

# WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

*Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited*

October 31, 2024

Issue # 336

## Notes from the Editor

October 31 marks our fiscal year end. It just seems like yesterday we were finishing up the work from last year. The saying, "time flies when you are having fun" might not be accurate in this case. The magnitude of our capital investments over the past several years adds a significant amount of paperwork to the normal process. I can tell you that Angie and Pam do a great job keeping track of all the necessary paperwork throughout the year and this helps when it comes to handing off our financials to our accounting firm, Doane Grant Thornton (new name, same firm).

On Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, the East Hants & Districts Chamber of Commerce hosted their annual Awards Dinner at the Oakfield Golf and Country Club. 10 awards were presented throughout the evening and ELCO was the recipient of the Innovative Business of the Year.

Earlier in the month, a photographer came to our site and recorded a video of our property which was displayed on a big screen, accompanied by the following dialogue.

1917 is the birth year of Elmsdale Lumber Company (ELCO). For the next 107 years, ELCO has been producing lumber in Elmsdale. ELCO is proud of its reputation for supplying premium lumber throughout Canada and the United States. The majority of ELCO's lumber production is sold in Nova Scotia.

Over past several years, ELCO has been substantially reinvesting in machinery with the newest optimized sawmill technologies. This will position ELCO for success for the foreseeable future.

ELCO is also very proud to provide meaningful employment opportunities for its dedicated workforce. Our motto is "Wise Use of Woodlands means sustained multiple use."

Robin accepted the award and dedicated it to our team! The team he is so proud of!

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.

Following our recent election for our newest safety committee, we are pleased to welcome Matt Works as our Planer Representative, Brian Myers as our returning Sawmill Representative, and Trevor Hare as our returning Yard Representative. Our next meeting is coming up soon so if you see something, say something. Safety concerns of any sort can be reported to your supervisor, your safety rep, or Mark Wilber, Craig Isenor, or Angie Kainola. Let's work together to be as safe as possible.

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

## Notes from the President

Last week, we completed our six session Supervisor's Course delivered by the East Hants Community Learning Association and facilitated by Phil Laven. Phil did a great job, and a lot of information was brought forward, and we experienced wonderful input from our supervisors who took the course. I am confident our supervisors are better armed with new tools to deal with their day-to-day issues.

A couple of months ago, we cut a hole in the end wall of the sawmill to remove our old lug loader and install a new Comact lug loader. The plan was to replace the wall, but our guys enjoyed the air it produced during the warmer weather, so a steel structure has been installed, making it ready for an overhead door. The door has been ordered. Currently, there is a temporary, insulated tarp covering the hole.

### Notes from the President, con't

The planing mill steam heaters were full of dust and this past weekend, when nobody else was in the mill, Dwight blew them out and cleaned them. They are now ready for winter weather. Dwight reports they are working great.

Now for the big news of the month, this past January the sawmill was down for 3 ½ weeks. During this shutdown, the planer mill was in full operation. At the end of the sawmill shutdown, we still had about a million board feet of rough lumber in the yard. The planing mill was obviously having problems keeping up with the sawmill production. Now, with our new optimized equipment, we have a better recovery and increased production. We have been in contact with Gilbert Products, who manufacture planers in Quebec. We make more product sizes than most sawmills, so ordering a planer with the many different options needed to accommodate our many product sizes can be somewhat of a challenge. Last week, we finalized a deal, and a new planer should arrive around June 2025.

Tim Houston has called for a snap provincial election to take place on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Our present MLA is John MacDonald, and he is also a member of the Houston government. John won the last election by a narrow margin. It will be interesting to see what happens during this election cycle. I am still not aware who his competition will be. I never ask, but any of the candidates who wish to come and introduce themselves, we always try to accommodate them. This way, any of you living in East Hants might get the opportunity to put a face to a name. I am always surprised at how many people do not vote. Tens of thousands of people in many free countries around the world lost their lives fighting to live in a free society. I don't think any of us should take the privilege of living in a free country for granted. Let's all take the time to listen to the candidates, make a choice and cast our ballots.

Until next month, Robin

### Notes from Eacan Timber

Joel would usually be writing this segment of the newsletter, but he is in the USA this week attending several trade shows. He is looking for more opportunities and solidifying our current business in the New England Market. So, here is my take on things. Fall is in full swing in Nova Scotia, the leaves have been beautiful over the last month. The temperature has dropped substantially, and snow tire season is well under way. The lumber market in Nova Scotia is VERY busy. There is a lot of new construction happening all over the province. Our Eacan/ELCO customers are anticipating a busy season right up until Christmas (wow that is truly a WINTER word).

As ELCO prepares for another year, we want to take a second and congratulate everyone for the hard work put in over the last 12 months (lots of changes, eh!).

