



Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday May 27 at the Qualicum and Graham Park Community Centre on Esquimalt Avenue in Graham Park, commencing at 1:30 pm (Doors open at 1:00 pm)

Program items will include a demonstration by Jim Armstrong on photographing horological items. This was the talk originally scheduled for the March meeting which had to be postponed. This will be followed by Maynard Dokken who will talk about the restoration of clock dials by computer, and Ben Roberts with a process to 'antique' such dials.

There will also be Mart and Display tables, so bring along your items please.

Dan Hudon will be on hand from 12:30 pm, to discuss details of his first clock repair course with those who have expressed an interest. So come early if you want to talk to him. Tentatively Dan is suggesting that the first course be held at the Community Centre on the Sunday morning of our next meeting on September 23.

WWII Watches Wanted

Wanted to purchase, one of each of the following WW II government issue Canadian Army, Canadian Navy, and RCAF wrist watches. These are required for a permanent display of Canadian WW II uniforms and equipment. It is not essential for them to be in working order, but they should be of good appearance. .

Please contact Ben Roberts. Telephone 613-828-9271.

Sale of Books and Tools

By Ben Roberts

A selection of horological books together with watch and clockmakers bench tools will be on sale at the meeting. They are from the estate of the late David Whittingham, and are being sold on behalf of his widow. All are in excellent condition and prices are very reasonable. Many of the tools would be useful if you are thinking of taking one of Dan's clock repair courses.

Timely Quotes

I never think of the future - it comes soon enough.

Albert Einstein

The Bytown Times is published five times a year by the Ottawa Chapter 111, National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, 14 Kinnear Street, Ottawa, Ont., K1Y 3R4. Telephone (613) 728-1242. Maynard Dokken, President.

Bill Pullen, Vice President.

Ben Roberts, Secretary.

Charles Beddoe, Treasurer.

Immediate Past President: Dan Hudon.

Allan Symons, Program Director.

Peter Bomford, Public Relations.

Ben Roberts, Editor, Bytown Times.

Email Address: benrobe@igs.net

The Chapter meets five times a year on the fourth Sunday of the months of Jan., March, May, Sept., and Nov., at 1:00 pm. Annual dues \$16.

Membership in the NAWCC is obligatory.

Association dues: U.S. \$50.

Last Meeting

The last meeting was held on Sunday March 25 at the Qualicum and Graham Park Community Centre.

38 members and visitors were in attendance.

Chapter president Maynard Dokken welcomed visitor Arnold Van Nieuwburge, from the Montreal Chapter, and visitor and new member George Royer. A special welcome was also extended to Peter Bomford who had been able to take a few hours from his convalescence in hospital to attend the meeting.

Ben Roberts provided copies of a new Chapter Membership List, and announced that Chapter Executive elections will be held at the September meeting. Members willing to run for office in the Chapter are urgently required.

A talk and demonstration by Jim Armstrong on how he photographs horological items had been announced as one of the program items, but unfortunately this had to be postponed due to Jim being unwell. Also Dan Hudon was unable to attend to discuss the progress he has made towards setting up clock repair instruction. Members seeking participation in the proposed course or workshops, or who want additional information should contact Dan directly.

Despite the necessary departures from the planned program, the meeting was made interesting by contributions from Ernest Boldt who had brought along some recently acquired watch items, consisting of an enamel dial watch with a verge escapement and fuzee, and also a Waltham model 1883 pocket watch dating from 1908. Allan Symons introduced a variety of interesting subjects relating to exhibits to be found in his Canadian Clock Museum, and to Canadian Clocks in general. He discussed his investigations into the Tower Clock at Gananoque, Ontario, and revealed new details he had unearthed about the original Snider Clock company of Toronto including contacts with a relative of the original owner. He also presented facts on certain Canadian Clocks he had discovered through contacts found on E-Bay on the Internet. Finally he led a discussion about the New Haven Clock Company in Ontario, Canada. For this he had brought along a School Clock with a New Haven Brantford label, which, together with the New Haven Toronto Gingerbread clock case brought to the meeting by Luc Laurin, engendered discussions regarding the probable clock manufacturing processes of the New Haven Clock Company in their plants at both Toronto and Brantford. The general consensus was that the cases were probably made in the plants in Canada, but the movements could well have been imported from the U.S.A.

