

# WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

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Issue # 337

## Notes from the Editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year. My sister Maxine and I may have a difference of opinion on this sentiment. Beginning on September 1<sup>st</sup> each year, I would hear her randomly singing this song as she was preparing to send her kids back to school. For me, Christmas is my special time of year.

Well, another Christmas party is under our belts and again. It was another successful event, and we have some special memories with our friends and family. One of my special memories is the entertainment performed by a very talented Eacan duo, Evan Meisner and Warren Beeler. This entertainment was captured on video and will be posted on our website soon. It will be under the Events tab.

And, once again, I ate too much. In my defense, how could one not. The Elmsdale Legion puts on a scrumptious buffet!

Speaking of eating too much, I was invited to Eacan's holiday event at Shooters on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The hors d'oeuvres kept on coming and coming and I kept eating and eating. It is also noteworthy to mention that Ron Miller can pack away a dozen or more chicken wings and Pam White loves bacon wrapped scallops. I was in good company! Thank you Eacan. We can't wait until next year's event.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and all that is good!

We'll chat again in the New Year,

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.

Since 1996, each year at our Christmas party, we celebrate our employees who continue to work safely throughout the years. An employee who works 5 consecutive years without a WCB claim is awarded a safety jacket of ELCO's choosing. Should he or she work 10 consecutive years without a claim, they choose their own jacket and for each consecutive 5 years thereafter. Here is the history of this year's recipients:

**John Ashley:** 5-year in 1996, 2008 & 2024 and a 10-year in 2001.

**Chris Myers:** 5-year in 2019, 10-year in 2024.

**Darren Isenor:** 5-year in 2014, 10-year in 2019, 15-year in 2024.

**Jason Barr:** 5-year in 2009, 10-year in 2014, 15-year in 2019, 20-year in 2024.

**Don Isenor:** 5-year in 2000, 5-year in 2009, 10-year in 2014, 15-year in 2019, 20-year in 2024.

**Jason Molnar:** 5-year in 1999, 10-year in 2004, 15-year in 2009, 20-year in 2014, 25-year in 2019, 30-year in 2024.

**Warren Hirtle:** 5-year in 1996, 10-year in 2001, 15-year in 2004, 20-year in 2009, 25-year in 2014, 30-year in 2019, 35-year in 2024.

**Robin Wilber:** (list is too long) 55-years in 2024.

Congratulations guys. Here's hoping you achieve another 5 years! You continue to demonstrate that your commitment to safety is no accident.

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

**Notes from the President, con't**

Traditionally, we do not publish a newsletter in the month of December because it tends to be a very busy, festive month. Gennie postponed our November newsletter because Chris and I, along with Mark and Amanda, left for the southern part of Africa from November 11th and returning on December 5<sup>th</sup>. We visited 3 countries', South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. We visited numerous National Parks, each around 30,000 acres. We saw many large and small (and even tiny) African animals that live in Africa's wilderness areas and deserts. We learned how people and animals survive together in very harsh climates.

In the past, these countries have been ruled by other countries like Germany and Britian in a very harsh way. They now have their independence. They look at all industries that come their way as opportunities, including the tourist industry. Many citizens thanked us for visiting and acknowledged we help to build their economy. In the smallest of ways, they continue to embrace opportunities. I will never forget the quote from Alfie, our geo-adventure tour guide in the country of South Africa. I quote, "the more we learn, the more we realize how little we know."

Our Christmas party, as usual, was a great success. Two fellows from Eacan Timber, Evan Meisner, accompanied by Warren Beeler, put on another great show. I am not sure how Evan is able to write these songs, but he roasted a few of us and it was great fun and very well done. For the past several years, Eacan has donated \$500 for a draw to one lucky member of our ELCO team. This year, they decided to up the ante to \$750. It was decided to spread the wealth and draw 3 names for \$250 each. You had to be there to win. The lucky winners were Dwight Isenor, Angie Kainola & Jordan Nicholson.

Once again, the Elmsdale Legion provided a huge spread of delicious food and great bartenders, one of which, is our very own Peter Dillman. Thanks, Peter, for your great service, along with your co-bartender Cissy.

**Notes from the President, con't**

Now for a bad news, good news story. Most of you are familiar with our grandson Ty Campbell. He has worked for us for the past 3 summers. Ty graduated last year from Hants East Rural High and this year he is studying at the NSCC taking Business Administration. Ty is a great ball player and a great hockey player. He is on the East Hants Junior B team. Chris and I enjoy going to the rink every Friday night to watch the game. They have a great win/loss record.

Ty has been suffering from migraine headaches for the past year. Some tests were completed last Friday at the Colchester Regional Hospital in Truro, and they found he had an 18mm aneurysm at the base of his brain. For prospective, an aneurysm over 6mm is very worrisome. This was a shock to the doctors. They saw the mass and were worried about cancer. They were very relieved that this was not cancerous. They also said it was very unusual to have such a large aneurysm in someone so young. The QE11 immediately booked him in for surgery for Monday morning. The surgery was a great success. At 6 pm on Monday evening, he was sitting up in bed and starving. So, his mom and dad ordered up a pizza. Sounds like a quick recovery to me. He was released from the hospital on Tuesday evening and spent the night in his own bed.

