

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

March 25, 2022

Issue # 310

Notes from the Editor

The first publication of this monthly newsletter happened in April 1994. Over the years we have used this forum as an opportunity to celebrate individual team members and pay recognition for their continued contribution to the success of Elmsdale Lumber.

I acknowledge the following tribute is long overdue. I am not quite sure why we haven't taken the time to let him know just how much we appreciate having him in our corner. But you know the old saying, it is better late than never.

I am not going out on a limb when I disclose this individual is one of the most respected members of our team. I can confidently say every ELCO employee would give this individual 2 thumbs up! ELCO is better because of his commitment to making himself available to make sure we have the tools we need to do our jobs well, his ability to foster good communication skills, and his knowledge of every aspect of ELCO's business. He is super smart, and he also possesses common sense, a unique and valuable combination. He is also held in high esteem throughout the forestry industry and his connections within our industry have proven very, very valuable throughout the years. This list would not be somewhat complete if I didn't acknowledge his warped sense of humour and quick wit. Monday mornings would not be complete without one of his quick-witted remarks followed by an outburst of laughter.

So, the next time you see Stephen Thompson, give him an actual 2 thumbs up to let him know how much he is appreciated, respected, and admired.

Until next time, it is my privilege to give Stephen Thompson my:



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 are officially out of our State of Emergency in Nova Scotia, and most COVID-19 mandatory restrictions have been lifted. That said, please be kind as everyone continues to make the right decision for themselves and their families on the COVID-19 measures each person takes to keep themselves and their families healthy.

As gathering restrictions are now behind us, we hope to have a group safety meeting in the coming months. We are really missing our group gatherings here at ELCO. However, out of an abundance of caution we are going to wait for a month or so to monitor the COVID situation here in Nova Scotia as restrictions disappear to make sure things stay under control.

As our monthly reminder, our yard continues to be full of construction crews as our project work moves forward. Please remain extra vigilant when travelling throughout the property.

Until next month,

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

Notes from the President

Just before Christmas, I developed a bit of a chest infection. I have experienced this in winters' gone by and it would normally go away given time. A couple of years ago, we planned to go to Cuba with the entertainer, Hal Bruce and his wife Lynn, and a few dozen of his followers. The trip was Covid cancelled twice and this year it was back on. Covid seemed to be subsiding and there was a direct flight to Cuba, so we booked in. A couple of weeks before leaving, my chest infection was getting worse and my doctor prescribed penicillin. It appeared to go away. After a couple of days in Cuba, the infection was back, and it went ballistic. Early one morning, we called for the resort's doctor. She arrived sometime later that morning with her nurse. After listening to my chest, she diagnosis pneumonia. Because I already had taken penicillin and it didn't work, she wanted me to get a chest x-ray to determine how to treat my condition. An ambulance was called.

Going to a Cuban hospital in a Cuban ambulance is a cool experience. The ambulance driver took me to the x-ray room. A technician placed me in front of a screen and snapped a shot and a few seconds later my chest x-ray showed up on a television screen. He asked if I could take a picture with my cellphone. After taking the picture, he escorted me up the outdoor hallway to the doctor's office. She looked at me and asked if I had a picture. I showed her and she confirmed I did indeed have pneumonia. I asked how she could be sure, and she pointed out different things on my chest x-ray and said, "We need to treat you with an IV drip." Typically, an IV drip is administered from a bag hooked to a stand and drips into your system drip by drip. In Cuba, they put the medicine in a big syringe and a nurse puts the needle in your arm and very slowly squeezes it into your blood stream. This only took a few minutes. I was then put on a ventilator. It was not the typical ventilator you might imagine. Some type of medicine was placed in a funny shaped glass tube, and it was hooked up to an air hose and I was told to breathe in through my mouth and out through my nose. This took about 25 minutes or so. This procedure was done to loosen up everything in my lungs. Following this protocol, the doctor escorted me through the outdoor hallway to the pharmacy.

Notes from the President, con't

She tore a piece of paper out of a scribbler and wrote out a prescription for steroids and another type of antibiotic. She kindly told me she and her crew were on a 24-hour shift. Please come back tonight at 9 pm and we will repeat the process. The ambulance driver returned Chris and me back to our resort. There wasn't any charge for this service.

When we arrived back at the resort, there was a beautiful 1955 Meteor sitting out front by the taxi stand. I approached the taxi driver and told him I had a 9 p.m. appointment at the hospital and asked if he would take me there, wait for me, and return me to the resort when I was finished. He was agreeable. What a beautiful machine!



