

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

May 26, 2023

Issue # 321

Notes from the Editor

In his newsletter article, Jason Casey highlights the tour he gave to 13 women in forestry. After their morning woodlands tour, Jason brought the group back to our site and in true ELCO fashion, we arranged to feed them before they toured our mill site.

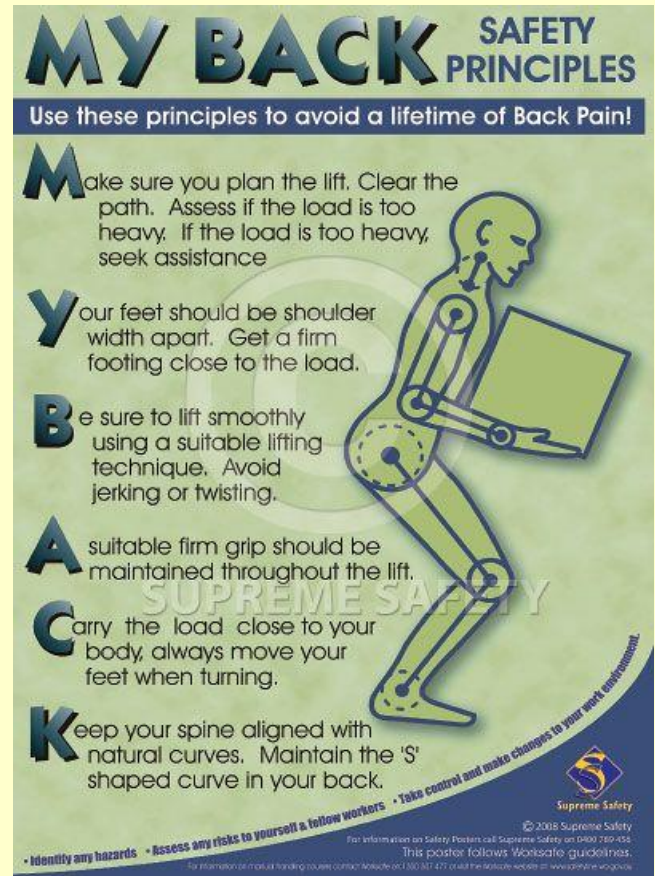
Over the past several years, we have had the pleasure of being fed by 3 amazing women. Earlier this month, this trio made it official and formally solidified their partnership by registering a company name: TBT Catering. For our lunch event, they served up lasagna soup, tea biscuits, and an array of sweets. Everyone in attendance was very, very complimentary about the taste sensations they were served. Becky (the B in TBT Catering) received many requests for her Tea Biscuit recipe (a copy of this recipe is included on the last page of this newsletter). The T&T in TBT Catering stands for Tanya (Burke) and Tanya (Ashley).

Typically, TBT prepares too much food, and the leftovers are shared with the office staff. Our General Manager, Stephen Thompson is aware of this tradition. He had a previous commitment on the day of the tour and was not available to enjoy the lunch. When he learned tea biscuits were on the menu, he was very disappointed the following morning to learn he missed out and the cupboard was bare. Please don't tell him, but I have it on good authority a new batch of tea biscuits will be delivered to the office sometime next week.

Once again, we will engage these talented women for our annual employee BBQ this summer. We will also require their services for a couple of weeks during our August 17th shutdown. Our guys will be working around the clock to minimize the amount of downtime required to install all the new equipment. I am sure everyone will really appreciate the daily menus these ladies will conjure up.

Until next month, Gennie

Notes from the Safety Committee



MY BACK SAFETY PRINCIPLES

Use these principles to avoid a lifetime of Back Pain!

Make sure you plan the lift. Clear the path. Assess if the load is too heavy. If the load is too heavy, seek assistance.

Your feet should be shoulder width apart. Get a firm footing close to the load.

Be sure to lift smoothly using a suitable lifting technique. Avoid jerking or twisting.

A suitable firm grip should be maintained throughout the lift.

Carry the load close to your body, always move your feet when turning.

Keep your spine aligned with natural curves. Maintain the 'S' shaped curve in your back.

• Identify any hazards • Assess any risks to yourself & fellow workers • Take control and make changes to your work environment.

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

From left to right: Tanya Ashley, Becky Grant and Tanya Burke



Notes from the President

My experience with the ELCO team is that we work and play together extremely well. When one of us hurts we all hurt. On page 5 of this newsletter, Gennie has included a short update on Mark Thompson and Corey White. I would like to thank Stephen Thompson and Shauna Densmore (Corey's significant other) for keeping us updated. My fingers are crossed for both fabulous guys, and I think of them often.

