



GM's Corner

Stuart Sing

How can the worst of times provide a bit of a silver lining for the Forest Industry?

The shutdown of the economies of almost the entire world, millions of people being infected by COVID-19 resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands not to mention the anguish felt by loved ones and family members from those affected by the virus, the newly unemployed or under employed; yet the price of lumber is at an all-time high with demand still strong as sawmills now see their order files extend into October. It just does not make sense.

It seems a summer pent-up demand for housing from the slow spring, and now people wanting to move out of their condos into housing as more people work from home has seen an increase in the demand for detached housing. House construction has increased on both sides of the border and the record low interest rates are allowing us to buy more house than usual. Throw in reduced lumber production as some sawmills have had COVID-19 related reductions, a reduced log supply, and a big upswing in home renovations by people stuck at home, and you a recipe for increased lumber consumption resulting in the price increases.

Fortunately, Canada's infection and death rates are below the average as most provinces closed their borders and went into lockdown before the virus got out of hand. With a flattening or even bending of the curve most Provincial Governments have started to reopen their provinces to get business rolling and people back to work. But with more openness comes more infections and with the schools and universities starting their fall semesters, it will be interesting to see if we can get that curve to start to flatten again.

Other than practicing social distancing and wearing a mask when going out into public at all times, our biggest hope right now is that a vaccine is ready to roll by years end and the majority of the population is vaccinated by mid-2021. I am sure the rest of you feel like me at times – isolation fatigue. Oh, how we long to head out to a restaurant for some food and drink, or go to the shopping mall, or go to visit family. But now we have to think, is it worth

it, or will I risk getting sick, or will I risk making someone else sick? Stay home.

I know our Supervisory staff – Kris Reklinski, Earl Scott and John Leahy really have to be on their guard at all times. If driving the highways is not bad enough, its what we could encounter at a member's facility is what keeps me awake at night. While the potential for catching the virus is low when visiting our members, it's the potential of spreading the virus to another family member or having to self-isolate for 14 days if one of us does come in contact with an infected person. Again, for the guys on the road its not just the members facility, but what about the hotels, the restaurants, the gas stations that we have to patronized and the odds of coming into contact with an infected person increases? We have outfitted all with face masks, nitrile gloves, face shields and they all carry their own bacterial wipes for wiping down the hard surfaces that they deem unsafe but we can never be 100% sure that we have eliminated all viruses.

All our usual meetings that we attend or participate in have gone video. Whether it be by Skype or Microsoft Team or Zoom, travel and meeting conferences are out at this time.

While I miss the personal contact that the meetings allow, the money savings on travel, hotel rooms and meals is a bonus. And while revenue from our Grading Classes is way down, the savings in not having to travel and the associated expenses has been the trade-off. Making our lease vehicles or laptops go another year has allowed us to stay closer to budget and keep everyone employed.

For the sports nuts, we are in glory as all the major leagues are back in action. And while the NHL and NBA are getting close to handing out their championship trophies, Baseball is in the home stretch of their abbreviated schedule and the NFL just started with Week 1.



CANADIAN MILL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Lumber Matters

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Speaking of the NHL, our Vancouver Canucks were surprising game as they came within one win of qualifying for the Conference finals. Unfortunately, their inability to score during a 5-minute powerplay in the seventh and final game sealed their fate and they let a potential victory slip out of their hands. It almost seemed like they did not want to win or lose in regulation time and take their chance in overtime where one shot could be glory or go home; it turned out to be the later. The young guns of Pettersson, Boeser, Horvat, Hughes and Demko form a fine nucleus. Now the key is to surround them with a credible supporting cast. Some dead weight and contracts will have to be traded away so that the team can fill out as they have to strike while their competitive window is open.

Another favorite of mine, the Toronto Blue Jays are having a nice season and it looks like they should be able to qualify for the post-season. This is a classic on how you build a championship team. Draft well and groom, and then when the young guns are ready, support them, bolster the pitching

staff and then go out and win.

While it was our turn to host the BC Lumber Grading Championship this year, we have rescheduled our turn to May 2022 – to be held in Prince George. I am sure Earl will have more to say on this subject elsewhere in this newsletter. Kris will get you up to date on the CLSAB and ALSC best practices procedures on their visits and he will update you on the CLSAB Operation Committee which he is a part of. John will provide you with the latest Plant Health updates and mention how some of our office visits are done remotely now. Rika Hatachi will find a few pictures for you to view and Ingrid Shen will inform you on our upcoming November AGM (postponed from June) and she is still collecting student names for our next round of Lumber Grading Classes for when it is deemed safe to host. So, taking words from Dr. Bonnie Henry – be kind, be calm and stay safe and we will talk to you again soon; and hopefully a vaccine will have been approved and being distributed at that time.

