

WOOD N YOU LIKE TO KNOW

Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited

March 29, 2019

Issue # 278

Notes from the Editor

As a follow up to our group meeting on Thursday, March 21, I would like to remind you to speak with your supervisor about your availability and your role with regard to the sawmill's upcoming mill modernization. As explained, we are hoping the installation of equipment will happen towards the end of July. There are still many obstacles to overcome before we can put a definite date on the installation. We have yet to receive a confirmation on exactly when our new equipment will be delivered. Prior to the actual installation, Stephen, Jason & Jon are working diligently to get as much work completed as possible prior to the equipment installation. Some of this work will be completed after hours and it would be helpful if your supervisor knew your availability for over-time work.

Our team has demonstrated we have the ingenuity, ability and experience to complete a project of this magnitude with minimal disruption to production. Good communication is a critical component to our success. If you have any questions or suggestions, we would like to hear from you.

This month, Rob, Doreen, Landon, Taylor and I went on vacation to Nashville for a week. My grandson, 10-year-old Landon, loves country music and music in general. We learned children were allowed into bars to listen to music. As we walked down the street, we popped into a couple of bars to listen to country music bands. Landon was quick to sit as closely as possible to each band. He made request after request for a variety of songs. As he listened, he would sing along, sometimes he would hit the dance floor and he would always clap along with the music. It was when he requested "Jolene" I knew he might be a "Red Neck". A loveable, sweet "Red Neck" who brings me joy.

Until next month, 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

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 held our quarterly group safety meeting this month and were treated to chicken & taters from the Superstore. It's always nice to get everyone together to reinforce the importance of safe work practices.

As spring is just around the corner, we anticipate lots of rain (& mud) around the property. Please make sure you are driving slowly throughout the yard to ensure you are not spraying mud on the lifts of lumber stacked throughout the yard. As always, slower is better.

Our quarterly inspections were due this month, and we thank Darren Isenor and Craig Isenor for taking care of these for us. These inspections are part of our checks and balances around the property to make sure our working environment is as safe as possible.

Easter is coming up in a few weeks. We hope you enjoy the holiday with your families.

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

Notes from the President

The new building over the sawmill is now roof tight with just a couple sections of the walls to be completed. They have been purposely left open to allow access to the roof of the old building which is being used as staging to install a sprinkler system and new lighting. The sprinkler system is complete and the wiring for the lights is complete. We are now mounting the light fixtures. Over the next couple of months, Stephen, Jason and Jon (along with some additional assistance) will be removing the old building from within the new building. There are a couple concrete floors to be poured. We are just waiting for the frost to leave the ground before we start this part of the process.

Jason, Mark and I travelled to Montreal earlier this month to attend the Canadian Lumber Standards Association's Annual Convention. This is something we do not normally do but we wanted to meet up with TS Manufacturing to check up on our new equipment and VAB Solutions (the company supplying the trimmer scanner optimizer technology).

While in Montreal, we took a walk to the famous Notre Dame Basilica. Mark posted some pictures online and some of them resulted in funny responses. One person pondered why we didn't burst into flames. As we are not known to be an overly religious group to say the least, we were very impressed with the unique, massive pipe organ and its 7,000 pipes. I would love to hear this organ being played as I can only assume the music would be wonderful.

Mark and I continue to work hard on the Northern Pulp issue. The Premier has asked the Deputy Minister of Labour and Advanced Education, Duff Montgomerie to meet with all the stakeholders to try and sort this mess out. You might ask, why the Deputy Minister of Labour and Advanced Education when this is a forestry issue. I think I know the answer. I have known Duff for many years, and I am confident (as I think the Premier is as well) Duff will come up with a fair and equitable solution for all. Earlier this month, Duff reached out to me requesting a one on one meeting to present the sawmill side of this complicated issue.

Notes from the President, con't

I am sure Duff is up to the task of presenting his findings to the Premier and in the end, the Premier has a major decision to make. Not granting Northern Pulp and extension to complete a \$130 million project and lose most of the Nova Scotia Forest Industry and all the other associated businesses and employees would be a mistake. We request the Premier approves an extension. The forest industry of this province will continue to move forward and flourish for years to come. The Premier has painted himself into this corner and it is responsibility to find a way out.

I will keep you posted and until next month, Robin

Notes from the Sales

Well, it is starting to look like we made it through another interesting Nova Scotia winter. They always seem challenging in different ways and this one was no different. In late November, the colder weather set in, the snow arrived in December, the rain arrived in January and the ice arrived in February. Temperatures fluctuated 20 degrees over a few hours and strong winds created bone chilling weather. Last week, I drove through Northern N.B. and into Quebec. Only 4 hours from here the snow banks are so high you can barely see the tops of the road signs sticking out. Just maybe, things are not so bad here.

