

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday January 26 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)

The main feature of the program will be the Chapters Annual Auction, so bring along all those horological items from your workshop or basement - they may be worth money!!!

Maynard Dokken will also give a slide presentation entitled 'A Canadian Clock Collection'.

There will be the usual Mart Table for any items which you do not wish to include in the auction, and there will also be time and space allocated for Show and Tell, so why not bring something along for us all to see.

So come prepared for a good first meeting of 2003.

## Bill Graham



It is with very deep regret that we report the death of William M. (Bill) Graham P. Eng. on November 25, 2002.

Bill was a member of Chapter 111 almost from its inception, and was renowned for his wide horological knowledge and expertise. His particular interest was watches, in which field he was an acknowledged expert. Bill was a Fellow of the NAWC, and a Past President of our Chapter, where his knowledge was often called on, and always willingly given.

We shall all miss you a lot Bill.

Please see Gary Fox's article on page 4.

The Bytown Times is published five times a year by the Ottawa Chapter 111, National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors.

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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. \$55.

## Last Meeting

The last meeting was held on Sunday November 24 at the Qualicum and Graham Park Community Center.

President Maynard Dokken opened the meeting by introducing guests and new members Kevin West, Robert Lamoth, Tim Bryans and Grant Perry.

Maynard expressed the Chapter's thanks to Charles and Louise Beddoe for hosting the very successful Wine and Cheese party on Nov. 9.

Letters of thanks have been received from the Qualicum and Graham Park Community Association and the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum.

It was confirmed that members are interested in holding an auction at the next Meeting. The people from Montreal who have sold clocks and watches at one of our previous meetings will also be invited to attend. The meeting would then feature both a sale and an auction. Members are asked to examine the NAWCC list of videos and slide shows and let the executive know of any specific requests for future meetings.

Treasurer Charles Beddoe reminded members that the end of the year was approaching and that 2003 Chapter membership fees were coming due.

The main item on the program was a talk by Allan Symons on Canadian Advertising Clocks. Allan had also brought along several examples of the clocks from his Canadian Clock Museum in Deep River.

The remainder of the program was made up of Show and Tell items by various members as follows: Archie Smith and John Rhuland showed and talked about a French Jewellers clock recently acquired by Archie. The clock was made in the Morbier Clock area of France in the mid 19th century, and it can be adjusted to an accuracy of about 1 second per week. John Ruhland showed a Mystery Clock. Such clocks are apparently seen in many parts of Europe, but not too often in North America. Mounted above head height, it projects the time on the floor through a lens in the casing. The particular clock shown by John was made in New York by a clock maker from France, and only a very limited quantity were made. Dan Hudon showed two animated Alarm Clocks made by Bayard of France. Such Clocks were apparently seen quite frequently in England prior to W.W. II, These particular models dated from around the 1950-60's. Bryan Hollebone - demonstrated one of his several Bracket Style New Haven Mantel Clocks. This was one of the first mantel clocks to have Westminster Chimes played on spiral gongs, and it used the Stephen Wilcox sounding board. Maynard Dokken showed a Westclox Canada Clock with a nautical motif. Maynard also showed an 8 day watch, which is currently undergoing repair, and a made in Canada Elgin "Pilot" model watch which he had come across recently, He is donating the Pilot watch to Allan Symon's Canadian Clock Museum.

Throughout the meeting there was also a sale of back numbers of NAWCC Bulletins donated by Dan Hudon - Proceeds from their sale will go to Chapter funds.

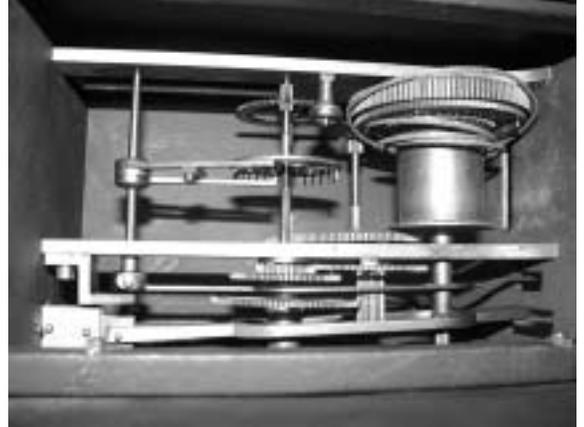
### Seen at the Last Meeting



Treasurer Charles Beddoe has started to collect Chapter dues for 2003.

