

# WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

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## Notes from the Editor

It has been a heart wrenching month here at ELCO. Robin will update you on the emotional challenges our team faced this month in his article.

I was on vacation in Newfoundland while all of this was going on and on the Sunday prior to my return, my phone started ringing and I noticed it was Angie and I instinctively knew she was calling to share some unwanted news. You see, texting has replaced phone calls these days and it is becoming more and more unusual to talk to someone. Sad but true! My suspicions were correct because when I heard her voice, I knew something was up! You are excused now to skip to Robin's article for all the details.

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. You are encouraged to review them and be sure to ask your supervisor or any member of the safety committee about any questions you may have.

We now have nominations for the Safety Committee, and we are currently confirming acceptance of the nominations. We will be holding our elections in the very near future.

The kids are back to school next week. Please take extra care to look for children. It is illegal to pass a stopped school bus when red lights are flashing. Use extreme caution to watch for children as they disembark from their school bus.

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

## Notes from the President

This month, I have some sad news to report and some great news. Let's start with the sad and end with the better.

This month, Dwight and Darren lost their mother Corrine. Her family describes her as a strong-willed woman with a tenacious heart. It is always extremely difficult to lose a parent. Our heartfelt thoughts go out to Dwight, Darren and family.

Mark Thompson, Stephen and Claudia's son, is currently battling health issues. As you might expect, Stephen and his family are struggling with this. Mark is currently in hospital and Stephen texts us updates and requests for updates on what needs to be done at ELCO on a regular basis. Stephen has confessed to us that he needs to keep busy and as such he has been balancing his family life and his work life. Mark is surrounded by excellent medical care, and he is a fighter! We are pulling for you Mark.

A couple of weeks ago, about a year after Frenchie's retirement, he suffered a stroke. He has lost some movement on his left side, affecting his leg, arm and fingers. All this seems to be coming back quite nicely. The doctors thought he lost some of his speech, but it must have been slight because I haven't noticed any difference. He started rehab on August 27<sup>th</sup>. His physiotherapist gave him a 4 out of 4 which I think is excellent. I think he will have a full recovery in short order.

This week, I also learned of the passing of one of our previous employees, Elspie Caterer. At the age of 81, she passed on August 20, 2024, in the Colchester East Hants Health Care Centre. Elspie was our Accounts Receivable Clerk for many years and retired a few years before the millennium. Elspie was great fun and a bulldog when it came to collecting overdue accounts. We send our condolences to her family.

### Notes from the President, con't

Now for the better news. I received a call from a friend of mine to inform me that Atlantic Motorsport Park in North Salem, just outside Shubenacadie, is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. That sounds crazy to me because I was involved in getting it started. There was a group of fellows in Halifax that were friends of mine that wished to build a racetrack for motorcycle and car racing similar to Mosport International Raceway in Montreal. They were looking for a piece of land and wondered if I could help. There was a farmer by the name of Arthur Dalrymple in North Salem that was retiring and wanting to sell his farm.

My dad and I had just cruised the timber on the farm but there was a large field attached to the farm. The timber did not have a value large enough to pay for the whole farm. I joined forces with the race group and approached Arthur with the proposal that the race group buy the farm and Elmsdale buy the timber. This made it possible for the race group to get the farm and ELCO get the timber. Hence, Atlantic Motorsport Park was born.

Our grandson Ty Campbell has spent the past 3 summers working here at ELCO. At 18 years of age, he graduated from HERH this year. He played in the U23 National Softball tournament earlier this summer and they finished third overall. Last week, he was in the U20 Nationals in Carp, Ontario. They finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 11 teams. On average, their team was the youngest. I think this was a great showing. They captured a very supporting Ontario fan group. I am not sure why, but I suspect it was because of their younger stature and their Maritime spirit. There was a daily podcast published and Ty was mentioned numerous times. We were privileged to watch this on live stream, which is crazy technology to me, but it was awesome. I remember one game in particular; Ty stole 2<sup>nd</sup> base 3 times and 2 of those times he ended up scoring and that made the difference and won the game. We were very proud grandparents when he stepped up to the plate and scored a homerun on the first pitch.

### Notes from the President, con't

On the evening of Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, we removed our old lug loader which loads to the infeed table leading to the trimmer.

