



## CELEBRATE HUDSON BAY!

### Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> 2022

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For Free Fun, Entertainment and Food!

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## LUTZ LOGGING ENDS A LONG RUN



By Gene Hauta



Blair and Angela Lutz

After what may seem like a lifetime in the logging business, Blair Lutz and his wife, Angela, (AKA Lutz Logging) have made their final cuts and have entered the strange reality of retirement.

The couple was married in 1979 when they were young (ages 16 and 19) and adventurous. They raised three children -- daughter Blaire (1980), Miles (1982), and Apollonia (1986). Subsequently, there are four grandchildren plus one step-grandchild, who is treated the same as the others.

Angela (b 1963) and Blair (b 1959) both

went to school in their hometown of Mistatim, Angela graduated but Blair quit after grade 10 to go work in Alberta. In December 1978, after a year and a half, he returned to Mistatim to work for Angela's father Louis Biro, a logging contractor for MacMillan Bloedel in Hudson Bay. [Ed. Note -- A complete history of Lutz Logging is in a separate story.]

Why retire now? "Blair wore out his body, and we are financially ready," said Angela. "We're willing to let the younger generation take over as we have nothing left to prove."

Blair can now admit that the long days



Parked Equipment

in the bush affected things at home with the family as Angela, besides learning to do the books and payroll, was in charge of the children and the home front.

"Blair is hoping once he receives a knee replacement, he can get around better and be able to do more things with family," said Angela. "We started planning our retirement five years ago and let Weyerhaeuser know three years ago so they could plan for it, also." Employees were informed a couple of years prior and options were offered. Some have joined the new companies,

some moved to other contractors, and some retired.

They have seen many advances in the logging business. "GPS and iPads in the bunchers were a major advancement, making it much easier for the operators, although they still have to make decisions on the fly (eg. unidentified creeks)." Over the years, logging has become less manual and more mechanical.

Improved comfort in the machines has made it easier on the operators starting with cabs, eventually with actual heat and actual air conditioning. "When we started, we weren't

even smart enough to get plexiglass to protect the operators better. We just toughed it out!" Advancements in headlights and other mechanical aspects have made work easier. Seasonal work gradually became full time work.

Also, the change in the equipment lessened the 'footprint' left in the bush. A switch from drive-to-tree to track feller bunchers was crucial, as was a change to floatation tires and a conscious effort to reduce the number of roads.

"The equipment is so much better, but

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