

# WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

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## Notes from the Editor

Since January 4, our team has been focused on the sawmill shutdown. Needless to say, the sawmill team has been working diligently around the clock for the past 20 plus days. Their commitment, organizational skills, expertise, and pre-planning are paying off in spades.

As this installation is coming to a successful end, I would not only like to celebrate the efforts of the sawmill team, but it is especially important to give a big shout out to the rest of our amazing team. For the past several months, a significant amount of thought has gone into how we keep things rolling in the absence of new lumber production.

Our sales folks have been working closely with Eacan Timber to make sure we take on as many orders as we can without making promises we cannot keep. Our planer mill folks have been working hard to process our overstocked items and make them ready for spring deliveries. Our boiler folks have managed to secure enough shavings to continue to make heat for our buildings and continue to dry the planer mill production. Not to mention, the copious number of trips to a multitude of suppliers to pick up parts, paint (and lots of it) and anything else the sawmill requires. The yard crew has also had their work cut out for them. They have moved numerous pieces of equipment from storage to the sawmill all the while making sure the planer and boiler needs are met. They have also been very diligent in keeping their construction debris cleaned up around the yard. As Jason Casey will detail in his article, the logs continue to flow in to ensure we have sufficient logs to get us through road closure season. Our administrative folks have been tending to the heaping helping of the economic impacts of the project. Also noteworthy is their attention to the individual special requests from our employees during these unusual schedules.

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.

Our sawmill team has been under construction since January 4, 2024, as they work to install our new equipment and are working with various trades contractors around the clock. Everyone driving throughout the property has been mindful of the extra traffic and we appreciate everyone's continued diligence both throughout the yard and in/around the sawmill. We have a lot of people working hard to expedite this installation, and we appreciate everyone's focus on continuing to exercise their best safety practices.

We all have stories of healthcare woes in NS and many people are without a family doctor. If you are one of those people, there are resources available to you to ensure you have access to the medications and care you require. YourHealth NS is an app you can download to access virtual care within this app, and you can also use Maple Virtual Healthcare ([www.getmaple.ca](http://www.getmaple.ca)), or in your app-store on your mobile device. Both resources are available to anyone and have great reviews on efficiency and resolution.

Happy New Year everyone. Let's make 2024 our best year yet.

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

### Notes from the President

Our last newsletter was published on December 1, 2023. I would like to address a couple of Peter Dillman's articles from that month. I agree, Rob's Christmas Crack is delicious and a great treat at Christmas time. I am told he makes it with white and/or milk chocolate. In 1996, when we built our present planing mill, we installed in floor heating. This system was powered by the steam generated by our 150 hp biomass, low pressure boiler. The idea was to heat up the massive concrete floor. The lumber infeed door and the finished product exit doors open frequently. Our boiler system did not have the capacity to generate more steam for this system. Hence, the concrete floor did not cool quickly but it's ability to maintain a reasonable heat and comfortable air temperature during the winter months proved to be inefficient. When we fired up our new 300 hp high pressure boiler on December 22, 2022, we were able to produce more steam supply for the planer. We installed new radiators throughout the plant and put them to the test this winter and according to the guys, a welcomed success!

Our current project at the sawmill is on schedule and I will be reporting more on this project in February. For now, I am busy at the sawmill.

Until next month, Robin

**Benjamin Arnold Meisner**



### Notes from the Eacan Timber

Hello folks, me again, Evan.

In October I warned everyone that the Meisner family was going to grow this month... and low and behold... it has!

Benjamin Arnold Meisner was born very early in the morning on Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>. The Dr. gently nudged me awake right before it happened as I was having a brief cat nap.

We chose his middle name in honor of my late Grandfather and founder of Eacan, Arnold.

Our new little guy and his mother are both healthy and doing great. Max is adjusting surprisingly well to becoming a big brother and before too long I'm sure he'll be teaching Ben how to properly irritate his parents.

To my surprise, a second child actually equates to less sleep, less free time, and more work. This is all very, very exciting stuff.

January, as we all know, is a gross month. The wind, ice and cold temperatures never fail to slow down transportation on the roads and the tracks. Our dedicated carriers still brave the season and will do their best to get our orders picked up and delivered in a timely fashion.

