Source: Stella-Jones Inc.<br>Contacts: George T. Labelle, CA<br>Senior Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer<br>Tel.: (514) 934-8665<br>glabelle@stella-jones.com

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## STELLA-JONES REPORTS THIRD QUARTER RESULTS

- Sales of $\$ 104.7$ million, compared with $\$ 111.8$ million last year
- Gross profit margin of $\mathbf{1 8 . 8 \%}$ of sales, versus $\mathbf{1 8 . 7 \%}$ a year earlier
- Net earnings of $\$ 8.3$ million compared with $\$ 6.9$ million last year, up $21.5 \%$
- Diluted EPS of $\mathbf{\$ 0 . 6 5}$, up from $\mathbf{\$ 0 . 5 4}$ in the third quarter of 2008

MONTREAL, QUEBEC - November 13, 2009 - Stella-Jones Inc. (TSX: SJ) today announced financial results for its third quarter and nine-month period ended September 30, 2009.

| Financial highlights | Quarters ended Sept. 30, | Nine months ended Sept. 30 |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| (in thousands of dollars, except per share data) | $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 8}$ |
| Sales | $\mathbf{1 0 4 , 6 7 1}$ | 111,828 | $\mathbf{3 4 5 , 7 2 9}$ | 301,091 |
| Gross profit | $\mathbf{1 9 , 6 3 6}$ | 20,875 | $\mathbf{6 6 , 0 5 5}$ | 60,043 |
| Cash flow from operations ${ }^{1}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 , 3 1 5}$ | 9,522 | $\mathbf{3 4 , 2 3 8}$ | 29,295 |
| Net earnings for the period | $\mathbf{8 , 3 2 0}$ | 6,850 | $\mathbf{2 7 , 0 2 8}$ | 22,220 |
| $\quad$ Per share - basic (\$) | $\mathbf{0 . 6 6}$ | 0.55 | $\mathbf{2 . 1 4}$ | 1.79 |
| $\quad$ Per share - diluted (\$) | $\mathbf{0 . 6 5}$ | 0.54 | $\mathbf{2 . 1 3}$ | 1.75 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding (basic, in '000s) | $\mathbf{1 2 , 6 7 9}$ | 12,559 | $\mathbf{1 2 , 6 2 3}$ | 12,432 |

${ }^{1}$ Before changes in non-cash working capital components.
Sales in the third quarter reached $\$ 104.7$ million, a decrease of $\$ 7.2$ million, or $6.4 \%$ from last year's sales of $\$ 111.8$ million, mainly reflecting lower demand in the railway tie product category. Fluctuations in the value of the Canadian dollar, Stella-Jones' reporting currency, versus the U.S. dollar, increased the value of U.S. dollar denominated sales by approximately $\$ 3.6$ million.

Railway tie sales amounted to $\$ 44.1$ million, a decrease of $13.8 \%$ over last year, reflecting lower demand from both Class 1 and short-line railway operators during the period as well as softer pricing. Sales of utility poles were down marginally by $2.2 \%$ to $\$ 36.9$ million, with decreases in sales of distribution poles offsetting increased revenues for transmission poles. Sales in the industrial lumber category reached $\$ 12.4$ million, up from $\$ 10.5$ million last year, following strong demand for marine applications in eastern Canada, while sales of consumer lumber decreased $9.2 \%$ to $\$ 11.3$ million, primarily as a result of unfavourable summer weather in western Canada.
"Third quarter results continue to reflect lower activity in the railway tie market, as a result of the reduction in freight hauled," said Brian McManus, President and Chief Executive Officer of Stella-Jones. "In addition, certain special projects are awaiting qualification under government-driven infrastructure stimulus programs. Nevertheless, our firm commitment to reviewing the cost efficiency of our operations and optimizing capacity utilization across Stella-Jones' continental plant network further improved profitability."

Gross profit was $\$ 19.6$ million or $18.8 \%$ of sales, compared with $\$ 20.9$ million or $18.7 \%$ of sales last year. The decrease in gross profit dollars reflects lower sales, whereas the increase as a percentage of sales stems from more favourable raw material pricing versus a year ago and increased efficiencies from The Burke-ParsonsBowlby Corporation ("BPB") integration helped to offset softer pricing in most markets.