I was not in a hurry to show up at the project site the next morning for the installation of the new Comact lug loader. Our guys had previously cut hole in the end wall of the sawmill building to facilitate the installation. This machine weighs about 14,000 pounds. I arrived around 8 a.m. and to my surprise the machine was in place. Typical of our sawmill crew.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday were spent fine tuning its position, programming and many adjustments. Both the Comact guys, Francois and Darren were awesome!

The machine works fantastic. Gordie's job is now much easier. While chatting with Gordie he said, "Christmas came early this year".

Another successful outcome for our ELCO team.

Until next month, wishing everyone a great long weekend  
Robin



### Notes from Eacan Timber

Harrison's Home Hardware is a big customer for EACAN/ELCO. Based in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, Harrison's runs three retail hardware stores and are a truss manufacturer. Every store carries ELCO lumber, exclusively. Along with purchasing ELCO lumber, Harrison's also supports our lumber industry by supplying a large portion of Elmsdale Lumber's log needs.

A few weeks ago, we were invited to attend a contractor appreciation barbecue at Harrison's in Amherst. We were specifically asked to showcase the quality of ELCO's products compared to other suppliers. In that regard, I set out to create a booth that displayed samples of ELCO's lumber along with other mills to provide comparisons.

Arriving at the store 15 minutes before the suggested arrival time, I found myself the second to last presenter to arrive (lesson learned)! Consequently, the only booth space available to me was right beside the barbeque! Did I mention it was 30° outside, and I had no tent over me? The good thing about being next to the barbeque is that everyone lined up for their hotdogs and hamburgers right in front of me, giving me the opportunity to talk about our products. I wasn't surprised to find out many of the contractors already understood the differences in lumber quality and the value in supporting a store that provides premium lumber. It was exciting to be able to speak to the end users and hear their feedback.

Throughout the day contractors stopped at the various booths to engage with suppliers whom they would not normally communicate with. The many suppliers who attended put a lot of work into ensuring the contractors had good information about their products and enjoyed the day.

Attending this type of event and seeing the contractors being appreciated by the store was a new experience for me and one that I enjoyed greatly. I look forward to the opportunity to do this type of event in the future. These kinds of partnerships are crucial for all parties; ELCO, EACAN and Harrison's. EACAN is excited to support both successful businesses.

### Notes from Eacan Timber, con't

On another similar topic, the lumber market, overall, seems to be climbing out of the late summer doldrums, and we are looking at a stronger fall with more opportunities. Everyone at EACAN is looking forward to the coming months. Enjoy the last days of summer!

Warren Beeler

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### Notes from Woodlands

As the summer is approaching an end, most kids and parents undoubtedly are gearing up for a new school year and with the Labor Day long weekend ahead of us, I hope everyone is taking the opportunity to end the summer season on a fun note.

Last week we wrapped up one of three Mi'kmaq Forestry Initiative harvests planned this year. The first one, located outside of Digby, although challenging with location and remoteness of the block, went very smoothly. We would like to extend thanks to machine operators Shane Taylor and Mike Brown who worked long days and had extended stays away from home to complete the job and put forth great effort to minimize ground disturbance and see that the finished treatment matched the planned outcomes. I would also like to extend a big thank you to the log truckers for making the long, less than ideal haul that kept the wood moving. We will now shift our focus to the St Croix land base and the two harvest operations planned by the MFI team who will work with ELCO over the next few months to complete those operations.

### Notes from Woodlands, con't

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Greg Grant on successfully completing the provincial scalers certification course, positioning him after some apprentice scaling hours to achieve licensed scaler status. This is a huge asset to ELCO and our woodlands operations. There has been a shortage of scalers available to officially inventory log piles, as well as roadside scaling for various wood sorts. Congratulations Greg! It will be great to have the ability to handle this work in house going forward.

I hope everyone enjoys the long weekend!

Until next month, Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team

### Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

#### Things That Made Me Smile

I read three things this month that put a smile on my face. The first one was a sign as you entered St. Peters, Cape Breton. The sign said, DRIVE CAREFULLY WE LOVE ARE SENIORS! The second one was on a t-shirt of a Legion member who came into the legion, it said, I'M NOT A DOCTOR BUT I'LL HAVE A LOOK. The third was on a t-shirt our new employee Ron was wearing. It said, "UNATHLETIC SINCE 1932!" LOL

#### Winners

As some of you know, we have golfers here at ELCO. I would say they range in all different levels of ability. This month a few ended up in the winner's circle. The first one was Drake White who was part of the winning team earlier this month at Cambridge Cliffs that was held as a fundraiser for the Junior C Newport Titans hockey team. Drake walked away with first place and some 50-dollar bills to boot. Next there was Craig Isenor who was part of the winning team at the ELCO Open. Craig finished first and took home some cash as well at a fun-filled day at Penn Hills Golf Course. Then there's Robbie who finished first in Round 5 of the Covid Cup at Fox Hollow Golf Club. Rob didn't come away with any cash, but he did get something money can't buy and that is respect from his peers, which is no easy task with the Branch 48 crowd. Congratulations to these guys!

