

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

May 2, 2025

Issue # 340

Notes from the Editor

Spring is finally here! The season of renewal, rebirth, and rejuvenation is upon us and it's time to welcome it with open arms. As the snow melts away and the flowers start to bloom, it's the perfect time to spread some joy and cheer to your loved ones.

And the survey says, fishing and golf are two of the most favoured activities spring brings to our ELCO crew. Also, travel trailers are also being refreshed and made ready for spring and summer fun. And then there is baseball season, right Pam!

April showers bring May flowers and apple blossoms. The Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival is back from May 28 to June 2, 2025.

Whatever your pleasure, it can be agreed that the arrival of spring puts a spring back into our steps.



Until next month, Gennie

Notes from the Safety Committee

Pinch point injuries most commonly involve the fingers and hands. Minor types of pinch point injuries include cuts, bruises, blisters, and contusions. More serious types of pinch point injuries include amputations, lacerations, broken bones, and even death.

Tips to avoid pinch point hazards

Follow these tips to prevent pinch hazards on the job site:

Never place your hands where you can't see them: Always keep your eyes on your hands. If your view is obstructed, do not proceed with the work until you have a clear view of what you are working on.

Pay close attention around moving parts: When using your hands around any machinery or moving parts, always stay vigilant and pay close attention.

Wear proper PPE (Personal protective equipment): Types of (PPE) to protect against pinch points may include safety gloves. You'll also want to wear snug clothing, remove jewelry, and secure long hair back to avoid getting caught or tangled in a pinch point.

Follow Lock Out/Tag Out Procedures: Always make sure equipment is de-energized before starting any repairs or maintenance work.

Avoid shortcuts: Stress the importance of doing the job right rather than taking shortcuts to save time as this can often lead to careless mistakes and costly injuries.

Until next month, Trevor Hare, Brian Myers, Matthew Works, Craig Isenor, Angie Kainola, Mark Wilber

Notes from the Chairman

This past month we must acknowledge 3 people passing away very suddenly. John Canning, well known as the owner of Happy Harry's, and a well-known supporter of kids' sport teams, suddenly passed away on a snowmobile in Quebec. It was not a snowmobile accident, it was an apparent heart attack, and he had passed by the time his machine came to a stop.

John "Jackie" Turner, owner of Turner and Turner Lumber Limited passed on April 14th, 2025. I didn't get to see Jackie very often, but he did join us at the Forest Nova Scotia AGM, and I did have many great chats with him.

And finally, MLB's Carole Blenkhorn's brother Bradley Blenkhorn's passing was unexpected and sudden. Bradley passed on April 20th at the age of 44.

My heart goes out to the family's and huge number of friends of these 3 individuals.

The following bit of history will lead into a little bit of brighter news. I moved from Halifax to Elmsdale with the title of General Manager of Elmsdale Lumber at the ripe old age of 21. The goal was to have me mentored by my dad's partner, Luther Anderson who was nearing retirement. Luther was a wonderful man and a great mentor to me. Unfortunately, he didn't reach his retirement goal as he passed away suddenly on November 1st, 1975. I purchased his shares in the company from his estate on March 10, 1976 and became a partner with my dad, Jim Wilber.

In 1985, at the age of 36, I purchased my dad's shares. Dad did not retire and stayed on as Chairman of the Board and I assumed the role of President.

This year, following this same plan, on April 5th, Mark is now ½ owner of ELCO and assumes the role of President. And, like my father, I am not going anywhere, and I now have the role of Chairman.

Notes from the Chairman, con't

Speaking of mentorship, Ty is currently taking a break from training here at ELCO as he has returned to NSCC to complete his first year of study because of the time he missed during his health scare. We are pleased to report that his stent is working, and his aneurysm is shrinking at the anticipated rate.

Ty is not only catching up on his academics, but he is also happy to be resuming his athletic training. He is on the Nova Scotia Men's Softball team and will play at the Canada Games Men's Softball Tournament in St. John's, Newfoundland in August. With only 110 days left (but who is counting) until the tournament, he has been working very hard to return to his pre-aneurysm diagnosis and treatment. He is keeping a strict regime of practice and skills development, and we are confident he will be very successful. If I sound like a very proud grandfather, I am!

Our plan to replace our Yates planer with a new Gilbert (Canadian designed and manufactured) planer is still moving forward and the installation is scheduled to begin August 1. A lot of preparation work is being done, both on the ground and behind the scenes designing electrical panels and programming issues. I will endeavour to keep you updated as the timeline grows closer.

Until next month, I wish everyone tight lines this fishing season. Robin



Notes from Eacan Timber

Good day to the ELCO family. I am sure most people would say the biggest news for the week would be the federal election, but it is really the fact that the Leafs did not choke to Warren's Senators as they were a formidable opponent and have, along with the Habs, a great future ahead of them.

Louanne and I spent the best part of three months at our condo in Florida. While we were excited to be there, that was soon tempered by the Trump tariffs and him musing about Canada being the 51st State. We considered coming home but decided to wait it out. Of the new friends we made in the golf community, 90% are American and Republicans and they made us feel very welcome and were nothing but apologetic to us about the situation. Let's hope that in the next few months our two countries will come to a reasonable solution that we all can live with, and both countries can prosper.

