

# WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

April 27, 2018

Issue # 268

## Notes from the Editor

Last month I was properly reprimanded for not reporting a significant anniversary! Warren Hirtle celebrated his 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary with ELCO last month and he couldn't wait to read about this milestone in last month's newsletter. Imagine his disappointment when it wasn't there. I tried to reassure him that I did not intentionally exclude him. To make amends, I am reporting this milestone front and center and offering him my humble apologies along with a buffet run to our favourite lunch place, the Hilton Garden Inn. Hopefully, this will be enough to mend his bruised ego!

Today I received a voicemail from "Revenue Canada's Tax Department" on my cellphone. The automated message warned me that a tax warrant was being issued against me and that if I did not return the call immediately, I would be arrested. The man's voice was very threatening. As I was not intimidated by this call, I chuckled and played this message several times to members of the office staff. Chris suggested that I take the message to the RCMP office in Enfield as they might be able to trace the information or, at least, help notify the public not to return these types of calls. I visited our local detachment on my mission. I was told that I was the 6<sup>th</sup> person to visit the detachment today with the same concerns.

This leaves me to ponder just how many others received this message. Please, please do not push the panic button if you receive calls such as this. It seems we live in a world where we are challenged by technology. Don't be intimidated. If in doubt, talk to someone before you take any action.

Until next month, remember April showers bring May flowers. Gennie

## Notes from the Safety Committee

### 2018 in Review

Jan	2 lost time	0 medical aid
Feb	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Mar	0 lost time	0 medical aid
Apr	0 lost time	0 medical aid

The minutes from our last safety meeting are posted on the bulletin boards around the property. Please take a moment to review these and address any concerns with your supervisor.

Earlier this week Brian Giddens & Angie attended the AGM of the Forestry Safety Society. They learned about the FSS's activity over the last year and listened to a presentation from Mary Morris with the Office of the Employer regarding the legalization of marijuana in a couple months and what businesses can expect. It was an informative session and we thank Al Angrinon of the Forestry Safety Society for the invitation.

Saturday, April 28, 2017 marks the annual Day of Mourning to remember those lives lost or workers injured on the job in Nova Scotia. In 2017, just under 24,000 workers were injured on the job in Nova Scotia, including 21 workplace fatalities. This year, April 28<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday, so we encourage you to remember those lost & observe a moment of silence. More information can be found at [dayofmourning.ns.ca](http://dayofmourning.ns.ca).

Our next group safety meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23. As usual, lunch will be served so come hungry. We'll also have a representative from Blue Cross onsite to give a quick recap of our medical plan & address any specific questions you might have. We'll send out a reminder closer to the meeting date to keep you all informed.

Until next month, Brian Giddens, Don Isenor, Craig Isenor, Mark Wilber and Angie Kainola

**Notes from the President**

The foundation for the new shavings containment building is now complete. During the excavation, we dug up the drainage pipe that is attached to a catch pit up by the kilns. This had to be re-routed along with another catch pit installation next to the new building. Proper drainage is important. We don't want to fill our new building with water on heavy rain days. The plan is to let the ground settle, watch how it is draining and then pave this area next year to keep the drainage system working efficiently.

Over the past few months, we have been looking at investing in a couple capital projects at the sawmill. To help our team with our strategic planning, we contracted Fritz Weirathmueller of FW Technologies. We have a very long and enjoyable history with Fritz and his family. Many years ago, Fritz's uncle, Joe Weirathmueller, (nick-named Joe 14 because there are 14 letters in Weirathmueller) launched Valley Machine Works Ltd. in Nackawic, New Brunswick. Fritz was their young engineer. In 1994, we purchased our present day, combination edger, which is called a TAC 9" x 54" edger. This machine has been an absolute workhorse for the sawmill and continues to this day. When Mark was about 12 years old, Fritz and Joe developed a great rapport. It is wonderful how things come full circle in life.

The upgrade to the sawmill won't happen anytime soon as I am told the delivery date for a piece of equipment is about a year from date of order and we have yet to place an order. In addition to this challenge, we need to solve some issues with the building itself. So, with that said, I will try to keep you posted.

Mark, Craig, Rob, and their friend Aaron Romo, went back to our fishing camp for a few days this past week. Mark sent me a picture of a Mayfly sitting on his finger on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. That is super early. I think in a "normal" year, you might see a Mayfly about May 2.

