

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

March 28, 2025

Issue # 339

Notes from the Editor

Full disclosure, I did not publish a newsletter in February. I could make up a multitude of excuses but it would be just that, excuses. As a result, this month I am publishing Jason Casey's February submission as well as Peter Dillman's.

Canada is the second largest country in size in the world. It is a land of diverse landscapes, multiculturalism, and a strong sense of community. From the rugged beauty of the Rocky Mountains to the serene shores of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, Canada's natural wonders are awe-inspiring. In the past few months, the most significant treasure is our Canadian pride! Clearly, we stand together as Canadians. I have always counted my blessings to be born in Canada. A consequence of recent political happenings is the outpouring of love from countries around the world expressing their love of Canada.

As you all know, Robin is a well-travelled. What you might not know, whenever he is about to travel outside of Canada, he packs Canadian pins in his suitcase. He has often told me stories of how well our Canadian flag is known throughout the world. He will be the first to tell you that when he pins a Canadian pin on someone, he is rewarded with a genuine smile. I always enjoy these stories, but they carry a deeper meaning for me these days. This week, Robin went throughout the property and pinned one of his Canadian pins on our employees. Well done, Robin.

We can agree to disagree on politics but, I feel we all share our love of Canada and that needs to be celebrated.

Until next month, let's hope that our next Prime Minister is up for the challenge.

Gennie

Notes from the Safety Committee

As always, the minutes from our latest committee meeting are posted on the bulletin boards throughout the property. You are encouraged to take a moment and read them. You are also reminded to discuss any safety concerns you might have with your immediate supervisor.

Potholes, potholes and more potholes. The spring weight restrictions are in effect, dirt roads are rutted and muddy, and highway crews are busy filling potholes on paved roads throughout the province.

You can file a claim against the province if you have incurred damage to your vehicle if you believe the province may be responsible. You can submit a claim to Insurance and Risk Management, Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services for consideration.

Compensation is paid when an investigation finds that the province was negligent in their duties and that negligence resulted in your damage. In other words, when the province is found legally liable for the damage sustained. However, you are expected to make efforts to minimize damage. If you do not, you may be held responsible for part of the damage cost.

Deadline: within 30 days submit your claim within 30 days of the incident to ensure that your claim meets the notice requirement. A Claim Form is available online.

You must include evidence to support your claim. Take and send pictures of your damage. It will be very helpful if your camera can date your pictures. Also, take pictures of the surrounding area noting an absence of road signs warning of the presence of potholes.

Notes from the Safety Committee, con't

Submit your claim by email (risk@novascotia.ca), fax (902-424-2325, or regular mail (Insurance & Risk Management, PO Box 2205 Halifax, NS B3J 3C4).

FYI, Rob Himelman's better half was very successful a few years ago and received compensation.

Until next month, safe travels.

Trevor Hare, Brian Myers, Matthew Works, Craig Isenor, Angie Kainola, Mark Wilber

Notes from the President

My heart goes out to Milan Cameron. His wife passed away a couple of weeks ago after spending at least a couple of weeks in hospital. Milan was away from us for several weeks but is back on the job hauling our sawmill chips to the Shaw Group. Milan is 78 years young and tells me he started driving a truck when he was 17, so 61 years on the road and hasn't scratched a truck. He does tell me he had a few close calls. Milan spent some time at home but found the time long and needed to get back to doing what he does best. Life can be cruel and when it is all we can do is show our support. We are all thinking of you Milan.

After 6 weeks of nightshift at our planing mill it has ended. As you are aware, we had a lot of rough kiln dried lumber in the yard with no hope of catching up to the sawmill without some extra production from the planer mill. Thanks so much to everyone who signed up to help.

We have ordered a new planer which I believe is due to arrive in July and installation is currently scheduled to begin in the first week of August. The new planer, along with a few other changes will hopefully help with this problem in the future.