Left: the dial and the inside of the case of the eight day watch shown by Maynard Dokken. The watch is Swiss made, maker unknown.. The only mark on the movement is 'Brevet'.

Inside the case (from top down) can be seen: 1. The Makers Mark. 2.The Sterling Silver Mark together with the mark indicating it's importation into England. 3.The Date Mark for London (1917) and at the bottom, the Serial Number. The marks which can be seen at the very bottom, below the serial number, have not been identified.



Left: Archie Smith with the pendulum of his French Jeweller's Clock. Above are pictured the dial and pendulum, and the movement of the clock.



Above: Three automobile clocks, and Left: an unusual watch fob, displayed by Ernest Boldt.



Above: Dan Hudon's novelty Alarm Clocks by Bayard of France.



Bryan Hollebhone showed one of the four New Haven Bracket clocks from his collection. The gongs on which the Westminster Chimes are struck can be seen in the photographs.

**Seen at the Last Meeting - Cont.**



*The Agassiz watch shown by Maynard Dokken. The watch is a split-second chronograph. Movement serial number 124931 Adjusted. Case serial number 303315, gold filled C.W.C.Co. Auguste Agassiz of Saint Imier and Geneva started manufacturing quality watches in 1832. The company was inherited by Ernest Francillon who built the Longines factory. The Agassiz line continued until the great depression.*

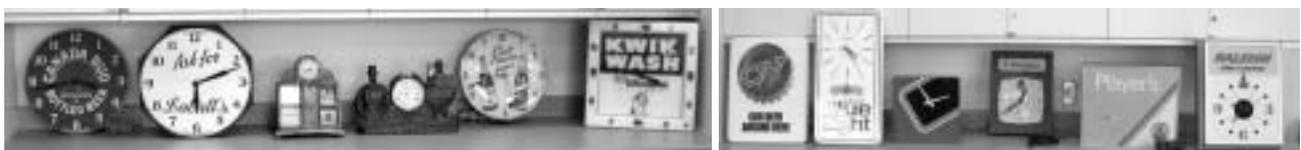


*Maynard Dokkens Westclox wall clock with a nautical theme. The sailing ship, decoration is missing from the top of the clock.*

*The rear and front views of the Mystery Clock shown by John Ruhland. The clock is normally mounted above head high, and the lens through which a clock dial and hands are projected onto the floor, can be seen at the lower centre of both pictures.*



*Allan Symons presented 'Canadian Advertising Clocks' as the main feature of the program.*



*The display of Canadian Advertising Clocks brought to the meeting by Allan.*

## Bill Graham

By Gary Fox



Bill was a member of Chapter 111 almost from its inception, and was renowned in horological circles for his wide knowledge and expertise.

Bill was always fascinated by things mechanical. As a young teen he was constantly tinkering with anything that had moving parts. At the age of 15, he bought a Smith's Motorwheel - a simple gas engine, a frame and a wheel. He had dreams of attaching this contraption to his bicycle (the intended purpose of the device); powering it up; and blasting his bike up and down the streets of Ottawa. Alas, he should have known that the 50-cent price tag was too good to be true. The thing didn't work. But Bill, being Bill, took the motor apart and found the reason - a broken crankshaft. Most 15 year old kids, would have stopped there, but not Bill. He searched the garages of Ottawa and finally tracked down the part in Toronto. He ordered it, fitted it to the motorwheel and was soon cruising Ottawa with the wind blowing in his face and through his hair. A heady triumph indeed.

As Bill grew a little older, his love of cars, his energy and his quick wit landed him a job as a mechanic at a local garage. He loved it - particularly taking cars for a test drive after a repair. Bill's favourite chore was testing the brakes on cars after the often-necessary adjustments. (Brakes were a funny thing back then. They were mechanical - one per wheel. They frequently had to be adjusted. A simple adjustment could have four wheels locking at different times.) Bill's job was to take the car to a quiet street; rev up the engine; slip it into gear; roar down the street and slam the brakes on at the last moment. The length of the skid marks told him which brakes needed tightening and which were "OK". I can just imagine the beatific smile on his face as he rushed towards the old oak at the end of the road!

