spring that I can remember, along with major forest fires, plus the loss of about 200 homes in the Yarmouth and Hammonds Plains areas. Everyone was doing the rain dance and oops, we may have danced too hard. The rains came, put out the fires and filled all the bogs, swamps, streams, rivers and lakes. Following this event, another rain event happened. The amount of rain that fell varied greatly throughout the province. From Elmsdale to Bedford it was reported that 261 millimeters fell in just 8 hours. Remember, the water table was already full, and this rain had no place to go! The Shubenacadie and Sackville rivers overflowed their banks to unbelievably high levels, flooding many homes and businesses along the shorelines. The buildings across the road from ELCO sustained extensive water damage.

Notes from the President, con't

A few residents in Elmwood Drive blamed ELCO for their basements flooding. To be clear, many residents next to us acknowledge the water did not come from us, it came from the river overflowing its banks and backing up under the railway and under the highway, resulting in the flood. It had absolutely nothing to do with us. It was Mother Nature.

This past week, reporter Luke Ettinger with CBC News reached out to Mark looking for his comments on the subject. He was scheduled to interview some of the area's residents. Mark handled the interview extremely well, pointing out that when someone's house floods it can be a very traumatic experience and some people will look for someone or something to blame. Prior to this interview, Mark took me on a tour of the culvert under the highway from Elmwood Drive and the culvert from ELCO under the highway and over to the railway. The culverts are clear, but downstream on the other side of the highway, the area between the highway and the railroad is not clear. It is overgrown with alder bushes and silt that has come downstream building a berm, keeping the water from draining the flow of water from the culverts. We can make sure the culverts are clear and that downstream the water coming from the culverts has a place to escape. This is a relatively easy fix, but one that no level of government is willing to take responsibility for or fix the issue. While municipal and provincial governments continue to debate the issue of responsibility, the residents and businesses in this area will continue to suffer the consequences.

If someone mentions to you that the flood was caused by ELCO, you could easily point out that try as we might, we can't stop Mother Nature, but properly managed drainage ditches would help the flow.

The new optimized McDonough gangsaw continues to work a little bit better each week but still has some issues requiring a resolution.

Notes from the President, con't

Last weekend, Hugh Hawley of McDonough Manufacturing spent quite a bit of time here trying to figure out what was causing one of the issues we were experiencing. Eventually, he confided in our team what he was seeing but could not figure out the cause. Jason immediately piped up and said that doesn't sound like a programming issue but more like a mechanical issue. I watched our team shining their flashlights inside the machine and making sets and watching the machine working. It was not long before they identified the mechanical issue. This issue has since been fixed.

I sent Hugh a thank you note for spending his weekend with us and once again, sharing his expertise. Hugh's reply was quite lengthy as he explained some other issues, but I would like to share with you the first and last few sentences of his reply. "Robin, I can't tell you enough how timely this message was and what it means to me today. I know I don't need to tell you this, but I can't say enough about how good Jon, Jason, and Stephen are at what they do. They are worth their weight in gold to both you and me and once again, they proved it this weekend."

This is just another reason why I am so proud of our ELCO team.

The annual fishing season will be well underway by our next newsletter, so tight lines everyone.

Robin



Notes from Eacan Timber

The Hockey Game

Those who know me, know that one of my greatest passions is hockey. I still play every week with a great group of guys in Bedford, and I am a hard core, loyal Ottawa Senators fan.



At Eacan, we decided to host an industry hockey game. There are four people who play hockey at Eacan, namely, Austin, Clarke, Joel and me. I was very excited that we would all be able to play a game together. To make it even more exciting, we recruited some customers, some local mill people, suppliers, and other associated people. We ended up rounding out the teams with a couple of friends and family who enjoy the sport (Clarke's brother, Jordan; and my friend, Randy). We found a venue where we could play and decided to go for snacks and beers at a local bar after the game, followed by a Halifax Thunderbirds lacrosse game at the ScotiaBank Centre. A very fun packed evening!