Net earnings for the period increased $21.5 \%$ to $\$ 8.3$ million or $\$ 0.65$ per share, fully diluted, in 2009, compared with $\$ 6.9$ million or $\$ 0.54$ per share, fully diluted, in 2008. Cash flow from operating activities before changes in non-cash working capital components rose $8.3 \%$ to $\$ 10.3$ million.

As at September 30, 2009, the Company's long-term debt, including the current portion, amounted to $\$ 93.2$ million, representing a ratio of total long-term debt to shareholders' equity of 0.53:1, down from 0.57:1 three months earlier. Working capital stood at $\$ 171.2$ million, stable from $\$ 170.0$ million at the end of the previous quarter, as cash generated from reduced accounts receivable and inventories resulting from seasonal demand reduced bank indebtedness.
"As a result of our constant focus on cash generation and debt reduction, Stella-Jones produced a solid cash flow, which, combined with working capital improvements, reduced short- and long-term debt by an aggregate amount of $\$ 24.4$ million during the quarter," mentioned George Labelle, Senior Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer.

## NINE-MONTH RESULTS

For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009, sales were $\$ 345.7$ million, up from $\$ 301.1$ million in the first nine months of 2008. This increase includes the additional three month contribution of $\$ 37.3$ million from the BPB operations, while the weaker Canadian dollar increased the value of U.S. dollar denominated sales by approximately $\$ 20.5$ million. Gross profit was $\$ 66.1$ million, or $19.1 \%$ of sales, compared with $\$ 60.0$ million, or $19.9 \%$ of sales, in the prior year. Net earnings totalled $\$ 27.0$ million, or $\$ 2.13$ per share, fully diluted, up $21.6 \%$ over net earnings of $\$ 22.2$ million, or $\$ 1.75$ per share, fully diluted, last year. Cash flow from operating activities before changes in non-cash working capital components was $\$ 34.2$ million, up from $\$ 29.3$ million a year earlier.

## OUTLOOK

Challenging market conditions continue to prevail in the railway tie market as Class 1 railway operators are deferring railway tie deliveries until the first quarter of next year in order to keep inventory levels down. Also, certain special projects, which often generate increased activities in the short line and contractor markets, have been put on hold until economic and financing conditions recover. Meanwhile, conditions remain generally more stable in the North American utility pole market. Nevertheless, given uncertainty about the timing of government driven infrastructure projects, Management believes that sales will soften in the short-term until such time as general economic conditions improve.
"Class 1 railway operators have given indications that in the fourth quarter of this year, contrary to years past, they will not be taking advanced deliveries of railway ties for their regular 2010 maintenance programs. Traditionally, they order in the latter part of the year to have ties on hand and available to their maintenance crews early in the following year. Although organic sales growth will continue to be a challenge in the months ahead, an increasingly healthier balance sheet puts Stella-Jones in a stronger position to more aggressively pursue its long-term strategic vision, focused on continental expansion and consolidation, over the coming year," concluded Mr. McManus.

## CONFERENCE CALL

Stella-Jones will hold a conference call to discuss these results on Friday, November 13, 2009, at 10:00 AM Eastern Time. Interested parties can join the call by dialling 1-416-644-3424 (Toronto or overseas) or 1-800-594-3790 (elsewhere in North America). Parties unable to call in at this time may access a tape recording of the meeting by calling 1-877-289-8525 and entering the passcode 4169870\#. This tape recording will be available on Friday, November 13, 2009 as of 12:00 PM Eastern Time until 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Friday, November 20, 2009.

## NON-GAAP MEASURE

Cash flow from operations is a financial measure not prescribed by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") and is not likely to be comparable to similar measures presented by other issuers. Management considers it to be useful information to assist knowledgeable investors in evaluating the cash generating capabilities of the Company.