November Board Meeting and AGM – Any Names for the CMSA Board?

Ingrid Shen

CMSA usually holds an Annual General Meeting in mid-June every year. However, this year due to the COVIC-19 pandemic, the AGM has been postponed to November and will be held with the November Board Meeting together. During the AGM, the Executive Board of Directors officially resign, and a new Board will be nominated and elected for the upcoming year.

If anyone from CMSA members would like to serve on CMSA Board of Directors, please contact **Ingrid Shen** or Stuart Sing at **(604) 523 1288** for details.



NLGA Lumber Sampling

Stuart Sing

Ever wonder why Earl, Kris, and John come to your sawmills and then end up taking lumber away mainly in the form of 2 x 4 – 8' and maybe some 2 x 8 or 2 x 10? It is the collecting of test samples for the ongoing National Lumber Grades Authority (NLGA) monitoring program.

As part of its due diligence for industry, the NLGA in conjunction with the Canadian Wood Council (CWC) takes samples of S-P-F from all across Canada and then have either longitudinal or cross-sectional testing performed on them. We just want to ensure that our world, famous fiber continues to meet our customer's expectations.

In addition to the ongoing S-P-F monitoring, monitoring programs for D Fir-L(N) and Hem-Fir(N) are also in place.

For S-P-F, the latest ALSC Verification study (2019) indicate that for 2 x 4, there has been no significant downward shift in MOE or MOR properties. For 2 x 10, results could not support the same claim so a further Verification study on 2 x 10 will be required.

For D Fir-L(N) the completed testing (2019) confirmed that there was no significant downward shift in the MOE or MOR properties; next monitoring test not due to 2022. For Hem-Fir(N) the monitoring study (2019) results could not support that there was no significant downward shift in the MOE property. A Verification study on 2 x 4 will have to be performed.

We continue to pull samples for these monitoring programs and we appreciate everyone's help and co-operation. It means more work for our Supervisors not only for pulling the test samples and recording the required data, but also organizing the delivery of the samples to the FP Innovations test centers.

Currently all CLSAB operations committee meetings are being held via virtual meetings. Although it is nice to conduct meetings in person and connect with the different board members we are doing our part to flatten the curve and stay safe. The next meeting to be held is on September 17th, 2020 virtually and any pertinent changes or updates will be relayed to our members. Currently the following points to note from the previous Operations Committee meeting are the following:

-Marc Savard of FPInnovations, at the request of the Canadian Forest Products Advisory Committee undertook a review of the Heat Treatment Chamber Operating Conditions for Option D. Specifically, to identify the “heat treatment run time” and “minimum time at the end of the treatment with the dry-bulb >= 71oC (>= 160oF) for lumber thickness up to 1 1/8 inches, 3 1/4 inches and 4 1/4 inches. These are new and have been approved with new times designated to ensure heat treatment has been met and will be rolled out moving forward.

-Australia –Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. The Government of Australia implemented import requirements on September 1, 2019 for certain materials and products (including lumber) to prevent the introduction of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB). Canada is known to have BMSB and as it is a hitchhiker pest and it is possible for the BMSB to get into a bundle of lumber during the flight season and be transported with the lumber. In May 2019 CFIA, Canada Wood and CLSAB began working with Australia to meet their import requirements. Progress was made in some areas, green lumber produced under the Canadian Green Sawn Certification Program can be shipped to Australia without any additional requirements outside the BMSB flight season (September 1 to December 1) Progress was not made with kiln dried and heat treated (KD-HT) lumber to this same extent as of yet. Talks are ongoing.

-Henkel Loctite HB X032 Purbond was added to the list of accepted adhesives for HRA labelling. Contact your CMSA supervisor or the CMSA office if you need an updated list of the possible HRA approved adhesives.

NLGA Grade Committee Update

Earl Scott

The past three years I was a voting member of the NLGA Grade Committee. Earlier this year I was appointed Chair of the committee and was scheduled to chair my first meeting in early May. Guess what we never got to attend that meeting for reasons we all now know to well. Summer has passed and we will be setting up a new online meeting shortly. NLGA chairs and committee members from all the different groups will meet mid September and we should have a date for our next meeting. Stay tuned for updates.

