

# Bytown Times

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**NEXT MEETING**

**WHEN:**

Sunday, Sept. 23, 2007

1:30 PM (doors open at 1:00 PM)

**WHERE:**

Qualicum & Graham Park  
Community Centre

25 Esquimalt Ave., Nepean

**MEETING AGENDA:**

- Ashkan Zandi and his brother Vahid will discuss the many skill sets required to run a modern Watch & Jewelry Shop
- Show and Tell period: members are invited to share their latest acquisitions with the group
- Mart Tables: members are invited to purchase and sell horological items

## Australian Tick Tock Tour Takes a Turn in Canada

Chapter 111 had the fantastic opportunity to be joined by fellow clock enthusiasts, and NAWCC members, when the Australian Tick Tock Tour paid a visit to the chapter's May meeting.

Traveling with the 4th tour of it's kind, the folks on this trip stopped in towns across North America, visiting various sites of horological interest. By sheer luck, the group planned to stop at the Canadian Clock Museum in Deep River on the same day as the Ottawa Chapter planned their own visit to the mu-

seum.

The day began with a nice lunch at the Bears Den in Deep River. The two groups mingled over lunch, then left for the museum only a few blocks away. Over 50 guests filed into the museum basement, to hear Allan Symons speak of the museum, and Douglas Minty share the background of the Australian NAWCC chapters. After the discussions, the group moved upstairs to view the extensive collection housed in the museum.

**Australia's NAWCC**

The first Australian NAWCC chapter was founded in 1973, when just 11 Australians, along with a few



North Americans, joined together to make up the 25 people needed to form a chapter. Chapter members would travel 600 miles to attend meetings.

There are now 4 chapters in the country. The Chapters hold regional meetings every 2nd year (the next one planned for this October). The Chapters also conduct workshops, have regular meetings, and hold events giving historical reviews of watches and clocks belonging to the public.

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### Chapter Visit to the Canadian Clock Museum

The Ottawa Chapter had the chance to visit Allan Symons' Canadian Clock Museum in Deep River during May.

Originally a Pentecostal Church (which at one time provided the home for TV's '100 Huntley Street'), the building was converted to a



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## Clock Museum cont'd...

*continued from page 1...* museum of mainly Canadian clocks in May 2000, by clock enthusiast Allan Symons, who first began collecting clocks 30 years ago.

The museum houses a wide variety of clocks, including many Westclox and Snyder items. The museum even has a folk art clock that was made by someone while they were incarcerated in a penitentiary! One of the museum's more recently acquired items is the tower clock that

once stood at the post office in Gananoque, Ontario.



## Horological Quotes for Horological Minds...

**“You can't turn back the clock, but you can wind it up again”**

- Unknown

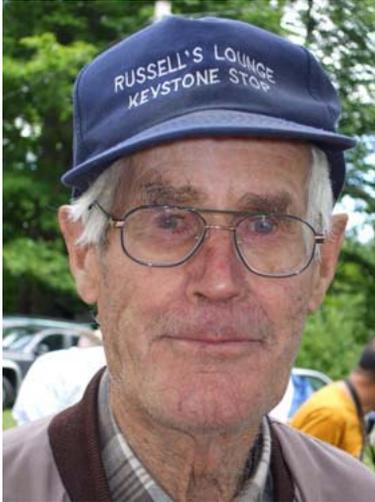
**“A mouse trap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep”**

- Unknown

On July 15th, just a couple of short months ago, the Ottawa Valley Chapter 111 held their annual Picnic. Past President Maynard Dokken played host to the club at his waterfront cottage.

# Hot Fun in the Summertime!

Club members, along with their families, enjoyed an afternoon of wonderful BBQ eats, mart tables, and conversation. Before the day was through, the club honoured 3 of it's members for their years of dedication and hard work that has helped build the club over the years. Past President Maynard Dokken, Past Secretary and Bytown Times Editor Ben Roberts, and current Education & Workshop Chairman Dan Hudon were all awarded lifetime memberships to the club. The afternoon was topped off with an auction of some of the items from the mart table.



