

# WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

July 28, 2023

Issue # 323

## Notes from the Editor

My daughter (ELCO's Angie) and my 16-year-old granddaughter Katie love New York. Broadway shows are high on their list of favourite things to do (mine too). This month they were excited to enjoy another weeklong trip to New York. As always, I like to receive confirmation they arrive safe and sound on their adventures. On Thursday, July 20, I received the following text:

"We just landed. Emergency landing. Had to fly for an extra hour plus as the landing gear wasn't working. Had to put our heads down for landing as they yelled, Brace, Brace, Brace. Fully briefed on going through emergency exits and leaving all our stuff behind. We are on the tarmac now with police and fire trucks surrounding us. But all is good. We might go get drunk now!"

Two things I would like to point out here. First, as you might expect, this text sent shivers through me, and I was grateful I received this text when they were safely on the ground and not during the emergency. Secondly, my granddaughter is only 16, and you rarely partake, and your remedy is to get both of you drunk (LOL).

I believe I have learned more lessons from Angie than she has from me, but on this trip, she took a lesson from my playbook when they made it safely to their hotel in Times Square. She offered the check-in clerk a \$20 bill for a potential upgrade with a view of Times Square. They were rewarded with a room on the 49<sup>th</sup> floor with their requested view, 2 tickets to the Hop-On-Hop-Off bus, and a \$150 food voucher. My Vegas travel buddies, Chris Wilber, Rozelle Mombourquette and Linda Wilson will attest to the many perks we have received in Vegas from making this offer on check-in, but I think this reward tops the cake.

During their trip they enjoyed 3 Broadway shows, tickets to the taping of the television show "The View", a ride on the Hop-On-Hop-Off, lots of great food, and more.

## Notes from the Editor, con't

I was very curious on how they would make out on their return flight. On TUESDAY, July 25, at 10:58 pm, I receive this text from Angie:

"After 2.5 hours in delays, our flight was canceled, and we were rebooked for THURSDAY. I told Air Canada that wasn't going to work for me and to find us another flight to anywhere (Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Ottawa) and I would find my way home from there. I also said I didn't care which New York airport we left from. They were not much help. I did my own search for a flight (WestJet, Delta, United, American Airlines, and Porter). The ONLY open flight before Thursday is with Porter tomorrow so that's what we are doing. We go from NYC to Toronto, then Montreal, then Halifax. Quite a gong show. We are at another hotel for the night and will head to the airport late morning tomorrow for our first flight around 2 pm. Love the travel drama. Good times."

I can happily report they arrived home around 11:30 pm Wednesday night and Angie was back at work on Thursday morning getting payroll done. I don't know which was more traumatic for Angie, worrying about her travel woes or having to walk me through payroll. I am also happy to report, thanks to Angie, we are all getting paid today. Welcome home.

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.

### Notes from the Safety Committee, con't

Flooding. Oh, the flooding. So many people and businesses have been devastated. Our hearts go out to all those trying to pick up the pieces from their losses.

We are very close to the end of July. We don't want to jinx anything, but if we can get through the end of July without an incident, this will be 14 months accident free, which earns our team a full year's worth of safety points toward our annual safety award. Fingers and toes crossed that we make it to this incredible milestone. Whether we do or do not make it to the end of July (the end of day on Monday) incident free, we are beyond proud of our team for working so efficiently to maintain a safe work environment for all of us. Our safety awards will be presented at our group safety meeting in September.

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

### Notes from the President

Of course, our recent flood is consuming most of our conversations this month. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and Renewal has been very busy fixing sections of road and many bridges requiring maintenance or replacement. Here at ELCO, approximately 50 lifts of lumber were submerged in water at the bottom up to ½ way up the lift. We removed the lumber wrap and put the lumber on stick to air dry. We will repackage and rewrap these lifts sometime soon. Our office basement also sustained about a foot of water. Currently, the dehumidifiers are running 24/7 and we will be assessing for mold and mildew in the coming weeks.

Comparatively, our damage was minimal to many. I feel so sorry for all the businesses directly across the street from the mill. The Sweet Spot, Elmsdale Design and Print, Snidey's Computer Shop, NAPA, and Pete'za Perfect all took on several feet of water.

### Notes from the President, con't

Each of these businesses sustained major damage and they are currently doing a massive amount of cleanup work with the common goal of resuming operations as soon as possible.

Yesterday, I visited with Nancy and Greg, owners of our beloved Sweet Spot Chocolate Shop to offer some moral support, accompanied by a hug.