On a much lighter note, Jason Casey hosted a group of women in forestry. He arranged for a morning woods tour followed by a site tour here at ELCO. The ladies showed up at the mill for lunch and a sawmill, planing mill and boiler room tour. I know I am going out on thin ice, but here goes anyway. For me, it is great to see so many females engaged in our forest industry. I think females tend to use less of their brawn and more of their brains to get the job done. Now, how is that for stepping outside the box (LOL). I think they all enjoyed the woods tour and their tour here at the mill. I also think they learned a lot.

We have all heard of Murphy's Law. Jason and I were explaining to our guests how our bin sorter scans, sorts and assigns bins to each piece of lumber manufactured. Tara Isenor (the bin sorter operator) is always very welcoming to our guests, and she takes pride in showing them how her equipment stacks and sticks the lumber to make ready for the dry kiln. This time, she was given the opportunity to show off her equipment and talent to an all-female group. We no sooner arrived at her station when one of the stickers somehow got jammed and she had to crawl over, and then under the equipment to remove all the extra stickers. When the sticker placement machine gets out of sequence, it is hard to get it back into sequence. Tara was able to get this accomplished in a reasonably short time. Jokingly, I yelled to Tara to hurry up. She replied with a thumbs up and a big smile. In the end, my group was very impressed. You handled the situation with grace and a great smile. Great job Tara!

Notes from the President, con't

Earlier I mentioned we treated the group to lunch. Tanya, Becky, and Tanya (now TBT Catering and friend of Gennie) have become friends of ELCO.

The menu consisted of homemade lasagna soup, tea biscuits and homemade cookies for dessert. Some of their fabulous lasagna soup was left over, which was packed into individual servings by TBT Catering. A few of us were lucky enough to take home a couple of servings. As it turned out, it was Chris' golf afternoon and she decided to stay at the golf club for supper with the girls. For the second time that day, I got to enjoy a hot bowl of lasagna soup. Fabulous!

Over the last several weeks, we have been receiving pieces of equipment from McDonough for the optimized infeed system for the new gang edger. Yesterday, the gang itself arrived, along with numerous pallets of electrical equipment. After unloading all the pallets and putting them in the shed, we backed the tractor trailer inside the new back door of the mill and our new 10-ton crane picked the gang edger off the truck and set it down on the mill floor. The new 10-ton crane is a very useful addition to the new sawmill building.

We are still on schedule for our August 17th shutdown to install all this equipment. I will endeavour to keep you updated as we get closer to the beginning of the install. As with previous shutdowns, it is all hands on deck for as long as it takes to get the mill back up and running. Food and drink always seem to create an issue, so Mark has asked TBT Catering to keep us in good supply during the shutdown. I think this is going to be a fabulous addition to any shutdown.

Recently, Tim Lohnes joined the planning mill team as an understudy to Dwight. This is part of our succession plan as Frenchie's retirement is drawing near. Dwight was on vacation this week, so Tim was under Frenchie's wing. Today Dwight is enjoying the last day of his weeklong vacation. Frenchie reported to Craig Isenor that Tim is working out extremely well. Great job Tim, Frenchie and Dwight.

Notes from the President, con't

Many of you may remember my grandson Ty worked here last summer. He plans a repeat this summer. Today, May 26th is his 17th birthday. Wow, where have the years gone? Congratulations Ty. We love you.

Until next month, Robin

Notes from Eacan Timber

I spent the long weekend travelling with Kate's (my daughter) soccer team as they played in the Umbro Showcase tournament in Toronto. The soccer games didn't go as planned but we had a great time visiting Niagara Falls, catching a Jays game, spending a day at Canada's Wonderland, and of course watching loads of soccer. One thing that still strikes me is the amount of traffic in the city. I was driving on the 401 around 11 at night and all I could see were lights in 5-6 lanes each way. I was very thankful for my 10-minute commute to work this week 😊.

I will say there doesn't seem to be an end in housing demand as I couldn't count the cranes or delivery trucks I saw this past weekend. Fear of future economic news may have prices lower than we've seen since pre-Covid but the demand for housing certainly isn't the issue.

Most buyers are running on fumes as they've allowed their inventories to drop as low as possible. Listening to the news is tough as we hear about the US national debt ceiling being reached, interest rate increases, low retail confidence, inflation barely in check, shall I go on? But, in the end, we need a place to live. Housing is above 1.4 million annual start in the USA, interest rates have flattened for now and the price of homes isn't out of control. In the end, I expect a round of buying as the pipeline is empty. The question remains if we will see a maturity in price once that happens. If not, it should at least stop falling.

