

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

July 29, 2022

Issue # 313

Notes from the Editor

This month I am turning my space over to an organization in our community to bring awareness to the services offered. This organization is close to my heart, and I am on the Board of Directors.

East Hants Community Learning Association (EHCLA)

Classes are done for the summer, but we are preparing and developing some new programs for our September re-start. Some of these programs include: Digital Skills for Everyday Living, Everyday Essentials (this will replace our Adult Learning Program 1 (ALP 1) and is ideal for those who are working toward improving life skills, and English Language classes (if we have enough interest). We are working on a few other ideas but haven't totally developed them yet.

Community programming for the fall will include things like: Gardening Workshops, Your Way to Wellness, Fly Tying, and other Intergenerational Programs (the message here is the opportunity for multiple generations to learn a skill together).

East Hants Community Rider (EHCR)

We are a pre-booked, door to door transportation service. This service is available to all. While funding lasts, we are offering \$5.00 vaccine trips to anyone to go get their COVID vaccines or boosters. Unfortunately, we cannot use this funding to transport people for flu shots, only COVID shots.

We have a Fare Assistance Program for those who experience financial barriers that could reduce one's transportation costs by up to 50%.

We can also book group travel if there are folks who want to book a van to go on a day trip. For example, a bunch of guys want to go to a hockey game or a group wanting to go on a wine tour we will be happy to assist with transportation.

Notes from the Editor, con't

East Hants Community Garden (EHCG)

We host pop-up markets where we give away free produce, freezer meals, community lunches (fall/winter), and a harvest dinner. The garden is accessible and open all the time. On August 16th we will be hosting our big pop-up market/school supply give away.

How can you help? Donations are accepted and appreciated, and tax receipts are offered. We are also re-vamping our corporate membership program and are hoping to gain more support from our community. We are always looking for volunteers to help out at our events, to help water and maintain the garden, facilitators for workshops, and board members.

Some of our biggest challenges: vehicle acquisition and maintenance, driver recruitment, funding for activities and events that don't fall under NSSAL (Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning) funding or EHCR funding and meeting the growing needs of our community. We are seeing new faces who have real needs. Despite the often-common opinion of local council, East Hants is challenged by available affordable housing, food security, transportation, and good employment opportunities.

We are located at 224 Hwy 14, Suite 101, Elmsdale (the old school building). If we can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to give us a call (902-883-4716)

Tanya Burke (Executive Director)

Until next month, I encourage you to reach out to this association if you or someone you know could benefit from the services they offer. Gennie

Notes from the Safety Committee

As always, the minutes from our last safety meeting are posted on bulletin boards throughout the site. 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 have earned 80 points toward our annual safety award that we will cash out at the end of July. As a reminder, you need to have been employed for a minimum of 6 months to be eligible to receive the group award. We will be handing out our annual safety awards in the next couple of weeks.

We have been having a very hot summer and we assume most of you have your own special techniques for keeping "cool". Please refer to Peter Dillman's article to learn about the most creative method!

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

Notes from the President

This month, I would like to start my newsletter article with an event that at first really got my attention, but after the fact, I recognized the humorous side. On July 5, I met a nice-looking lady. A few minutes after introducing herself to me she instructed, in no uncertain terms, to drop my pants and underwear down to my knees. Fifty plus years ago, this might have had a whole different perspective. Now that I have your attention, you are probably thinking, "what the hell?" Well, here's the rest of the story. Several months ago, while having a pee, I heard a "plop" in the toilet bowl and looked down and there was a kidney stone. Over the next few weeks, I managed to pass 2 more, which I recovered from the toilet bowl. A short time later, I had the opportunity to present them to my doctor and he confirmed they were indeed kidney stones. He advised me he was sending me to a specialist. Soon after, the specialist doctor put a tube through my urinary tract and found another stone, which he was able to blast into small pieces and he vacuumed them out.