All the best as you head into the new fiscal year (That sounds like Christmas again).

Until next month, Warren Beeler sitting in for Joel



### Notes from Woodlands

With hunting season in full swing, we have our active operations posted with no hunting signs, and our hunter's orange on while completing field work. We appreciate all who reached out letting us know you would like to use ELCO lands to hunt. It really helps us when we are in the loop where folks are setup prior to the season starting to make things as safe as possible for everyone. It also helps to avoid disappointment for the hunter, as we can advise you where we are planning forestry operations during the hunting seasons.

Heading into late fall, we will be putting forth efforts to build our log inventory to levels that will see us through a slowdown in deliveries with the likely seasonal trend to wetter weather ahead. This can affect woods road conditions and limit trucking. With some seasonal planning and the support of our suppliers and contractors, we feel confident we can build inventory to get us through.

We recently wrapped up 2 of 3 MFI harvests for this year. The gap thinning treatments went well, and everyone seems happy with the work. We appreciate the efforts of Back Country Farm and Forestry to complete the harvesting treatments to specifications and taking the care to minimize ground disturbance. Back Country is now working on the last MFI harvest, a cleanup job on a Fiona damaged block. As we are certainly on the back end of utilizing Fiona damaged wood, time is of the essence, and we appreciate Back Country stepping up to the plate to complete the job before winter. I also appreciate the folks at the sawmill having patience and working with Back Country and woodlands on recovery issues with this wood, finding a balance where we can utilize the fibre while supporting the contractor.

Until next month, Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team

### Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

#### What an Idea!

About 25 years ago, I moved from Enfield to Beaverbrook Subdivision in Elmsdale. To those of you that have been lucky enough never to have moved, there are certain things that need to be done when moving. One of those things is changing your mailing address so you don't miss out on getting your bills among other things (LOL). And do you know where I used to get my mail when I moved to Beaverbrook? Someone with Canada Post decided that the perfect spot for some of us to get our mail was in the parking lot at Sobeys. I kid you not! They installed the boxes at Sobeys in the parking lot. The kicker is, they paid someone to come up with this idea. I think it lasted no more than 6 months, and the boxes were moved out of there. I assumed they got rid of that guy. The reason I mention this is recently I was up at the Dollar Store and low and behold there are post office boxes to the side of the Dollar Store. Unbelievable! I know we are growing really fast out here and all, but really! Nobody wants to drive through a busy parking lot to get their mail. I am guessing the same guy who I thought got canned didn't after all. Hopefully he is close to retirement.

#### NHL

As I write this, my Habs are playing 500 hockey with 1 game remaining in the month of October. Winning or losing that game won't change my opinion on how our start to the season was. It's been **GREAT** as we have already done something we didn't do at all last season and that is they beat the Leafs! My buddy Rob was over after the game and brought me some blue and white five-dollar bills. It's been a couple of years since that has happened.

Remember Rob, it's better to give than receive (LOL). Go Habs Go!



**October 50/50 Winners**

Oct 4	Greg Grant
Oct 11	Darren Isenor
Oct 18	Chris Myers
Oct 25	Jason Casey



**November Birthdays**

Leslie Isenor	November 21
Ron Miller	November 8
Jimmy Sawler	November 30
Robin Wilber	November 10

**October Anniversaries**

Gennie Himelman	32 years
Lars Perry	1 year



**2024  
BUSINESS  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS**

***Congratulations  
Award Recipients***

**OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE**

**Sweet Spot Chocolate Shop**

*Sponsored by* COOPERATORS  
IRVING INVESTMENT & INSURANCE inc.

**NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR**

**Tot's Academy  
Child Care Society**

*Sponsored by* MUNICIPALITY  
OF EAST HANTS

**AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS OF  
THE YEAR**

**Riverview Herbs**

*Sponsored by* CALDWELL-ROACH  
INSURANCE

**TOURISM-HOSPITALITY BUSINESS  
OF THE YEAR**

**Good Robot Brewing**

*Sponsored by* HIAA

**INNOVATIVE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**

**Elmsdale Lumber Company**

*Sponsored by* PAYZANT HOME  
HARDWARE

**NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**

**Nature's Design  
Cleaning Company**

*Sponsored by* STRIDES SPA &  
WELLNESS

**EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY & INCLUSION**

**Move Yoga**

*Sponsored by* RIBAHY BROTHERS  
INV INC.

**YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR  
OF THE YEAR**

**Maria Gehue**

*Sponsored by* BDC

**BUSINESS OF THE YEAR  
(1-6 Employees)**

**LilyPond Vintage**

*Sponsored by* CBDC HANTS-KINGS

**BUSINESS OF THE YEAR  
(7+ Employees)**

**Withrow's Farm Market**

*Sponsored by* FUTUREWORX