

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

June 28, 2019

Issue # 281

Notes from the Editor

The grass is green, the leaves on the trees have returned and the flowers are in bloom. It makes me feel good! This spring I am especially enjoying the new, colorful, banners on display in Enfield. The children of Enfield Elementary are certainly very talented artists. My great niece Aliya is very proud (and rightfully so) her painting of a chocolate house and rainbow is on display. On behalf of our community, I am offering our congratulations to the students of Enfield Elementary for their contribution to the beautification of our community. I am also sending a special thank you to Lorraine and Herve Burri for sponsoring this wonderful project.

Let me introduce you to Millan Cameron. Millan started working for D & S Trucking when he was 18 years old. He has been with them for 53 years (you can do the math). Over the years, D & S Trucking changed their name to Prest Brothers Trucking and then to present day Nova Trucking. Like Millan, Nova Trucking has been working with Elmsdale Lumber since its D & S Trucking days. In the early years, Millan drove a dump truck and then graduated to driving a trailer. All the original equipment in our sawmill was transported here by Millan. He hauled the machinery to us from Wisconsin and Montreal. Years ago, he also transported our special grade hardwood to New Hampshire and our clears to New York.

Today, he hauls our sawmill chips to Northern Pulp in Pictou. He averages 3 loads per day. Except for one incident in his early years, he has remained accident free. That is an amazing accomplishment. Every Monday morning, like clockwork, Millan pays me a visit to hand off his weekly delivery slips. I certainly appreciate the timeliness of receiving his slips. It makes my job much easier.

Notes from the Editor, con't

It is obvious to me that Millan and I share something in common. Retirement is not an appealing thought.

When Millan's best friend, Scott MacKinnon, heard I was writing an article about Millan, he sent me a hand written note telling me Millan is a stellar human being and suggested a good way to end my story would be to let everyone know Millan's favorite meal is "fish n' chips". So, Millan, the next time you are in the office stop by to see me and we will make sure the next "fish n' chip" run you and Scott enjoy is on Elmsdale Lumber.

Until next month, enjoy the scenery. Gennie

Notes from the Safety Committee

2019 in Review

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

We conducted our annual fire drills this month and we thank everyone for their cooperation. We are pleased to report everyone quickly and safely reported to their muster station to be accounted for. Good job.

We had a few folks from RBC join us for our quarterly safety meeting this month to deliver a presentation on Wills & Estate Planning while we were treated to a pizza lunch from Pete'za Perfect.

Notes from the Safety Committee, con't

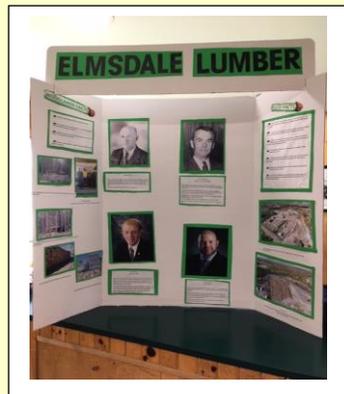
The information presented from our friends at RBC was well received by our group and we hope we have been able to motivate our group to give some thought to their estate planning process.

Looks like we are in for rain over the next few days as we close out June. Here's hoping for a sunny July 1st to enjoy the Canada Day festivities. Play safe everyone.

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

Notes from The President

Grade 6 Kennetcook District Elementary School student, 11-year-old Lawson Grant, son of Greg & Michelle Grant, recently completed a project for the Heritage Fair. It is also worth noting Lawson is the grandchild of Downey Thompson. The criteria for the Heritage Fair project was to complete a project about a piece of history from their community. Lawson chose to profile Elmsdale Lumber. Not only did each student have to complete the project but they also had to give an oral presentation to their fellow students. His teachers commented that Lawson was so well versed and knowledgeable about Elmsdale's history he did not have to refer to his notes. Lawson stopped by the office this month to show me the fruits of his labour. I was so impressed with the design and content, I asked Lawson if we could keep it here in the office as a part of our history and he agreed. We will find just the right place to display his works. We are all very proud of Lawson.



Notes from the President, con't

When I was a young fellow some 50 years ago (oh my, that sent shivers up my spine), a huge number of small sawmills were sprinkled throughout our province. Not much thought was given to marketing. Sawmillers sawed lumber, planed lumber (or not) and shipped it to customers. My dad was one of the few who knew making the finished package look as good as possible would make a difference when it came to marketing our products. He understood a neat, even ended, evenly strapped package of lumber would be more attractive to the consumer. Achieving and maintaining this standard was done by man, not by the machines we have today. Years ago, we also painted our logo on the side of our packages. Today, we present our lumber to our customers with our identifiable logo-printed lumber wrap.