A high of 11 degrees today isn't too exciting but 29 on Sunday will sure feel nice.

Notes from Eacan Timber, con't

I hope everyone enjoys the sun on the weekend. Until next month, stay safe.

Joel MacLaggan



TF. 855.860.4897 C. 902.233.3118
T. 902.860.4897 F. 902.860.3600

Notes from Woodlands

Our log inventory is still high, but much improved from last month. Continued cooperation from suppliers and contractors has resulted in an increased comfort level and good outlook heading into summer. Earlier this week, ELCO had the opportunity to host a forestry operations and mill tour to a group of individuals who regularly gather to provide mentorship opportunities. A group of 13 women, representing many different aspects of forestry professions in Nova Scotia, arrived at the mill around 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 23rd. We gathered for a quick round of introductions, Greg Grant, Angie Kainola, and I took the group on a woods tour. We visited a commercial thinning operation on ELCO lands first, followed by a mechanized pre-commercial thinning operation. After some great discussions, a lost cell phone, and a few bug bites, we headed back to the mill where a local catering company TBT had a delicious lunch waiting for us. The "lasagna soup" and homemade biscuits and sweets were a great hit. After everyone let lunch settle a bit, we were joined by Robin, who provided the group with some information about the history of Elmsdale Lumber and mill operations. Robin then assumed the role of tour guide, taking the group on our usual tour route with help along the way by Jonny Molnar, Don Isenor and Warren Hirtle in their respective departments. We thoroughly enjoyed hosting this group and appreciate the efforts they put forward to mentor and support one another. As a business who has been around for 105+ years, I think we can relate to the importance of mentorship after decades of knowledge transfer to younger generations. Experience is priceless!

Notes from Woodlands, con't

Lastly, we would like to extend our condolences to the Leggate family on the passing of James "Jim" Leggate. Jim immigrated to Nova Scotia through Pier 21 in 1964 from Scotland. He eventually got into the forest industry through silviculture work and tree planting. I met his son James Junior in 2001.

At that time, he was running James Leggate Forestry with his father still working everyday alongside him. We developed a great working relationship which continues today and most of our silvicultured stands are now starting to produce sawlogs because of the hard work done by James Leggate Forestry. James Senior was known as one of the best workers on the crew well into his 70's, often out producing the much younger workers operating spacing saws. He was a true inspiration because of his work ethic, along with his love of forestry. His legacy lives on with his family, as well as the thousands of acres his hard work has cultivated into healthy sustainable forests!

Until next month, Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

It's Me!

I had the unfortunate luck of breaking my glasses earlier this month. I snapped the frames right in two. I headed off to Vogue Optical to get a new set. When I arrived, I was greeted by a lady with a warm smile. She asked me what she could help me with. As I took a seat, I told her I needed new frames. She then asked, "Peter, what's your last name?" "Dillman" I responded. Wait a minute, "How do you know my first name?" She laughed and said, "It's me Peter. I suggested, "I guess I must know you, but?" She smiled and said, "I was in some plays at the legion with Gennie. Still nothing, I just sat there wondering, who is this lady? She could see the confusion in my face, so she offered, "I used to have red hair, I am Joanne, Joanne Lunn." It all came flooding back to me. "It's great seeing you again and I am looking forward to your come back in September.

Notes from Peter Dillman' Corner, cont

Go Leafs Go

Well, Robbie took me for some money in the last meeting of the regular season when his Leafs beat the HABS. Then he took me for a whole lot more when they beat the Bruins in the first round of the playoffs. The parade was already planned for Toronto. But the CORE FOUR of the Leafs ran out of luck. The core four I am referring to are: #1 AUSTIN POWERS, #2 SNITCH MARNER, #3 JOHN THE TRAITOR TAVERES, #4 WILLIE NO SHOW NYLANDER. The poor four are more like it. You wouldn't believe how high in the air a 62-year-old man can jump when he sees the Leafs lose on home ice in overtime to be eliminated. I went to bed that night with a big ass smile on my face as Leaf Nation hugged their pillows and cried themselves to sleep. Until next year. Go Habs Go!

