

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

April 26, 2024

Issue # 330

Notes from the Editor

Without fail, each Monday morning, ELCO's management staff gather around the office boardroom to plan for the upcoming week, month, and year. Their combined knowledge and experience is critical to our decision-making process.

The atmosphere at these meetings is relaxed and informal. This creates an environment where everyone feels comfortable enough to contribute freely. This climate also creates an abundance of good-hearted humour that ultimately results in outbursts of laughter that can be heard throughout the entire office building. Some (or should I say one) of us is more quick-witted than the rest of us. I dare say there has not been one meeting when there has not been an outburst of laughter.

This ability to come up with just the right punchline is not something that comes naturally for me. My great punchlines are often an afterthought and for that reason, they are totally useless. Obviously, those of us with this gift use it outside our boardroom as well.

So, here is the most recent punchline that I enjoyed. Recently, Eacan Timber (Joel) invited a group of our managers to a Thunderbirds (lacrosse) game at the Scotiabank Centre in Halifax. It was preceded by a dinner at Orso Pub and Grill. After being seated, the group of 7 were advised by the waitress that groups of 6 or more would be automatically charged an 18 percent gratuity. One (ST) of our most quick-witted employees instantly responded, "We were actually considering 22 percent but if you are happy with 18 percent, that works for us."

Until next month, keep laughing. It is good for the soul.
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.

Our full-day first aid course is coming up on May 22 in our boardroom. Thanks to Tara at the Forestry Safety Society for helping us get this scheduled, and thanks to the members of our team who will be completing the course that day.

April 28th is the National Day of Mourning. Day of Mourning awareness is led by the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour and supported by the Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration, WCB Nova Scotia, and Threads of Life. The most important participants, however, are families, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and employers of those who were lost. Use this day to commit to making safety a priority in everything you do at work.

Here at Elmsdale Lumber we pride ourselves on our commitment to safety. We genuinely strive to have the safest workplace we can create and appreciate the commitment and input from all members of our team to help us maintain a safety mindset. However, even with the best intentions, policies and procedures, an accident can happen from time to time, and when it does, it is imperative to learn from the incident and take steps to ensure it does not happen again.

Until next month,

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

Notes from the President

Time seems to get away on us. Like me, as you get a bit older, the clock seems to tick even quicker. About a year ago, each month I would report to you on our progress on shutting the sawmill down for a major face lift. As I recall, it was originally scheduled for August 17, 2023, and a few things went off the rails and it was rescheduled for early January 2024. On January 4, demolition began and a few days later, reconstruction began and 3 ½ weeks later, we were once again up and running. This is, for sure, another milestone in the history of ELCO. I have had many in my long tenure, but this was the largest. I am often asked what my deceased father would think about our progress. Would he say, "Optimization? Son, we need to be checked into the nearest mental hospital." Or would he respond, "Wow, this is fantastic." I think he would embrace the latter.

When we purchased our new McDonough optimized gang edger, there was an option called curved sawing. I remember Hugh Hawley, President of McDonough, suggesting if we were spending this kind of money, why would you not add the curve sawing option. So, we took his advice. This week, Matthew from Autolog, Paul from RPM (Real Performance Machinery) and Jake and Hugh from McDonough are here troubleshooting some of the things we have been working on over the last few months. They are also initializing the curve sawing option on our new gang edger.

Most of you would know if you were putting a piece of wood through a table saw and you moved it just a little, the saw would jam. So, you might think that curve sawing is not possible. But I can tell you it is, and it is also super cool to watch. Hugh made a comment that our start up was one of McDonough's most trouble-free curve sawing startups. We can attribute this to our 3 Molnar guys who have been doing tweaking of their own for the past few months to make sure everything works perfectly. From my point of view, you would be hard pressed to find a better team than Matthew, Paul, Hugh and our Molnar boys. Thanks for all you do for and with us!

Notes from the President, con't

Hey, my favourite time of year has arrived. It is fishing season! Last weekend was my first trip back to our Rocky Lake camp and boy, was it ever cold. So cold, we didn't do all that much fishing, choosing to do some chores around the camp instead. During Hurricane Fiona, our galvanized stove pipe broke off at the spark arrester. It was getting rusty. This is a big job, so I questioned if we could purchase stainless steel stove pipe. I reached out to Pioneer Metals and sure enough they could accommodate our needs. They make great stuff. It was a big job, but it looks great, and I am pretty sure it will do me out and maybe Mark as well.