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

Global warming or just crazy weather, who knows? I can tell you that the ice has been out of the lakes for about 6 weeks and normally, it would be just out this week. My father and I have enjoyed fly fishing all our lives, rather than bait fishing. Jim Sawler used to enjoy going fishing with my dad at least once or twice each year. Jim is an expert at fly tying. He has been very generous over the years, supplying me, Frenchie and Mark with flies. In the past few years, he has given me flies for my grandson, Ty. My younger grandson, Tristan visited the camp for the first-time last year and this year, Jim has given me two bags of ties, one for Ty and one for Tristan. These bags included ties like my dad's invention, the "yellow tiger" and Jim's invention of the "woodchuck". These are both excellent flies. He also included a new fly and I don't know its name just yet, but I intend on catching up with Jim to find out and to thank him. Jim, your flies are very much appreciated, and I make sure to tell the boys where they come from so they can thank you in person. If they are fortunate to land a trout using one of your flies, and I happen to have my camera ready, I will present you with a photo.

To all you trout fishermen, enjoy the season.

Until next month, Robin.

**Notes from Sales**

April has been another exciting month for lumber markets. We continue to see strong demand and prices continue to be very positive. There have been some shipping issues on the West Coast which is causing some bumps in the flow of lumber to customers. There is also the possibility of a rail strike by Canadian Pacific's conductors and engineers. If this happens, it will certainly put a strain on the lumber supply entering the market place. This is all good news and will help keep the markets strong.

We have waited a long time for such good markets and all the economic forecasts lead us to believe that this cycle will be here for the foreseeable future.

### Notes from Sales, con't

Let's hope so; the last recession was a long one, so the bounce back to recovery needs to stay around for awhile.

Here on the East Coast, we are hearing more and more about log shortages. This also has a positive effect on the market as mills struggle to run double shifts which keeps the market short of lumber. Quite often in the past, in good markets, mills ramped up production to take advantage of higher lumber prices only to flood the market with surplus lumber and drive the price lower.

We are certainly not there this time and it appears that we probably won't get there for awhile. We are entering the busy season in the lumber business, so as the roads open and the log supply increases we should still have a balance in the supply and demand.

We do live in a cyclical world, it's great to be able to report good news in the lumber markets these days,

Until next month, we will take all we can get! Cheers, Derek

### Notes from Woodlands

This past Monday, the imposed road closure was lifted from south Colchester to Yarmouth counties. This Monday, all other counties, except for Inverness, Cumberland, and Victoria will open. We hope to see an increase in deliveries as conditions improve and suppliers gain access to roadside wood or new blocks. We are still reaching out to increase our inventory, and as previously expressed, appreciate the continued efforts of our suppliers.

We have started our silviculture program for the year with some pre-commercial thinning and tree planting. We will spread our program out over the summer into the fall with planned treatments as we continue to invest in our woodland holdings as well as private land.

Our harvest operations will also include silviculture treatments over the next few months as Beaver Dam Enterprises will be working on a private woodlot. The operation will include commercial thinning, as well as some other partial harvesting treatments, and over-story removal.

### Notes from Woodlands, con't

The commercial thinning areas we will be operating in were previously thinned approximately 20 years ago; a key treatment allowing the site to develop into a state where it is suitable for a commercial thinning. The pre-commercial thinning completed when the stand was young resulted in the high-quality trees left to grow, developing healthy crowns, ultimately providing stand conditions that would later respond well to the commercial thinning we have scheduled. Another area we will be treating on the same lot is an older stand that we will be thinned and opened to encourage regeneration. In this area we will remove trees that are appropriate, which will allow light through the canopy, and aid the regeneration of high quality species. The last area we will be operating in is yet in another stage and condition, where the stand has opened on its own through natural mortality and disturbances. The openings have resulted in an abundance of regeneration, so we will remove the over-story to release this established regeneration. This will allow it to receive treatments in a few years, just like the commercial thinning stand I first mentioned was treated years ago, starting the young stand down the same path.

We do not always have the opportunity to operate on a woodlot that has such a diverse amount of stand conditions that allow or where it is practical to do multiple treatments within the same harvest area. It is also a good example of where partial harvest methods can be appropriate and where they are not. We look forward to the results of the operation and the improvements they should make.

Until next month, Jason and the Woodlands Team

## Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

### Hello - Hello

Dear Angie:

Don't be deterred from calling us at breaktime as we have almost figured out how to use the portable phone. A couple more calls and we should have it down to a science. Thanks.

### Stop the Press

Big news this month! Our very own B has become an uncle for the very first time and to say he is happy would be an understatement. He has been showing us photos of his niece, smiling all the while. Congratulations to you and yours B.