On another note, it feels as if most, but not all, new sawmill equipment experience problems upon startup. Our new McDonough optimized board edger works fabulously, but it was not immune to Murphy's Law upon startup. The board edger's chipping head drives the chips up in the air and then down a chute to a conveyor. We estimated 10 percent of the chips were falling back down to the feed table. This caused numerous problems for the feed table, electrical eyes, etc. We tried several potential solutions but eventually, our outstanding ELCO team asked McDonough to redesign the hood that directs the chips down onto the conveyor. After the fact, McDonough admitted the redesign might help the problem but were not confident it would result in the solution. It solved the problem 100%, but not before causing some damage to the feed table. I would like to be clear; McDonough has served us very well and they want the best outcome for all the machinery they have supplied us with. They have agreed to bear the cost to replace the feed table. I am sure the cost will be expensive for them, but it will also take approximately 3 days (2 shifts per day) to install the new feed table. Next weekend, when we shut down on Friday at 4:30 pm, the work will begin. McDonough is sending a crew and we will have a crew of our own working throughout the weekend, with fingers crossed for a successful start up at the beginning of the week.

### Notes from the President

I have a lot of experience with many sawmill equipment manufacturers. They have all been quite reasonable to deal with, but McDonough really steps up to the plate. This is just another reason why we are happy to support a Canadian manufacturer and yes, one that is not only Canadian but one from a Maritime province. I know this will be a long hard weekend. The ELCO and McDonough teams will work extremely well together, and I have signed on as the designated “Gopher”.

This year was the 14<sup>th</sup> year that Mark and I have traveled to the Hawke River in Labrador. Prior to Hawke River, we enjoyed one week at the Eagle and 6 annual trips to the Gaspe Bay in Quebec fishing the Grand Cascapedia River, Petite Cascapedia River and the Bonaventure River. That totals 14 annual shared adventures between a father and son. We have experienced high waters, low waters, hot temperatures, cold temperatures, and everything in between.

At the Hawke River, even when the fishing is poor, I think it is better than anywhere else we have fished. And then, there was this year. Traveling up the coast of the northern peninsula of Newfoundland, the rivers held higher water levels than I have ever seen. It is hard to believe but we crossed the Strait of Bell Isle on an hour and half ferry ride into Labrador and the water levels were lower than I have ever seen. We had our usual great time with the wonderful people at the camp and our fabulous friends with whom we share our fishing experiences. This year, the fishing was the slowest I have ever seen. Mark managed to hook and land 4 and I did not get the pleasure of playing with any salmon. Prior to this year, I would have told you that this would never happen. Let’s hope 2023 does not turn out to be a normal fishing experience.

Climate change is real!

Until next month, Robin

### Notes from Eacan Timber

This June, my wife Nerissa and I went on a “once in a lifetime” vacation to Europe. This trip was planned for our 35th wedding anniversary (2 years ago!). Unfortunately, it took us until this year to have the opportunity to go. We started in Amsterdam, the Netherlands (NL) and sailed up the Rhine River to Basel, Switzerland. On our journey up the Rhine, we stopped in several villages, towns, and cities, including Kinderdijk, NL; Köln (Cologne), Koblenz, Braubach, and Rudesheim, Germany; Strausberg, France; and Basel, SW. The weather was perfect, 30C every day. The scenery around every bend of the river was beyond belief, and the detailed local history and information provided to us through the local guides was amazing!

I tried very hard not to think about work while we traveled. However, I had spent the week just before our trip at the Maritime Lumber Bureau conference (Saint John, NB) where I had a chance to listen to a speaker from Austria (Nicole Mathes) talking about the lumber industry in Europe. Therefore, when we had the opportunity to take an excursion into the Black Forest in Germany, I took the chance!

We bussed from the port to the Black Forest, high up the forested mountain range (about 1200m) into the Black Forest. We hopped off the bus and were led up into the Black Forest by a couple of local guides. The best part of our hike up the mountain was when I came upon a very old “portable” sawmill (pictured here) that our guide told me had been used in the area during the mid-1800s. I was pleasantly surprised to see this historical piece of our industry so far away from home.

After checking out the sawmill, I talked to our guide about the lumber industry. I was told that every tree in the Black Forest had been cut down and used, and all the forest today is made up of trees planted within the last 150 years. According to the guide, there is no commercial forest industry left in that part of Europe.



