

## MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The Ottawa Chapter met on Sunday, March 25, 2012 in the conference room of the Ottawa Citizen Building. Over 45 members attended.

The mart tables were bursting with clocks and a watches. Allan Symons filled two tables with alarm clocks that had been donated to the Canadian Clock Museum. He was selling some to raise money for the museum whereas others, he was giving away in hopes they would find a new life in a new home.

Grant Perry had some interesting pocket watches including two Walthams marked Canadian Time Service and another marked with the beaver and shield of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Allan Symons gave the main presentation about a unique Canadian made wood movement Grandfather clock which he recently acquired and, with Jordan Renaud, restored.

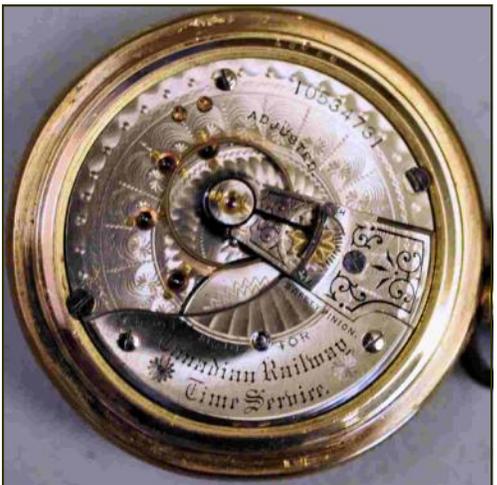
The clock was made by Xavier Clement in the province of Quebec and dates to the 1820's. The case is seven and a half feet tall and is made of pine with a faux wood finish similar to Twiss clocks. However unlike the Twiss clocks which had movements made in the United States, this was an all-Canadian production.

The movement features time and strike on four bells. It sounds the Petite Sonnerie on the three quarter hours. It includes complications that tell the day of the week, the month and the date. The movement plates are an unidentified hardwood, but the wheels are pear wood. The clock runs for eight days utilizing stone-filled tin can weights for the time and the strike and a smaller lead weight for the Petite Sonnerie. There is a moon phase apparatus on the dial, but it appears to have never been connected to the movement. Interestingly, a number of the bushings set into the plates are square in shape - presumably to prevent the bushings from turning in the plate. The click on the winding wheel ratchet is also made of wood.

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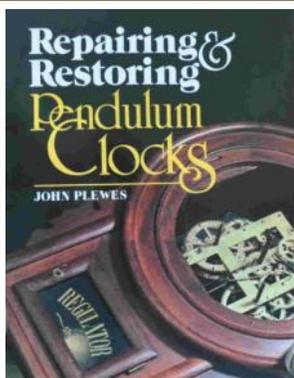
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**Note the MEETING DATE!**  
*The next meeting is NOT on the fourth Sunday of May*  
**The meeting will be held**  
**June 3, 2012**  
*At the*  
**Ottawa Citizen Building,**  
**1101 Baxter Road**  
**++++++**  
**Gary Fox will present.....**  
**The Accidental Author**  
**Plus, as always, there will be a.....**  
**Show and Tell**



Grant Perry offered this Canadian Railway Time Service watch for sale. It was one of a number of excellent watches available at the mart through Grant and Mel Nash.

*JOHN PLEWES*



Many of us will remember with fondness, one-time chapter member John Plewes who passed away at age ninety on April 27, 2012. John gave courses on clock repair at Algonquin College for a number of years and was the author of **Repairing & Restoring Pendulum Clocks**. Among other topics, this book provided considerable information on the repair of wooden works clocks and was considered the most authoritative text on the subject when published. Many current members remained in touch with John over the years as he was an invaluable source of technical information on clock repair.

John had been in hospital for four days prior to his passing and was alert to the end. His family were with him. Ben Roberts has extended our condolences to Jackie Plewes and has offered our help should there be a need.

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*MARCH MEETING – PHOTOS AND HISTORY OF THE CLEMENT CLOCK*



Note the wooden click and the square bushings (above) and the history of the clock (right).



