

# WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

December 2025  
Issue # 341

## Notes from the Editor

Well, hello there. It has been a while. My senior brain was not up to publishing a newsletter last August. When September rolled around, I thought I might get away with not writing a newsletter and on it went until now. Guilt has caught up! Downey made me promise I would continue with this newsletter as long as he and I were employed at ELCO. As this is Issue # 341, I think it would be more appropriate to get to at least to Issue #350. Thank you to everyone who continues to inspire me to keep this tradition going.

I will acknowledge Peter Dillman's dedication to our newsletter because each month he continued to send me articles. They are published here (in order by month). His articles deserve to see the light of day!

After 35 years in service to the ELCO team, Phillip Isenor has decided enough is enough. Anyone you chat with here at ELCO will acknowledge Phillip is a very good forklift operator. We are now actively searching internally for his replacement. We have several applicants and will be conducting interviews early in the New Year. As always, a good attitude and attendance are the prerequisites to be consider for this opening. Congratulations Phillip and we wish you the very best in your retirement.



Sending you wishes for a safe and happy holiday season. Gennie

## Notes from the Safety Committee

Safety is not a task to be delegated but a culture to be embraced. Everyone at ELCO shares in the responsibility to be mindful of the importance of keeping everyone safe. Over the past several years, we have employed many new faces and here is a list of some things you should know. It is also a list that everyone should review.

### **As employees you have the right to:**

1. Know about the hazards in your workplace and how to protect your health and safety.
2. Participate in health and safety prevention.
3. Refuse dangerous work.

### **As employees you have the responsibility to:**

1. Protect yourself and your co-workers from harm.
2. Report hazards or injuries to your manager.
3. Follow the health and safety rules.
4. Use safety gear required for your job.

### **As an employer, ELCO has the obligation and responsibility to:**

1. Inform you of the hazards in your workplace.
2. Ensure safety gear is available and being used
3. Provide you with training.
4. Implement and enforce workplace health and safety policies.
5. Provide a safe and healthy workplace.

Let's work together to make 2026 our safest year yet!

From your Safety Committee:

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

### Notes from the Chairman

Every time we make a major change in any department, there always seems to be things that you just didn't see coming. Well, the new Gilbert planer sure had its share of the unforeseen. With great support from the Gilbert team and unwavering commitment from many on the ELCO team and a couple of days of tutoring from the Freeman Lumber team (who started up one of these planers almost two years ago) we are ready for the finishing touches.

For a few reasons planers need to be housed in a room dedicated solely to the planer. One reason is, we have a 125 hp turbine blower which sucks shavings away from the planer heads and blows them into the boiler room hopper or directly into the boiler building. With this in mind, you need an outside vent bringing outside air in as you do not want to extract the air from the rest of the building. Also, planers are traditionally very loud. You need to shield the planer team from this high-pitched noise as much as possible. We had to dismantle the room around the old planer to get the new planer in. This required building a new room around the new, different sized planer. The outfeed end of the planer room has been completed. The walls on the infeed side are under construction.

We also have a new grinder for the planer heads and knives which is much larger and more technical than the old grinder. The grinder will also require a separate room. Not for noise but for dustproofing. Part of the electrical room was dismantled to allow for construction and that rebuild project was assigned to Walter Isenor and his team. Only crack filling and painting left to complete this project. This new automatic grinder comes with a substantial learning curve. As we have become accustomed, Jason Molnar got a handle on this early on. Training on the top and bottom heads went relatively smoothly but the side heads were another story. Whitey now has the side heads under his belt, and the planer is working great.

### Notes from the Chairman, con't

Whitey has a substantial list of what we might consider small but maybe not so minor items requiring attention. I am sure he will get a handle on these things with some help as required.

Christmas is upon us and the New Year is just around the corner. 25 years ago, the computerized world anxiously watched when the clock struck 12 midnight. Computer systems had been designed in the 1900's and no consideration was given to the leap into the 2000's. Well, as we all now know, the world did not come to an end and things chugged along as normal. I am finding it hard to process that this event happened a quarter of a century ago.

Merry Christmas everyone and all the best for the 2026.

Until next year, Robin

### Notes from Woodlands

As it has been a few months since we have reported to you, there is certainly a few things to catch up on that transpired over the second half of the year.

Upon reviewing our last newsletter from July, I was reminded we were pleased with the consistent dry weather we were receiving at that time and the increase in log deliveries as a result. Of course, that perspective changed when the dry conditions persisted to the point of concern and eventually turned into one of the worst fire seasons Nova Scotia has ever seen. Most notably, the West Dalhousie fire which burned approximately 8,500 hectares and resulted in many home evacuations. For woodland operations, the increased forest fire risk resulted in reduced working hours for some harvesting and silviculture crews with many contractors and landowners understandably shutting down operations entirely during this period.

## Notes From Woodlands, con't

Working with the DNR, WestFor Management Inc. has started cleanup efforts on their license portion of the burned area which will continue over the next few months.

Another significant event in the forest industry was the recent clarity around the sale of Northern Pulp timberlands. It was announced last week that the Bragg family, under its Tidnish Holdings Ltd name, was the successful bidder for the 173,000 ha land base. We are excited for the Bragg's and confident they will be good stewards of these lands that have been managed for a wood supply for Nova Scotia mills for decades and we look forward to any opportunity to work with the new owners in the future.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the suppliers, contractors, machine operators, saw operators, truck drivers and woodlot owners who are the backbone of the forest industry and who we greatly appreciate and respect as critical partner necessary for our long-term success.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Until next year, Jason and the Woodlands Team



## Notes from Eacan Timber

Christmas is upon us and with this time of year comes parties. Eacan hosted a Christmas party at Shooters earlier this month and we had a great time. I also attended the ELCO Christmas party on December 6th. The Turkey dinner that the Elmsdale Legion serves is second to none (except for my wife's) and it's always nice to see the mill crew. I'm very thankful both the Eacan and ELCO parties are held in the Enfield/Elmsdale communities.

