



*2022 Retail Lumber Dealers Association of
Maine's Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient*

**Peggy Lord
Lapointe Lumber Company**

"I have always said that I was a work horse, not a show horse. My work ethic always proved it."

That's how Peggy Lord, who retired last year after 52 years with her family business, describes herself. There is certainly no doubting the work ethic of a woman who began working on the family chicken farm at age eight. By age 16, this was her routine: "I started at Lapointe Lumber after school from 2 to 5 p.m., then went home for dinner. Then, from 6 to 10 p.m., I went to work at W.T. Grant. After I got home, I did my homework, then off to bed."

After graduating from high school, Peggy only ever worked at Lapointe Lumber, which was not necessarily her plan. "My father needed someone to help him. I told him I would help, but I was not staying," she explains. "Well, that didn't work. And history repeated itself: I asked my son the same question and he did the same thing; he stayed and is still working under Hancock Lumber."

Instead of going off to college, Peggy attended the "school of Normand Lapointe. My father taught me everything I needed to know about the industry and running the business."

She recalls attending business meetings with her father back when she was one of the few women in the room. "I was a very shy young lady and was intimidated by others in the industry," she recalls. "There were mostly men; not very many women were in the industry back then. Thank God I overcame my shyness."

Over the ensuing years, Peggy demonstrated her work ethic the old-fashioned way. "I was the first one in the

store and the last one to close up," she says. "I would even take work home when needed."

Lapointe was a family business from start to finish. Founded in Augusta by Peggy's grandfather, Wilfred, in 1947, it was taken over by her father and his brother, Roland, in 1955. Then, in 1989, Peggy, her brother, Normand, Jr., and Roland's son-in-law, Dick Tarr, bought out Roland. They opened a second location in Gardiner in 1993. In 2002, they bought Normand, Sr.'s share. In 2011, Lapointe was named Business of the Year by the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce.

"This is a true family business," Peggy emphasizes. "I had the pleasure of working with my grandfather, father, uncle, husband, son, daughter, cousin's daughter, other cousins, some of my siblings and even two of my grandchildren."

Eventually, Peggy became president and treasurer of Lapointe Lumber. In 2021, they sold it to Hancock Lumber, with Peggy staying on for an additional three months before retiring. Her son, Tim; daughter, Laura; and cousin's daughter, JoAnne, continue to work in the same location, now under the Hancock name.

In retirement, Peggy and her husband, Tim (known as "BT"), divide their time between the home in Augusta that they helped build in 1975 and a winter home in Sebastian, Florida. They've been married since 1973 and will celebrate their 49th anniversary on September 29. Their two children have given them three grandchildren. With her newfound time, Peggy enjoys camping, fishing and "spending time with my family and my Floridian gals."

Looking back at her career, Peggy reaffirms the values that guided her. "Work hard, be honest, always smile and enjoy what you do," she advises. "I lived this to the fullest. My father used to say, 'Hard work never killed anyone, but it sure did scare a lot of people.'"