The resort's doctor and nurse kept a watchful eye on me for the next few days.

Cubans don't have much but they do have extremely well educated and skilled doctors and a will to help in everyway they can. In the hospital the only male I encountered was the x-ray technician. The doctors and nurses were all fabulous girl power.

This service was completely free, and I was fully prepared to pay. These specialists don't make much so I left them with something that might make a difference in their lives. I got repaid with hugs, tears and well wishes.

Notes from the President, con't

The pneumonia seems to be hanging on a little longer and tougher than it should. I think I might be finally coming around. Fingers crossed.

Our friend, Dan Heim, owner of East Coast Detailing, somehow discovered I wasn't feeling well and called to check in on me. Dan also has several snow plowing contracts in the community. I thanked him for his call, and I also informed him Chris tested positive for Covid.

Later that day, I was working away in my office, and I heard a vehicle pull up in our driveway and saw it was Dan. He got out of his truck to place a bag on our doorstep. Turns out, he was at Cup of Soul and ordered up 2 different kinds of soup and some tea biscuits for Chris and me. What a thoughtful gesture. Thanks Dan.

Until next month, Robin

Notes from Woodlands

As we head into the spring season, we are hoping for a quick dry up to allow for increased log deliveries. The early road closure has reduced the flow of logs through our gates, and we hope to ramp up deliveries sooner than later. Having said that, despite the spring challenges with log inventory, I am sure the change in weather and emergence of spring is welcomed by most after a hard long winter.

Like many awakening parts of nature emerging to the start of a new growing season, so is the forestry worker, anxious to get to work after a long winter break. In early March every year the phone starts ringing as plans turn to action and we start to implement our programs. I have come to realize that early in the season is some of the most productive time to complete work. The site conditions are ideal, and workers are more than ready and often in need of steady income by this time.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

Getting an early start has been challenging with some of the programs in the past as they rely on the approval of annual budgets. This delay jeopardizes the ability of the contractor to retain a willing work force with a threat of them leaving to other work out of necessity. It also puts pressure on completing programs before the end of the season. This is something we have adjusted in recent years with our own programs, and it has proved to be both greatly appreciated by the forestry worker as well as allowing us to comfortably complete our planned programs on time.

This year we plan to complete a small amount of planting along with a larger amount of pre-commercial thinning. We also have started trialing a mechanized thinning treatment that is done prior to the stand being merchantable. When a young managed stand (in our case, primarily Red Spruce) reaches around 35–40 years it might be appropriate to commercially thin the crop. This is when a harvester will remove approximately 40–50% of the volume to increase the growth rate of the remaining trees and increase the overall quality of the stand, targeting damaged trees or fir that may start to decline at that age. The volume removed will often produce some sawlogs which we can utilize here at ELCO. Sometimes, the challenge of performing commercial thinning is the amount of “un-merchantable” stems that are often present in managed stands of that age. Clearing these small stems out of the way is very much counterproductive for a harvester as the contractor only gets paid for the products they produce. What we are trying to do is implement a pre-thinning or cleaning treatment where we will use a small machine that is designed to remove all the unmerchantable stems prior to the harvester entering the stand to increase the feasibility of the operation. More and more stands are reaching the commercial thinning stage as a result of the past 20 plus years investment in silviculture.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

So, as we continue to advance the management of our forest resource, I believe commercial thinning will become an increasingly important treatment during the stand's rotation. Firstly, it can greatly increase the percentage of high-quality sawlogs produced in a shorter time. Secondly, it can contribute to a wood supply while treating the stand, utilizing trees at risk to decline when they are still valuable saw grade material. As such, any advantage we can gain with this treatment and encourage participation from harvesting contractors should be a win-win in the long run.

Until next month, Jason and the Woodlands team

Notes from Eacan Timber

Hello, I'm Brad Meisner, the last Eacan Team member to do a short bio for your newsletter.

For those who don't know me, I was born in Liverpool and went to high school there and later went to Acadia University and eventually graduated with a BBA degree.

My father Arnold, (good friend to Robin's father Jim) and I started Eacan Timber Ltd. in 1980. At the time the company was almost exclusively selling Eastern Canadian SPF to England, including ELCO's product. Dad was the GM of the Bowater sawmill in Oakhill at the time and I was working in accounting. Dad thought there was a need for other smaller maritime mills to tap into the UK market so he convinced me we should start a sales company that could represent them in the UK.

