

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

June 30, 2023

Issue # 322

Notes from the Editor

On March 25, 2005, Taylor Marie Himelman was born. She is the first born of my 3 grandchildren. Yesterday, June 29, 2023, she graduated high school achieving honours with distinction. In the fall, she will be attending Saint Mary's University studying for her Bachelor of Arts in criminology.



Obviously, Taylor is very smart. She is stunningly beautiful, super funny, hard working and a genuinely nice person. And I am a very proud grandmother and can't help noticing she is holding her cellphone in each picture. Love you to the moon and back.



Until next month, bring on the summer and have a wonderful long weekend and Happy Canada Day. 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 held a group safety meeting with our team on Wednesday of this week. We were updated on the status of our equipment upgrade while enjoying chicken tenders and taters from the Superstore. We thank everyone for attending.

As most know, we have an annual safety award incentive program, and we accumulate points based on injuries /incidents requiring a WCB report. Our "safety-points year" runs from August 1 to July 31, and points are awarded in 2-month incident/accident-free increments. In an environment such as ours, with moving parts and machinery at play all the time, this is a big accomplishment as there are inevitable safety hazards everywhere. On top of this, we have been under construction for a couple years now, which inherently adds another layer of safety risk. The month of June marks a full year since we filed our last WCB claim. Although only 10 months is applied to our current annual safety award (at this point) due to the start/stop date of our safety-points year, it is very commendable to our entire team to have worked injury free for a full 12 months. Congratulations to the entire team, and our safety awards will be distributed after the close of our "safety-points year". We are excited to present this year's milestone payout!

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

Notes from the President

Last year, Brad Meisner and Joel McLaggan of Eacan Timber invited Mark and me to the Miramichi to a place called Black Brook for 3 days of salmon fishing. It was a great time and we really enjoyed ourselves. So, we were pleasantly surprised to receive the same invitation this year. The salmon were just starting to come into the river a few at a time so the fishing was slow for a couple of days. But, a gin and tonic, rum and Coke, and wine with our meals were also a great addition to our wonderful conversations.

On our last evening of fishing, I waded out into the river and a salmon rolled quite a distance across the river from me. This required a very long cast, and I gave it everything I could to make it close to the perfect spot. After a few successful casts and a big swirl next to my fly didn't impress the salmon enough for him to take hold. I let my line run down river and waited for about 3 minutes for him to go back to his position. My next chore was to land a perfect cast in the same spot. Somehow, I managed to do this twice and on my second cast a beautiful 15-pound salmon gave me a very impressive fight and I had the pleasure of releasing her back into the river. An hour later, another salmon rolled but this time opposite from my position. Here I was in the river, waded up well past my waist, balancing in a very heavy current. With my trusty wading stick, I pushed my way up the river about 20-feet, leaving me a another very long cast. Again, on my second cast, a big swirl occurred behind my fly without any reward. Repeating my last successful endeavour, I let my fly line drift down river and patiently waited. One more perfect cast, reaching the perfect spot was accomplished. My reward was a beautiful 18-pounder. It was my pleasure to release her back to the river. I have included a memory picture.

Notes from the President, con't

The following is a human-interest story. A couple of days ago, two tractor trailers were pulled up underneath the chip and sawdust hoppers. Both drivers were standing in front of one of the trucks having a chat. Milan Cameron was one of the drivers. Milan has been trucking for Elmsdale Lumber forever. I pulled up to engage in a chat. I asked Milan his age and he proudly told me he would be 77 on July 8th. I followed up by asking him when he started work and I learned he went to the woods cutting pulpwood at the tender age of 16. At the age of 19, he started hauling pulpwood to Sheet Harbour for Scott Paper with his dad's truck. At 21, he went to work with Dougal and Sydney Prest in Mooseland. He stayed with them for 37 years. When Northern Pulp (formerly Scott Paper) shut down and we started supplying the Shaw Group with our sawmill chips for their pellet plant in Milford. Milan now works for Frank Daye and hauls our chips to Milford.

Here's the thing, for his first 21 years, Milan estimates he travelled 90,000 miles (not kilometers) each year. For the next 37 years, Milan calculates he travelled about 200,000 miles each year. So, from age 19 to age 77, I calculate Milan has travelled 9.3 million miles or 15.5 million kilometers. I hope I don't jinx him but to date he hasn't scratched a truck. What an amazing record. Congratulations Milan!

When I asked Milan how long he intends to continue working, he quickly responded, "Until it hurts to get out of bed!"