Lumber markets continue to be stagnant. Prices are flat, volume is about the same as last year but there just doesn't seem to be that feeling of urgency spring usually brings. We must remember the bar was set quite high last year with soaring prices and buyers panicking about a shortage of supply. The excitement of last year is certainly not present this year or at least not yet.

Notes from Sales, con't

Hopefully, this quietness is creating some pent-up demand that will transform into a busy spring and summer. We could all use a little positive energy in the lumber industry right now.

Until next month, continue to show your support for Northern Pulp, everyone's input is important.

Until next month, cheers. Derek

Notes from Woodlands

The spring weight restriction regulations on designated roads were implemented on March 11th for all counties across Nova Scotia, except Antigonish, Guysborough, and Cape Breton Island. The remainder were included in the restriction regulations one week later, March 18th. With continued cold nights, we have seen a fair amount of log deliveries as most operations on open roads are still able to haul out of the wood's roads with little trouble. Looking ahead to next week, the weather forecast indicates we will likely see a change as the temperatures are going to rise and enviably, some woods roads will not hold up to truck traffic. Stephen feels we are in pretty good shape but certainly welcomes all deliveries during the restriction period.

By the time you are reading this newsletter, I will be wrapping up with Nova Scotia Forest Professionals AGM held in Truro. As member of the Board of Directors for the Nova Scotia Forest Technicians Association (one group that makes up the AGM), I am responsible for providing a report each year on silviculture and sawmilling activities. I find this is a good opportunity to review province wide forestry activity, and as I am putting together some figures now, I thought I might share a few you may find interesting.

Notes from Woodlands, con't

In 2017, 3,292,525 m³ or roughly 2,821,358 tonnes of round wood were harvested in Nova Scotia. Of that total, sawmills and studmills were responsible for 53% of the harvest. The overall harvest was down almost 12% from 2016, well below allowable sustainable harvest levels. The silviculture obligations from the mills who use the wood totals 5,730,410 credits (credits are related somewhat to dollars as a credit reflects the set value of a treatment). However, the actual amount of silviculture reported as completed by the mills totaled 6,940,238 credits in 2017, which means some mills administered significantly more silviculture than they were required by law. Silviculture on crown lands, which in large part is administered by the mills who harvest on crown lands, totaled approximately 6,000,000 credits/dollars.

These numbers are interesting to me, as although it appears to be a very large amount of wood harvested in one year, it is below the provinces Annual Allowable Harvest. These numbers also highlight a large amount of silviculture investment across the province – on all land bases. This silviculture, which a significant portion is paid for by the mills, is directly related to harvesting. Both are a big part of forest management and one is sustainable because of the other.

We talk about this quite often, but sometimes it's nice to see the numbers.

Until next time, Jason and the Woodlands Team

Notes from Peter Dillman's CornerDear John

Tara's pretty excited as she got a shower installed in her bathroom along with a complete makeover. She showed us some pictures, and everything looks shiny new and white. So, if you happen to be going through Nine Mile River anytime, feel free to drop in and use the new bathroom and let her know what you think.

Sick Bay

We got hit hard with the flu bug this March. It didn't just pass through, it came in and stayed for about four weeks before it finally pulled up roots and left. Just about everyone at the planer was off for a bit of time, but we managed to muddle through.

Back to School

At the end of April, Roland will be going to get his Grader's License in Amherst. Although I believe we have 6 graders on site, there are just 2 of us in the planer mill rotation. So, adding Roland will definitely be a plus, especially with spring in the air and some nice days coming upon us. Roland, it's good to know once you get your license, that say for example, I wanted to take off for nine holes at noon, that you are there and have my back. This will benefit both of us. Good luck Buddy.

Let's Get Ready to Rumble

Nick was telling us he and his brother reached out to Gord-O at the sawmill and invited him to a wrestling event at the Stewiacke Fire Hall one Saturday evening earlier this month. Nick said they had a great time and they even had female wrestlers. I think it is great when co-workers spend time together outside of work. Nick's going to see if Tara, Whitey and Roland might be interested in going to the next match. Gord-O, perhaps, you should ask some of your buddies up at the sawmill and make a night of it.

March Anniversaries

Peter Dillman	40 years	Amazing
Greg Grant	21 years	
Craig Isenor	18 years	
Warren Hirtle	35 years	
Roland Murray	2 years	
Joey Preeper	32 years	
Craig Stewart	28 years	
Tyler White	6 years	

Downey Thompson 72 years

April Birthdays

Peter Dillman	April 11
Matthew Dillman	April 08
Dwight Isenor	April 26

March 50/50

March 1	Jim Sawler
March 8	Matthew Dillman
March 15	Jason Isenor
March 22	Gennie Himelman
March 29	Ron Miller