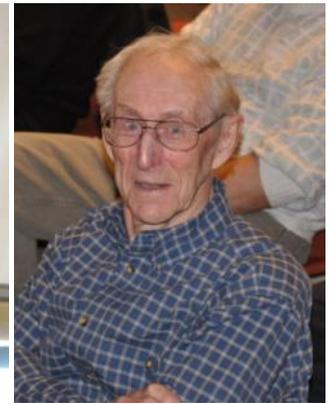
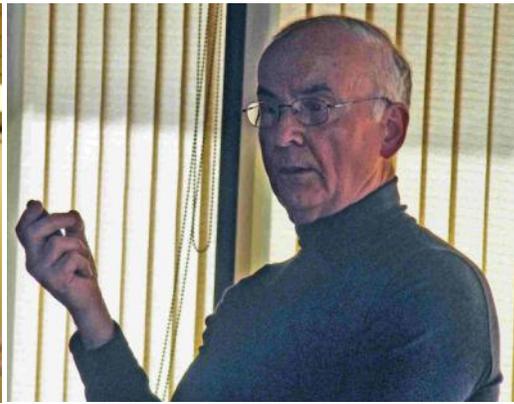
This clock, whose movement is made from pear wood, was manufactured by Xavier Clement, a spinning wheel maker from Ste. Martine, Laval County. Clement built it between 1820 and 1825, copying it from one owned by Capt. Moret, of St. Benoit, County of Two Mountains (Deux-Montagnes).

When Philippe Viau married Angele Richer, he was the clock's owner. His widow subsequently married Hyacinthe Charbonneau and, during the inventory of the goods of the latter, on March 24, 1908, she was acquired by the notary Joseph Girouard, of St. Benoit.

The Curé d'Oka, M. Tranchemontagne, gave it to Armand Dupuis. In August 1921, the notary Girouard gave it to Armand Dupuis.



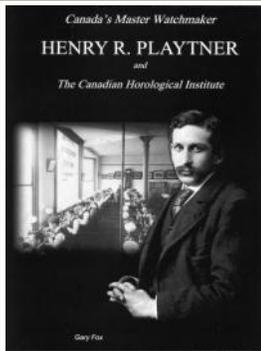
### PHOTOS FROM THE MARCH MEETING



### *Did You Know?*

World watch production in 2011 totalled 1.05 **BILLION** units or almost one watch for every seven people in the world! 81% were Quartz Analog; 17% Quartz Digital and just 2% Mechanical.

## SHAMELESS SELF PROMOTION



This is it. After innumerable dull presentations and episodes of self gratifying Show and Tell, it is almost over. Your humble Editor has finally published this incredibly valuable tome on Henry Playtner and the Canadian Horological Institute. Over 160 pages with more than 100 pictures in black and white and over 30 in full colour. This book has not only been well received as the foremost biography (albeit the **only one** in book form) of our most famous Canadian watchmaker, but has also been acclaimed the best sleeping potion since the deft application of a rubber mallet to the head!

Seriously though, my book will be on sale at our meeting on June 3. I will also be making a presentation about my travels on the road to publication!

**Gary Fox**

## SEEKING NOMINATIONS (AND VOLUNTEERS)!!

Chapter 111 holds elections for its executive / officer positions every two years and this is the year. The election will take place in November and the new team will take over at the January meeting. This is an important opportunity for the membership to vote for a leadership cadre that best represents how they feel the club should be run. The jobs are not onerous and the executive team has typically had a lot of fun working together.