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

#### Do Not Pass Go

A couple of weeks back Maggie and I decided to get our passports renewed. So, on a Saturday we headed to town. First stop was Costco where we did some shopping and then headed to CAA in Dartmouth for passport photos as that is the cheapest place to get them if you are a member. Upon arriving, we had our photos done within five minutes. We were asked to have a seat as they got them ready for us. Within two minutes, another lady approached us and asked me if I might have another shirt with me as i was wearing a white t-shirt and with the background it blended in, and she was afraid it wouldn't pass for the passport. What are the odds some would have another shirt with them, especially in this heat? I laughed and said, "Pretty good, I just bought a new shirt at Costco." I went out to the car, got my new shirt and put it on over my white one and had my photo taken again.

I had the following Friday off work. Maggie and I had some errands to do in town, one of which was to renew our passports. Upon arriving at the office, we were happily surprised to see it was quiet with only one other person there. The lady at the front desk gave us each a form to fill out at the table and upon completion we were instructed to bring them back up to her and she would check them over for possible mistakes before we go in to see an agent. We filled them out and returned them to the lady. As she checked mine, she highlighted a mistake with a yellow marker. She said I need to put down the address of my employer. I told her I did, it is in ELMSDALE. I was informed that this was not an address it is a place. Apparently, they need a mailing address. I took my paper and went back to the table. I don't know the address! For whatever reason, I remembered Robin talking about this very thing 3 or 4 years ago at a safety meeting. He said something to the effect, "DO YOU GUYS KNOW THE ADDRESS FOR HERE IN CASE YOU HAD TO CALL AN AMBULANCE OR FIRE DEPARTMENT? I remember thinking no I don't and here I am again. So, I called the office and explained my situation to Pam who gave me our address. Thanks again Pam.

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

I returned my form to the lady and she looked it over and gave it back and said an agent will call your name when it is your turn. An agent called us in, looked mine over and all was good. Now onto Maggie's. "Oh no", she said. "Oh no, what", I asked? She informed us we were a day too early. The agent told us you can only renew your passport within one year of it expiring. Today is August 2<sup>nd</sup> and your passport was issued on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, which means Maggie's doesn't expire until tomorrow so you will have to come back. I asked how mine can be good and Maggie's not be? We got them at the same time. She explained mine was issued on July 14, so I was okay. Even though we got them done at the same time, they were processed in Quebec at different times, hence the problem.

So, they gave me my new passport and we will go back for Maggie's on Tuesday, after the holiday. The agent said she would look over her form today for any mistakes and when we come back on Tuesday it will be easier. We agreed and he checked it over and said it was good. Tuesday morning came and we headed back to the passport office with all our ducks in a row. We got called in to see an agent in no time at all. "Oh, no", she said! "Now what", I asked? These photos are no good. Apparently, Maggie's head was tilted down just a little too much for the agents liking and her eyes weren't looking directly at the camera, and she had a piece of hair coming down slightly over her right eye and the agent wrote REJECTED on them. I was pissed to say the least. We had an agent look at these on Friday and he didn't see anything wrong with them. "How could that be", I asked? She acknowledged she didn't know. Then I further asked, "Do all agent's look for the same things. To which she answered, "Yes". "So, you are saying he didn't do his job properly?" "I'm not saying that", she said. "So, you are seeing something that he didn't?" To make a long story shorter, we went back to CAA, had more photos done and went back yet again to the passport office. We were served by the same agent as last time. What are the odds? She said the new ones were perfect! If at first you don't succeed, try and try again!

**August 50/50 Winners**

August 2	Craig Stewart
August 9	Jon Molnar
August 16	Stephen Thompson
August 23	John Ashley
August 30	Warren Hirtle

**September Birthdays**

September 23	Craig Isenor
September 20	Shawn Preeper
September 27	Chris Wilber

**August Anniversaries**

Trevor Hare	35 years
Darrell Hennigar	2 years
Alex Lavrov	1 year
Leo May Puc	1 year