In the meantime, all businesses are feeling the crunch of the trade uncertainty. Even McDonalds' sales are down in their restaurant chain by 3.6% which is the biggest drop since the pandemic. All of this to say that lumber sales are not immune to the economic trend. Demand is off and therefore prices go with it. Every day our Eacan sales office is a grind as all customers, big and small, are buying piece meal out of our distribution. Even ELCO's order file is getting thin, which is not often the case. Your sales team has their head down and will secure the right business in the coming weeks. Have a great month of May and let's hope the market trend is upward.

Brad Meisner, CEO
Eacan Timber

Notes from Woodlands

The spring weight restrictions on designated hauling routes were lifted this past Monday, April 28th. We welcome this, as we are looking to build up our log inventory. Hopefully we continue to see ground conditions dry and woods roads stabilize to support increased deliveries. Again, we thank all our suppliers who work with us on our log supply needs.

I would like to take this opportunity to plug a company who has been gaining some attention for an initiative they have been working on. Dennis Bedford and his partner Tina McAuley have been trying to build brush saw operator capacity through a concept they started developing a couple years ago. Dennis is a former co-owner of Novon Forestry Inc, a large silviculture company he stepped aside from last year. Dennis decided to focus on something he has been passionate about for some time – finding a way to build a sustainable professional silviculture workforce in Nova Scotia. Forming D Bedford Forestry Services with his partner Tina in 2024, they connected with a local high school to recruit students interested in forestry work. The concept was built around a comprehensive training program that was substantial enough in content and duration to allow the students to achieve the necessary skill level to make a decent wage. Pre-commercial thinning along with most silviculture work is paid at a per hectare piece rate. This can create challenges for contractors, as it can be very difficult for new hires to make a living wage while gaining the necessary skills to reach production levels necessary. It is also difficult for many contractors to dedicate their time to training due to the tight margins, and relatively low retention of new hires. Dennis and Tina are trying to develop a training system which can hopefully evolve into a program accessible to all contractors where during an adequate training period the new hires would be guaranteed an hourly wage while getting “up to speed”.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

The pilot phase of this initiative supported by the High-Performance Logging program partnered with the Canadian Woodlands Forum was very successful in 2024. The program trial highlighted the financial challenges for contractors most of us suspected, however Dennis and Tina were able to recruit a student workforce that grew as the year progressed and through Dennis's training program met the necessary milestone markers and production increases over time. Dennis and Tina are looking to continue this initiative in 2025 and are working with various funding sources to hopefully acquire support for this important work. Even if Pre-Commercial Thinning is just a temporary job choice for some of these folks, this is a great way to expose the next generation to possible careers in forestry. For now, we need brush saw operators and a stable silviculture work force is necessary for a long-term stable log supply.

Great job Dennis and Tina! We appreciate the work that you are doing.

Until next month, Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Show of Hands

How many of you who work here at ELCO know we have a website? Well, we do! I think we are letting some opportunities slip through our fingers. Every dog and his brother these days has a phone. Over the years, from time to time, Robin has gotten us together for group photos for all of us to look back on. So, I often wondered why things like upgrading the mills and whatever was filmed from time to time to show some of our advancements and put on our website and no, I am not the guy to do it, but I am sure we have lots on site that can and would be willing to take on this task. Just a thought.

Movin' On

What is it with our forklift boys? Bubba left a short while back and now I hear our friend Trevor is moving on as well after a lengthy stay here at ELCO. Trevor, no doubt about it, this is a big decision, and I am sure you both gave it a lot of thought. I wish you all the best Buddy and good luck.

NHL Playoffs

It is the last Sunday of April as I write this. I had a great night's sleep after I watched the Ottawa Senators beat the Laffs in overtime to stay alive. The Laffs have a commanding 3-1 series lead. What could possibly go wrong? Well, it was not that long ago when the Laffs were in the same position and choked. I am not saying it is gonna happen again, but I have my fingers crossed that it will. Now we will move on to Canada's team. The CANADIENS who play out of Montreal and only three years into a rebuild and we were able to make the playoffs this year. And, as we know anything can happen. We have one of the youngest teams in the league and lots of talent, so the future looks bright!

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't**Not "Subject to Change"**

We had a lunch together on Friday, April 25th. Mark discussed what we could expect during our upcoming shutdown and installation of a new Gilbert planer. When he mentioned things are "SET IN STONE" and August 1 is our last production day before the work begins! He repeated it for me because, although I have never heard the term "SET IN STONE" here at ELCO when it comes to big projects or even day to day activity. Any memo, or any order sheet we get about anything in anyway shape or form always starts with, and I quote. "SUBJECT TO CHANGE". I understand why this is because our company has many moving parts internally and externally. So, to hear Mark say what he said caused me to pick my ears. The plan is to shut down at the end of the day on August first and be up and running by August 11th. FINGERS CROSSED! It is a big undertaking, but I think we have the crew to get it done. When I say we, I don't mean me because where things are "SET IN STONE" I am making some plans with my better half and some golfing with the boys.

April 50/50 Winners

April 4	Matthew Works
April 11	Jason Casey
April 18	Phillip Isenor
April 25	Gennie Himelman

**May Birthdays**

Ty Campbell	May 26
Greg Grant	May 15
Warren Hirtle	May 15
Chris Myers	May 27
Craig Stewart	May 18
Pam White	May 27

**April Anniversaries**

Ben Arsenault	1 year
Don Isenor	33 years
Stephen Molnar	46 years
Robbie Peters	26 years

