

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

November 30, 2023

Issue # 326

Notes from the Editor

In our last newsletter, I reported the fact we have an honorary kitchen bit#\$@, namely Greg Grant, husband of Michelle Grant. This newsletter marks issue #326 of Wood N You Like to Know. In all that time, I have never received a written angry review. Apparently, this reveal hit a nerve with one of our loyal readers. She writes, "What kind of made-up, bullsh##, Frank Magazine, do you guys publish?" Apparently, she has a different experience and perspective. Thanks for your years of loyal readership Michelle. We always value input from our readers.

Rowan Isenor (Craig Isenor's 9-year-old son) is a frequent visitor to our office. To keep him entertained, Pam has a drawer full of toys. This month, much to everyone's amusement, she hauled out a flying disc. As it began to hover throughout the office, work stopped as we all watched it fly to the tallest heights of our 20' ceiling. On his next visit, she revealed 2 pump action, multi-ammo Nerf guns. Let the games begin! The saying, "Boys will be boys" accurately depicts the next several minutes of play as all the "boys" got in on the action. Yellow and blue, ping-pong size balls ricocheted off walls, rolled under desks and occasionally hit their intended targets. I am a firm believer that when we work and p



As this is our last newsletter of 2023, let me be one of the first to wish you a healthy, happy holiday season.

Until next year, Gennie

Notes from the Safety Committee

Christmas is a season filled with food, family, and holiday "cheer". There are lots of options available for a sober drive home. Please plan ahead and play safe.

Throughout the month of November, our Planer Mill team hosted 3 students and their instructor from the EmploymentWorks Program with Autism Nova Scotia. Specifically, Dwight Isenor & Gavin Gilmour took the lead in teaching the students the ropes on the floor and keeping them safe as they learned some skills working in our industrial environment. The students and their instructor were very thankful to the Planer Team, with special thanks sent to Gavin and Dwight. We appreciate the importance of having all young people explore various career options and the importance of workplace safety, with an understanding of how completely unfamiliar these folks would be, which inherently increases their safety risk. Great job Dwight & Gavin on working with these students while prioritizing their safety.

We have a few new folks who have joined our team recently, so it feels like a good time to remind everyone about our safety policies. We have several safety policies here that we enforce, all geared around keeping our team safe from the inherent risks relating to working near our machinery and equipment. We are sending out a general reminder to all our team members that cell phones are not permitted at your workstations as they create a distraction that quickly becomes a safety concern. We thank everyone for their cooperation and commitment to our safety program. Let's continue to keep each other safe.

As this is the last newsletter for 2023, all of us on the Safety Committee are wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous 2024.

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

Notes from the President

This is the last newsletter for 2023 as we do not publish one each December. The sawmill is scheduled to shutdown on January 5th, 2024 to begin the installation of our new McDonough optimized gang. To achieve our desired optimization, the equipment prior to the new gang is massive. The installation of the McDonough board edger was a big project but, in my opinion, it was a relatively small install compared to this project. The good news is our sawmill crew now has some experience with the Autolog and McDonough optimization which should make this project somewhat simpler. I repeat, hopefully somewhat simpler. This install will require all hands-on deck for 2 -12 hour shifts each day for 3 weeks (including weekends). To say that Mark and I are a bit nervous is an understatement. Mark is the lead man in this project and is unbelievably busy with our mill guys, electricians, welders, our on-staff engineer Fritz, McDonough, Autolog, and many others. Just like Santa, he is making his list and checking it twice. There will be lots of work for all who wish to stay on and anyone who wishes some time off, that can also be arranged. Here is hoping in our January newsletter I can report the project is complete and successful.

Unfortunately, Elmsdale Legion, the home of our Annual Christmas Party, sustained substantial damage during the flood of July 2023. They will not be up and running in time to accommodate our Christmas Party. We explored many options and have arrived at one we hope will meet with everyone's approval. On December 6, 2023, we will have a lunchtime celebration for our team. We will all gather at the planer mill for a nice meal and lots of prizes. Chris and I truly enjoy the festivities during our Christmas Parties and will miss sharing moments with all our guests. We tolerated the cancellations caused by Covid and we will withstand the temporary closure of the Legion as they work on repairing their sustained damages. I am told they will be reopening early in 2024. Fingers crossed.

Until next year, Merry Christmas to all from my family
to yours. Robin

Notes from the Eacan Timber

As the calendar rolls over to December, I begin thinking about the upcoming year.

My sons, Will and Ben, started Grade 12 and the task of deciding what next year looks like is in full swing. Our baby girl, Kate, started Grade 8 this year and my wife Amy is now the shortest human in the family. Our dog, Bauer, turned 11 and every once and a while forgets how old he is and runs around like a puppy.



I am also reminded as the year comes to a close, Eacan and ELCO have been doing business since 1980! That's over 40 years, which is absolutely remarkable. Rough sawn "timbers" being shipped overseas has transitioned to KD Premium for the North American market. Even though the products and markets have changed, there continues to be a strong partnership between Eacan and ELCO.



Notes from Eacan Timber, con't

On behalf of everyone at Eacan Timber, I would like to wish everyone at Team ELCO a Merry Christmas and Happy and successful New Year!

Joel McLeggan

**Notes from Woodlands**

With the end of 2023 in sight, we are planning our winter operations with the mindset there is no guarantee what we will receive for cold weather. Although we have seen some stretches of winter weather lately, it might indicate things are trending that way, however, our memories are still quite fresh on how last winter went, or better yet didn't really happen. This winter, if possible, we will do our best to accommodate our operations on all-weather roads. The same considerations are also being made regarding log deliveries from our suppliers coinciding with the planned sawmill shut down this January. Although we are currently at stable log inventory levels, we will have to be mindful of slowed deliveries due to unfavourable weather conditions and carefully regulate with the down time of the upgrade. Working closely with our suppliers will be key during this period.