We travel up 7 lakes to get to our camp and we are surrounded by a few lakes. We have a few wooden row boats around. Over the years, we needed some new oars. There is a business near Mahone Bay that has been there for well over 100 years, Van Fancy Oars and Paddles and they make an awesome product. If you find yourself in need, give me a shout. I have their number and I know what they make. We spray the name of our camp on the oars and our boats. The stencil I made a number of years ago went missing. Making a new stencil is more complicated than one might think. Gennie suggested I contact Dwight Isenor's wife Becky. She has a cricket machine. I drew out what I needed and gave it to Dwight, and he returned the next day to tell me that Becky could indeed produce my required stencil. A few days later, I was presented with the new stencil. I sprayed the oars and took them with us to the camp. Thanks Becky for the great job. I so much appreciate your expertise. What a team!

Until next month, Robin

Notes from Eacan Timber

March and April saw Eacan attend a couple trade shows. The first show was the ABSDA held in Halifax (photo below). We had a booth representing our various mill production as lumber dealers throughout Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick came to see what vendors had to say. This is an opportunity to speak about ELCO premium lumber to dealers that fly various banners, Home Hardware, Castle, Timber Mart, Rona, Kent and others. Our booth was extremely busy as buyers stopped in to say hello. Most of our visitors were current customers, but we always snag new contacts whenever we attend this show.

The second show we attended was the Montreal Wood Convention. Industry folks throughout North America were in attendance, including a couple ELCO customers from the USA. There's a lot of knowledge gained by listening to sawmills in other parts of the country talk about fibre costs, availability, forest fires, etc.

In the end, both shows were well attended and it's always good to see buyers in person after speaking with them on the phone and through email.



Joel MacLaggan



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In the woods with
Colton Noble with Greg Grant

Notes from Woodlands

With the spring weight restrictions lifted in the southern half of the province on designated provincial roads, we are starting to see some increased activity with woodlands operations. Along with some relatively dry weather over the last couple weeks, we have seen an increase in log deliveries and conditions are improving for harvest operations.

On that note, our own woodlands harvest operations are currently going through some changes. After 20 plus years of managing Beaver Dam Enterprises harvesting operations, Mark Thompson has decided to sell Beaver Dam's harvesting and trucking equipment to pursue other ventures. Mark, along with harvester operator Shane Wells have completed countless noteworthy harvesting jobs over the last two decades, and it has been an absolute pleasure to work with them. Known for their work quality, along with knowledge and expertise in thinning and partial harvest treatments, Mark was always willing to go above and beyond to execute a treatment the way a landowner expected. We very much worked as a team on every project, and I truly appreciate and value the work they did and our partnership along the way. I understand Mark's next venture is still woodlands related, and I will report back here once I get the okay to do so.

With that, fortunately Beaver Dam's equipment is not going far. Mark sold the harvester and forwarder to Nine Mile River resident Colton Noble. At 19 years of age, Colton is the third generation of existing longtime trucking company Tomahawk Transport Ltd. Colton, along with his father Jonathan, formally acquired the equipment a couple of weeks ago and are adjusting to this new role on an ELCO harvest block. Colton comes with a great skill set, as he is familiar with heavy duty mechanics, welding and is showing a good understanding of woodland's operations. We will be supporting Tomahawk Transport as they get up to speed through this transition and this will include work security. We look forward to partnering with the Tomahawk team and what is hopefully a start to a long-lasting relationship. (See Page 3 for picture)

Until next month, Jason and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Clean Sweep

With the regular season over and the playoffs underway, I am once again on the outside looking in. Three years in a row makes me wonder how the Laff fans can endure stretches of eight and nine without getting in. If you notice Robbie smiling a lot, it is because he swept the season series against my Habs 3-0 and has a big chunk of my money. He has been talking smack at me all the time lately and deservedly so. So much so that he offered me a bet on the first round of the playoffs without even knowing who they would be playing. There is a fine line between confidence and cocky and I'm thinking you may have crossed over it Nobert!

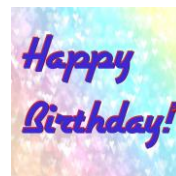
April 50/50 Winners

- April 5 James Hennigar
- April 12 Don Isenor
- April 19 Craig Stewart
- April 26 Stephen Thompson



May Birthdays

- Greg Grant May 15
- Warren Hirtle May 15
- Chris Myers May 27
- Craig Stewart May 18
- Pam White May 27



April Anniversaries

- Don Isenor 32 years
- Stephen Molnar 45 years
- Robbie Peters 25 years