Also, in the 60's, our mill site was mostly surrounded by forest land. Today, we are in the heart of a thriving community and bordered by houses and small businesses. Our ELCO marketing strategy must include more than just a well-presented product, we must present a well-kept property. As you know, we try to keep our site as neat and tidy as possible. Our dust control efforts are not only for our benefit but also for the benefit of our neighbours.

To that end, this week we applied our annual dust control. We also have several people to thank for the spring and early summer sprucing up (pardon the pun) of our front yard. The initial work began when Larissa Molnar (Jason and Sally Molnar's daughter) spent several hours working on weeding our rose bush hedge along the front of our mill site. She needed to complete several volunteer hours as a part of her school curriculum. This past week, Tara and Odessa carried out some very badly needed trimming of the rose bushes. Darren Isenor's son, Kenneth has been doing a great job keeping up with the mowing of our lawn and whipper-snipping around our buildings. Craig Stewart, Roland Murray, Tara Isenor, and Greg Grant re-instated our ever-popular train on our front yard retaining wall, which by the way will be replaced in the very near future.

Notes from the President, con't

Angie has assumed the chore of planting flowers in the base of each car of the train as well as the planter underneath our sign. Darren Isenor engaged the pressure washer to wash down the office siding and clean the pavers around the office.

This combined effort has not gone unnoticed and as I have told you many times in the past, I am very proud of our ELCO team and I am also very proud of how we present our premium products to our valued customers. On a very regular basis, I continue to get positive comments from a wide range of people on how neat and tidy our mill site looks. You all deserve to be proud.

Our July 1st, Canada Day Parade gives us an extra incentive to get things completed. Please feel free to bring your lawn chairs down to our site to enjoy the parade! Thanks to all of you for your hard work.

Until next month, fingers crossed for some more sunshine. Robin

Notes from Sales

Well, well, markets have sprung to life. Finally, all the news of production curtailments, mill closures, wildfires, high log costs, and log shortages have impacted the thoughts of the buyers of lumber. We knew it was going to happen, we just didn't think it would take so friggin' long. This is all happening on the West Coast. Western Canada, mostly BC, is the largest lumber producing area in Canada and mainly control the pricing for most of North America. For example, Western pricing is up over \$100 mfbm over the past 3 weeks and Eastern pricing (that's us) is up about \$50 mfbm. Eastern prices always lag behind Western, but normally catch up while the market is rising. The same is true when the market declines, Eastern declines at a slower pace. This is all well and fine, and it normally always works out okay. What can be a bit of a fly in the ointment is the pace in which the prices increase. If history repeats itself, when prices rise quickly and sharply, as they have over the past couple of weeks, buyers will sit back in shock at the new prices and the pace will slow down. This is the area we are entering now; mills pricing is very aggressive, buyers are in shock and taking a deep breath. So, the next couple of weeks will be very interesting; Do buyers have to buy? Do mills need to sell or have they built an order file over the past couple of weeks with all the production issues? Is there a true shortage of wood being created?

By this time next month, we will have a clearer picture of the road forward. For now, we will sell as much as we can. We do know one thing for sure, the USA economy, where most of lumber goes, is still strong and that's a great sign. We expect a busy fall and decent market conditions.

Until next month, good things come to those who wait, and we have been waiting! Derek



Notes from Woodlands

In a couple weeks, Beaver Dam Enterprises will be finishing up with harvest activities on the Spence Managed Forest. We had another great experience on this property working with the Spence family and property manager Jim Bremner. Beaver Dam did a great job with what was mostly commercial thinning work and I think it is safe to say all parties involved are happy with the care and ability owner Mark Thompson and operator Shane Wells demonstrated with executing the treatments.

From there, we will be moving to the Pockwock Watershed to begin harvest operations that will take us through the rest of the summer. This will be the first time ELCO has worked in the watershed since 2013. This time around, we will be operating with a couple different twists. As one of our crown licenses is now under Westfor Management, along with partnering with Barry Geddes, the Watershed Manager, and the Department of Lands and Forestry, we will be working under the directive of Marcus Zwicker and Westfor staff throughout the process. Also, and perhaps the most significant twist is we will be part of a Dalhousie University study being conducted to determine if forest management can improve water quality. This study is headed by David Foster who is a PhD student at Dalhousie University, and he will also be partnered with Westfor Management, Halifax Water, and the Department of Lands and Forestry to complete this project.