Altogether a successful and interesting meeting which was unfortunately marred by the disappearance of a watch from one of the Mart tables. The Chapter has reimbursed the owner of the stolen watch, valued at \$75, from Chapter funds. It is suggested that a voluntary levy from members should be sought to replace the Chapter funds.

Seen at the Last Meeting



Left: Peter Bomford was able to take a few hours from his recuperation in hospital to attend the meeting.



Right: Pete Graham with his latest acquisition, a Pequegnat 'Berlin'



Left: Maynard Dokken and Ernest Boldt discuss the two watches brought along by Ernest for show and tell



Left and Above:: The case and movement of the attractive enamel watch belonging to Ernest Boldt. The movement has a verge escapement with fusee, and the watch is probably French from the late 1700's or early 1800's



The case and movement of the Waltham watch 1883 model brought along for show and tell by Ernest Boldt.

The watch was made in 1908.

Printed on the dial is:

**S. HADLEY
FRANKFORD, ONT.**



Seen at the last Meeting: Continued



Allan Symons and Maynard Dokken examine the School clock shown on the right, which Allan brought along as an example of a New Haven Clock Company product from the Brantford, Ontario plant. The stamp 'Brantford, Ont.' can be clearly seen on both the labels pictured below.



Above: This New Haven Clock Company Gingerbread case was brought along to the meeting by Luc Laurin. Luc is searching for a movement for this clock.



Right: 'Toronto, Ontario' can be clearly seen printed on the label of Luc's New Haven Gingerbread case.



A New Clock at Waterloo University

By Jim Ronson
From the University of Waterloo Magazine / Winter 2001

Big clock is one of a kind.

The new clock in the Davis Centre Great hall was built and donated by Brendan Reilly, BSc 75, son of retired engineering professor Park Reilly. After making small clocks for 20 years, Reilly wanted to extend his craft by designing a big clock for a public space. Built open to show the works, the clock has a 1.8-meter black walnut dial with boxwood markers and a 4.2-meter pendulum with a ceramic bob created by potter Patricia O'Connell. And, because of the movement of the "unique modified grasshopper escapement," this clock is almost totally silent.

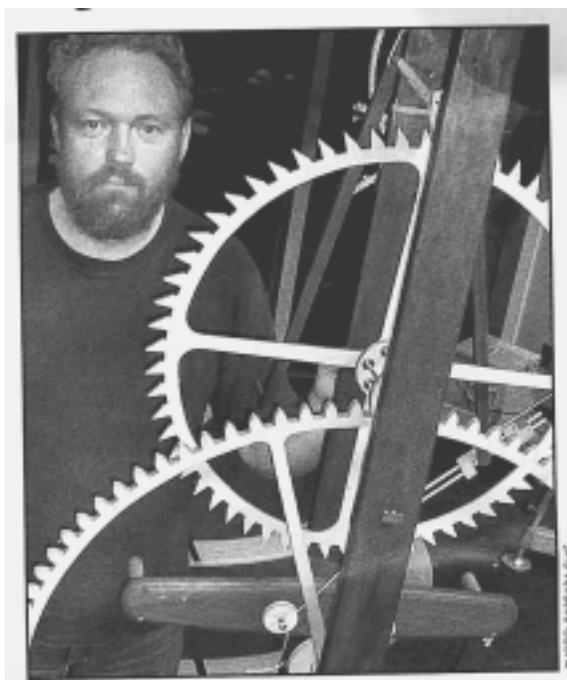


PHOTO: BARBARA ELYE

Temple Israel Presentation

On Thursday April 12, the Chapter was invited to visit the Temple Israel on Prince of Wales Drive to give a short presentation to their seniors group, followed by an evaluation session on clocks and watches,

Prior to starting the presentation we were invited to participate in a buffet lunch, and each of our four members sat at a different table, giving us an opportunity to chat with the people attending the event.