## ABOUT STELLA-JONES

Stella-Jones Inc. (TSX: SJ) is a leading North American producer and marketer of industrial pressure treated wood products, specializing in the production of railway ties and timbers as well as wood poles supplied to electrical utilities and telecommunications companies. The Company also provides treated consumer lumber products and customized services to lumber retailers and wholesalers for outdoor applications. Other products include marine and foundation pilings, construction timbers, highway guardrail posts and treated wood for bridges. The Company's common shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Except for historical information provided herein, this press release may contain information and statements of a forward-looking nature concerning the future performance of the Company. These statements are based on suppositions and uncertainties as well as on management's best possible evaluation of future events. Such factors may include, without excluding other considerations, fluctuations in quarterly results, evolution in customer demand for the Company's products and services, the impact of price pressures exerted by competitors, and general market trends or economic changes. As a result, readers are advised that actual results may differ from expected results.
-30-

| Head Office | Exchange Listings | InVESTOR ReLAtions |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 3100 de la Côte-Vertu Blvd. | The Toronto Stock Exchange | George Labelle |
| Suite 300 | Stock Symbol (TSX): SJ | Senior Vice-President and <br> Saint-Laurent, Québec <br> H4R 2J8 |
| Tel.: (514) 934-8666 | TrANSFER AgENT AND REGISTRAR | Chief Financial Officer <br> Fax: (514) 934-5327 (514) 934-8665 |
|  | Computershare Investor Services Inc. | Fax: (514) 934-5327 <br> glabelle@stella-jones.com |

## NOTICE

The interim unaudited consolidated financial statements of Stella-Jones Inc. for the third quarter ended September 30, 2009 have not been reviewed by the Company's external auditors.
(Signed)
George Labelle
Senior Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer

Montréal, Québec
November 13, 2009

| Assets |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Current assets |  |  |
| Accounts receivable | 49,166 | 41,501 |
| Derivative financial instruments (Note 2) | 2,005 | 381 |
| Inventories | 210,640 | 223,199 |
| Prepaid expenses | 4,438 | 5,910 |
| Income taxes receivable | 3,309 | 3,778 |
| Future income taxes | 1,261 | 2,338 |
|  | 270,819 | 277,107 |
| CApITAL ASSETS | 100,465 | 108,763 |
| Derivative financial instruments (Note 2) | 445 | 347 |
| Intangible assets (Note 3) | 8,197 | 10,773 |
| Goodwill (Note 3) | 5,597 | 6,367 |
| OTHER ASSETS | 2,645 | 3,343 |
| FUTURE INCOME TAXES | 939 | 846 |
|  | 389,107 | 407,546 |
| LIABILITIES |  |  |
| Current liabilities |  |  |
| Bank indebtedness | 59,538 | 81,560 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 32,605 | 28,694 |
| Customer deposits | 1,464 | 2,971 |
| Derivative financial instruments (Note 2) | --- | 266 |
| Future income taxes | --- | 118 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 4,473 | 4,914 |
| Current portion of asset retirement obligations | 472 | 717 |
| Current portion of non-competes payable | 1,113 | 969 |
|  | 99,665 | 120,209 |
| LONG-TERM DEBT | 88,748 | 100,845 |
| Future income taxes | 15,513 | 16,625 |
| Asset retirement obligations | 573 | 577 |
| Employee future benefits | 1,730 | 1,541 |
| Derivative financial instruments (Note 2) | 1,602 | 1,303 |
| NON-COMPETES PAYABLE | 3,796 | 5,334 |
|  | 211,627 | 246,434 |
| SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY |  |  |
| Capital stock | 51,918 | 49,910 |
| Contributed surplus | 697 | 1,905 |
| Retained earnings | 127,539 | 105,055 |
| ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) INCOME | $(2,674)$ | 4,242 |
|  | 177,480 | 161,112 |
|  | 389,107 | 407,546 |

[^0]| CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (in thousands of dollars, except where specified otherwise) |  |  |  |  |
| (unaudited) | three months | t. 30, | nine mont | t. 30, |
|  | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 |
|  | (\#) | (\#) | (\#) | (\#) |