Notes from the President, con't

A year or so later, I passed another. Back to the hospital I go. The lady I mentioned at the beginning of my story happens to be a medical professional and a few seconds after our meeting, I am showing it all. Gennie tells me if I speak to any female, they will not hold any sympathy for my situation. Believe it or not, I fully understand. Moments later, a foot long tube was being inserted through my penis looking for a possible tumour, blood clots, kidney stones and yes, the big "C". Thankfully, the only thing they found was some blood clots which they managed to break up. They filled me up with water and the urge to pee was overwhelming. I was instructed to get out of bed, put back on my pants and jet off down the hall to the bathroom. With the fullest bladder I have ever experienced, I had the best pee I had in years. I am happy to report, all is well.

Our university student from France, Titouan Burgunder is with us until September 23rd. Titouan has completed 2 years of university and has now entered forestry as his specialty. He is working on a Forest Engineering Degree. In Europe, they are big on internships and Titouan will receive a university credit for his time spent with us. To earn this credit, he must spend his internship working in the industry of his study and must work in a country other than France and not speak French as they are working on improving their English language. If I were to spell his name as pronounced, it would be Tea-twon. For short, we call him "T". "T" is staying in the house adjacent to the mill. For the first week of his stay, I could not put him in this house all by himself in a strange country, not knowing the area or the people, so he stayed with Chris and me for the first week. I must say he is a lovely young man, well-mannered, and trying hard to improve his English, which is already quite impressive. Chris' motherly instincts took over, washing clothes, stocking his shelves in the house next door with food, and teaching him how to cook some easy-to-do recipes. He told me he was grateful for the thoughtfulness of his "Canadian" mother.

Notes from the President's Corner, con't

He spent his first week here at ELCO familiarizing himself with the sawmill and planing mill under the watchful eyes of Stephen, Jason, and Jonathan. Thank you for looking after him so well. As fate would have it, during Titouan's second week, Gordie Beaman was on vacation. Stephen and Jon trained "T" on Gordie's trimmerline. "T" did a great job and proved to be a great substitute for Gordie. "T" is looking forward to other experiences throughout the summer.

Please don't hesitate to have a conversation with him, make him feel welcome and if there is anything you think he might need, please let us know. Remember, he is a long way from home and family, and we need to make sure our arms are open with encouragement.

It is now the last week of July and Titouan's parents have arrived for a 2-week vacation here in Nova Scotia. Titouan's dad and uncle operate a sawmill in France about 1 kilometer from the Swiss border. He tells me because of their proximity to Switzerland, they get a lot of logs from Switzerland. I think Titouan must have told his parents about the hospitality he is receiving because they gifted Chris and me with 4 bottles of delightful French wine and lots of chocolate.

As with any of us, they are appreciative of their son being looked after in true Maritime fashion. His mom and dad came for a mill tour. As a true sawmiller, Titouan's dad had his head inside the edger during saw change and watched everything with great interest. In the year 2000, we installed our Canadian made Cardinal carriage (complete with a Mudata networks from France). They installed the exact same carriage in 2011. It is nice to learn well-made Canadian sawmill equipment has found its way to France. During our visit to our office, we were comparing each others lumber production numbers and prices. That's quite a challenge. They deal in cubic meters and Euros. We measure in board footage and Canadian dollars. It was an interesting exercise.

Notes from the President's Corner, con't

Sawmill update:

The original plan was to put a mezzanine level in the sawmill building to house a new electrical room. It was also apparent we were going to use more power and our pad mounted transformer needed to be updated. We held lengthy discussions to determine if we should go with 2 transformers or one larger one and where they would go and how we could tap into the underground 2,500 volts wiring. We settled on a larger transformer and this week the new transformer was energized after about 2 years of planning!

Mark and Ty removed the old transformer from inside the building on Tuesday, July 26th. The Bergman Electric team is working hard during the evenings and weekends to fully decommission the old motor control centre and energise all the motors to their new locations. This will take several more weeks and we will finally have all the old parts removed and a concrete floor will be poured and made ready for the installation of some new equipment. In the meantime, we will be installing the equipment that will feed the new optimized board edger and possibly move the board edger closer to its new position. The next few months will require lots of hard work, but it is very exciting at the same time.

Folks of my generation have experienced lots of things over the years. I think it is our responsibility to pass along some knowledge and lessons learned to the younger generation. Each of us have all done or said somethings we wish we could have a "do over"! One mistake of the past might haunt one's mind for years. Here is my advice and I hope it serves you well, "FORGET THE MISTAKE, REMEMBER THE LESSON".

