

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

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Notes from the Editor

Food insecurity is real. This article goes out to all the avid gardeners who read this newsletter. The East Hants Community Garden (224 HWY 214 Elmsdale) works to lessen these insecurities. The Elmsdale Community Garden collects data from the people who benefit from the free offerings that the garden provides. Their statistics reveal that folks who miss at least one meal a week due to food insecurities has increased from 15.46% last year to 19.35% this year. Those who miss meals daily has increased from 10.3% to 12.9%.

The Community Garden hosts pop up markets throughout the Corridor area. These markets provide free fresh produce and typically they serve drinks and snacks. Everyone is welcome. Throughout the year they prepare freezer meals which are available to those in need and free take-out lunches for the community. Often, they must purchase produce from our local vendors to ensure they have enough product to make their hard work worthwhile. To accomplish this, they rely on funding (government, corporate and public donations).

This is why I am campaigning local gardeners who produce an abundance of vegetables and regularly reach out to family, friends and neighbours to share in their harvests. I am asking you to also consider donating your harvest surplus to our Community Garden. I assure you they will put your generosity to good use.

On another note, in one of this summer's upcoming newsletters, I pledge to profile Sarah Nickelo. Sarah is our Jon Molnar's better half, and she is a marathon runner. I have reached out to Sarah to ask her if I could interview her on what it takes to become a marathon runner and she has agreed to let me publish what I have learned. Stay tuned.

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. 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.

Vigilance serves as our initial defense in our commitment to a safe workspace. By staying attentive and mindful of our surroundings, we significantly reduce the risk of accidents and injuries. Effective safety practices require proactive measures, including wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and ensuring proper maintenance of equipment. Every action taken towards safety contributes to a safer environment for all.

Just a reminder to give some thought to your next safety representative as nomination forms for our next committee will be distributed near the end of July. Current committee members are eligible to be re-elected.

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

Notes from the President

The boys in the sawmill continue to tweak their new optimized equipment. Their efforts are achieving better results all the time. During the last year, we have been producing a fair amount of 1 X 3 and 1 X 4 that we call recovery wood that we have otherwise not produced, and this fibre would end up in the chipper. These sizes take up a longer time than our normal production to complete the dressing and packaging part of the process. Consequently, our rough inventory has been steadily climbing. To combat this, we have engaged an extra couple of hours a day at the planing mill four days per week.

Notes from the President con't

They start at 6:00 am and finish up at 5:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

The crew at the planing mill are very engaged in this process and doing a great job. This is a very typical example of our team stepping up to the plate when we really need it. Thanks to everyone at the planing mill and keep up the great work. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

The recovery wood I previously spoke to, is also causing a problem at the sawmill and needs to be addressed. The number of pieces going through the trimmer does fluctuate a little, but it seems to me when I look at the screen, it is mostly around 60 pieces per minute. This needs to increase without putting any undue pressure on the guys working in that area. With that in mind, we have purchased a lug loading system supplied by BID Group Technologies. The machine is here, and we plan on shutting down on August 7th or 8th and hope to be only down for that weekend and maybe another day or two. This will be yet another machine requiring a lot of programming and tweaking by our mill guys. Like Mark and I, the guys appear to be excited to see how this machine will work into our process.

For the last few years, Brad Miesner of Eacan Timber has invited Mark and me for a couple days of salmon fishing on the Miramichi in New Brunswick. This year we were booked from June the 18th to the 21st at the Irving's Burnt Hill Lodge. It just so happened this was the exact time when we experienced the North American wide heat wave. OMG, it was hot, especially with no air conditioning at the camp and plus 36 degrees Celsius. No fish swim in extreme heat, so we left a day early to come home. On our way home, I was thinking about all of you here at the mill. Wow, it was hot. It's hard to believe a few days later we are down to 18 - 20 degrees and nice to do just about anything, including work. We did experience a very interesting thing on our way home.

Notes from the Presiden't con't

When you approach Sackville, New Brunswick you go down a bit of a hill toward the Tantramar Marshes. As we drove along, the temperature started to plummet. We watched the temperature gauge in the truck drop by one degree at a time and by the time we reached the Nova Scotia border it went from 36 degrees to 23 degrees. It was an unbelievable degree drop in 5 minutes of travel time. We stopped at Tim Horton's at the next exit, and it was a very nice temperature. I was out walking around the parking lot, stretching my back and it was a very nice 23 degrees. We were back in the vehicle heading towards home and the temperature started to climb again and when we arrived home it was back up to 36 degrees. I have never seen anything like this before or since.

On another note, we all know that time seems to slip by and as I get older the quicker it seems to pass. During the last week I have attended several events for our 14-year-old grandson Tristan who graduated from middle school and is heading to HERH to start Grade 9, and our 18-year-old grandson Ty, who you all know because he has worked here for the past 2 summers, graduated Grade 12 from HERH. It seems like yesterday we were sitting in the hospital waiting for his arrival. Ty will be joining us shortly for another summer before he goes to NSCC to take a Business Administration Course.