Grant Perry and Ben Roberts have volunteered to take on the role of Nominating Committee. Their job will be to ensure that we have a full slate of candidates to fill the President; Vice President; Secretary and Treasurer positions in time for the vote in November. In addition to this task, Ben and Grant will be seeking volunteers to fill the many vacancies on our committees which include: Program; Outreach; Membership; Training; Social; and Awards. Volunteers for these committees will be forwarded to the current executive who will fill the vacant positions and ask the membership for ratification.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- At the June 3 Meeting, the membership will be asked to ratify the Nominating Committee. They will also be asked to provide input to the Committee on potential candidates.
- Over the summer, the committee will contact potential candidates to see if they will stand for election and for which position. They will ask the incumbents if they wish to stand for another term. (To volunteer or to nominate someone, you can contact Ben through e-mail at [benrobe@sympatico.ca](mailto:benrobe@sympatico.ca) or by phone at (613) 828-9271 and / or Grant via e-mail at [paretime@rogers.com](mailto:paretime@rogers.com) or by phone at (613) 831-9158
- At the September meeting, the Committee will ask for volunteers from the floor.
- At the November meeting, the Committee will present the slate of candidates and seek final nominations from the floor. The election will follow. If only one candidate is presented for a position, that individual will be acclaimed. Where more than one candidate presents for a position, the candidates will be asked to leave the room and the vote will be taken by a show of hands.

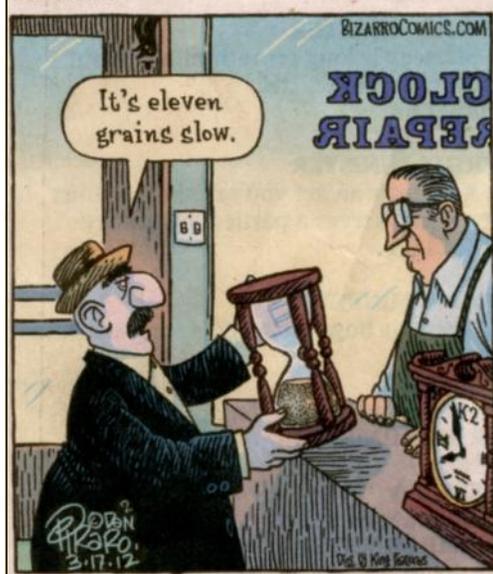
Executives serve a two year term. An executive may serve more than one term.

It should be noted that the chapter's by-laws will need a minor modification to change the month of the election. The modifications will be presented to the members at the May meeting.

***The Chapter needs your talent and enthusiasm*** to keep our meetings fresh and interesting. Be a volunteer. And don't worry that you may not have taken on this responsibility before—The current executive and committee members will be happy to provide guidance as long as needed!



## BIZARRO

***DID YOU KNOW?***

Atomic clocks are accurate to 1 second in 100 Million Years! (It would be a bit heavy on the wrist though.)

***WatchTime: June 2012***

***DAN'S SUGGESTED READING******Clocks Magazine:***

Jan. 2012: Make a mould for casting weights.

Mar. 2012: Determine the wheel count for a missing wheel.

Apr. 2012: How to use a planishing hammer.

May 2012:

- An ad for the replacement escapement for a longcase clock.
- A Swedish longcase clock.
- An English longcase clock by Stockell & Stuart of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne with a dial depicting the death of General Wolfe.

***Horological Times:***

Jan. 2012: Wooden wheel repair.

Mar. 2012:

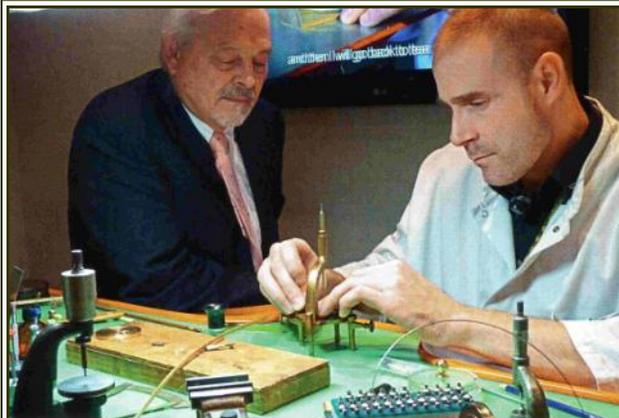
- Riveting and Staking on the Lathe.
- Removing and Replacing Balance Staffs, Replacing Hairsprings, Removing and Replacing Pallet Arbors.
- Making a Water-resistant Rubber Gasket for a Watch.

