

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

July 31, 2020

Issue # 292

Notes from the Editor

I believe we are subject to a second wave of COVID-19 as we open more and more boarders. I believe Nova Scotians have done a terrific job cooperating with and participating in the protocols outlined by the experts and government officials. I believe Nova Scotians are compassionate and will do what is necessary to minimize the outbreak of a second wave of this pandemic and protect our family, friends and citizens of this province.

I also believe when we know better, we do better. When worn properly, a person wearing a non-medical mask or face covering can reduce the spread of his or her own infectious respiratory droplets. Please be kind and do what you must to be a part of the solution.

This past weekend, my 12-year-old grandson and my 13-year-old great nephew had a sleepover at my place. We were at a neighbourhood party prior to going to my place and arrived at my home close to midnight. As we were unlocking my door, these youngsters were already asking for my wi-fi password. After an exhaustive search, I came up empty handed. They suggested I text Angie to see if she knew it. I informed them it was past midnight and I was not going to text anyone at that time of night. I explained that I had 2 tablets, a smart tv, and they were more than welcome to use all the above. Around 3:30 in the morning, they successfully hacked my password. They were excited to explain to me how they had accomplished the breach. Apparently, they synced their phones to my smart tv and obtained a UPC like symbol and uploaded it to their phones. Their explanation was much more technical than I have described, and I was lost as soon as they told me they synced their phones to my smart tv.

When you know better, you do better!

Until next month, let's continue to do what we can to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Gennie

Notes from the Safety Committee

2020 in Review

Jan	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Feb	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Mar	0 lost time	1 medical aid
Apr	0 lost time	0 medical aid
May	0 lost time	0 medical aid
June	0 lost time	0 medical aid

Our annual safety points bank cashes out on July 31. At the end of July, we will tally the points we've earned this year and order our safety awards. We will distribute them in August as soon as they arrive. Thanks to everyone for always making safety a priority.

Our two-year term for our safety committee members is coming to an end and we will be holding Safety Committee elections in August to establish our new committee. As a reminder, there is a two-year commitment and we will need a representative from the sawmill, the yard, and the planer mill. Give some thought to whom you believe would be a great asset to our committee and watch for the nomination sheets next month. Current members are eligible to be re-elected.

As we make advances in our fight against COVID-19, please remember we are not out of the woods yet. The importance of social distancing, proper hand washing, hand sanitizer, and yes, masks when needed, are vitally important parts of our efforts to keep ourselves safe and healthy. Let's not get complacent. Everyone, please continue to do your part. We truly are in this together.

If you see a safety hazard or have a safety concern, please speak with your direct supervisor or safety committee representative.

Until next month, Nick Miller, Darren Isenor, Don Isenor, Craig Isenor, Mark Wilber and Angie Kainola

Notes from the President

In early June, a friend of mine sent me an email requesting my advice. He wanted me to recommend someone in our industry who could offer him advice on some best forestry practices to improve the health of his woodlots. I told him I would reach out to our expert, Jason Casey and ask Jason for his recommendation. I explained that Jason has a terrific reputation in forest management, and I would follow any suggestions he might offer me.

As promised, I reached out to Jason and he arranged for my friend to meet with Devon Wilkins. I recently received an email from my friend, and he told me he met with Devon and they walked through their 30+ acre forested land in Moser River. Devon pointed out the most valuable red spruce, yellow birch, and the less valuable fir and white birch. Devon wanted to know about any eagle nests and when we found one, he pinned it in his aerial view of the property for future reference. For each stand, we discussed how and what we could do to improve the health of the woodlots.

As they were saying goodbye, he was convinced Devon knew his stuff. Devon told him how Mr. Casey had encouraged him to become involved in the forestry program and described him as his mentor.

He went on to explain that when he and Devon meet again, they will assess the powerline issues and get a better idea of the overall density and locations of the various tree stands and determine the appropriate logging processes and equipment which would best suit his harvest plans. He also introduced him to a program that may help minimize the cost of harvest.

My friend thanked me for recommending Devon.

In my return email, I told my friend I would pass on his comments to Jason and how fortunate we are to have Jason on our team.

When I shared these emails with Jason, he told me that he finds this kind of work the most rewarding.

Notes from the President, con't

Jason also told me he feels fortunate to be a part of a team that allows him the opportunity to continue to mentor the next generation of forest managers and he is confident in Devon's skills, knowledge and abilities to achieve the best outcomes for my friend and for the health of the forest.

Well done Jason and Devon!