Dad was my best friend and mentor and he taught me how important it was to achieve the best possible price for the mills we represented. If Eacan Timber could do that at a reasonable margin, the sawmills could prosper and there would be a good future for Eacan Timber Ltd and the sawmills we represented. Our philosophy continues today by marketing our mills production, not the buy low and sell high strategy.

Notes from Eacan Timber, con't

Well, here we are today, 42 years later, and the company is stronger than ever and Eacan is now the "go to" lumber distributor in Atlantic Canada while continuing to grow our US customer base. It's been a great journey for me, one which has had a lot of ups and downs, good times and bad.

As CEO of the company, I am now enjoying what I call a soft retirement, but I stay connected daily with Joel MacLaggan who is now the President and runs the day to day. The Eacan Team, under Joel's guidance, is doing an amazing job and I couldn't be prouder of our team.

Eacan wouldn't be where we are today without the cooperation of Elmsdale Lumber as well as Ledwidge Lumber. Our company's relationship goes back generations and hopefully will continue to do so well into the future. We are proud and privileged to present these family owned sawmills to the marketplace.

My wife, Louanne, and I will be celebrating our 36th anniversary on June 20th this year. We are blessed with two wonderful children: Evan and Jessie. We also have our first grandchild, Max, born to Evan and Sarah and we will be celebrating his first birthday April 7th.

As most of you know, Evan is the third generation of the Meisner family to be involved with Eacan Timber as a shareholder and has a huge job on his hands these days with heading up logistics for Eacan.

Jessie graduated from Dalhousie with a Health Promotion degree and is now working her skills with a new health clinic in Dartmouth.

Notes from Eacan Timber

After 20 years of living in Oakfield, Louanne and I did the “downsize” thing and recently moved to Head of St. Margaret’s Bay. While we miss the Oakfield/Grand Lake area, we are slowly making St. Margaret’s Bay home. We are much closer to our cottage on Pinhook Lake in Greenfield where we spend as much time as we do at home. When I’m not enjoying the cottage, my other hobbies are salmon fishing, golfing and taking care of our two Golden Retrievers, Jake and Pearl.

Thanks for asking me to contribute to your newsletter.
Brad Meisner, CEO

Notes from Peter Dillman’s Corner

I have always suspected, but now I am sure, Robin is a closeted Maple Leaf’s Fan. Things are starting to add up and making sense to me now.

We (the Habs fans) are having our worst season in the history of the franchise. Anything that could go wrong went wrong. We fired the GM (that would be the General Manager, like ST is to us). Then we fired Trevor Timmins who was our draft guy for years. Upon learning of his dismissal, he said he was surprised as he had never been fired before. I was surprised he hadn’t been fired long before this because he was lousy. At least we didn’t tolerate it and cleaned house. We (the Hab fans) find losing unacceptable whereas the Leafs seem to embrace it. I’ve only endured it for a year, but they have been enduring it for long as I can remember. That’s the difference between winners and losers. We were headed in the right direction with lots of draft picks and the right people in place.

Hey Robin, as for Robbie, I was just trying to save him a little bit of embarrassment but since you wrote your little piece in last month’s newsletter, all bets are off. On Heritage Day in February, I sent Robbie a text message in the morning as the Habs and Leafs were playing that night. I suggested if he wanted to make a wager, I was in. I told him he always accepted wager offers, so just let me know before the puck drop and I will put my money where my mouth is. Later in the day I checked, and Robbie asked, “Are you drinking? I will take that bet.”

Notes from Peter Dillman’s Corner, con’t

Long story short, we scored the first 5 goals of the game and hung on for a 5–2 victory. I will say this about Rob though, he is a man who steps up and pays his debts. This can’t be said about all Leaf fans. He came over the next day and brought his blue and white five-dollar bill and handed to me. There’s no mistake about it, I have been getting the gears put to me just about everywhere I go about the Habs but, I am pretty sure it is going be a one-year thing. It is not going to turn into a LAFF show.

I will leave you with this. My nephew is a die-hard Leaf’s fan and he asked me who I was going to cheer for in the playoffs this year. I told him ABT (anybody but Toronto) **GO HABS GO.**

April Birthdays

Matthew Blackwell	April 19
Peter Dillman	April 11
Matthew Dillman	April 08
Dwight Isenor	April 26



March Anniversaries

Greg Grant	24 years
Craig Isenor	21 years
Craig Stewart	31 years

Downey Thompson : 75 years and counting



March 50/50

March 4	Greg Grant
March 11	Jason Molnar
March 18	Craig Isenor
March 25	Colin Hallahan