Notes from the President, con't

Once again, thank you to everyone involved for your dedication and commitment to getting us through this challenge. We can always count on team ELCO!

On the evening of Wednesday, March 12th the Elmsdale and Lantz fire department folks arrived for a reconnaissance tour. Great information was shared between us and the firefighters. Firefighters not only put a lot of time in for important events such as this but an immense amount of time in training to become the best that they can be. Their commitment to our communities and everyone in them is truly appreciated. Mark and I extended an invitation to all of them to come for a tour at their convenience when the mill is in operation. Hopefully, we can expect a visit from a few firefighters from time to time during the next few months.

The sawmill filing room can sometimes go unnoticed. Not by me, because I was a saw filer for 12 years a few decades ago. So, I know all too well the many challenges that can land in a saw filer's lap. New technology, new equipment and new-to-us equipment comes with a learning curve. Our new optimized gang edger is no exception. Donnie and Jason have been pushed to the limit to keep up with saw repairs. Our team of Stephen, Jason, Jon and Donnie are coordinating with the McDonough team and have addressed several issues, with a few more to go. This past week, they have noticed that they have made some notable headway. Guys, we know you have already put a massive amount of time and effort into tweaking our new equipment and it hasn't gone unnoticed. Hang in there!

Notes from the President, con't

It is election time once again. On Tuesday, March 26, we had a visit from Prime Minister Mark Carney and his entourage, including our new Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Rural Economic Development, Kody Blois (born and raised in East Hants). We had the opportunity to talk about the announcement of the new Mass Timber project. In addition, we chatted about what a huge benefit it would be to the Nova Scotia Forestry Industry to the potential reopening of Northern Pulp (fingers crossed).



Notes from Eacan Timber

I am sure everyone is aware of the turmoil in the lumber market these days. The reasons for this turmoil are TOO numerous to count, and we could discuss them forever. With that in mind, I think we should talk about HOCKEY!

On January 24, Eacan organized our second annual Industry Hockey Challenge. We held the game at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. Hoping to win the trophy, two “strong” teams gave it their all. The battles were fierce, and the game was very close (at this point you should be smiling to yourself and maybe even laughing just a little). In the end, Team Warren/Clark defeated team Austin/Joel and happily hoisted the custom-made trophy (crafted from wood, of course, and donated by one of the team members).

After the game, Eacan hosted the teams at the Halifax Mooseheads game for an evening of food, drinks, and laughs. It was an amazing event overall, with plenty of opportunities to network with other industry professionals.

Here is a list of the companies that participated (in alphabetical order):

- BMO
- Classic Freight
- Eacan Timber (Host)
- Freeman Lumber
- Lebel
- Ledwidge Lumber
- Taylor Lumber

We are hoping that this event will grow every year allowing us to add even more industry people. If anyone at ELCO is interested in participating, please reach out. For now “Keep your stick on the ice“ and **GO SENS!**

Warren Beeler

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Notes from Eacan Timber, con't



Notes from Woodlands

The provincial spring weight restrictions went place effective March 11th. This has been our understanding for a few weeks now, so no surprises. Nonetheless, as we continue to put efforts into building our log inventory, we will be looking to support harvest operations from our suppliers who are able to keep the log flow going. We are also setting our company operations into suitable locations to maximize log production during this time.

For the 3rd year in a row, Elmsdale Lumber participated as an exhibitor in the Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show which ran from March 7th – 9th. For this year’s show we partnered up with Tidal Tractor and Log Max Forestry Inc. These two companies have formed an alliance of sorts, where Log Max harvesting heads will be outfitted on Tidal Tractor’s Sany excavators.