Earlier in July, we decided to run a few orders at the planer which required a more complicated planer setup than normal. We set Tuesday, July 28th as the evening we would accomplish this. Because we knew this would cause significant downtime during our normal production day, we asked for volunteers to work overtime (paid of course). Little did we know, we picked one of the hottest, humid days of the summer. This did not stop our determination to get this done. Thanks to the efforts of Dwight, Justin, Darren, Odessa, Peter, Warren and Craig (and despite the extreme heat), we finished up around 7:30ish p.m.

Craig and I were assigned to the wrapping station and clearly, we need much more practice before we can say we are qualified to present a neatly wrapped ELCO product. Craig was having difficulty with the stapler and asked our resident wrapper Odessa if there was something wrong with the stapler. Odessa took hold of the stapler and after a few, quick, accurately placed staples, she determined the stapler was working just fine and maybe the problems were operator related.

Many years ago, we planted Rugosa Rose bushes along the fence boarding the front of our site. When these roses are in full bloom, pedestrians not only enjoy their beauty but their rosy fragrance. Over the years, it has been a challenge to keep the roses free from weeds and undergrowth. They are very thorny which makes the weeding process a little more taxing. Let's just say it is not for the week at heart.

Notes from the President, con't

For some reason, this year's weed growth was very invasive, and a good weeding was in order. After some discussion on who best to ask to take on the challenge, we approached Jason Molnar's teenaged daughters Larrisa and Shelby to see if they would be interested in making a few extra dollars and they accepted the challenge. They did a great job under the watchful eye of mom and dad. We have received several comments on how thorough a job they did. Clearly, the Molnar genes did not skip a generation. The girls worked hard through the rain and the extreme heat. Well done ladies!

Until next month, take some time to stop and smell the roses. Robin

Notes from Sales

The weather has certainly been nice for many vacationers over the last couple weeks. Bright sunny days are good for the soul.

The temperatures are not the only thing that is HOT! Lumber prices have been on a major upswing; the likes I haven't seen before. Certain sku's have hit record high prices and some in the industry believe it won't stop for many weeks to come. Retail prices have yet to catch up to replacement prices and a few items have hit \$1,000 per thousand board feet FOB mill. Needless to say, there's a significant amount of anxiety for the future and future prices. Until then we'll smile and wave.

Stay safe and be sure to enjoy the warm weather and the beautiful province we call home.

Until next month; stay safe. Joel McLaggan, President Eacan Timber

Notes from Woodlands, con't

I am writing this newsletter shortly after packing up our travel trailer to head over to Prince Edward Island for a few days. I have my Atlantic Bubble travel documents in place and plan on a 6:00 am departure to hopefully beat the long weekend line ups at the check points. My family is very excited to be able to take a small vacation, something that didn't seem likely a few months ago. I feel well prepared to tackle the border crossings as Craig Isenor and family headed over to PEI last month and he has armed me with what to expect and a few tips.

We are back in Pockwock starting a 2-year harvest job. As this job is fine weather dependant, we will be pulling out sometime towards the end of September and returning next summer. We look forward to once again working with Barry Geddes, the Watershed Land Manager. Working in the watershed comes with its own rules and practices. Our contractor, Beaver Dam Enterprises, has many years of experience working in and around the watershed and they have continually achieved very successful results.

As predicted, the closure of Northern Pulp is making it much more difficult to find harvest blocks. If we are lucky enough to find one, the next challenge is finding harvesting power. We continue to convey the message that Northern Pulp was the major buyer of pulpwood. In the absence of revenues from this pulpwood, harvesting is not profitable for landowners and many have chosen to put off harvesting until an alternative market becomes available.

Until next month, let's enjoy our Atlantic Bubble!

Jason and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Before I begin, there are a couple of corrections to be made from my last newsletter. First, I welcomed Austin Hull on board our team and said he was no relation to Bobby or Brett. After he read the newsletter, he informed me that he does have an Uncle Bobby. So, yes Austin is the nephew of one Mr. Bobby Hull. The second correction was that I said Tara would be fifty on July 13th. This was incorrect as Tara turned 45 years young. I'm not sure why the Editor didn't catch this, but I'm not looking to blame anybody but if I was, I would have the Editor take a long hard look at Tara. (Editor's note: Clearly, I knew Tara was turning 45 but I assumed this must be a long-standing joke between the author and Tara. But I always say we should never assume anything because it makes an ASS out of U and ME).

To Pay or Not to Pay

Maggie works every weekend so I try and help where I can. She lets me know if we need stuff at the store and I pick it up. We are Superstore shoppers. Others like Sobeys and for some it's both. I went one Saturday and picked up what was on the list. Once again, I could not get my vegetable chip dip. I would say I'm able to get it once every twenty attempts. I always get asked the same thing at the checkout. "Did you find everything you were looking for?" "No" is my standard reply. The follow up is, "Would you like me to check out back?" After taking them up on their offer, within a minute or two I am told they are sorry, but they don't have any. Of course they don't but that's okay.