### Notes from Eacan Timber

We could see how this affected the way homes are built there. Keeping in mind that most of the buildings (homes and businesses) in that part of Europe were destroyed in WWII, the majority of the buildings in the towns and villages we visited had been rebuilt after WWII out of a brick masonry formed from limestone and sand. I did a bit of research and found this piece of information from [Black Forest – Wikipedia](#):

“For several centuries logs from the Black Forest were rafted down the [Enz](#), [Kinzig](#), [Murg](#), [Nagold](#) and [Rhine](#) rivers for use in the [shipping](#) industry, as construction [timber](#) and for other purposes. This branch of industry boomed in the 18th century and led to large-scale clearances. As most of the long, straight pine logs were transported downriver for shipbuilding in the [Netherlands](#). The logs were used in the Netherlands, above all, as [piles](#) for house construction in the sandy and wet ground. Even today in Amsterdam large numbers of historic buildings are built on these posts and the [reforestation of the Black Forest with spruce monocultures](#) testifies to the destruction of the original [mixed forest](#). With the expansion of the railway and road network as alternative transportation, rafting largely came to an end in the late 19th century.

Nerissa and I had a great time exploring the area and checking out the old sawmill. When I saw it, I immediately knew I wanted to share the info through the ELCO newsletter; hope you like the photos.

Have a wonderful summer!

Warren Beeler  
Eacan Timber



### Notes from Woodlands

With the recent flood disaster we experienced, I would like to first send our thoughts out to those who lost loved ones during the freak event last weekend. Lots of damage to property and infrastructure, but that can all be fixed or replaced, it is heartbreaking to hear this event resulted in loss of life.

As we assess the damage to our woods roads and begin to formulate repair plans, ironically, we are simultaneously implementing cleanup operations on the 300 acres of burned area on our Hammonds Plains property. We have teamed up with Freeman Lumber and Wagner who are working with several private landowners in the affected area to harvest burned trees on residential properties. Road construction is planned to start soon, which is necessary to access some of the larger parcels in the area including ours, and harvesting is expected to begin sometime in August. There are considerations that need to be addressed when bringing in burned logs to saw. Stephen Thompson and Stephen Molnar are working through those considerations now to be prepared for when the wood begins to flow in.

Earlier this month we had an opportunity to host a group who reached out to us from Maine. They were interested in making the trip up to Nova Scotia to tour our forest operations. Four woodland staff from Weyerhaeuser's Northern United States operations and a road building and maintenance contractor who is considering making the expansion into harvesting and silviculture made the trip up last week. It was very interesting to discuss our similar challenges and our approaches to deal with said challenges. Although they operate at a much larger scale (they manage 1.2 million acres in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and West Virginia), they are working through the same forest worker shortages as well as the challenges of conducting stand improvement thinning work without a softwood pulp market and limited contractor base. I believe they left with some ideas to try on their operations, and they left us with some interesting thoughts to try ourselves. We enjoyed their visit and appreciated the opportunity to converse on shared challenges.

### Notes from Woodlands, con't

Elmsdale Lumber is an active member of the Canadian Woodlands Forum and has been for many years. The Canadian Woodlands Forum (CWF) is a "grassroots" forest industry organization providing a network for forestry contractors, forest product companies, suppliers and 'on-the-ground' forestry personnel. The CWF's mission is to improve the efficiency and profitability of woodlands operations, through an ongoing commitment to fostering communication, providing a means to exchange knowledge of best practices and technology and innovations, and promoting the interests of woodlands professionals and contractors to sustain a robust, safe, and environmentally responsible wood fiber supply chain.

The CWF holds two conferences annually, the spring meeting and the fall meeting. The spring meeting is generally held in Moncton every year and the fall meeting alternates locations around the Atlantic provinces. Every year a company is selected to partner with the CWF to host the fall meeting. This fall, Elmsdale Lumber will be the host company for this year's conference. The two-day event, which is scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The first day will consist of presentations in Dartmouth Crossing, and the second day will consist of an Elmsdale Lumber forest operations field tour on our Renfrew holdings in the morning, followed by an afternoon mill tour. We expect 110/150 participants, so logistically there is some planning necessary to accommodate a group that size to the woods as well as here at the mill. Thankfully, Angie Kainola has taken the reigns on much of the planning component for the two-day event. As it turns out, she is very good at this sort of thing, and has been working with CWF staff to put the pieces together. We will also be leaning on folks here at the mill to make sure the mill tour component runs smooth and with minimum disruption to our operation. We are very happy to have the opportunity to host this event and will keep you posted on further details as the event draws closer.

Until next time, Jason and the Woodlands Team

### Notes from Peter Dillman' Corner

I am sure everybody has a story about our recent weather event, this is mine.