## Share capital <br> (in thousands of shares)

Shares outstanding - beginning of period
Stock option plan

| 12,677 | 12,557 | 12,565 | 12,341 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| --- | 2 | 4 | 15 |
| ---- | 100 | 200 |  |
| 4 | 2 | 12 | 5 |
| 12,681 | 12,561 | 12,681 | 12,561 |

Stock option agreement
Share purchase plan
Shares outstanding - end of period
12,681
12,56


|  | $\mathbf{( \$ )}$ | $\mathbf{( \$ )}$ | $\mathbf{( \$ )}$ | $\mathbf{( \$ )}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Shares outstanding - beginning of period | 51,853 | 49,754 | 49,910 | 46,023 |
| Stock option plan | --- | 43 | 80 | 286 |
| Stock option agreement | --- | 1,692 | 3,384 |  |
| Share purchase plan | 65 | 52 | 236 | 156 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Shares outstanding - end of period | 51,918 | 49,849 | 51,918 | 49,849 |

## CONTRIBUTED SURPLUS

| Balance - beginning of period | 638 | 1,766 | 1,905 | 4,045 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Stock-based compensation | 59 | 76 | 213 | 664 |
| Exercise of stock options | --- | $(13)$ | $(1,421)$ | $(2,880)$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Balance - end of period | 697 | 1,829 | 697 | 1,829 |

## RETAINED EARNINGS

| Balance - beginning of period | 121,500 | 94,139 | 105,055 | 80,745 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Net earnings for the period | 8,320 | 6,850 | 27,028 | 22,220 |
| Dividends on common shares | $(2,281)$ | $(2,261)$ | $(4,544)$ | $(4,237)$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Balance - end of period | 127,539 | 98,728 | 127,539 | 98,728 |

## AcCumulated other comprehensive income (loss)

| Balance - beginning of period | 1,550 | $(2,837)$ | 4,242 | $(3,056)$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Other comprehensive (loss) income | $(4,224)$ | 2,143 | $(6,916)$ | 2,362 |
|  |  |  |  | $(694)$ |
| Balance - end of period | $(2,674)$ | $(694)$ | $(2,674)$ | $(177,480$ |
| SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY |  | 149,712 | 177,480 | 149,712 |

[^1]| (in thousands of dollars, except per share data) (unaudited) | $\begin{array}{r} \text { three montl } \\ 2009 \\ (\$) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Sept. 30, } \\ 2008 \\ (\$) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { nine months } \\ 2009 \\ (\$) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Sept. 30, 2008 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SALES | 104,671 | 111,828 | 345,729 | 301,091 |
| EXPENSES |  |  |  |  |
| Cost of sales | 85,035 | 90,953 | 279,674 | 241,048 |
| Selling and administrative | 5,981 | 6,221 | 17,068 | 14,983 |
| Foreign exchange (gain) loss | (576) | 388 | (854) | 227 |
| Gain on derivative financial instruments | $(1,211)$ | --- | $(2,450)$ | --- |
| Amortization of capital and intangible assets | 1,896 | 2,121 | 7,008 | 5,507 |
| Loss (gain) on disposal of capital assets | 170 | 18 | 119 | (16) |
|  | 91,295 | 99,701 | 300,565 | 261,749 |
| Operating Earnings | 13,376 | 12,127 | 45,164 | 39,342 |
| INTEREST ON LONG-TERM DEBT | 1,825 | 1,207 | 5,207 | 3,716 |
| OTHER INTEREST | 351 | 644 | 1,419 | 1,821 |
| EARNINGS BEFORE INCOME TAXES | 11,200 | 10,276 | 38,538 | 33,805 |
| PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES | 2,880 | 3,426 | 11,510 | 11,585 |
| Net Earnings for the period | 8,320 | 6,850 | 27,028 | 22,220 |
| NET EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE (Note 4) | 0.66 | 0.55 | 2.14 | 1.79 |
| DILUTED NET EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE (Note 4) | 0.65 | 0.54 | 2.13 | 1.75 |