We lost our 12-year-old family dog (Bauer) this summer. He was a great boy, and the family misses him. We didn't have any plans to get a new dog in the near future, but our kids asked every day to get a puppy. Then we made the mistake of saying we'd start looking. I'm sure you all know how that turned out. We have a new puppy in our house for the holidays. Meet our new addition, Remy, who has livened up our household.

BAUER



REMY



Joel MacLaggan

Eacan Timber

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## Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

### End of Summer

After enduring a long dry hot July and August, we may have turned the corner as we slowly head towards fall. Days are getting shorter on daylight. Kids are headed back to school next week, so the dog days of summer are behind us. Speaking of school, Owen Thompson is heading into Grade 12 this year and we want to wish him all the best. Remember Owen, we are CLOSE so always be READY. (LOL)

### At Long Last

For those of you who don't know, we now have rest areas in Nova Scotia situated about a mile past the Cobiquid Pass on both sides of the highway. I didn't think they would ever open as I kept watching and waiting each time I passed by this area. The signs for the rest area were put in place about 18 months before the actual opening of the rest areas. They started clearing the ground for them in 2022 and 3 years later they are open. I am not sure how much they cost but it is in the millions. I have stopped in for a visit, and they consist of a grassy area with picnic tables and an assortment of washrooms and by that, I mean, male, female, family and gender neutral. We stopped in last Saturday, and there were lots of people taking advantage of the rest area. Smokers, bathroom users, and for some of us older people stretching was our thing. I have this from a reliable source that old people do like to stretch but you don't have to take my word for it. You can ask Robin as he is my reliable source. Future plans for the rest area include a Tim's and some fast-food outlets.

## Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

### Renovations

Well, as most of you know, the planing mill has received a complete overhaul up top. A new planer as well as a new tilt hoist. It was a big undertaking to say the least. Lots of long days for Whitey, Mark and the boys. On the other hand, some of us took the week off. Oh, I forgot to mention we got a new slowdown belt, and they smashed out our wall down below at the trimmer, so everybody got something (LOL). Rumour has it we are getting a door put in where the wall once was. Fingers crossed it happens before winter sets in. Lots of bugs to work out but that's what to be expected. Mark, a year from now you will look back and smile. But, like I said, that's a year from now. Once we get up and running with some consistency, we should be able to put a dent in some of the lumber that is being stock piled. I am sure the loader operators will be happy as they are running out of room.

### Oh Timmy

Not one to pass up a good deal, Tim bought a 22-pound box of Halloween size Oh Henry bars in early October. Now, one would think they are for giving out on Halloween and if you thought this then you would be wrong! I would say he has eaten about 15 pounds of his stash so far. You can't walk across the planer mill floor without stepping on a wrapper. But, like I said, he only has about 7 pounds left to go.



CHOCOLATE COMPILATION! :)

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con'tELCO Christmas Party

I am stoked for the party this year as I am on the right side of the bar for a change. My buddy, BIG BEN is going this year, and we are going to sit together. He signed the Christmas sign-up sheet as he did last year, but he assured me he and TRISH will be in attendance. And to my buddy Craig, rest easy my friend as Maggie got me a pair of pants and a shirt so I will look presentable. I am looking forward to seeing everyone.

Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan Birthdays

Craig Isenor	September
Shawn Preeper	September
Zack Russell	September
Jeremy Sutton	September
Chris Wilber	September
Leslie Isenor	November
John Malcom	November
Ron Miller	November
James Sawler	November
Robin Wilber	November
Ben Arsenault	December
Jason Molnar	December
Wendell Henley	January
Gennie Himelman	January
Tim Lohnes	January
Leo May Puc	January
Brian Myers	January

Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec Anniversaries

Jeremy Sutton	Sept 2025	1 year
John Lombard	Oct 2023	2 years
Lars Perry	Oct 2023	2 years
Leo May Puc	Aug 2023	2 years
Ales Lavrov	Aug 2023	2 years
Darrell Hennigar	Aug 2017	8 years
Angela Kainola	Sep 2012	13 years
Nick Miller	Sep 2006	19 years
Jason Isenor	Sep 2004	21 years
Rob Himelman	Sep 2001	24 years
Darren Isenor	Sep 2001	24 years
Brian Myers	Dec 1999	26 years
Gennie Himelman	Oct 1992	33 years
James Sawler	Sep 1978	47 years

Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec 50/50 Winners

Aug 1	Ron Miller
Aug 8	Gordie Beaman
Aug 15	Gennie Himelman
Aug 22	Gordie Beaman
Aug 29	Jason Molnar
Sep 05	John Ashley
Sep 12	Gennie Himelman
Sep 19	Jason Casey
Sep 26	Darrell Hennigar
Oct 3	Don Isenor
Oct 10	Dwight Isenor
Oct 17	Ron Miller
Oct 24	Pam White
Oct 31	Dwight Isenor
Nov 7	Chris Myers
Nov 14	Matthew Works
Nov 21	Don Isenor
Nov 28	Darren Isenor
Dec 5	Matthew Dillman
Dec 12	Ron Miller
Dec 19	Don Isenor
Dec 26	Nick Miller

