

# WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

*Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited*

February 29, 2024

Issue # 328

## Notes from the Editor

On February 11, 2024, a wonderful person left us and although he is no longer with us, we will keep his memory in our hearts. He has left an emptiness for his family, a void for the Nova Scotia Forest Industry and big, big shoes to fill here at Elmsdale Lumber (no pressure Stephen). Here at ELCO, over the past several weeks, we have been sharing our memories with each other about our ambassador, our mentor, our advocate, our co-worker, and our friend.

Here is one thing I know for sure; no one will ever be able to lay claim to the amazing tenture Downey spent with ELCO. Downey wholeheartedly gave 77 years of dedicated service to ELCO. In addition, over his working life, Downey always promoted the Nova Scotia Forest Industry and proudly served on many industry associations. Although he has many citations to prove his service to our industry, in 2012, he was inducted into Nova Scotia's Forestry Hall of Fame. I know how proud (and rightfully so) he was to receive this honour.

On a personal note, I will miss my friend, and, in his honour, I pledge to keep writing this newsletter until the day I retire or until I join him (and possibly thereafter).

Throughout this newsletter, you will read stories about Downey and the impact he has had and how much his mentorship has meant to them. I would like to end this article with a note from his friend Steve Talbot. "As we travel the road of life, we occasionally meet someone who makes a profound difference in our lives. Such was the impact that Downey had for me. I worked with Downey many times in my capacity as Executive Director of the Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia. He was my mentor in many areas of the forest profession. Downey was a truly forward thinker in many areas of forestry in our province. He will be missed by all who knew him. Downey, may the FOREST be 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 & be sure to ask your supervisor or any member of our safety committee about any questions you may have.

As has been noted many times in this newsletter, we are mourning the loss of one of our lifetime's greatest mentors this month. Downey Thompson was our colleague, our friend, and a key member of our forestry family. Downey was always thinking about the people throughout the industry, with a focus on the crew here at Elmsdale Lumber. He regularly discussed safety thoughts and asked questions with safety in mind. He was passionate about making sure our workspaces were as safe as they possibly could be and encouraged the team to take the time required to get it right. We are grateful for his wisdom, advice and curiosity that have helped shape Elmsdale Lumber Company and the forestry industry in Nova Scotia over the last seven decades.

In his honour, we pledge to do our best to live up to the standards he set for us.

Until next month,

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

### Notes from the President

This is our 328<sup>th</sup> edition of "Wood N You Like to Know." April 29, 1994, was the date of our first publication. Some are more special and meaningful than others. I think this one is the most significant to our ELCO team, the Wilber family and of course, the Thompson and Grant family. 77 years ago, logging was done with a power saw and logs were hauled out of the woods with a work horse. At that time, we had several logging contractors working for ELCO. In my dad's eyes, one of these contractors stood head and shoulders above the rest. When I was 11 or 12 years old, my dad and his partner, Luther Anderson, decided we were finally big enough to have a Woodlands Manager. They asked this contractor to hang up his saw and become the manager they knew he was. Downey Thompson proved to be exceptional. The relationship between my dad, JB Wilber, and Downey grew to something way more than just a working relationship. It was a brothership.

Over the years, Downey's name and reputation became synonymous throughout the industry. Anyone that had anything to do with forestry, including government departments, knew him well. If they did not know him personally, they at least knew his name and what he stood for. Downey proudly and wisely represented ELCO and Forest Nova Scotia (previously the Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia). He sat on the Board of Directors for the Association for several decades, including a 2-year team as President. During his term, he visited pulpmills, sawmills and many of the forest industry contractors throughout the province. His platform was focused on communication and education. Downey knew these elements were the key to success for achieving well-managed forests for the future of the industry and the environment.

Downey was a forward thinker. Forestry requires a long-term commitment. He worked at and planned for where he envisioned the state of the forest should be many decades beyond his service.