## See accompanying Notes

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

| (in thousands of dollars) (unaudited) | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { three mont } \\ 2009 \\ (\$) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | ept. 30 <br> 2008 <br> (\$) | nine months 2009 (\$) | Sept. 30, 2008 (\$) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NET EARNINGS FOR THE PERIOD | 8,320 | 6,850 | 27,028 | 22,220 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) : |  |  |  |  |
| Net change in unrealized gains on translation of financial statements of self-sustaining foreign |  |  |  |  |
| Net change in unrealized losses on translation of longterm debt designated as a hedge of net investment in self-sustaining foreign operation | 3,230 | (758) | 5,155 | (758) |
| Change in fair value of derivatives designated as cash |  |  |  | (500) |
| Reclassification to net earnings of losses and (gains) on cash flow hedges (Note 2) | --- | (101) | (319) | (583) |
| Income tax (recovery) expense on change in fair value of cash flow hedges and cash flow hedges reclassed to net earnings (Note 2) | 102 | 140 | 236 | 336 |
|  | $(4,224)$ | 2,143 | $(6,916)$ | 2,362 |
| Comprehensive income | 4,096 | 8,993 | 20,112 | 24,582 |

[^2]| (in thousands of dollars) (unaudited) | three months ended Sept. 30, |  | nine months ended Sept. 30, |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $2009$ (\$) | $\begin{array}{r} 2008 \\ (\$) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $2009$ (\$) | $\begin{array}{r} 2008 \\ (\$) \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES |  |  |  |  |
| Net earnings for the period | 8,320 | 6,850 | 27,028 | 22,220 |
| Adjustments for |  |  |  |  |
| Amortization of capital assets | 1,461 | 1,699 | 5,604 | 4,714 |
| Amortization of intangible assets | 435 | 422 | 1,404 | 793 |
| Amortization of deferred financing charges | 22 | 14 | 54 | 35 |
| Change in fair value of debt | 286 | (15) | 749 | 335 |
| Loss (gain) on disposal of capital assets | 170 | 18 | 119 | (16) |
| Employee future benefits | 125 | 64 | 374 | 196 |
| Stock-based compensation | 59 | 76 | 213 | 664 |
| (Gain) loss on derivative financial instruments | $(1,211)$ | 388 | $(2,450)$ | 388 |
| Future income tax | 694 | --- | 1,080 | --- |
| Other | (46) | 6 | 63 | (34) |
|  | 10,315 | 9,522 | 34,238 | 29,295 |
| CHANGES IN NON-CASH WORKING CAPITAL COMPONENTS |  |  |  |  |
| Accounts receivable | 10,573 | 8,617 | $(13,150)$ | $(16,007)$ |
| Inventories | 8,063 | $(9,849)$ | 1,255 | $(5,811)$ |
| Prepaid expenses | 100 | (234) | 1,099 | (801) |
| Income taxes (receivable) payable | 663 | $(2,263)$ | 18 | $(1,075)$ |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | $(3,555)$ | 522 | 6,172 | $(4,210)$ |
| Customer deposits | 32 | --- | $(1,265)$ | --- |
| Asset retirement obligations | (215) | (224) | (249) | 12 |
|  | 15,661 | $(3,431)$ | $(6,120)$ | $(27,892)$ |
|  | 25,976 | 6,091 | 28,118 | 1,403 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM (USED FOR) FINANCING ACTIVITIES (Decrease) increase in bank indebtedness | $(23,240)$ | $(1,415)$ | $(17,998)$ | 8,091 |
| Increase in long-term debt | --- | 89 | --- | 45,719 |
| Repayment of long-term debt | $(1,182)$ | $(1,160)$ | $(3,936)$ | $(9,243)$ |
| Proceeds from issuance of common shares | 65 | 83 | 587 | 946 |
| Non-competes payable | (362) | (317) | $(1,130)$ | (632) |
| Dividend on common shares | --- | --- | $(2,263)$ | $(1,976)$ |
|  | $(24,719)$ | $(2,720)$ | $(24,740)$ | 42,905 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM (USED FOR) INVESTING ACTIVITIES |  |  |  |  |
| Decrease (increase) in other assets | 3 | (59) | 35 | (8) |
| Business acquisition | --- | (182) | --- | $(38,220)$ |
| Purchase of capital assets | $(1,258)$ | $(3,251)$ | $(3,885)$ | $(6,235)$ |
| Assets held for sale | (2) | --- | 407 | --- |
| Proceeds from disposal of capital assets | --- | 121 | 65 | 155 |
|  | $(1,257)$ | $(3,371)$ | $(3,378)$ | $(44,308)$ |
| NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - DURING THE PERIOD | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING AND END OF THE |  |  |  |  |
| PERIOD | --- | - | --- | --- |
| Supplemental disclosure |  |  |  |  |
| Interest paid | 1,824 | 1,769 | 7,499 | 4,907 |
| Income taxes paid | 1,038 | 5,313 | 9,927 | 11,861 |

