

## Elias Woodwork Celebrates 40 Years!

Sept/23

Elias Woodwork is excited to celebrate their milestone 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 40 years ago, Ron Elias and brothers John and Ralph Fehr purchased Elias Woodwork which was conceived as a one man cabinet shop by Mr. Peters Elias who worked out of a small garage on his side yard. Since that humble beginning, their people have produced superior quality products and services of exceptional value, timely delivered, at such a competitive price as to propel the business to double in manufacturing capacity and sales every 4 years. This is large in part to their fearless leader Ralph Fehr who has a background in Engineering and a passion for technology and machinery.



**"Even though Elias is now seen as one of the most automated wood processing factories in North America, each piece of equipment installed has resulted in more employment, never less. Our commitment to never cut costs close to the customer results in real live human beings answering the phone for customer orders and service, packaging that is SURE to get the product to your location in the condition it left our factory, with a fit and finish second to none. We have the name of our customer attached to every work piece going through our shop...and are fortunate to be located in a community where employees take pride in knowing the idiosyncrasies of individual customers and how they like their details handled... and the work ethic and pride in workmanship is attached to every finished piece leaving for our customer's job site. It's been a lot of hard work over these 40 years... but when you love what you're doing, you don't feel like you've had to work a day in your life."**



Elias Woodwork was incorporated in 1983 while working in a 2000 sq/ft building on Centennial Ave. in Winkler, MB. They began building their main facility, along with a maintenance room in 1986, after purchasing their first lot. They worked hard during this time, even constructing overhead dust holding tanks to load trucks.



In 1994, they raised the capital needed to start building the Rough mill/molding shop and began painting in the South end of it using a small hand spray booth. Five years later, customer demand had them requiring significant expansion again. Their company built a large extension to their main shop and shipping area and invested in a new CEFLA paint line, requiring its first million-dollar plus bank loan. The project extended well in 2000, whereby the extension of the Rough mill and a wood storage area was built. Furthermore, they ventured into a vinyl pressing business in partnership with Triple E. In 2008, they leased the front half of the old Morden Tupperware plant where they immediately set out to build another paint room. In 2013, they expanded their leased space in the Morden plant so they could repurpose it for their AOS cabinet box construction. They then negotiated the purchase of the entire Morden site a short time later.



By 2017, they repurchased the vinyl pressing company and moved that company's production into the remaining vacant space in the Morden plant. We built an annex to the Winkler site Rough mill in the same year, housing an additional molder and a drawer box cell.



In 2020, Elias Woodwork began preparing another lot in Winkler for the future building once again. They recently finished this construction in 2022 and are now moving the AOS cabinet box manufacturing from the Morden plant. The Elias Woodwork Ownership group is extremely grateful

for the hard work and effort made by their staff, acknowledging all their contributions to their

growth and success these past 40 years. "We have been so blessed to be located in the Winkler/Morden area because of the hard working multi skilled populating the area."

Elias Woodwork invites everyone to attend our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which will take place on the lawn of our Morden location on September 16th from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The celebration will include food trucks, exciting inflatables, face painting, a Country Princess, live bands, and a fireworks display to conclude the night. "This milestone is really a testament to the ambitions of the people in this entire area... and we'd like to say Thank You!" We are anticipating the joy of having everyone join in and recognize this impressive milestone with us.



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