Notes from Eacan Timber

It's been a tough couple of months in Nova Scotia. The forest fire in Shelburne was the largest fire recorded in this province. People in the Tantallon area have been displaced and, in some cases, people lost their homes, cars and contents. To say this loss is weighing heavy on Nova Scotians is an understatement. However, to see so many people step up and help strangers in need is a true testament to Atlantic Canadians. It really does give me hope in mankind.

We needed rain in a bad way and boy it's come in with a vengeance. For everyone praying for rain, you can stop now, especially with the long weekend around the corner.

Now for the markets. US housing stats are showing surprising strength in the face of higher interest rates. The buyers that were "underbought" stepped in to cover needs. Supply disruptions due to forest fires across Canada have given us an upward bump in prices. We have seen 2x4xRL increase by \$80/m USD since the first of June. There is a better tone in the market and I'm hoping we these increased prices last throughout the summer.

I hope everyone has a great long weekend and stay safe everyone!

Joel MacLaggan

Eacan Timber

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Notes from Woodlands

With the terrible fires we experienced in Nova Scotia earlier this month, our hearts go out to those who lost their homes, personal possession and/or pets during these unfortunate events.

We recently assessed the damage on a property ELCO owns that was unfortunately burnt during the Hammonds Plains fire. With 300 acres of the 600-acre holding sustaining severe damage, it was a sobering sight to see. During our inspection, we became aware of the fire break that was established throughout our property. It was cleared using heavy equipment on existing roads as well as through strategically placed undisturbed areas. It should not come as any kind of surprise; however, it was still impressive to see how effective the fire break was in controlling the spread of the fire. On one side of the fire break, it was completely scorched, with most of the trees and ground burnt, and for the most part the fiber on other side of the fire break was left untouched. Having seen the devastation the fire caused, and the fast-acting efforts put forth by the fire fighters, it was hard to not have an increased appreciation for the work these crews do. I have no doubt the fire would have resulted in far worse devastation without the skilled individuals involved including the contractors and equipment operators.

We appreciate and sincerely thank you all for your efforts. We are now exploring salvage, cleanup, and reforestation strategies to expediate recovery of the land.

No doubt the heavy rains we have received since the fires could not have come at a better time, and it appears, with another few days of rain ahead of us, we should be out of the danger zone for at least the next while.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

Also, a quick update on our log inventory which has returned to comfortable levels. Stephen has resumed normal delivery schedules for our core suppliers, and we expect this will continue through to fall. Again, we thank everyone for their patience and willingness to work with us.

Until next time – Enjoy your Canada Day weekend!
Jason and the Woodlands Crew

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Stop and Smell the Roses

I am sure at one time or another, each of us have seen some flowers and thought, those look so nice. But how many of us have thought, how did they get that way? Well, they got that way from someone caring enough to put in the time to help them grow so they could reach their full potential. What's the first thing you think of that a flower needs to help it grow? Water, it needs water. We have such a person here at ELCO. I saw a young lady on a Sunday night watering our flowers, and that was none other than green thumb Angie, the keeper of the flowers.

Tool Man

We want to welcome Tim to our planer. He comes from the sawmill, but we won't hold that against him. Tim is in training to be an assistant to Whitey. Tim seems like a quick study as he is picking things up very fast. He is asking questions and gaining insight into the planning operation. I had an electrical problem last week at the stacker and he had my problem resolved in no time. The only area I see he needs improvement in is his memory lapses. If I may make a suggestion Tim. Before you leave your house in Halifax, you might consider stopping at your door and asking yourself, "WHERE AM I GOING, AND WHAT DO I NEED?". This should save you some time in the future. Tim showed up to work one day last week with his sneakers on! So just a quick trip back into Halifax to get his work boots was in order.

Notes from Peter Dillman' Corner, cont

Bucket Rhymes with #*&\$

For those of you who don't know, here at ELCO we ROTATE our jobs. Not everybody, but just about everybody has a ROTATION. They also rotate at the sawmill. We rotate here at the planer. For example, I operate the stacker for a portion of my shift, then I go to the trimmer for the remainder. Even our loader operators rotate. I didn't say drivers because anyone can have a driver but here at ELCO we have OPERATORS. They are Phillip Isenor, Trevor Hare, and Bubba Barr. One services the planer, one takes care of the sawmill and the other takes care of the yard. They rotate on a weekly basis. Phillip drew the short straw last week and took care of us while we were doing a run of 2x6.