Later in the day I discovered we were out of tinfoil, so on Sunday morning I decided I would go to Sobeys because it opens an hour earlier, and I wanted to get this over with. We also needed a carton of milk, hamburg buns, and I would also check to see if they might have some vegetable chip dip. While entering Sobeys, I ran into a fellow ELCO employee. Actually, he almost ran into me. We chatted for a couple of minutes. I grabbed what I went for (but not the dip because there wasn't any) and headed for the 15 items or less cashier.

As I placed my stuff on the belt I walked up to the cashier and we exchanged pleasantries as she rang in my groceries. She told me my total and I gave her a twenty.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't

As I walked to the end of the belt to bag my stuff, she asked me if I wanted a bag. I could feel a smile starting to form on my lips. I didn't see any bags at the end of the checkout. She told me the cost of a bag was 5 cents and asked if I would like one. There were so many things I wanted, and could have said, but the girl was just doing her job. "No thanks", I replied. I reached into my pocket and pulled out a quarter. I suggested to her that I could afford it because I have the money right here, but I just can't do it on principle but thanks anyway. Some of you might get it and some of you will never get it but I believe in what I believe. Only a nickel you say. Actually, it isn't about the nickel. To me it's about the principle. I could give you countless examples, but I will give you just one.

If you came to the bar to buy a beer and I asked you for 3 dollars please, you may ask if you can have a glass. How would you feel if I said, sure but it is 25 cents more for the glass? You might challenge me and suggest the glass should be included in the price. No more so then you would expect a bag or box to parcel your groceries you just purchased from the store. Anyway, as I was getting into my truck and starting to pull away my fellow ELCO employee was coming out with his cart filled with his groceries. "I can't help notice you didn't buy any bags." (he could have used 4 or 5). "No", he replied, "I have all kinds at home I just forgot them". Same results but two very different reasons. I didn't buy them because of my principles, and he didn't buy them because (and this is just my opinion) he's cheap. Now, I don't know this guy well as I only see him in passing. To the folks in the office who work with him every day, you may think I'm way off base, and if I am please feel free to put a rebuttal in on his behalf.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Casper Needs Your Assistance

Whitey is always more than willing to help all of us out whenever we bring him a problem, whether it's work related or personal in nature. He has fixed Odie's car key a couple of times now for her so she can keep on moving. On July 8th, the planer mill phone rang at about 6:35 am. It was Odie and she was in trouble. She was at the Irving in Elmsdale and she locked her keys in the car. Oh, and more urgently, her young son Casper was in the car. She needed some help now! A few good Samaritan's (Matt Works included) tried to get it open but to no avail. She couldn't convince Casper to hit the button as he was laughing too hard at what was going on around him. One man suggested she call Bill Borden, a locksmith in Enfield. Odie called and he was there in a couple of minutes and got her into her car. Hats off to Bill. We are still trying to talk Odie into getting a second key for her car as she only has the one.



Notes from Peter's Corner, con't

Tyler to the Rescue

Earlier this month, on the way home to Kennetcook, Tyler and his crew passed by a jogger in Nine Mile River. As they were passing him, he took a pretty hard fall on the shoulder of the road. Tyler turned around and went back to check on the man and make sure he was okay. I would like to think most people would have done the same as Tyler but I'm not sure that's the case. But, good for you Tyler.

Speaking of Tyler, he comes over to pick up Nick at the planer mill parking lot now. The other night, as he stopped to let Nick get into his car, an S.U.V. started to back out (without looking I might add) and was headed straight for Tyler. Tyler gave him the horn and that must have brought him out of his stupor because he applied the brakes and narrowly missed Tyler. There's a thing in the middle of your windshield. It is called a REARVIEW MIRROR. You should investigate this before and during anytime you backup your vehicle. It only takes a second to be involved in an accident. Therefore, Tyler White is hereby named EMPLOYEE of the month as far as I am concerned. Other than getting your name mentioned in the newsletter Ty, that's about all you get.



July 50/50

July 3	Nick Miller
July 10	Don Isenor
July 17	Darren Isenor
July 22	Angie Kainola
July 29	Greg Grant



Aug Birthdays

Jason Isenor	Aug 14
Jon Molnar	Aug 08
Roland Murray	Aug 03
Downey Thompson	Aug 13
Stephen Thompson	Aug 24
Tyler White	Aug 07



July Anniversaries

Weslie Benoit	1 year
Justin Isenor	5 years
Chris Myers	18 years
Mark Wilber	19 years