When the day came there were a few last-minute cancellations and line changes – as was expected. As the person in charge of making the teams, I worked with Joel to fill in all the positions and to make sure we had two full teams, 10 a side, plus a goalie for each team. Joel and I were on the same team, and he said he had a couple of buddies, Tony and Anthony, who would play but he wanted me to be sure that I included them on our team roster. Team roster ready, venue ready! It promised to be a great event!

The other thing about this day was that this was the day I turned 60 years old! It just happened that due to scheduling for the venue and Halifax Thunderbirds we picked my birthday for our hockey game but that was perfect for me. As noted above, I LOVE hockey so playing hockey on my 60th birthday, amazing!

My buddy, Randy, picked me up at the office and after playing hockey in Bedford with our local group of buddies, we headed to the Royal Bank Quadplex in Dartmouth.

Notes from Eacan Timber, con't

We had two dressing rooms and were slowly getting gear on and ready to go. Joel asked me to come out in the hall because there were a couple of players I hadn't met yet, Tony and Anthony (his buddies)!

He seemed kind of antsy, so I said sure! I walked out into the hall to watch for the last two players. Then Joel said the strangest thing, he said, "Now I don't have to lie anymore"! As I glanced to my right up the hall, walking towards me was my grandson, Hudson, from Alberta. My first reaction was "HUH?" Then I saw Richard, my son, walking toward me with a big grin on his face and his hockey bag thrown over his shoulder. I thought, "He's in Alberta? What's going on?" The surprise didn't stop there! I looked to the left of Richard and there was Teresa, my oldest daughter, with her hockey bag over her shoulder and the same grin as her brother. They yelled out, "Happy Birthday, Dad!"

I was speechless – as many of you know that is quite unbelievable, but there I was, my 60-year-old self, unable to say a word. Although I coached Richard's hockey teams when he was growing up, I have never played a game of hockey with Richard as an adult and Teresa didn't start playing until she was in her 30s! It has long been a dream of mine to play hockey with them. This was the ultimate gift!

I looked at Joel and he was laughing and smiling, and Barb was taking photos and laughing. From a request from my family, Eacan readily agreed to help make this happen.

To say the game was fun would be a huge understatement. I was a proud father/grandfather, as well as a proud employee. The hockey game and post-hockey game fun was well received by all participants. We have had several requests from those involved to make it an annual event.

Notes from Eacan Timber, con't

I have always felt that Eacan is a special place to work. As a company, they truly care about their employees as well as their business partners. I have never been happier or prouder to work here than I did on that day. Eacan went out of their way to include my family in ALL the events of the day. As a "work" event, I would never have expected anything like this to happen.

I want to thank Joel, Barb, Austin, Brad, Clarke, Evan, Kim, and Miranda at Eacan for making my 60th birthday one to remember. Employer's like Eacan are very hard to come by in today's world and I count myself among the lucky to be here. GO SENS!



Warren Beeler

EACAN

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Notes from Woodlands

This time of year is always filled with various events associated with the forest industry, including conferences and trade shows. As part of this cycle of events, Elmsdale Lumber participated as an exhibitor for the second year in a row at the Atlantic Outdoor Sport and RV Show held at Halifax Exhibition Park March 8th to 10th. We teamed up with Tidal Tractor and MC Power this year to up our "booth game" who provided a compact harvester for folks to look at when visiting us. Angie Kainola, Craig Isenor, Greg Grant, Stephen Thompson and I rotated at our station over the three-day event. Overall, we felt the experience went very well as we had the opportunity to converse with hundreds of people about our industry and what role Elmsdale Lumber plays in forest management in Nova Scotia.

I believe we are already making plans to participate next year. A few of us also had the opportunity to take in the Canadian Woodlands Forum spring meeting earlier this week.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

This annual conference runs concurrently every second year with the Atlantic Heavy Equipment show. This year was a year these two events overlapped, giving us an opportunity to attend the conference and take in the heavy equipment show where the latest forestry equipment is on display.