For the presentations, Gary Fox, was the main speaker, but he was backed up by President Maynard Dokken, Archie Smith and Ben Roberts.

Ben opened the presentations with a description of the NAWCC and Chapter 111 and the aims, objectives and activities of these organizations. He then gave a brief overview of the some 12 typical clocks which had been placed on display at the side of the room.

Gary followed this with the main portion of the program which was a slightly shortened version of his excellent slide presentation on Ottawa Watches and Jewellers. The audience of some 40 people was most attentive and were obviously very interested in all that was said.

Finally, our four members held a watch and clock evaluation session, which lasted for over an hour, with a variety of watches and some clocks being presented for evaluation.

Altogether a very pleasant and worthwhile event. Both the organizers and the very attentive audience expressed their appreciation and interest.

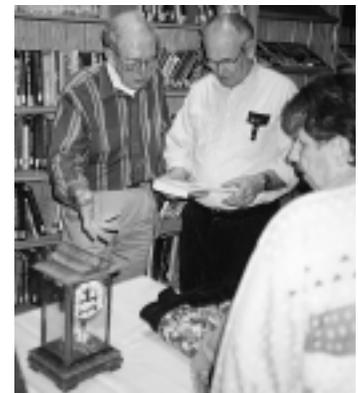


The presentation by Gary Fox on Ottawa Watches and Jewellers was well received, and held the audiences attention.



Gary carries out a watch evaluation for an interested group of people.

Right: Ben Roberts and Archie Smith discuss one of the clocks brought along for evaluation.



Archie and Ben consult a Clock Price Guide.

Recycling Ammoniated Clock Cleaning Solution

Downloaded from the Internet

I knew a clockmaker who recycled his clock cleaning solution using an automobile filter. I thought a coffee filter should work just as well, so I tried it. It failed immediately because of clogging. I figured there was too much dirt for the filter to handle, so a car filter would not work adequately either. I was told that when the solution failed to clean, its chemicals were depleted. Last year I decided to try a technique I use for making home-made wine. I acquired a five gallon carboy and a siphon kit and poured the cleaning solution into it. Three days later, all the dirt had settled to the bottom. The plastic attachment on the end of the siphon makes it siphon from above the tip rather than from below. After filling the siphon with water, siphoning off the cleaner portion of the solution was easy. The result was simple: it worked well again. I added some household ammonia solution (the "sudsy" variety) to it and continued to use it. When it failed again I repeated the siphoning process. The proof is in the age: the solution I still use has been siphoned about seven times and it

is now over four years old! It is L&R ammoniated concentrate that I diluted with water. It looks awful. It is definitely dirty. It smells awful. But it still cleans well.

Since I could not wait, I made up a second solution. I now use the first for pre-soak. This allows me to wait for longer: the old solution was allowed to settle for a month. I bought the carboy and siphon kit at my local homebrew supply store. I do not use the same carboy and siphon for making wine!

The ammonia is what causes the brass to shine after cleaning. It also prevents the steel parts from rusting in the water-based solution because it is alkaline. If the solution no longer smells of ammonia, or has only a faint smell, add about half a cup of sudsy ammonia solution (from your supermarket) per gallon of cleaning solution. Note that the cleaning solution can easily remove the lacquer finish of modern clock plates, which I therefore clean by hand using 90% alcohol (from your pharmacy) and a cloth, and toothpicks for the bushings. I use the cleaning solution in an ultrasonic tank for the clock gears and other metal parts (no plastic). Leave the gears in the solution overnight. Rinse in water and dry the next day (I use a metal box with four 60w. light bulbs in it as a drier, after blowing the parts dry with an aircompressor).