Merry Christmas everyone. Robin

**Notes from Eacan Timber**

Now it is time to play the what if game. US President Elect Donald Trump is saying that he may consider applying upward of 25% tariffs on all imports to the United States from Canada and Mexico. That includes lumber. We have been having conversations with our customers in the United States about these potential tariffs. There seems to be some confusion as to whether or not he will actually impose these tariffs.

**Notes from Eacan Timber, con't**

We have suggested to our US customers, and they have agreed, that we ship their January/February lumber to them prior to January 20<sup>th</sup>. If tariffs are imposed on Day 1, there will be confusion and interruption at the border to say the least. It will take some time to figure out the complexities. In any case, ultimately, any increase will be passed onto the consumer. This proactive, rather than reactive approach, will give us time to move forward in March. Fingers crossed. In the meantime, you folks are working on a healthy order file and things look good for the New Year.

From everyone at Eacan Timber to each of you at ELCO, have a happy, healthy holiday season.

Joel MacLaggan



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**Notes from Woodlands**

As 2024 is wrapping up and we look back, our attention has been on several themes during the year. With limited space, I will touch on a couple.

Efforts continued with cleaning up tropical storm Fiona damaged forest stands. As the wood continued to degrade, challenges around harvesting and utilizing the fibre increased as most of the trees damaged during the storm are now considered "low grade" material. Although there are programs available to help the contractor with the cost side of harvesting low grade stands, limited markets for the fibre have presented further challenges. Along with those challenges, another concern is that every operation focused on harvesting low grade wood results in a reduction of harvesting capacity focused on producing saw logs and studs. It is very important to clean up as much of the affected areas as possible, however, with most sawmills having experienced a reduction in deliveries over the last few months this balance will be a delicate one until the cleanup efforts wrap up.

**Notes from Woodlands, con't**

On a related topic, another theme in the forest industry that some have been focused on in 2024 has been the feasibility around partial harvesting treatments, particularly commercial thinning. Being an important part of a thinning series implemented during the rotation of a managed forest; commercial thinning is also a vulnerable one. Many stands commercially thinned in Nova Scotia have been damaged during wind events. Losing fibre at this stage is especially hard hitting in terms of forest management. Much investment is put into these stands at that point, and where they are approaching, yet short of optimal sized saw logs, to lose them at this stage is a blow to utilization and sustainability. There does not seem to be a perfect solution, as every site is different, and how the treated areas react to wind events is somewhat unpredictable. However, with an obvious need to try a different approach, we have put forth efforts over the last year to do just that. These efforts include thinning stands earlier and shorter, using smaller equipment to reduce trail width, and thinning using a patch/trail system to remove what should be removed but ensuring vulnerable areas are not opened too much.

Time will tell how, or if, these adjustments will pay off. Forestry is very much a long game, however the decisions we make now can result in outcomes that pay off in the long run.

There never seems to be a dull moment in the forest industry, so I have no doubt 2025 will be another interesting one.

Enjoy the holiday season and see you in 2025.

Jason Casey and the Woodlands Team

## Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

### Christmas Comes Early

Well, as many of you have heard our Prime Minister of Canada is cutting the GST on some items beginning December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Here are the top three as I see it.

Number One - BEER

Number Two - TOYS

Number Three - Christmas Trees

This GST holiday will be in place for two months. Then in the spring 18.7 million of us (and yes, I am included in that number) are going to receive a cheque for \$250.00. Merry friggin' Christmas.

I have heard some people say he is just trying to buy votes to which I say GOOD STUFF! This is nothing new. I remember being a kid and my mom or dad being offered a pint of rum to vote a certain way and if you needed a ride to the polling station that was thrown in as well. I guess you could say we are getting a KICKBACK like some company's get and a lot more than we know. I am going to remember who put that beer in my hand come election time JUSTIN. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

### Bye Bye Bubba

As you are reading this, our friend and co-worker Bubba has been gone for a few weeks. Bubba accepted a job offer too good to pass up. I always thought Bubba would be here for life and I told him so, but he assured me he would only be here for a couple of years at most. Well, we now know he is not a lifer as I had predicted but he went way past his two-year projection. It is a big step he is taking, and I am sure he gave it a lot of thought. I have no doubt he will do very well at his new job. We want to wish him all the best.



I wrote this note to Bubba on Jan 16/2007. Bubba told me he wouldn't be here in 23 years. I told him he was full of shit and to write it down because he's a man of his word. We'll see. And I signed it!

## November/December 50/50 Winners

Nov 01	Robbie Peters
Nov 08	Stephen Thompson
Nov 15	Rob Himelman
Nov 21	Rob Himelman
Nov 29	Chris Myers
Dec 06	Greg Grant
Dec 13	Jon Molnar



## December Anniversaries

Brian Myers 25 years



## December & January Birthdays

Ben Arsenault	December 10
Wendell Henley	January 30
Gennie Himelman	January 29
Tim Lohnes	January 05
Leo May Puc	January 15
Jason Molnar	December 22
Brian Myers	January 15