Cuban Adventure

Before I begin this story, I would like to thank Craig Isenor for answering all my questions about the resort where and Maggie and I stayed when we went to Cuba. Craig had been there a couple of years before, so we got a review that was accurate and for his suggestion to visit Pilar Beach while we were there. After getting our boarding passes in Halifax and waiting in line to enter security, a voice yelled, "Peter, are you allowed out of Nova Scotia?" It was 3:30 in the morning and when I looked around to see where the voice was coming from, at the front of the line, I saw a neighbour of mine from when I lived on Mader Street in Lantz. Marsden (Tubby) Neiforth was looking back at me smiling. Tubby lives on Green Road and I was living directly across from him on Mader Street. Only a set of railway tracks separated us. Some of you may already know that Tubby was the brother-in-law to Bruce Preeper who worked here years ago. We were on the same flight to Cuba, along with a couple other people we knew. We parted ways upon arriving in Cuba. We were headed to Cayo Guillermo, a 45-minute bus ride away.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

The resort was great and the weather was even better, but what stands out more than anything is the PEOPLE! EVERYONE was so nice, humble, and hard working. After a couple days we had the lay of the land, and we got into the routine of going to the sports bar for a couple of drinks before supper, (that would be me having a couple as Maggie doesn't drink). I asked the bartender if they would be showing the game on that night (Wednesday) and before he could answer a guy sitting at the bar said yes at 7 p.m. As I sat back down at a table a couple of feet from the bar, the guy who had answered my question about the game struck up a conversation and asked where we were from. "Nova Scotia", I replied, "And how about you?" "Montreal", he said. "Can I ask you something? How does a guy from Montreal end up being a Bruins fan?" He told me that he was from the same hometown as Ray Bourque. That explains it. He then asked me if we were going to Pilar Beach. I told him we were scheduled to go on Friday. He told me he and his wife (or girlfriend who was sitting with him) went the previous day and it was so nice. He went on to say that while they were walking on the beach he saw a half a beer can in the sand, and he picked it up so no one would step on it and cut their foot. He told me that after he picked it up, he looked at Lisa (wife or girlfriend) and suggested someone from Nova Scotia must have been here and then he just stared at me. I asked him what made him think such a thing. He told me it was a Moosehead beer can and started laughing. I told him that I know for a fact that no one from Nova Scotia drinks that stuff and as soon as its bottled, we ship it to Ontario-Quebec and out west. He laughed again and I ended up watching the game with him and Lisa. Maggie passed on it and went back to the room. The Bruins lost in overtime to Florida. That was a good night LOL.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

We had a cab booked for Friday and Ramone was our driver. He picked us up in a 1957 white convertible Chevrolet. He had 2 songs and 2 songs only playing. Abba's Waterloo and CCR's Bad Moon Rising. What a blast! I am by no means a beach guy, but this Pilar Beach was AMAZING. There were messages written in the sand on the beach. This message summed it up best. It read "DON'T SEND HELP". So accurate! Ramone picked us up at the arranged time and I hopped in the back while Maggie was riding shotgun. On the way back to our resort, Maggie told Ramone that he had a beautiful country. Ramone's response really hit home as he said, "It's great for you guys (TOURISTS) more so than for us as they are no real jobs here and the embargo makes life difficult at the best of times. The Cuban people are so upbeat, and they just keep moving forward.

Heavy Hearts

Right now, two people close to us are experiencing some health challenges.

Mark Thompson, Stephen Thompson's son and Owner of Beaver Dam Enterprises, is recovering from an extensive surgery. He still has somewhat of a lengthy recovery ahead, but Mark is the definition of "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." He is blessed with a very supportive family, employees, and friends.

Our employee Corey White is in the hospital because of a car/pedestrian (Corey was the pedestrian) accident in front of our office on May 9th. He is struggling for sure, but we are all wishing for a miracle.

May Anniversaries

Matthew Dillman	8 years
James Hennigar	9 years
Jason Molnar	33 years
Pam White	2 years



Enjoying a delightful lunch. Thanks TBT Catering!



June Birthdays

Jason Casey	June 12
Stephen Mombourquette	June 09
Mark Wilber	June 30



Tea Biscuits

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder (heaping)
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- 2 tbsp. sugar
- ¼ cup shortening
- 1 1/3 cups sour cream

Mix dry ingredients together, cut in shortening until crumbly, add sour cream, mix gently until blended. Put dough on floured cutting board and knead gently 3-4 times, roll or press with hands to about 1" thick, cut into circles. Bake on ungreased sheet in 425° oven for 12-15 minutes.

Enjoy

May 50/50

May 5	Jason Barr
May 12	Corey White
May 19	Stephen Molnar
May 26	Matthew Works