## See accompanying Notes

## NOTES TO INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## (tabular information presented in thousands of dollars) Unaudited

## NOTE 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

## Basis of presentation

The interim consolidated financial statements for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and 2008, are unaudited and include estimates and adjustments that the Management of Stella-Jones Inc. (the "Company") consider necessary for a fair presentation of the financial position, shareholders' equity, earnings, comprehensive income and cash flows.

The interim consolidated financial statements are reported in Canadian dollars and have been prepared in accordance with Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") on a basis consistent with those followed in the annual consolidated financial statements of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2008, except for new accounting policies that were adopted January 1, 2009, as described below. However, they do not include all disclosures required under GAAP for annual financial statements and should be read in conjunction with the Company's latest audited year-end consolidated financial statements and notes.

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified in order to comply with the basis of presentation adopted in the current year.

## Principles of consolidation

The unaudited interim consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company, its wholly-owned Canadian subsidiaries, Guelph Utility Pole Company Ltd., I.P.B.-W.P.I. International Inc., Stella-Jones Canada Inc. (formerly Bell Pole Canada Inc.) and its wholly-owned U.S. subsidiaries, Stella-Jones U.S. Holding Corporation, Stella-Jones Corporation, The Burke-Parsons-Bowlby Corporation, and Stella-Jones U.S. Finance Corporation. The consolidated accounts of Stella-Jones Canada Inc. include the accounts of a $50 \%$ interest in Kanaka Creek Pole Company Limited, a joint venture which is accounted for under the proportionate consolidation method of accounting.

## Changes in accounting policies

The CICA issued the following accounting standard which was adopted by the Company effective January 1, 2009:

- Handbook Section 3064, "Goodwill and Intangible Assets" replaces Section 3062, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets" and Section 3450, "Research and Development Costs". Section 1000, "Financial Statement Concepts" was amended according to Section 3064. This new Section establishes standards for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of goodwill subsequent to its initial recognition and of intangible assets by profit oriented companies. The Company has assessed that the impact of this new accounting standard is not significant. Additionally, the new required disclosures have been included in Note 3.

On January 20, 2009, the Emerging Issues Committee (EIC) of the Canadian Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) issued EIC Abstract 173, "Credit Risk and Fair Value of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities", which establishes that an entity's own credit risk and the credit risk of the counterparty should be taken into account in determining the fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities, including derivative instruments. EIC Abstract 173 should be applied retrospectively without restatement of prior years to all financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value in interim and annual financial statements for periods ending on or after January 20, 2009. The Company has assessed that the impact of EIC Abstract 173 is not significant.

## (tabular information presented in thousands of dollars)

## NOTE 1 - (cont’d.)

## Impact of accounting pronouncements not yet implemented

The CICA issued the following accounting standards which will be adopted by the Company effective January 1, 2011:

- Handbook Section 1582, "Business Combinations", which replaces Section 1581, "Business Combinations". This Section establishes standards for the accounting for a business combination. It provides the Canadian equivalent to the IFRS standard, IFRS 3 (Revised) standard, "Business Combinations". The Section applies prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after January 1, 2011. Earlier application is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of this new accounting standard on its consolidated financial statements.
- Handbook Section 1601, "Consolidated Financial Statements", and Section 1602, "Non-controlling Interests", which together replace Section 1600, "Consolidated Financial Statements". Section 1601 establishes standards for the preparation of consolidated financial statements. Section 1602 establishes standards for accounting for a non-controlling interest in a subsidiary in consolidated financial statements subsequent to a business combination. These standards are equivalent to the corresponding provisions of the IAS 27 (Revised) standard, "Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements". Earlier adoption is permitted as of the beginning of a fiscal year. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of these new accounting standards on its consolidated financial statements.