### Notes from the President, con't

Gennie and Jason Casey were honoured with the duty of giving the eulogy at Downey's Celebration of Life. I would like to report that our MLA, John MacDonald, attended this celebration. I must also make special note that I received a telephone call from our Premier, the Honourable Tim Houston. He told me he was enroute to Downey's celebration when duty called, and he was redirected. He was quite upset that at the last moment he was unable to attend. I know he has sent his personal regrets to Downey's family. In general, Premiers do not have the time to attend Celebrations of Life for all the people he or she represents. Earlier, when I spoke about how well known and respected Downey was, our Premier's intentions are a testament to the truth of my statement.

This is a very sad time, and I would like to exit this article with a brighter note and something that brought smiles to many faces. Stephen reported to us that Downey left strict instructions that no celebration of his life would be held on a weekday. He did not want to see ELCO's progress slowed up one bit because of him. To which I said, "Well, that's our Downey!"

I will leave you with my sentiment that I hope you will remember well into the future. "A lot of water will go under the bridge before the forest industry sees another Downey Thompson.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him, and his absence will be noticed throughout the industry for many years to come. Our ELCO team and the Wilber family will remember him and his wonderful mentoring and his dedication for a long, long time.

Until next month, Robin

Notes from Eacan Timber

As many of you know, Eacan Timber and Elmsdale Lumber share a long and productive history and Downey Thompson played a major role in it.

My father, Arnold Meisner, spoke very highly of Downey long before I met him and after shaking his hand years ago, I now understood why.

A true ambassador for ELCO in his role as Senior Woodland Consultant, Downey was a giant in Nova Scotia's Forestry Industry. His welcoming smile, enlightening conversation, and industry knowledge will be missed by all Eacan employees who had the pleasure of meeting him.

We send kind regards and sympathy to his dear partner, Rosalyn, and his entire family and friends.

Brad Meisner



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Notes from Stephen Thompson's Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their outpouring of support during these last few weeks. Whether it be a private conversation, a handshake, a phone call or just a special note to me, all were much appreciated.

Dad's "Celebration of Life" was just that - a celebration! He lived to be 92 and had his mental capacity right to the end. We should all be so lucky!

I want to thank Gennie for delivering a heartfelt eulogy that spoke more to Dad the friend or man, not just about his impact on our great industry.

Notes from Stephen Thompson's Corner, con't

I would also like to thank Jason for talking about Dad as a mentor to him as well as a fountain of knowledge.

Jason, he was so proud of you (and the entire ELCO family), but he really considered you his star pupil.

I had the privilege and pleasure of working alongside my father since I was 17 years old. He was not only my father, but he was also my mentor, my business partner and most importantly, my rock. I can honestly say that we never, ever had harsh words with one another. Of course, we had different opinions from time to time, but we always exchanged thoughts and proceeded forward with what we considered to be the best game plan.

Losing Dad was not just a loss for our families and our extended ELCO family, it was a loss for the entire Nova Scotia Forestry Industry, as evidenced by the response from across the entire province.

Sure, there is a void in all our hearts right now, but I know Dad would tell us that life goes on and there is lots of work to do, so get busy!

Until next time, Stephen Thompson

Notes from Woodlands

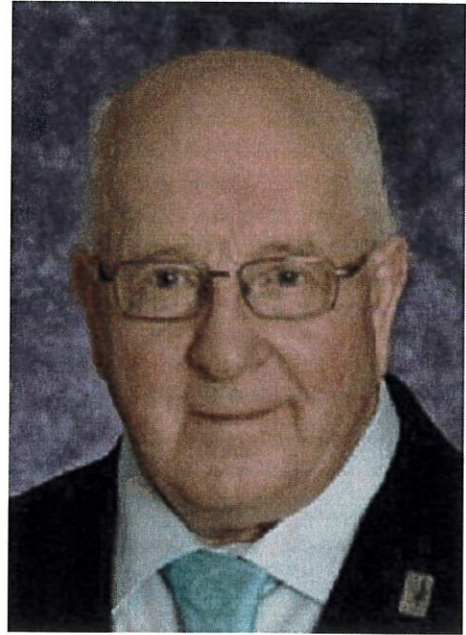
With heavy hearts we are mourning the loss of our matriarch, mentor, and inducted member of the Nova Scotia's Forestry Hall of Fame. In our last newsletter, I shared how much of an influence, inspiration, and mentor Downey Thompson has been to me over the years. Now that he is no longer with us physically, upon further reflection, my thoughts on the magnitude of his impacts have only increased. His vision and passion will be carried on here at ELCO and although he will be greatly missed, we will be starkly reminded of his presence every time we step foot in the forest.

