

LARGE PROCESSOR



# Bell's Machining Bell 6000C



## Manufacturer

Bell's Machining,  
Welding & Hydraulics  
2044 Rogers Rd.  
Perth, ON K7H 1P9  
Canada  
ph: 888/995-1965  
[www.bellsmachining.com](http://www.bellsmachining.com)

## Machine Operator

Andrew Clement

## Assistant

Mike Cousineau

## Time

14 min. 42 sec.

## Cords Processed

2 Cords

## Cords/Hour

8.16 Cords

“I was in the logging business for 33 years. Bell's Machining did a lot of maintenance for us,” recalled Brent Easton. “When the owner retired, I bought the company so we could keep our equipment running.” Brent then put his logging experience to use in designing and building a firewood processor. Although Bell's still does custom welding and fabrication, the Perth, Ontario-based company is now focused on building commercial firewood processors, with sales around the world. Bringing the 5-ton model 6000C firewood processor into the muddy Shoot-Out arena proved a real challenge, but once in place, Bell's crew wasted no time in folding down the conveyor and lowering the log deck. After warming up the engine and testing all systems, the machine was ready for its logs.

This year, Brent brought in Andrew Clement, a customer who uses a Bell's 4000C for his firewood business. He found that the circle saw cutoff, although more expensive, has several advantages over the chain saw. In addition



tion to the faster cutting rate, the inserted-tooth blade requires less sharpening and individual teeth can be quickly replaced, if necessary. “In the 13,000 hours we've run the machines, we've never touched a tooth yet,” he noted. “The only maintenance has been an oil change every 250 hours.”

It didn't take Andrew long to make the transition to the 6000C processor with its electric-over-hydraulic control joystick. “The controls are exactly the same,” he explained. “But the 6000C is a bigger machine, so the response is a little different.” At the starting signal, the 91-hp Cat turbo diesel engine throttled up to operating speed and the 54-inch-diameter circle saw dropped down

to make its first cut. Other than a quick minor adjustment to a valve, Andrew kept the machine in constant motion while his assistant, Mike Cousineau, kept an eye on the splitter and outfeed conveyor. "We weren't able to load the full 2 cords of logs, leaving more to be loaded as the machine consumed them, but Shoot-Out loader operator Dave Schomp was on the spot to reload it before it ran out. That skid-steer operator did an awesome job," Andrew noted. "We never had to wait for logs."

The 6000C is designed to handle logs up to 23-1/2 inches in diameter, so the Shoot-Out logs went through with no problem. The Bell's team decided on an 8-way wedge to produce smaller chunks of firewood. Several features on the 6000C were new to Andrew. The live-log repositioning system and kick plate allow the operator to rotate the firewood in the splitting chamber and reposition it using the controls in the cab.

Although he did not use it during the Shoot-Out, he agreed that it could be a time-saver. The dual drive live deck allowed Andrew to straighten out any crooked logs so they fell straight onto the infeed conveyor. Another innovative option on the 6000C was the heavy-duty "Elite" wedge, built into a box frame and controlled by a pair of hydraulic cylinders on the sides. For reliable firewood outfeed, Bell's processor uses a double-chain, variable-speed conveyor that performed flawlessly.

Overall, the Bell's team was well pleased with the performance at the Shoot-Out. Andrew commented that the wood was better quality than he typically processes back home. With a steady supply of wood and no delays, he pushed the 6000C to finish its task in just 14 minutes, 42 seconds—a little more than twice the four cords per hour the company advertises for the machine. •



## MACHINE SPECS

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Model .....       | 6000C  |
| Power .....       | 91-hp<br>Cat turbo diesel  |
| Cutoff .....      | 54-in. circle saw  |
| Cycle time.....   | 3 sec.   |
| Log loading.....  | 8-foot,<br>3-strand live deck  |
| Max diameter..... | 23-1/2 in.   |
| Options used..... | 8-way<br>splitting wedge, air-<br>conditioned cab, extra<br>live deck leg, 10-ft. live<br>deck, hydraulic jacks, live-<br>log repositioning system |

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