The market is sluggish during these months and this year is no exception as buyers do not look to overstock their yards too far in advance of building season. Having said that, we are seeing a surprisingly steady pulse in our local market which is a promising sign for the springtime.

All the best to everyone and wish me luck getting sleep for the next five years.

Evan Meisner



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### Notes from Woodlands

It is nice to be back reporting in a brand new 2024, and I'll start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. With the first month of the year already in the books, it has certainly started fast out of the gate. With the scheduled shut down, Stephen T has been carefully managing log inventory. Over the last few weeks, we have had decent cold weather conditions for forest operations and log deliveries have certainly been adequate considering the pause in lumber production. This is a delicate balance as spring road weight restrictions could be just around the corner.

We all heard some bad news the other day when Downey Thompson unfortunately experienced a stroke. By all accounts, he is in recovery mode, and we are all wishing him well. To say Downey has had a significant impact on my career in forestry is an understatement. From the first day I started here at ELCO, he has been more than generous sharing his vast knowledge and experiences with me. The value I put on the many conversations we have had over the years and what I have taken from his wisdom is immeasurable. I could likely fill a few newsletters with instances of impressive interactions I have had with Downey concerning our ELCO land base or forestry in general. However, if I had to narrow it down, two things have always stood out to me. One is his willingness to embrace change. Whether that be technological advancements or improved forestry practices, he always seems to encourage being adaptable if there is a better way. He has demonstrated this numerous times since I have been around with his interest and embracing of GIS systems and advanced harvesting equipment as well his leadership in showing a balanced approach to forestry. This is a buzz word we are hearing quite frequently these days, but a philosophy Downey has always practiced. The second is his incredible memory. Greg and I would be looking for a boundary post or line and with all our technology and too much pride, we would likely put too much effort in to find what we were looking for.

### Notes from Woodlands, con't

When in the end, all we had to do was take a map to Downey and he would just simply point with his finger where it was. I have yet to experience a time when it was not where he said it was.

I look forward to many more conversations Downey. Get well soon.

Until next month, Jason and the Woodlands Crew

### Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

#### Tropical Heat Wave

Robin was curious to know how the new heaters in the planer are working in January. I am happy to say, GREAT! The boys on the press now have a better understanding on the opening of the door now as well. They only open it when needed and not 5 minutes ahead of time. Whenever they forget this procedure, they are given a gentle reminder to shut the fffing door. It is warm enough that I am still wearing my summer pjs. So, yeah, it's good!

#### Legal

Our buddy Tim got his grader's license this month. He has been spending some time in the chair and he is catching on nicely. I have a feeling he will be getting more time in the chair as the weather gets nicer and the golf courses reopen for the season.

#### Thanks

I am guessing that I am one of the last people who still uses a calendar (when I can get one). It is not as easy as you might think to put your hands on one as I have come to learn over the last few years. We used to always get one from ELCO but like a lot of other companies, we have discontinued this practice. But not all is lost because there are still some that do still give out calendars. Pam was kind enough to keep her eyes open for me and sent up a few to the planer to which I could have my pick. Thanks Pam.

**Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't****Think and Bake**

As a rule, I generally don't cook, but occasionally, I do venture into the kitchen to cook something as my skills (or lack thereof) will allow with my limited menu choices. Earlier this month, I was going to try to cook some chicken, a lot of it in fact. I had the house to myself as Maggie was out so that's a plus for me because I do not like anybody under my feet when cooking.

I had everything laid out on the counter. My plan was to cook a package of chicken breasts for supper and a package of drumsticks that I would take to work for lunch. Southern fried Shake N' Bake is so good. Maggie had picked up everything I needed to cook before going out. Upon opening the Shake N Bake box, I laid out the 2 packs of coating and reach in for the bags. The box was empty though. They must have come out with the coating packs, so, I moved everything aside on the counter and they still were not anywhere to be found. I must have dropped them on the floor when I opened the box, so I backed up from the counter and looked down at the floor. Nothing! I thought that was strange but no worries. As I said earlier, I was preparing to cook a lot so Maggie got me 2 boxes of Shake N Bake. I will just get the bags out of the other box. That box was empty of bags as well. What are the odds of that. So, now what am I gonna do? I had that light bulb moment and looked in a drawer to discover we had freezer bags, so I was back in business. Everything went smoothly after that.