Our silviculture crews are busy finishing up our planned program for 2023. It has been increasingly difficult securing saw operators in the industry, and with an aging workforce this will be a growing concern in the future. With an ongoing review of silviculture systems in the province, there has been an acknowledgment from most for the need to adjust the current structure. Hopefully, with some changes, we can make it more attractive for individuals to enter the much-needed workforce. On a positive note, we are starting to see some uptake with contractors introducing mechanization to their operations.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

This is something we have been trying over the last couple years with some success and always with the hope that others will eventually adopt. The concept is not to replace manual saw operators on jobs that are appealing for the workers, rather create an option for the many overgrown, difficult, or missed sites where using the small machines with cutting heads can be a great option where it can be difficult for manual saw operators to make an adequate wage. I think with the proper evolution of this, it has the potential to be a great addition to an existing contractor's operation.

It is currently difficult to support mechanized work under the present system, but again, hopefully we will see the necessary changes soon to support such work and contribute to the sector's progression. That is my Christmas wish this year!

Until next year, enjoy the holidays and see you in 2024. Jason and the Woodlands Crew

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner**Heat**

Well, at long last it looks like we will be having heat this winter as Portable Welders have been in installing 4 heaters in the planer mill. We all have our fingers crossed that this will do the trick for us. Steve, of Portable Welders, is pretty sure it will. Speaking of Steve, he is a man on the tail end of his prime, but you wouldn't know it to watch him. I saw him crawl up on top of our parts room one day, which is located upstairs at the planer mill. Next time I looked, he had one leg over the blower pipe and was sliding down the other side to step onto a ladder. He is very agile to say the least. The thought of having heat on a cold winter's, snowy morning in January is ALMOST enough to make you want to come to work.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't**Crack, It's Actually Pretty Good**

I had my first taste of crack recently and let me tell you it's incredible! I never tried it before and only recently heard about it. I was told by the crack maker himself that it was gonna make me feel really good and let me tell you it lived up to the hype. It's hard to describe the feeling you get once you ingest it, but it is a feeling I want to experience again. Rob, the crack maker is gonna do another batch of Christmas Crack and I can't wait. Thanks again Rob.

**The Thrill of the Chase**

As I write this, we are halfway through hunting season. We have a lot of guys who look forward to this time of year. I am not one of them as I have never hunted but to each his own and whatever makes you happy so be it. As of right now halfway through there's only been a couple of guys who have bagged a deer. That would be our friends Jimmy and Phil. If I understand correctly, there are different ways of hunting. The most common way is with a rifle. Earlier in the season, there is a time when you can hunt with a muzzle loader or a bow and arrow. These last two ways force you to get closer to your target for the kill, making it more personal I suspect. Then you have what you could call your MAD MAX HUNTERS. These are people who want to feel as much of the kill as possible.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

They don't use a gun or bow. They want to feel the impact of the kill so these people would use something like an automobile or say a big truck for example. Oh, before I forget, Mark also got a deer this year as well. Not sure what he used. Congrats to all!

Best Neighbour Ever

I was getting some work done this month when I met a lady, and we struck up a conversation. She asked me where I worked, and I told her ELCO. She told me her neighbour worked at ELCO as well. I asked who that might be, and she smiled and said, "Isenor, do you know him?" "Now, let me think as we have lots of Isenor's", I said. She related his first name, and I told her I did indeed know him. She told me he was a really good neighbour. So, I asked her what she thought makes a good neighbour. She said that when her husband was laid up with some medical issues this good neighbour showed up to mow their lawn among other things and that he was just a nice guy. Now, I am gonna tell you the same thing you told me this month buddy, your wife must be proud of you! Therefore, CRAIG ISENIOR, I name you the employee of the month!

Tom Dick Harry and Peter

Although I don't hunt, I love to golf. That doesn't mean to say that I am a great golfer because I am not. But, like I said, I love to golf. Unlike Rob or ST, who, more times than not, start a round of golf and finish their game with the same ball. That doesn't happen with me! I had to make a run to Parrsboro one Saturday morning. On Friday night on Marketplace, I saw an ad for a bucket of balls for sale in Colchester County. So, I sent a message to see if they were still available and yes and he was in Debert. The only place I know in Debert is Tim Hortons. I told him I would be going by in the morning and he told me he was going to be tied up until noon. He suggested he could meet me at the Masstown Market in the afternoon. Okay, that works. I called him when I got to Glenhome and we met at Masstown. As he was retrieving the bucket of balls out of his truck, I was getting my money out to pay him.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

He said he didn't want any money. What, how come? He said, he didn't want to put them on Marketplace for free because every Tom, Dick and Harry would want them. He said his ad was on for five days and that I was the only one to ask about them.

I suggested he take my money as he probably burnt more gas to bring them to me than what he was asking. The price he had on the bucket of balls was 5 dollars. Christ, the bucket was worth 5 dollars. For 181 golf balls in it was a bonus! Can't wait for next season!

November's 50/50

Craig Stewart	Nov 3
Gennie Himelman	Nov 10
Leslie Isenor	Nov 17
Jason Barr	Nov 24



December/January Birthdays

Jason Molnar	December 22
Colin Hallahan	January 22
Gennie Himelman	January 29
Bret Lively	January 27
Tim Lohnes	January 05
Leo May Puc	January 15
Brian Myers	January 15
William Stacey	January 18



November/December Anniversaries

Brian Myers 24 years