Along with attending the Spring Meeting, Elmsdale Lumber was also asked to provide a presentation on our experiences dealing with our woodland holdings that were affected by the 2023 Tantallon fire. So, Craig Isenor and I teamed up to present on both the sawmill and woodlands aspects, sharing how this ongoing cleanup project is unfolding so far. Some of the topics we tried to cover included the challenges and considerations working within a wildland urban interface amongst residential communities as well as the lumber side of things when trying to recover the burned sawlogs.

Still on that theme, as a last note, the occurrence of disturbances including wildfires has been a focal point of conversations at forestry events this year. There have been several talks on trends we are seeing with increased wind events and fires, and how this has and will continue to greatly affect the forest industry. Creating awareness and adapting practices is key to navigating through the changes we are seeing. I bring this up, as a final message to our readers as we are now entering what is considered a high-risk season for wildfires.

It is easy to dismiss the risk when we have had so much rain. However, I would urge everyone to remember how quickly conditions can change, and with the amount of cured or dead vegetation in the spring, the risk of spring wildfires can become real in a short amount of time. So, I would ask everyone to remember what happened in Nova Scotia last spring and please take caution when enjoying the outdoors!

Until next month, Jason and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman’s Corner

Excuse me

I was in Dartmouth recently when I decided to stop at Costco for a box of K-cups. In and out was the plan, or so I thought. After grabbing my K-cups, I also picked up a family size pack of sausages, along with a bag of chocolate almonds and tray of chicken salad. Arms full, I got in line which was all the way back to the meat department. This was the longest line I have ever seen at Costco. As we moved along, I could feel my arms getting weak and I moved them around a bit to try and make it a little more comfortable. About halfway up to the checkout I felt a cart tag my ass. When I turned around, I saw a man and woman directly behind me. The man apologized and I said, “No worries, I stopped short”. I turn back towards the cash and then quickly turned back around and said, “If you really want to make it up to me...”. But before I could complete my sentence, the lady told me I could go ahead and put my stuff into their cart. She read my mind!

Before Amazon, We Had Keith Miller

As we all know, today you can buy anything from a toothbrush to an automobile from the comfort of your home. Online shopping has made life so much easier for a lot of people. Simply order what you want online, and it will be delivered to your home (in most cases) within a few days. You don’t even have to be home to receive it. It’s just that easy. Actually, this service isn’t anything new, just the size of it. When I was a kid growing up in Lantz, (Barney Brook to be exact), Keith Miller had a general merchandise store across the tracks in Lantz. Every day he would deliver groceries. If you needed or wanted something (milk, bread, Scotch Tape, etc.), all you had to do was call your order into him in the morning and he would get it ready. He usually left his store with deliveries around 11am each morning. I remember Keith pulling into our driveway, the van door swinging open, and seeing all the boxes of goods in the van he had on board for families. The names of the customers were written on the side of each box. A lot of families took advantage of this service Keith provided back in the day. Remembering good times!

Notes from Peter Dillman’s Corner, con’t

Playoffs

The playoffs are just around the corner and once again I find myself (Habs fan) on the outside looking in. Only to add to my misery is the fact that the Habs have lost both games to the Leafs this year. Rob is living high on the hog with all the \$\$\$\$ he has taken off me so far this year. Rumor has it he has been spending his winnings on high end sundaes for his better-half Doreen in downtown Halifax. Well, we have one more meeting in April and after that one you will have to get a cone from Withrow’s because your lucky streak is about to end. I will be cheering for “ABT” (anybody but Toronto) in the playoffs. Go Habs Go!

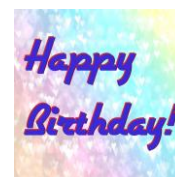
March 50/50 Winners

March 1	Jimmy Sawler
March 8	Craig Stewart
March 15	Dwight Isenor
March 22	Chris Myers
March 28	Brian Myers



April Birthdays

Peter Dillman	April 11
Matthew Dillman	April 08
Dwight Isenor	April 26
Matthew Oakley	April 08



March Anniversaries

Peter Dillman	45 years
Greg Grant	26 years
Warren Hirtle	40 years
Roland Murray	7 years
Craig Stewart	33 years