Additionally, in February 2008, Canada’s Accounting Standards Board confirmed that the use of International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") would be required for Canadian publicly accountable enterprises for years beginning on or after January 1, 2011. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of adopting IFRS on its consolidated financial statements.

## NOTE 2 - HEDGING TRANSACTION

On January 1, 2009, the Company ceased hedge accounting on its foreign exchange forward contracts. As these contracts were designated as cash flow hedges, their fair value incremental was recorded under "Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income" and will be recognized in earnings over the designated underlying period of foreign exchange forward contracts from March 2009 to December 2010.

## NOTE 3 - GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Goodwill was recorded as part of a purchase price allocation of a previous year business acquisition. Goodwill is not amortized and will be subject to an annual impairment test, or more frequently, if events or changes in circumstances indicate that it might be impaired. The Company has conducted its annual goodwill impairment test and has concluded that no adjustments were required.

Intangible assets are comprised of customer relationships and non-compete agreements which are recorded at cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over their useful lives. The amortization method and estimated useful life are reviewed on an annual basis:

Customer relationships 3 to 10 years
Non-compete agreements 6 years

## (tabular information presented in thousands of dollars)

## NOTE 3 - (cont'd.)

For the three-month period ended September 30, 2009, the amortization expense for customer relationships and the non-compete agreements was $\$ 170,576$ and $\$ 265,208$ respectively. For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2009, the amortization expense for customer relationships and non-compete agreements was $\$ 565,336$ and $\$ 838,858$ respectively. As at September 30, 2009, the net book value of these assets was as follows:

|  | Cost <br> Accumulated <br> amortization <br> $\$$ | Net book value <br> $\$$ |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Customer relationships | 4,690 |  | $\$ 1,063$ |

## NOTE 4 - EARNINGS PER SHARE

The following table provides the reconciliation between net earnings per common share and diluted net earnings per common share for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30:

|  | $\begin{array}{c}\text { three months ended Sept. 30, } \\ \mathbf{2 0 0 9}\end{array}$ | nine months ended Sept. 30, |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ |  |  |  |$)$

* Net earnings are presented in thousands of dollars and share information is presented in thousands.


## NOTE 5 - EMPLOYEE FUTURE BENEFITS

The recognized cost for employee future benefits was as follows:

|  | three months ended Sept. 30, |  | nine months ended Sept. 30, |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 8}$ |
| $\mathbf{( \$ )}$ | $\mathbf{( \$ )}$ | $\mathbf{( \$ )}$ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Post retirement benefit program | 63 | 66 | 189 | 198 |
| Defined benefit pension plans | 62 | 52 | 185 | 124 |
| Contributions to multi-employer plans | 78 | 85 | 227 | 236 |
| Contributions to group retirement savings plans | 260 | 417 | 928 | 882 |

## (tabular information presented in thousands of dollars)

## NOTE 6 - SEASONALITY

The Company's operations follow a seasonal pattern, with pole, tie and industrial lumber shipments strongest in the second and third quarters to provide industrial end users with product for their summer maintenance projects. Consumer lumber sales also follow the same seasonal pattern. Inventory levels of railway ties and utility poles are typically highest in the first quarter in advance of the summer shipping season. The first and fourth quarters usually generate similar sales.

## NOTE 7 - SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Company operates within one dominant business segment, the production and sale of pressure treated wood.

## NOTE 8 - COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified in order to comply with the basis of presentation adopted in the current year.


[^0]:    See accompanying Notes

[^1]:    See accompanying Notes

[^2]:    See accompanying Notes