Notes from Woodlands con't

Downey loved reading our newsletters and would be disappointed if I did not report on the goings on of the woodlands department, so here it is. The annual spring weight restrictions for selected roadways are coming into effect this Monday at 12:00 am. Weather conditions turned very quickly, leaving many woodland operations scrambling to position on appropriate springtime blocks and prepare for a halt in wood deliveries if not on a hauling route exempt from spring weight restrictions. An industry road committee that was established a few years ago has developed a great working relationship with the Department of Public Works and has been exploring an option to apply for certain roads scheduled for weight restrictions to be allowed to haul at night if the temperatures fall below -3. However, with the forecast over the next couple weeks showing mild weather, it is unlikely this potential exemption will come into effect.

With the recent temporary mill shut down, Stephen Thompson has managed our log inventory at comfortable levels, positioning us to safely get through until weight restrictions are lifted with reduced deliveries. When that happens will determine our approach on acquiring logs later in the spring, but as of now it is likely we will be welcoming deliveries at that time.

Until next month, Jason and the Woodlands Crew

Notes From Downey Thompson's Corner

Thompson, Downey Milton

Age 92, of Kennetcook passed away suddenly in Sutherland Harris Memorial Hospital, Pictou on February 11, 2024.

Born in Upper Nine Mile River, he was a son of the late Silas and Flossie (Steadman) Thompson.

Downey will always be loved and missed by partner, Rosalyn Grant; son, Stephen (Claudia); daughters, Sharon (John) Tanner and Sue (Tim) Gibbon; grandchildren, Michele Thompson, Mark (Abby) Thompson, Jessie (Andrew) Lipsit, Katie (Chris) Cawthra, Colten Tanner (Crystal), Travis (Victoria) Gibbon, Todd (Tyler) Gibbon-Thorne; great-grandchildren, Jacob and Owen Thompson, Cameron and Joshua Lipsit, Theo Cawthra, Lachlan and Avery Gibbon; sisters-in-law, Wendy McCorkill and Mary Thompson; Rosalyn's son, Greg (Michelle) Grant; and their children, Lawson and Zoey.

He was predeceased by siblings, Irene (Don) Mattatall, Newton Thompson and Raymond Thompson.

### Notes from Downey Thompson's Corner, con't

Downey Thompson started his career with Elmsdale Lumber Company at the age of 15 and quickly advanced to be an integral member of the management team. As Senior Woodland Consultant for ELCO he had provided, from his 77 years of experience, valuable direction for advancement of sustainable forestry practices on all land tenures in Nova Scotia. Downey had been a longtime member of the Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia serving as President from 2001–2003. He had been a keen supporter of the Canadian Woodlands Forum's Teachers Tour recognizing the future of forestry can be advanced through education of the next generation. Downey had worked tirelessly on a variety of organizations including the Nova Forest Alliance, the Wood Products Association of Nova Scotia, the Maritime Lumber Bureau, the Halifax Regional Municipality Development Strategies Committee, and had been actively involved with management strategies in the Pockwock Watershed. Downey Thompson was a forest visionary and had generously devoted his career to providing knowledge and experience to the next generation of stewards of Nova Scotia's Forest. He considered his greatest accomplishment was his induction to the Forestry Hall of Fame in 2012. Downey continued to be a mentor to many people in the forestry industry right to the end.



Downey has supported the Forest Industry with service to:

- Forest Nova Scotia – President
- Forest Nova Scotia – Board Member
- Forest Safety Society of Nova Scotia – Board Member
- Maritime Lumber Bureau – Member
- WPMANS – Founding Member
- Nova Forest Alliance – Member
- Pockwock Watershed – Management Team
- Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) – Planning Committee
- 77 years in service to ELCO

### Notes from Stephen Molnar's Corner

Downey's contribution to the Forest Industry of Nova Scotia can't be denied, and I can't deny how much I appreciated having Downey mentor me throughout the years. I will miss our chats for sure!