When Maggie got home, I told her about my bad luck with the bags. She informed me they stopped putting bags in the boxes. I told her that was news to me because the last time I prepared the Shake N Bake chicken they were there. She asked, "And how long ago was that?" I suggested it may have been a year or so ago. "So, if I did not have a freezer bag, how was I supposed to "SHAKE" and "BAKE" the chicken.

**Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't****Think and Bake, con't**

I told her a friend saw this and laughed and said the same thing happened to him. He also was not aware they got cheap on the bags and ended up throwing out a half of loaf of bread just to have a bag to do his chicken. Cost saving measures I suppose but remember it is called SHAKE N BAKE. They have lost a customer as I made a point of checking it out at a grocery store and you can get a generic brand of coating for your chicken that comes with bags so you can SHAKE AND BAKE it!

**Hockey Night in Lantz**

I was invited to a friend's house in Lantz on Hockey Night in Canada on January 20<sup>th</sup> to watch the HABS play the Bruins. Our host is a Bruins fan, so I knew it was gonna be a good time. I showed up early to get a good seat and start drinking around 5pm. The puck was dropped shortly after 8 pm and we were all primed for the game. Just as the game started, another guest showed up (Dougie). During commercials, we switched to the Leafs/Canucks game as Dougie is a huge Canuck fan and the only one that I know of around here who cheers for Vancouver. To give you an idea of how big a fan he is, he named his son after Trevor Linden who once played for Vancouver.

After switching channels, we saw the Canucks were up 3-0 halfway through the first period. "It's over," declared Dougie. "It is only the first period," I replied. "So, you think they are going to come back," he challenged. "Wanna put some money on it?" "What odds will you give me," I asked? He mulled it over and within 30 seconds he offered 10-1! Whether it was the heat of the moment or the liquor or both, I took him up on it. I said I would wager five bucks. \$50 if I win and \$5 if I lose.

So back to the Habs game as it was a close one. As we switched back and forth, the Leafs started to score 3-1. When we went back again it was 3-2. Then it was a tie game 3-3. Trying to be a gentleman, I offered to let Dougie off the hook if he gave me twenty-five dollars right then and there.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con'tHockey Night in Lantz, con't

He told me to go to a warm place. At the end of the second period in Boston it was 5-4 Bruins. Vancouver scored to make it 4-3 and now they were going on a powerplay.

Dougie started trash talking. Lo and behold, little Snitch Marnier blocked a shot at his own blueline and proceeded to go down the ice and score a shorthanded goal to tie it up, 4-4. "In your face Mister Canuck." Once again, I offered him a chance to save face, give me \$30 dollars and I will let you off the hook. Sure enough, once again he told me to go someplace warm. He cannot say I did not offer. but as Rob has experienced many, many times the Leafs once again choked and the lost 6-4. My Habs on the other hand lost by a little bit more than that.

December/January 50/50

Dec 1	Pam White
Dec 8	Jason Casey
Dec 15	Jason Casey
Dec 22	Leslie Isenor
Dec 29	James Sawler
Jan 5	Shawn Preeper
Jan 12	Shawn Preeper
Jan 19	Pam White
Jan 26	Don Isenor

February Birthdays

Jordan Nicholson	Feb 28
Matthew Works	Feb 17
James Hennigar	Feb 17

January Anniversaries

Jason Casey	23 years
Colin Hallahan	4 years
Gavin Gilmour	1 year
Tara Isenor	14 years
<b>Robin Wilber</b>	<b>55 years (who, by the way, has put in 12+ hours per day, each day, during this construction period). What a guy!</b>

Notes from Downey Thompson's Corner

On Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, I had a telephone chat with Downey. We chatted about the shutdown and how well it was going. He asked if we were publishing a newsletter on January 26<sup>th</sup>. I told him that was my goal. He asked if he could take up some space in this month's newsletter and I told him I would be honoured. On Saturday, January he suffered a stroke, and he is currently in Pictou in rehab, and he is improving daily. He wanted to remind everyone, "The road to success is always under construction."

Get well soon Downey, there is still work to be done.