# More Picnic Pics



*Ben poses with his Lifetime Membership Award*



*Maynard begs for bids on some of the clocks on the mart table*



*Maynard thanks the club for his Lifetime Membership Award*



*Dan accepts his Lifetime Membership Award from Chapter President, Wally Clemens*



## In Memory of Nate Segall

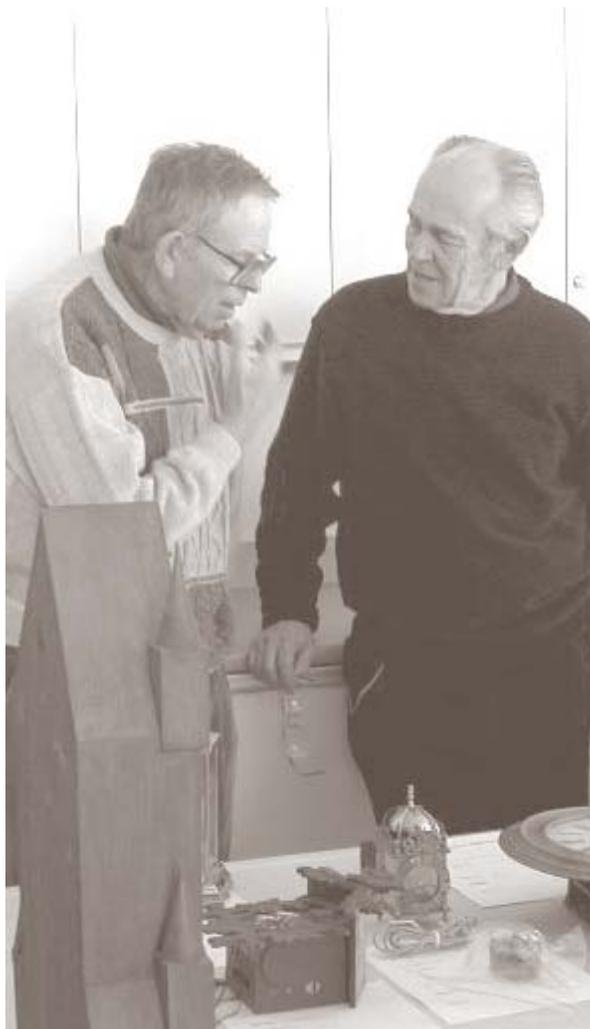
Some people just seem to have the knack of being there when you need them.

Many years back, I was filling the house with odd old clocks but not finding much inspiration in the whole process. So it was that I found myself contemplating the purchase of a rather pedestrian kitchen clock on the mart table one Sunday at a chapter 111 meeting. Nate Segall wandered up and stood beside me looking at the clock without saying a word for a while. He sighed, turned to me and pressed a watch in my hands. It was an 18 size Elgin Veritas with 23 jewels in a gorgeous NOS gold filled barley-corn case. The watch had a private label from the shop of Moses Bilsky from Ottawa. If you have never looked inside the case of an Elgin Veritas, you will never know the pleasure of seeing art in a watch. It was fantastic. The watch cost the same as that kitchen clock and I was immediately sold. I still collect pocket watches that have a link to Ottawa, and I owe much of my collection to Nate's diligent searching and to the odd loan of a few dollars, back when the family was young and dollars scarce.

Nate and I took a lot of trips to flea markets, antique shops and antique shows over the years. We traveled through the countryside around Ottawa and wandered the streets of Montreal. We rarely found an exceptional watch, but we had a lot of fun bargaining with the

sellers along the way. And we loved Schwartz's smoked meat!