***Watch & Clock Bulletin:***

Jan. 2012: Tips for working on Vienna regulator winding drums.

Mar-Apr 2012: Clock movement assembly tips.

May-Jun 2012: Magnification in clock repair (Seeing Is Believing).

***AN INTERESTING TOOL PROJECT***

*Philippe Dufour and Michel Boulanger*

Today, parts for watches may be produced with extreme precision through the use of CNC machines and similar technology. But Breguet, Arnold and LeCoultre didn't have tools such as these, and their timepieces were largely hand-crafted. They did have tools, but these devices are generally now found only in museums — their purpose and operation largely forgotten.

In a move to preserve our knowledge of these old tools and techniques, several master watchmakers have joined to produce a watch using tools from every era in watchmaking history—a plate may be cut and shaped by hand and another turned on an electric lathe. This approach will allow the group to document the widest range of techniques for future generations of craftsmen.

The masters behind the project include Philippe Dufour, who has provided many of the tools which were handed down from his grandfather, as well as Robert Gruebel and Stephen Forsey. The man actually making the watch is Michel Boulanger, an instructor at the Paris Watchmaking School.

The watch being made will be a three-hand, manual wind tourbillon for the wrist. Boulanger designed the watch with input from the others. The watch is to be completed in 2014. Among other documentation techniques, a 3D film will be produced covering the project from start to finish. To follow this project, go to [www.legardetemps-nm.org](http://www.legardetemps-nm.org)

***WatchTime: June 2012***

*SOURCING THE RIGHT CHAIN FOR A CLOCK*



Frank Prud'homme recently needed a chain to repair a clock but found that most "stock" chains simply would not work. So, after a bit of research, he located Hale Brothers Inc. in New Hampshire. They make all kinds of chain including the obscure one that he needed.

Frank's contact was Garrett B. Dolan (tel. **603-474-2511**). The company is located at 16 Stard Rd, Seabrook, NH 03874, USA. You can check out their web site at <http://www.halebros.com/> or you can e-mail them at [info@halebros.com](mailto:info@halebros.com)

Frank says that you have to buy a whole reel of the chain and suggests that you ask them to send it by mail rather than UPS as the brokerage charges are really high.

*TORONTO REGIONAL MEETING*



The Toronto Joint Meeting was held on Sunday May 6, 2012. The mart was much smaller than in past years but it seems that did not stop the members from adding to their collections. There were a lot of interesting clocks, watches, tools and parts to choose from. I didn't get to attend the talk by Jim Coulson from Tennessee who spoke about the "Clock of Salisbury Cathedral in England" as I needed to stay by my table, but I gather that it was very well received. Perhaps next year, we can buy a chapter Mart Table to sell some of our excess "stuff"!

**Gary Fox**

*EDITOR'S CORNER*

Once again, I have to thank the many contributors to this issue of the Bytown Times. Frank Prud'homme, Ben Roberts, Charlie Beddoe, Allan Symons and Wally Clemens provided pictures, stories and / or information.

I do encourage all of you to consider volunteering to become a member of the executive or to take on a position on one of the many committees. We are always looking for fresh faces to bring new ideas and new energy to these roles. You need not worry if you haven't done this before—my experience is that the old hands are more than willing to provide advice (which may not be the best thing! :-))

**Gary Fox**

*PRESIDENT'S CORNER*

I seldom allot time to read a book, but have been unable to put down **Canada's Master Watchmaker Henry Playtner and the Canadian Horological Institute** by our very own Gary Fox. Please join me in congratulating Gary on this fine work.

We need members to make presentations at our meetings. Each one of us has a unique perspective of our hobby and information that would be useful to our fellow members. If you have been working on a horological project and would like to share your experience please contact me. We can help with all aspects of the presentation. See you at the upcoming meeting.

**Wally Clemens**