Downey always told me to give credit where credit is due, so here I go. We are all very appreciative of the commitment our sawmill team demonstrated during our recent shutdown. We met our goal of getting the job done within our budgeted 3 weeks. Major projects require the commitment from folks with diverse skills and dedication. Our team has that in spades. Our clean up crew often gets overlooked when handing out praise, but let me tell you, aside from keeping things clean and tidy, and completing other duties as assigned, it turns out they are also skilled painters, and the mill looks great. I would also like to give a shout out to Nick Miller (Bergman Electric). He is one hell of an organizer and very skilled and he never lets the stress of the job get to him (maybe he does, but he doesn't show it). To everyone else involved, once again you have demonstrated you are up to the challenge.

As we move forward, we recognize that change is often difficult, and each of us will be on a learning curve as we work toward maximizing the potential our new equipment can reach. Patience and perseverance are required. I know we are up to the challenge.

Notes from Peter Dillman's CornerRemembering Downey

Some 23 years ago, when my son was around 12 or 13 years old, he was playing hockey and his coach was Downey Thompson's grandson, Mark Thompson. I took the afternoon off to catch one of his games. When I arrived at the rink, I noticed Downey was also in the stands. I acknowledged him and suggested I was not the only one playing hooky that afternoon, to which he responded, "I am going back to work after the game. How about you?" I looked him straight in the eye and said, "Not a chance".

Snow

Well, February is in the rearview mirror and not a moment too soon as far as I am concerned. We got lots of snow, way more than I like. I prefer no snow at all. The reason I mention snow and the storms that bring it means that our loader guys, Phillip, Trevor, Bubba and sometimes Darren must get out of their warm beds early on miserable, stormy mornings to come down to the yard to plow so we can try to get in. I didn't want you guys to think this goes unnoticed because it doesn't on my part anyway. Our loader operators rotate on a weekly basis. Each operator has their own way of doing things a certain way. On the last storm this month, Bubba was our operator. Although I live close to the mill, on stormy mornings I tend to leave early as you never know what you could encounter. Imagine my surprise when I arrived at the mill and Bubba had already made one pass from the office straight up to the planer allowing everyone, upon their arrival, a single lane to do so. And, upon getting up here to discover the PARKING LOT was cleared just enough for us to park. Bubba would have had to come back later to finish the job, but he got us in. Once again great job guys!

Notes From Peter Dillman's Corner, con'tI'm Not Lisa, My Name is Julie

The above story line is borrowed from an old country song. Earlier this month, Joanne, an independent contractor for Workplace Education, visited the planing mill to interview all of us to see what, if anything, we might like to see in a workplace education program. I believe Joanne, (DEE to her friends) has been doing this independently for a little while now. After all the interviews were done and we were on break in the lunchroom, I went around the table and asked each person, "What was that lady's name?" Nick confessed that he did not know. Roland didn't think she mentioned it. Darrell said he forgot. But not everyone was stumped, were they Gavin? Gavin knew her name. When my interview began, she asked if my name was Peter, to which I answered, yes. She turned in her chair to get a paper off her desk and turned back around and started to ask a question when I politely said, "Excuse me, I didn't get your name". "Oh sorry, it's JOANNE". Guys, that is how you find stuff out.

March Birthdays

Don Isenor	March 2
Phillip Isenor	March 08
Alex Lavrov	March 20
Logan Lombard	March 2
Robbie Peters	March 12

February Anniversaries

Jason "Bubba" Barr	20 years
Gordie Beaman	38 years
Ron Miller	37 years
Matthew Works	6 years
<u>Downey Thompson</u>	<u>77 years</u>

February 50/50

Feb 2	Don Isenor
Feb 9	Angie Kainola
Feb 16	Craig Isenor
Feb 23	Billy Stacey