The study will measure the effects harvesting may have on water quality, more specifically, dissolved organic carbon (DOC) levels and what effect different harvesting prescriptions may have on these levels. The water treatment process is more difficult with increased levels of DOC and reducing these levels within the water shed is of great importance to the Halifax Water Commission. Where decaying organic matter is how DOC is formed, the idea is a healthy forest will produce lower levels, and harvesting with stand improvement in mind, by targeting declining and dying trees harvesting

Notes from Woodlands, con't

treatments could improve water quality for the 200,000 people Pockwock Lake supplies.

We are very excited to be a part of this project and for the possibility of how this could influence forest management in watersheds in the future. We will keep you posted on how this unfolds.

Until next time, Jason and the Woodland's Crew

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner

Odds N' Ends

We have been running 6" X 6" this week; or should I say, we have been trying to run some 6" X 6". We have been going through a lot of motors on the planer. We were down all day on Tuesday and as I write this on Wednesday morning, we are waiting to get a motor back from the repair shop later today. It is a wait and see game for this afternoon's schedule. Ray Miller, who was here on Wednesdays as part of a Musquodoboit High School program this year, is now with us full time for the summer and seems to be a very hard worker. We have given Ray some fatherly advice as to what to do with his money now that he sees how much he is earning. We told him to spend it on liquor and girls and not to waste it.

Summer Fun

I was driving through Milford earlier this month, and I passed by Joey's place and noticed he had a big ass pool in the backyard. Which got me to thinking, not about getting a pool, but about how much do we pay these friggin' edgermen! Sometimes people ask me why lumber is so expensive, and I don't know what to say. Well, now I do. It's the edgermen in the mill! Anyway, enjoy your pool and don't forget to get your fence up around it so you don't fall in by accident some night you are enjoying a drink.

Notes from Peter Dillman's Corner, con't**Go Habs Go**

The NHL schedule was released this past Tuesday. We have been waiting for this as a few of us are heading to Vegas for a couple games. The only time the HABS are in Vegas this year is Thursday, October 31, Halloween! We are flying down on Sunday and will be back on Friday. I am going down with a die-hard Bruins fan and a Jamaican who loves the HABS. Should be no shortage of laughs. Can't wait!

We Are Watching

In this day and age, without realizing it, there is a high probability we have been caught on film in our everyday lives. That's just the way the world is now. Not too much, if anything, goes undetected. A good example of this took place on Tuesday of this week. As we were down at the planer, Craig came and got some of us for another job requiring our attention. We had to stop at the office for Craig to pick up something. As we waited in the truck, some of the boys noticed there was an "outside" worker in the front of the office doing some chores. When Craig got back to the truck we asked if this was safe, as we didn't see any PPE on the worker. Craig got out of the truck and yelled out the worker's name to get her attention and upon making contact, he tapped his temple with his finger as a reminder. The worker smiled back at him and flashed him the peace sign. Actually, it was only ½ a peace symbol. Craig, it is not always easy to do the right thing, but you did. Who knows, maybe she was having a bad day. But it certainly wasn't a bad hair day as it looked terrific in the sunshine.

I'm Out of Here

With the long weekend upon, everyone is excited, none more so than Whitey, who is off all next week as Becky's Dad is over for a visit from Jolly Old England. I have my fingers crossed the weather is good for you.

While Whitey's gone, everyone will step up one rung on the ladder of success, to try and fill the void. Could someone please give Odessa a boost up to the first rung please? We hope everyone has a great long weekend.

June Anniversaries

John Ashley	39 years
Leslie Isenor	29 years
Dwight Isenor	20 years
Jon Molnar	10 years
Shawn Preeper	31 years
Stephen Thompson	46 years

**July Birthdays**

Jason "Bubba" Barr	July 15
Gordie Beaman	July 29
Rob Himelman	July 17
Tara Isenor	July 13
Angie Kainola	July 22
Nick Miller	July 02
Stephen Molnar	July 06

**June 50/50**

June 7	Lars Perry
June 14	Peter Dillman
June 21	Matthew Dillman
June 28	Joey Preeper