### Welcome Aboard

Aaron Lemmons-Tipping has joined us here at the planer recently. No, not that country singer, although our Aaron is in a band. He cruises on down every morning from the outskirts of Truro in his PT Cruiser. Aaron is into heavy metal; besides all the heavy metal he has in his ears. He plays in a heavy metal band called "Indifference" and they sound not too bad. They have a gig in Moncton on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Aaron recently had a tour of the sawmill and was quite impressed. He got to meet Tara's better half as well as a few other people.

Sass, those things in his ears are called tunnels. If you are thinking about getting a set, I am sure Aaron could point you in the right direction and he can answer any questions you might have. Just let him know.

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

### Nice to See Ya

Theresa was in for a visit. It is always nice to see a friendly face, even if it is hers. Theresa was on recess break and she popped down for a quick hello and to give Slink her lotto money. Unfortunately, Slink was off sick, and Tara was at an appointment, so she trusted me to give it to Slink. The next day, Slink was still sick and didn't come to work, so I trusted Tara with Theresa's lotto money. I was afraid I might forget to give it to someone. Slink came in the next day, and Tara went to give him Theresa's money and she couldn't find it in her lunch bag. After some soul searching, she realized she must have thrown it in the garbage when she was cleaning out her lunch bag the night before. As soon as she got home, she checked the trash and was able to find it, so you are still in Theresa.

For those of you that get this newsletter on our mailing list, Tara works the press and among her duties, she tags the lumber with the proper labels to make sure it is going to the correct customer and keeps track of it!

### It's Over

Well, I am calling it. Winter is over! I always get a chuckle when I hear people say, "We had a good winter." In my opinion, there is no such thing as a good winter! Some are better than others, but none of them should be classified as "good". Since spring is here, I have my first tee time. Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. My friends, Lawrence "Big Dog" and Jimmy "The Farmer" Cates and I are going to do battle. There is never any shortage of laughs and BS when we get together. I've been itching all winter to get out and whack my balls off the tee. We haven't picked a location for the ELCO open yet, but we do know it is going to be held on a Saturday. Relaxed and casual.

**Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't****Going, Going, Gone!**

Well, the first round of playoffs is over. All the pretenders are gone, and we are left with the contenders. I'm just waiting to hear the announcement of the Leaf's parade as most of them would consider this season to be a huge success. Rumour has it, the parade will be televised nationally, as they are Canada's team. I still break out in laughter when I hear that. It never gets old. You see, the true character of a person or team, if you will, in a pressure situation (this, I believe to be true), is evident in the Leafs' game seven collapse. Even the mighty Austin Powers couldn't save them from their inevitable fate. Once again, the Leafs showed, when push comes to shove, they choke. So, Robbie, Shawn and the rest of you Leafs fans can tuck your "Austin Powers" jerseys away for yet another year and dig out your Blue Jays jerseys.

One last thought. What do the Jays, Raptors, and Leafs have in common? None of them play hockey!

**Update – Breaking News**

Unsteady Freddie Anderson was so distraught after the loss, he jumped in front of a train in Boston, but luckily, it went between his legs and he is alright.

**Look Out Below**

On Tuesday of this week, we did a run of 2 X 6. To say it was too dry would be an understatement. Poor Brian and Slink were doing their very best to keep up with the outs and cutbacks being dumped upon them. They asked Aaron to lend a helping hand. As I watched them get pounded from my stacker position (out of harm's way, I might add), I thought to myself, did I remember to thank the nice people who took me off the floor about a year ago? Just in case I didn't, thank you so very much.

**Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't****Are You Sure?**

From time to time, we can lose track of our orders when we are on long runs. Sometimes, we will do three or four at a time. Last week was a good example. We thought we had all the orders of a certain length completed when we realized we needed one more lift. Recently, Trevor has started taking care of us here at the planer. We contacted him on the radio to tell him we still needed one more lift for the order. Trevor called back, "Are you sure?" "Yeah, we are sure." Personally, I would never commit 100% to anything. I believe you should always leave yourself a little wiggle room. But, that is just me. So, Trevor, as you will come to learn, if you haven't already, everything is subject to change.

**April 50/50**

April 6	Jason Casey
April 13	Jason Isenor
April 20	Gordie Beaman
April 27	Chris Myers

**May Birthdays**

Warren Hirtle	May 15
Aaron Lemmons-Tipping	May 03
Chris Myers	May 27
Umit Ozturk	May 06
Craig Stewart	May 18

**April Anniversaries**

Darrell Davis	24 years
Don Isenor	26 years
Stephen Molnar	39 years
Robbie Peters	19 years