NLGA Standards Update

Kris Reklinski

The in person meetings were unable to be held due to COVID-19 concerns but the NLGA as well as the agencies (CMSA) are still working to move things forward for our members. A few points to note include the following:

- SPS 1 and 3 are under review and any changes will be passed along to our members.
- The French version of the Canadian Lumber Grading Manual is now available.
- 2020 Hem-Fir(N) verification study is now complete. Thanks for the help from any of our members which samples were taken from. S-P-F and Hem-Fir(N) sampling is ongoing year to year and we always appreciate the co-operation from our members to ensure the standards and design values of our lumber are being met.



CMSA Membership Plaques

John Leahy

All Grade-stamping and/or Plant Health members should now have an official membership plaque.

If anyone does not have a plaque, or has lost their plaque, please let your CMSA Supervisor know so that we can work on a replacement.



Taking Names for S-P-F, WRC and 2021 Coast Species Grading Classes Ingrid Shen

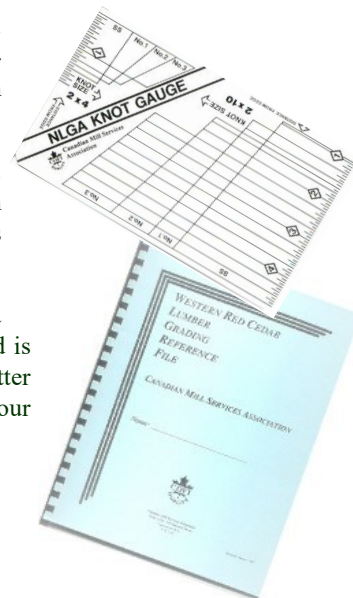
In the past several years, we have experienced a relatively high demand for the Lumber Grading Classes. In the Lower Mainland, we normally host a set of Coast Species Classes from January to March (8 Saturdays), a set of S-P-F Grading Classes from late March to end of April (5 Saturdays) and a set of Western Red Cedar Grading Classes from early October to November (8 Saturdays).

This year, the Coronavirus has changed our normal life including our usual Grading Class schedules. Luckily the Coast Species Lumber Grading Class in January and February had completed even though we had to use a different way for the final tests. This Class achieved one “AA” ticket, three “A” tickets and ten “B” tickets. Congratulations to them!

Now we are collecting names for a potential S-P-F and WRC grading classes for later this year and a Coast Species Class for early 2021. The S-P-F or WRC class is not guaranteed yet, only if the demand is there and the COVID-19 curves flattened. If you are interested in taking a Lumber Grading class, no matter a S-P-F or a WRC class or a Coast Species class, please give me a call or send me an email to register your name with us so that we know if we can have enough demand for filling up a class.

Again, my email is shen@canserve.org and my phone number is **604-523-1288 ext. 2**. Thank you.

Hope everyone staying safe and healthy.



Grading Classes 2020/2021

Earl Scott

Hello all, just wanted to update the southern region on grading classes.

2020 has been a year for the books, spring, summer and fall classes are postponed due to gathering restrictions and social distancing requirements. 2021 is still quite uncertain on when and what COVID-19 will look like. Saying that we are still tentatively trying to book any classes that the members request, as long as protocols can be followed and all involved feel comfortable.

If you need more info stop me at my next mill visit or contact me scott@canserve.org. Thanks

Earl Scott



Prince George 2020 Grading Class Update

Kris Reklinski

We haven't forgotten about the grading classes which were started this spring before the outbreak of COVID-19. Those who attended were able to get two classes in before we had to postpone due to the concerns around health and safety for group class settings. As it is currently still a concern, grading classes are still on hold. However, we are hoping to complete the course before 2020 is over. We may implement some changes and put safe practices into place, but its our goal to try and continue with the course and allow our members a chance to improve their knowledge of quality control and obtain their grading tickets if possible. Please keep in touch with your CMSA supervisor or QC contact at the mill for further updates moving forward.

Interior Lumber Grading Championship 2020

Earl Scott

Well what a year! CMSA was scheduled to host the 2020 Championship in Prince George. The venue was booked the contestants were confirmed and we were ready. Then we all know what happened next COVID-19. Cancelling was a hard but necessary decision for the CMSA staff. During the summer months we inquired on thoughts of hosting again in Prince George 2021. After more counselling with our group the decision was made 2021 was still too early.