Notes from Woodland's con't

We have such a combination working on Elmsdale Lumber operations currently. At the show there was an example setup along with content showing the equipment working on actual operations. Log Max has also provided a harvester simulator which is like a video game that is used as a training tool for new operators. This was in use over the weekend, and anyone interested tried it out to see what it is like to operate a harvester. This event provided lots of opportunity for conversations with outdoor enthusiasts about modern forestry practices and more specifically examples of the work Elmsdale Lumber can provide woodlot owners to encourage engagement in managing their woodlots. We have already developed relationships with several woodlot owners from previous shows and look to build on that this year. Our booth was in the back left corner of the big exhibitor room as part of a forestry themed section. From our perspective, it was a successful event and one we see value in continuing.

Until next time, Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Editor's Note: This is Peter's unpublished article from last month. Sorry for the delay Peter.

Almost There

It is 9.30 am on a Tuesday morning as I begin to write this. It is not my day off; this is the way my new NORM looks. We started working night shift earlier this month, so I am home throughout the day and working while most of you are sleeping at night.

We thought this night shift would run for 3 to 4 weeks to catch up on some rough lumber and lo and behold, this is week number four. To say I am excited would be an understatement. But just like every order that comes into the planer, it clearly states at the top of the page, "SUBJECT TO CHANGE".

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

And wouldn't you know; it changed. I worked graveyard shifts years ago at the airport and even here at ELCO when we knocked off at 3:30. Like Mark said, there are pros and cons to doing this. Just like most things, I guess. I have experienced mostly cons. But I am speaking for myself as others may enjoy it. Lots of changes to your lifestyle when working nights for sure. The only PRO I have experienced is there is no traffic when leaving work (LOL). One con for sure, sleeping alone. But, like I said earlier, this is week four and I can see the light at the end of the tunnel and I'm running towards it as fast as an old fat man can run who is trying to get back into the daylight and a normal routine again.

Notes from Craig Isenor's Corner

Back in the spring of 2024, Mark and I had a few serious discussions about how we would get out from under the almost 5 million board feet of rough lumber in the yard. With the summer on its way, and this larger than normal inventory of rough lumber in the yard, this was shaping up the perfect storm for losing a lot of lumber quality due to the heat and dust that was on its way.

At first, we decided to do a few extra hours per week at the planer. This certainly was a help, but it wasn't enough. In the first part of January, we started discussing the challenges of adding a night shift. With countless conversations and sleepless nights, we had a plan.

We split our normal day shift crew in half. This meant we would have to hire a few labourers. With Dwight (night) and Tim (day) needed to run machines during their shifts, we had no one to train the new hires. Mark and I pledged to be here through thick and thin to make this work. And that's what we did.

Notes from Craig Isenor, con't

After 6 long weeks of days and nights, we were able to offer our thanks and say goodbye to all the new hired help.

I want to send out a huge thank you for everyone's efforts during the last 6 weeks. We really couldn't have pulled this off without your support, commitment and skills.

February/March : 50/50 Winners

- | | |
|--------|------------------|
| Feb 7 | Jeremy Sutton |
| Feb 14 | Darren Isenor |
| Feb 21 | Shawn Preeper |
| Feb 28 | Leslie Isenor |
| Jan 31 | Brian Myers |
| | |
| Mar 7 | Rob Himelman |
| Mar 14 | Darrell Hennigar |
| Mar 21 | Shawn Preeper |
| Mar 28 | Wendell Henley |



March/April Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Peter Dillman | April 11 |
| Matthew Dillman | April 08 |
| Don Isenor | March 02 |
| Phillip Isenor | March 08 |
| Dwight Isenor | April 26 |
| Alex Lavrov | March 20 |
| Robbie Peters | March 12 |



February/March Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| Robbie Peters | 39 years |
| Peter Dillman | 46 years |
| Greg Grant | 27 years |
| Warren Hirtle | 41 years |
| Phillip Isenor | 35 years |
| Craig Isenor | 24 years |
| Ron Miller | 38 years |
| Roland Murray | 08 years |
| Craig Stewart | 34 years |
| Matthew Works | 07 years |



Ron Miller was Robin's first recipient of his Canadian flag pin. Happy faces!