We were at one of these antique shows in 1999, when a local dealer hauled out a case of technical drawings from "some watchmakers' school" and wondered if I was inter-



*Nate chats with Archie Smith at the January 2005 Meeting*

ested. I was about to pass them up for the lack of the ready cash, but Nate simply handed me the extra needed dollars and said – pay me back when you can. The drawings were from the Canadian Horological Institute and the find has been the focus of my collecting and research for the past 8 years.

Nate passed away in the early summer this year. I miss my old friend. When I'm at a flea market these days, I hear myself repeating his words. "Hey! It's easier to buy than to sell. You may never get a better offer." And my personal favourite "I would be glad to pay more for something better."

A lot of us owe much of our collections to this friendly guy who had a keen memory for what people collected and an unusual talent for finding the un-findable – a Karrusel watch for Bill Graham; a watch from 1923 celebrating the Senator's Stanley Cup win for me; and much more. Most of all, I will remember his warm friendship.

I guess he is "up there" now. He is probably trying to sell Bill Graham more watches and Bill is probably protesting a bit – just a little like he always did. But he will buy – Nate knew how to sell.

We miss you Nate.

*Article contributed to the Bytown Times by Gary Fox*

## Club Information

This club acts as a meeting place for antique clock and watch enthusiasts. Members are interested in a wide array of topics: some collect, some do research, some do repairs.

Formal club meetings take place five times each year, on the fourth Sunday of every second month, with a break in the summer. Meetings are held in January, March, May, September, and November. Doors open at 1:00 PM.

Club members also enjoy two annual social events: a Wine and Cheese party each November, and a Picnic BBQ each July.

Courses on clock and watch repair are held throughout the year.

The Bytown Times is published five times each year.

Annual Dues for club membership is \$16. Club members should also have memberships to the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC). NAWCC Dues are U.S. \$55.

## Club Officers & Contacts

**President:** Wally Clemens  
Box 311, 4970 Opeongo Road, RR#3  
Woodlawn, ON, K0A 3M0  
(613) 832-3085

**Vice President:** Patrick Bigras

**Secretary:** Erin Fox  
erinfoxnawcc111@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Bill Pullen

**Auditor:** Georges Royer

**Librarian:** Wally Clemens

**Bytown Times Editor:** Erin Fox

**Immediate Past President:** Maynard Dokken

**Program & Social Director:** Tim Bryans

**Education & Workshop Chairman:** Dan Hudon



## Secretary's Corner

After years of hard work producing the Bytown Times 5 times a year, the Chapter's previous Secretary and Times Editor, Ben Roberts, must have whittled it down to an art. Compelling, informative articles and fantastic photos graced the pages of the Times for years. Filling his shoes has proven to be a daunting task this summer, as I've now received full responsibility for producing the newsletter.

By now you'll have noticed one major change: the layout of the newsletter. This was born out of necessity: I don't have the same publication programs on my computer as Ben.

My second challenge was finding and organizing the content. Thanks to our recent ex-

cursions, I was able to fill the Times with details of our outings, and plenty of great pictures. In future issues, I would like to include a variety of articles, touching not only on club activities, but also other horological topics.

I would like to welcome the club members to submit their own articles for the newsletter. Topics can be anything: a review of your collection with pictures, a summary of some research you've gathered, 'how-to' or instructional information, museums and other horological sites you've visited, etc. Articles and pictures can be emailed to me at:

erinfoxnawcc111@gmail.com

Please don't forget to visit our website as well:

www.ottawaclocksandwatches.ca

## Notes from the President's Desk

With the museum trip in May, and the picnic at Maynard's in July, it seems like years since our last meeting at Qualicum and Graham Park Community Centre (March 25th).

We have a great meeting planned for this month. Please bring your summer horological projects for a Show and Tell. There will also be the usual Mart Tables. Other topics of discussion will be:

- The Fall Wine and Cheese Party
- The club's website
- Arranging a booth at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum's annual fair
- Current & upcoming courses
- Other administrative items

I look forward to seeing you there!