Until next month, let's enjoy our Canada Day long weekend. Robin



Notes from Eacan Timber

June is quickly wrapping up and school is (or has) ended for many students. I'm sure there are a few elementary age kids sad they don't get to see their friends daily, but I can't imagine too many middle school or high school kids are shedding tears this week. I know my kids are OK to say goodbye to school for a couple months.

My daughter (Kate) is completing her last year in middle school and she's ready to join the "young adults" in high school. My sons have completed their exams and will be walking across the stage in a couple days to complete Grade 12. It's bittersweet as they're getting ready for summer fun but realizing their friends will be scattered throughout Atlantic Canada this fall is hitting them.

July and August can be difficult to build momentum in the lumber industry as vacations kick in. We typically see a slowing down on job sites as less gets accomplished in the heat of the summer. However, it means fall is getting closer and there is more lumber required in September/October as the focus turns to getting things completed for the winter; coupled with the treaters stepping back in to buy volume for the next year.

I don't want to get ahead of myself as we enjoy the sunny Nova Scotia weather (assuming it is around the corner).

I hope everyone stays safe as they celebrate with graduates, enjoy Canada Day or travel on vacation. Stay safe.

Joel MacLaggan



Notes from Woodlands

Activity in the woods is really starting to ramp up as we head into the full swing of summer. Our summer harvest plans are shaping up and multiple operations are poised to start on MFI, Private, and ELCO blocks. Dana Rafuse finished the fire salvage cleanup in Tantallon which is a big relief as the wood quality was starting to deteriorate and dry with the summer heat. This ramp up in operations is necessary, as I hear that all the hard work from the sawmill crew with massive upgrade job is really showing gains and they are putting logs through faster than ever. To stay ahead with log inventory needs, it will be necessary to rely on the production from our woodlands operations as well as various supply partners going forward.

We wrapped up our planting program this week, as Rumcache Forestry Solutions who were tasked with our small program this year, were able to get the seedlings in the ground in short order. The rest of our silviculture program will be focused on mechanical and manual PCT, as well as commercial thinning.

Earlier this spring, I received a request to participate in a high school co-op program, taking on a student for an 80-hour work term. This grade 11 student, whose name is Brayden Watson, is planning to attend the Maritime College of Forest Technology after he completes grade 12 next year. Brayden has been a big help during his co-op period, working hard on boundary lines, planting as well as cruising work and has shown a great interest and enthusiasm for forestry. I think Brayden is going to stick around for the rest of the summer to help where needed and gain more experience for his upcoming forestry education plans. If you happen to bump into Brayden around the mill yard, I encourage you to say hi.

I hope everyone enjoys the long Canada Day weekend! Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner**Happy Birthday**

Monday is our Canada's birthday and in case anyone asks you how old we are, what are you gonna say? You are gonna say 157 years old. I worked last year's Canada Day at the Elmsdale Legion and as the day went on, I asked about 25 to 30 people that very question and was amazed at how little they knew about their country's age. Only two people got it right and one was a teacher. On Canada Day, if you are looking for some great grub, the legion is having chicken and ribs from noon to seven or until it sells out and this regularly happens. We have the coldest beer in East Hants along with AC. Eat in or take out, your choice.

Working 9:00 am – 5:00 pm : Nope 6:00 am – 5:30 pm

Wow, I didn't even realize it was the end of the month until the middle of this week. June has been a busy month for sure as we are working overtime for four weeks and possibly more to try and catch up on some of our orders. This makes me wonder how did we get in this spot to begin with? I can only guess because I am the curious type! Were our production numbers below what was anticipated? Did we run into too much unexpected down time? Did we take more orders than we could fill in a timely fashion? All the above or none of the above? Anyone who could answer any of these questions, please feel free to let me know as I stated earlier, I am the curious kind. Anyway, as a group, we are plugging ahead trying to catch up and resolve any production issues that we are experiencing. P.S., Mark and Craig were up and brought the guys lunch on the first Friday of overtime. Much appreciated.

Notes from Craig Isenor's Corner

Lately, Rob H and Peter D have been anxious for me to pick a date for our annual golf tournament. Admittedly, I have not started this process for several reasons.

As they appear to be very eager to book this event, I would not be disappointed if they took on the task of organizing this event. Might I suggest they pick a couple of tentative dates and distribute a memo of interest and availability to all our employees and traditional outside guests.

Way to go guys. You have officially been handed the reigns and the golf balls are in your court.

June 50/50 Winners

June 7	Don Isenor
June 14	Colin Hallahan
June 21	Tim Lohnes
June 28	Jason Isenor

**July Birthdays**

Jason Barr	July 15
Gordie Beaman	July 29
Gavin Gilmour	July 19
Darrell Hennigar	July 26
Rob Himelman	July 17
Tara Isenor	July 13
Angie Kainola	July 22
Nick Miller	July 02
Stephen Molnar	July 06

**June Anniversaries**

John Ashley	44 years
Leslie Isenor	34 years
Dwight Isenor	25 years
Jon Molnar	15 years
Shawn Preeper	36 years
Stephen Thompson	51 years