Until next month, Robin

Notes from Eacan Timber

July is nearly in the books. The weather has been fantastic for many things, especially those lucky enough to time their vacations around the weather. I've certainly enjoyed the beach this past weekend and I hope to do the same this weekend.

However, the combination of contractors being on vacation and extremely hot weather means less traffic in the hardware stores. The heat we've experienced has slowed a few projects and I expect that to be the same next week due to the holiday shortening the week.

There's no doubt a dollar doesn't go as far today as it did even a few months ago. That's on the back of most buyers' minds as they brace for what appears to be a slowdown for the end of 2022.

I trust everyone enjoys a sunny long weekend. Don't forget the sunscreen!

Joel McLeggan
Eacan Timber

Notes from Woodlands

This summer continues to prove very active for our Woodlands Department as our ramped-up harvest operations roll along. This increase in company led harvesting has improved our log intake which we hope to continue to build upon over the next few months. Along with harvesting, we have increased our road construction operations as well to support the planned harvesting. Ideally, this upfront investment can be completed well enough in advance to allow newly built roads to settle for some time before we use them to maximize the road's effectiveness. However, out of necessity, we will be using some of the newly built roads immediately during what will hopefully be a relatively dry next couple of months. The rest we will allow to set and should be good and ready when we need them over the next year or two.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

For the past 8 years or so, my family has enjoyed the travel trailer life during summer months. During that time, a group of us would pre-plan our destinations and explore the different campgrounds across the Maritimes. We enjoyed this very much, especially the kids. However, as situations evolve (including the price of fuel) we decided to explore the opportunity to rent a seasonal site at one of more frequently visited campgrounds outside Kentville called South Mountain Campground. We secured a couple adjoining sites and are now a few months settled in. At first, we were a little apprehensive if this would be our thing or not, but what we have come to realize is at this point it is very suiting for our lifestyle. We can come and go as we please, and with busy lives, having the ability to quickly run-down last minute to what has essentially become a cottage is great. We have become friends with our section, where it is like a community including 17 kids all running around like they own the place with lots to do. The adults have lots to do as well, as our neighbours' recently built an outdoor music stage equipped with a karaoke machine.

Depending on who is at the mic seems to determine if this addition is an actual benefit or not (picture ELCO Xmas party and yes, I am acknowledging I am not someone who provides any vocal delights). Nonetheless, there are lots of laughs at a place we have come to love. I guess it never hurts to try new things! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer as well!

Until next month, Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

We have been experiencing a heat wave for the last couple of weeks and it is important to know what you should do to stay safe and "BEAT THE HEAT" if you will. A lot of people recommend drinking lots of water and, when possible, stay out of the direct sunlight. Also, taking additional breaks from your workday are just a few pieces of advice that come to mind. I am sure all these WORK to a certain degree, but if you want to know the surefire secret to "BEATING THE HEAT", then I will tell you what it is. Please keep an open mind. As you can see by the attached photos, taken just seconds apart from each other, it's RUBBER BOOTS! My buddy swears by them. I asked him once, "Don't your feet get hot?" "Nope" he said. He tells me it is just a state of mind. If you don't think about it being hot, then it's not. I asked, "Couldn't you keep the same state of mind with sneakers on? He just smiled and told me I wasn't understanding what he was telling me. Oh, and what you nice people can't see in the photo to the right is my buddy pictured here with the steel toed rubber WORK boots also wears a toque under his hardhat for extra protection from the heat. I guess whatever WORKS.



August Birthdays

- Aug 14 Jason Isenor
- Aug 8 Jon Molnar
- Aug 3 Roland Murray
- Aug 13 Downey Thompson
- Aug 24 Stephen Thompson



July 50/50

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|---------|----------------|
| June 30 | Ron Miller |
| July 8 | Gordie Beaman |
| July 15 | Chris Myers |
| July 22 | Stephen Molnar |
| July 29 | Leslie Isenor |

July Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| Chris Myers | 20 years |
| Mark Wilber | 21 years |