From time to time, we will cut back lumber to meet our orders. Last week, after getting our 2x6 x 12-foot orders completed, we were asked to cut back the remaining 12-foot lumber in stock to 10 feet as we have a big order for 10-foot 2x6 and not enough inventory to complete the order. So, as the 12-foot lumber goes through the trimmer, it cuts 2 feet off the length. That 2-foot block drops straight down onto a belt and goes outside into a bin. There are 3 bins outside on a set of rails. If the loader OPERATOR is busy, he can just slide the full bucket down the rails and slide an empty one in to replace it until he has time to take the full bucket and dump it.

But that is easier said than done sometimes. So, all Phil must do is:

- 1- make sure he keeps lumber going into the planer.
- 2- take away the full packages the press is putting out and keep the buckets clear (LOL).

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

Bucket Rhymes with #\$\$@

Just dealing with the amount of blockends going out is pretty much a full-time job when we are cutting back large runs. I am only guessing, but I would say we went through 35 lifts of twelves that faithful day. Remember, as fast as the blockends go out, the lumber must come into the planer, to keep things rolling. Oh, and don't forget he has to take the finished lifts away. As I was working on the stacker, I saw a yellow flash go by the door. I assume it was Phil, although this do not happen often it does happen. Phil was up to the challenge with a smile. That's a lie as Phil wasn't smiling (LOL). But he did meet the challenge. Thumbs up Phil.

Golf Anyone

This past Sunday, some of the top golfers in the lumber/forestry industry in Nova Scotia converged at the Links at Penn Hills Golf Course in Shubenacadie. Tee off was at scheduled for 9:01 a.m. Most golfers show up early as this event only happens once a year and you want to soak up as much as possible. There were two new faces this year, Jon Molnar and Travis Migel and some returning older faces, Warren Beeler and Stephen Thompson. To start the event, numbers were placed in a hat and each player picked. Matching numbers made up a team. The teams were as follows:

Team 1 - Craig Isenor and me (Peter Dillman)

Team 2 - Jon Molnar and Warren Beeler

Team 3 - Rob Himelman and Tim Gibbon

Team 4 - Ron Miller and Ted Morrison

Team 5 - Bubba Barr and Travis Migel

Team 6 - Mike Migel and Stephen Thompson



Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

A group photo had been discussed but when everyone was gathered before our tee off time and had a chance to look around at one another, it was decided by the powers to be that it really wasn't going to be a pretty picture so that plan was nixed. Stephen said he gave us the once over (twice) and maybe next year it will happen.

The weatherman was calling for rain, so we had our fingers crossed that we could get our rounds in without getting wet. We had a great day with the odd, good shot happening for everyone. Some more than others. Our foursome consisted of Craig Isenor, Jon Molnar and Warren Beeler and me. Consequently, I can only report to you what I saw in this group. Jon can hit it pretty far and with Craig's encouragement to RIP IT, he can hit it even farther and hard, hard to the right (LOL). This brings me to Warren. I have never seen a golfer come so close to making a putt and just missing it by a fraction, time and time again! Lots and lots of laughs along the way. We did just finish just when we felt a couple of drops of rain. It was off to the clubhouse. Examining the scorecards and double checking the scores, which were very close from top to bottom, we had our winners.

Before the event, each of us chucked in a couple of bucks and everyone thinking this was their year to take home the cash. Two of them were correct. With a first-place finish, Rob and Tim took our money home with them.

Can't wait for next year's outing.

June Anniversaries

John Ashley	42 years
Leslie Isenor	32 years
Dwight Isenor	23 years
Jon Molnar	13 years
Shawn Preeper	33 years
Stephen Thompson	48 years

June 50/50

June 2	Pam White
June 9	Brian Myers
June 16	Tara Isenor
June 23	Shawn Preeper
June 30	Brian Myers

Congratulations!

Notes from the Project

As you all know, the sawmill was slated to shutdown on August 17, 2023, to remove the old Valley Edger and Combination Edger and Gang and replace them with a new McDonough Optimized Gang. The amount of designing and engineering required to make sure the present Optimized Edger and the new Optimized Gang and the future Optimized Quad, and with all the infeed and outfeed systems fit and work together perfectly has been a massive undertaking.

A week ago, it became very apparent that we may not be quite ready for the August 17th shutdown which could have resulted in extending the shutdown for numerous extra weeks. With this in mind, we looked at the calendar to see if we could move the date forward 2 to 3 months. Many teams need to be available at the same time for a successful outcome. This will include welders, electricians, programmers and more.

Bottom line is, we now have a tentative start date of January 5, 2024. This date has the potential to move a couple of days either way.

I will keep you updated.

Robin

July Birthdays

Jason Barr	July 15
Gordie Beaman	July 29
Rob Himelman	July 17
Angie Kainola	July 22
Nick Miller	July 2
Stephen Molnar	July 6