We had a golf date for Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> but on Thursday my buddy called up and said there was a weather system moving in and it was gonna be wet, so we should cancel golf and get together for poker on Friday night July 21 instead. We all agreed and met up on Old Trunk Road for poker.

Years ago, before it became Old Trunk Road it was known as the DEVIL'S TRIANGLE. Some of the Isenor boys and all the Molnar boys grew up there. The only reason I mention this is for a reference point for some of you so you might have an idea of where I am talking about. Throughout Friday evening, we saw lots of low lightening and the thunder rolled a few times. We stopped and listened and looked at each other. Wow the rain was really hammering down. I left for home somewhere around 2 am and what I remember was getting in the cab and it was not raining, and it didn't seem too bad at that time. On the way home, Andy's son, who was driving the cab, mentioned it was flooding in Bedford. That was the first I heard of that.

Fast forward to Saturday morning. Maggie woke me up around 9 am to tell me I was wanted on the phone. It was Chelsey from the Legion. She told me she couldn't get into work. I asked her what was wrong, and she was said she was flooded and couldn't get out and was asking if I would go in for her. I told her I was sick, which I was. I suggested she call Cissy (another girl from work) and to call me back and let me know what was happening. About 10 minutes later, Chelsey called back to say Cissy couldn't get out as the road was completely flooded in front of Elmsdale Lumber. Okay, I agreed to take the shift.

### Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

So, armed with that news, I headed out towards the highway. I didn't really see anything until I got close to the Police Station. Then I saw the river. Yup, it is definitely up. As I am driving up the highway toward the Legion, I was expecting the worse as we have had numerous floods in the past. As soon as I parked my car, I went directly into the basement. The sump pumps were running and much to my surprise, the floor was pretty much dry. It was way better than I had anticipated. Just before I opened the doors, I looked out the back door and there might have been a couple feet of water in the back parking lot. This is somewhat normal with the sump pumps running as they pump it out back there. So, all is good. As the day wore on, we kept hearing reports of the flooding in different parts of the province. Every so often, I checked our status and then I noticed the water seemed to be rising quite quickly. When I looked out the back door at 3pm the water was getting high. Just for my peace of mind, I moved my car from my usual parking spot by the ramp to out by our sign by the road. When I checked again at 3:30 the water was up to the last step on the deck. I went and looked out to where my car was parked 30 minutes ago and there was a foot of water. that was it for me, time to pull the plug. I told the few customers I had we were closing and to get out while the going was good. When the building was empty and my shift is done, I can't just turn out the lights and lock the door and go home. I have to prepare 2 deposits and a few other things to do. The time it takes to do this varies on how long we have been open. When everything goes perfectly, it takes about 35 minutes.

I don't know about you, but my life doesn't always go perfectly. I got my bar deposit done and paperwork finished for the bar. Now I must do the same for the VLTS. Bubba said something years ago that for whatever reason has stuck with me and I often think of it when I am at the Legion and closing up. What he said was (and I quote) "SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO SLOW DOWN TO GET IT DONE QUICKER".



**Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't**

I interpret this to mean I should take my time and do it right the first time as opposed to hurrying and making a mistake and having to do it again. I got the VLTs emptied and just got behind the bar when the fire alarm went off (wtf). The phone rang as I knew it would it was our security company calling and asking me if I had a fire. I told her there was no fire, but we are definitely flooding. Okay, I have called the fire department and they are on their way.

As I went to try and shut the alarm off in the lobby, I could see the parking lot was like a small lake. I went back into the bar, threw everything into the safe including unfinished paperwork and headed for the door. Just as I got to the door, Bruce, our BUILDING man, showed up along with a few other people and they parked on the road. Bruce had to go disconnect the propane tanks along with a few other things. I told them it's all yours and I headed out to my car. I took off my shoes in the lobby before exiting the building. I won't tell you what he called me when he witnessed this. I responded that I wasn't going to ruin my new pair of Sketchers. So, with my new Sketchers in hand, I waded across the parking lot with the water up to my knees. I finally got to my car and made it to higher ground. I feel so sorry for everyone who got flooded out. It has happened to us in the past and I can attest that it can be stressful to say the least. Most things can be replaced. As hard as it is, you must keep moving forward as better days lie ahead my friends.

**July Anniversaries**

Chris Myers	21 years
Mark Wilber	22 years

**July 50/50**

July 7	Warren Hirtle
July 14	Gordie Beaman
July 21	Craig Stewart
July 28	Jason Barr

*Congratulations!*

**August Birthdays**

Jason Isenor	August 14
Jon Molnar	August 08
Roland Murray	August 03
Downey Thompson	August 13
Stephen Thompson	August 24