The good news is we are preparing to host **2022 in Prince George**. Everyone should be well studied up and increased participation after a two-year hiatus. Everyone and your families stay safe and **see you all in Prince George 2022!!**



As everyone puts procedures in place to deal with COVID-19 we are utilizing all best practices we come across at CMSA to keep ourselves and our members safe. We have currently adopted many of the same practices CLSAB and ALSC are using. Below is a list of the current practices being used by them:

1. Call facilities and/or agencies prior to arrival to confirm operational status and arrange visit

General Safety Procedures:

1. Individuals who are sick should not go to work
2. Ask for and follow facility COVID-19 policies
3. Drive to facilities unaccompanied - one person in vehicle when possible
4. Limit travel to day trips where possible to limit hotel stays
 - a. Ensure appropriate COVID-19 practices are in place at time of hotel reservation
5. Use only your own Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
6. Clean personal PPE at least at the start and end of every day it is used
7. Do not use PPE provided by facilities
8. Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet
9. Do not eat in or enter facility lunchrooms
10. Do not share equipment or tools
11. Carry face masks, for use at the discretion of staff

Inspection of lumber:

1. Wash hands with sanitizer or soap before entering the facility
2. Follow procedures established during the scheduling call
3. Maintain physical distance of 6 feet during inspection
4. Ask for lumber with a minimum length of 7 feet 6 inches
5. If lumber less than 7 feet 6 inches perform inspection alone
6. Work with a maximum of one helper
 - a. Helper works on the other end of the bundle
7. Wash hands with sanitizer or soap after completing the inspection

Max Kucheran August 8th 1926 – August 21st 2020

(In Memory of a Well Known Lumberman – Max Kucheran)

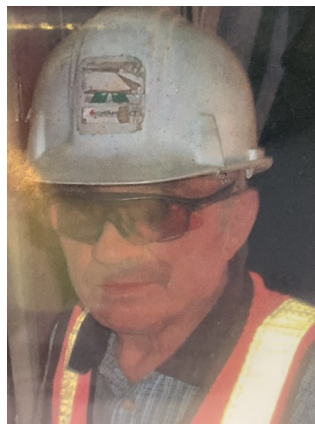
Darren Kucheran

In 1972 Max and Bev Kucheran opened for business in New Westminster after Max built a resaw out of an old truck frame in a night school course at NWSS high school.

Max sold lath to his first customer Chick Stewart at S&R Sawmills and still supplies packaging products 48 years later, originally it was to feed his 4 children. The business max started stood the test of time and through poor economies and a major arson fire in that burnt his business to the ground in 1978, Max remained resilient and pushed on.

Today his sons, Brian and Darren run the family business today and apply the customer first attitude, using the old saw that their father built with his own hands. Just before his passing at 94 years old, he still came to the business he loved bringing in the mail, he never was one to boast or look for help, and was soft spoken, had a great sense of humor and was humble and kind. He was very proud of the relationships and customers he established and the business that he had the vision to create.

He will forever be missed.



Canadian Green Sawn Wood Certification Program (CGSWCP)

Currently all Canadian lumber exports to Australia must be certified under either the CGSWCP program or the CHTWPCP.

The CGSWCP program has now been up and running for one year. So far we have not received any negative feedback from the Australian Departments of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR). At this time we are taking no news as good news.

Wood certified under the CGSWCP is recognized by DAWR as meeting their “safeguarding measures” for BMSB (Brown Marmorated Stink Bug). As such, CGSWCP certified lumber is only subject to mandatory fumigation between September 1st and December 1st (shipping dates) as this is considered the peak risk period for BMSB.

Heat treated lumber (certified under the CHTWPCP) is not currently recognized by the DAWR as meeting their BMSB safeguarding measures, and as such lumber shipped between the dates of September 1st and May 31st of the following year is still subject to mandatory fumigation at the port of discharge.

Canadian Lumber Standards (CLSAB) has recently heard back from DAWR that they will work with the CLSAB to expand the scope of this program to include kiln-dried wood. Stay tuned for progress reports on this front.

Mills that are interested in registering under this program should contact Rika in the CMSA office to get an information and registration package. Once the necessary documents have been signed, Rika will send out a QC manual template. When the QCM is complete an evaluation audit will be performed, and if all goes well your registration package will be forwarded to the CLSAB for approval.

Reminder – we are now in the mandatory fumigation period for BMSB. In order to fumigate lumber lath (min. 6mm) must be placed across the package at every 8” of package height (i.e. for 2” lumber strip every 4 tiers). Failure to properly strip packages for fumigation could result in costly re-stripping in Australia.

Exporting Green Lumber to China – a Reminder

All Canadian lumber exports to China require a phytosanitary certificate. Phyto certs are most easily obtained by verification of heat treatment via grade stamp or HT certificate. Green lumber exports must meet the bark restriction. The presence of bark is restricted to 5% of the surface area of any given piece, and 2% for the overall package. Mill run or low grade green lumber exports to China which have not been graded for bark content are not likely to pass a phytosanitary inspection.