The thing about Bill's mechanical inclination was that he was completely fascinated by well-engineered devices. I'm not sure what triggered his love of old watches and clocks, but something clearly connected with his sense of fine mechanics. His collection of clocks was not as large as many of our own, but each piece is an excellent specimen that can be relied upon to keep good time. His collection of watches however, was where he really poured out his passion. His collection was a reflection of him. Yes there are some humdrum pieces, but most are of the highest quality, and some are truly superb pieces. Bill was never afraid to show his watches to fellow collectors. He would describe each one, reflecting on the specific improvement in engineering or the unique mechanical feature that caused him to open his purse for the few dollars to bring the timepiece home. It may come as a surprise to some that his favourite watch was not the one that was worth the most. He owned two George Graham watches. Each is a museum piece in its own right, but Bill dismissed them as interesting historical curiosities. He valued a Hamilton 992B ahead of those watches just because of the engineering. Yes, he had the Elgin Veritas and he had the Waltham 1892 with Up and Down Indicator, but for simplicity of design and excellence of construction the 992B had his respect. His Kellie Karussel was a thing of beauty in Bill's eyes. Imagine his smile as he watched the whole escapement mechanism turn in that unusual watch.

Bill's curiosity led him to read anything he could lay his hands on about the history and mechanics of watch and clock development. He tried his hand at any mechanical repair and was quite capable of cutting balance staffs, threading screws and anything else you could drop in his way. He was incontestably the most knowledgeable horologist in all of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. But what truly set him apart was his willingness to share his knowledge with anyone who would take the time to ask a question. No problem was too small or question too simple for him. He gave each of us his undivided attention when we sought him out for advice.

Bill was a Fellow of the NAWCC and a past President of our Chapter. He gave frequent talks at chapter meetings; he hosted chapter picnics at his Meech Lake cottage; he organized the wine and cheese party with the late Peter Bomford for many years and hosted it from time-to-time too; and he was our resident watch expert for chapter road-shows.

I imagine by now that Bill has made the acquaintance of grumpy old John Harrison and "uncle" George Graham. After many hours discussing the merits of John's grasshopper escapement and George's reliance on the cylinder escapement, I bet Bill has regaled them with tales of Patek-Philippe and Willie Brandt. He may even have told them about the success of those upstart Americans and their machine-made watches. I bet he had fun describing George Daniel's unusual dual escapement watch. John and George you are blessed. Take some time to show Bill the ropes up there. And if there are cars up there, find Bill a Pierce Arrow. I think he missed that one the most.

We shall all miss you, Bill. You were a friend and a mentor. Bless you!

### Chapter Wine and Cheese Party

Chapter 111 held its Wine and Cheese party on Saturday November 9, at the home of Charles and Louise Beddoe. The party was attended by over 30 people, composed of members, their wives, and other guests. The wine and cheese were excellent and in great variety, and there were other edibles and coffee to satisfy everyone's needs. The evening was a great success, and the Chapter's thanks go to our hosts, Charles and Louise.



*Hosts Charles and Louise Beddoe.*



*Molly Armstrong, Rita Pullen and Louise Beddoe.*



*Sharon Fox, Eve Segal and Inge Holst-Roberts.*



*Jean Hollebhone, Pete Graham and Judy Graham.*



*Sharon Fox, Pat McGrath and Bill Graham.*



*Bill Pullen, Inge Holst-Roberts, Charles Beddoe (in background greeting new arrivals) and Gord Armstrong.*



*Gus Varkaris and Bryan Hollebhone.*



*Molly Armstrong, Charles Beddoe, Patsy Royer (waving) Elaine Bryans and Louise Beddoe.*

*Right: Bill Pullen collected admission fees from everyone at the party, but it clearly became too much for him. However, he did recover we think.*



### Chapter Wine and Cheese Cont.



*Maynard Dokken, Gary Fox, Sharon Fox, Jane Varkaris and Pat McGrath.*



*Sharon Fox, Gary Fox, Pat McGrath and Bill Graham.*



*Judy Graham and Adam Bardach.*



*Gord Armstorg and Bill Pullen.*



*Bill Pullen and Maynard Dokken.*



*George Royer.*



*Pete Graham, Maynard Dokken, Bill Pullen and Gord Armstrong*



*Rita Pullen, Teresa Dokken, Jean Hollebhone, Pete Graham and Judy Graham*



*Jean Hollebhone, Nate Segal and Eve Segal.*



*Michael Mazur and Bryan Hollebhone.*



*Pat McGrath, Bill Graham and Teresa Dokken.*