Office Visits in the COVID Age

CMSA is committed to meeting all of the site safety and well being requirements of our members when we are at their sites. This includes all necessary precautions which are being taken to minimize the spread of Covid-19.

In addition to this we are following the Covid-19 best practices as stipulated by the CLSAB.

As a result of this, things are being done differently during site visits at most of our members.

Outside operations at manufacturing facilities and lumber yards, generally allow for easy social distancing and endless fresh air. As a result, our regular practices have been minimally impacted.

The greatest change has been at our office visits. Due to the confined space, working surfaces, and less fresh air, many members have closed their offices to outsiders, or otherwise restricted access. One way or another we have learned to work with the new protocols by;

Having documentation passed off to us outside or in a foyer area separated from the main office.

Having documentation Emailed to your CMSA representative to be reviewed on-line

Live video audits of documentation and/or products.

Live video audits may be necessary for facilities located across borders that cannot be crossed. We have mastered this technique using various video-meeting platforms such as Zoom or Skype, and we have done this for both documentation and product inspections.

Although these are far from ideal, CLSAB recognizes these as an acceptable “work-around” technique to be used in these special circumstances.

Just a reminder to all CMSA Members that do Trimming and/or Cut-in-Two as part of their business that they are aware of the CLSAB and/or ALSC regulations that would apply.

Whenever lumber is run across a sorting chain and it is Sorted or Regraded or Regrade Marked, that the Original Grade Stamp shall be obliterated and replaced by your own grade stamp.

Exceptions that could apply to your situation:

1. The original grade stamp does not have to be obliterated if the Reman facility is under the ownership and control of the originating facility.
2. If cutting-in-two and the lumber is grade stamped on both ends, the original grade stamps do not have to be obliterated.
3. If trimming up to 2', the original grade stamp does not have to be obliterated.
4. If a "JAS Grade Stamp" is being applied on a custom basis, then the CLSAB has stated that the original grade stamp does not have to be obliterated.

In this case you are only applying a JAS Grade Stamp at the request of your customer and that you are not Re-sorting or Regrading in any way. It is advised that a copy of the contract be kept on file at the remanufacturing facility.

CMSA COVID-19 Best Practices

Earl Scott

We all have made some big changes in how we behave. Both at home and in the mills, we inspect. Below is some of the protocols CMSA follows along with mill specific requirements.

CMSA staff and associates are required to follow the guidelines issued by the BC Health Authority, WorkSafeBC BC and other BC Government Agencies.

In all cases, it is everyone's responsibility to follow safety procedures designed to protect yourself and those around you at all times. These include:

- SAFE DISTANCING - maintain a minimum of 2 meters (6 ft.) from others.
- WEAR A MASK / FACE SHEILD whenever safe distancing cannot be guaranteed.
- WASH YOUR HANDS frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE or EYES.
- When applying or removing PPE, care must be taken to avoid touching the face.
- AVOID GROUPS - maintain safe distancing.
- SHOULD YOU BE ILL, DO NOT come to work. SELF ISOLATE and seek health care assistance.
- If you com in contact with a COVID-19 infected person, contact the CMSA General Manager immediately.

Field Supervisors

- Phone or E-mail ahead to ensure the facility you wish to visit will be open and running.
- Pre-arrange for someone from the facility to help you and to ensure that they can put you in a safe, and preferably isolated location. Also ask if they have had any infections since your last visit, and if so, notify the CMSA General Manager so that a plan can be discussed and made.
- We shall follow the COVID-19 protocols of our member mill that we visit on any one day.
- Wear a mask, wear a face shield, and wear nitrile gloves where required to keep yourself safe.
- Do not share or borrow any PPE with or from anyone.
- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently and most importantly, do not touch your face with your hands. In cases where soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer which you should keep in your vehicle at all times.
- Avoid handshakes at this time and avoid groups of people. If you cannot, space out by at least 2 meters or 6 feet each.
- Avoid high traffic areas such as offices and lunch rooms at this time.
- Avoid going into Operators booths at this time.



Your Association of Choice

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Photo Gallery

Kris Reklinski



Azouetta Lake (Just outside of Mackenzie in the Pine Pass).



**Kris playing Tobiano Golf course
(located just outside of Kamloops, B.C.)
Ranked number 1 course in British Columbia.**



**Start of fall and the football season
Northern B.C. style.**



**Megan receiving her white coat.
She has now completed residency
and has currently started practicing
full time in Prince George, B.C.
Congratulations from
all CMSA staff and
Board of Directors!**



Fox (Prince George, B.C.)



*For any comments and questions,
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