

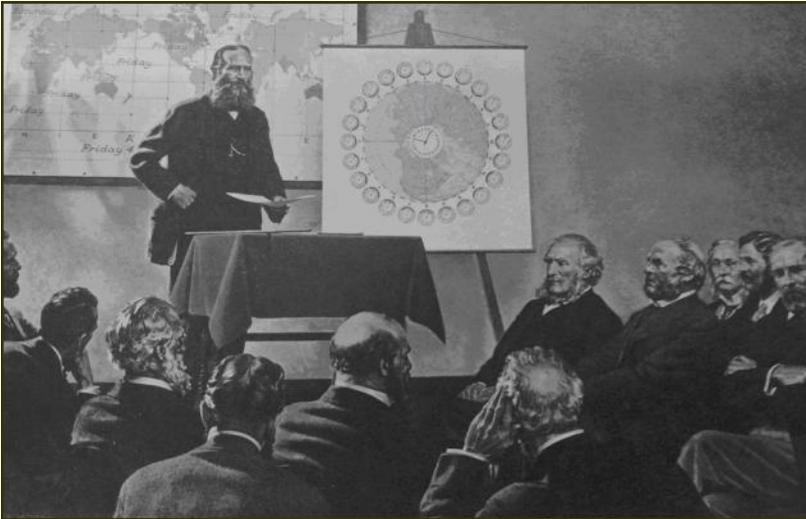


# The Bytown Times

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## SEPTEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Forty seven members of the chapter were in attendance for the first meeting after the summer break. The mart tables were overflowing with ginger bread and mantle clocks brought in by Grant Perry, in addition to usual display of watches and tools.

The main presentation was Bryan Hollebhone's overview of the book "The Beginning of the Long Dash: History of Time Keeping in Canada" by Malcolm Thomson. Bryan noted that Canada is one of the few countries to maintain a time standard. He reminded us of the work of Sir Sanford Fleming who advocated a system of standard time due to the size of this country. Fleming was building one of the longest railroads in the world - one which would eventually span six and a half time zones. Accurate time was essential

To ensure accurate time, an observatory was built behind the Supreme Court Building in Ottawa. Time was measured through the passage of twenty stars and was accurate to 1/100 of a second. The original facility was replaced in 1905 by the Dominion Observatory. The observatory was fitted with a 15 inch Refractory telescope in an un-heated building. The building may still be found in Ottawa at the Experimental Farm, but the telescope is in a museum. Bryan showed pictures from inside and outside the observatory.

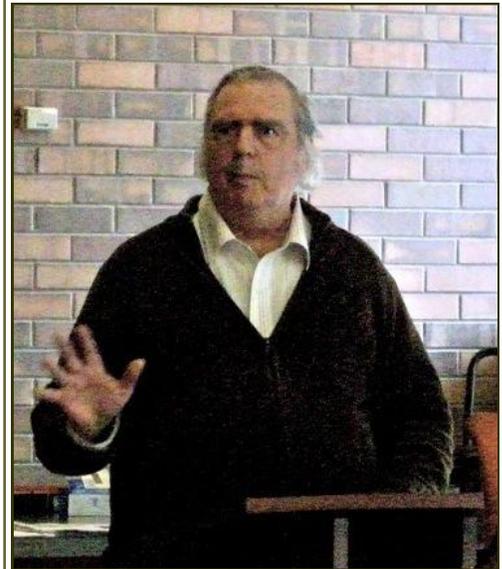
Today, the time standard is managed by the National Research Council using cesium atomic clocks which are accurate to a few millionths of a second per year.

For Show and Tell, Allan Symons presented a very early Baird Clock, advertizing El Caza & Honeymoon Cigars

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*Bryan Hollebhone makes a point about the measurement of time in Canada*

**The next meeting will be held**

**November 25, 2012**

*At the*

**Ottawa Citizen Building,  
1101 Baxter Road**

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**Dan Hudon will present  
"The Ups and Downs of the  
Waterbury Clock Company"**

**PLUS we will hold  
Chapter Elections**

**PLUS, as always, there will be a....  
Show and Tell**



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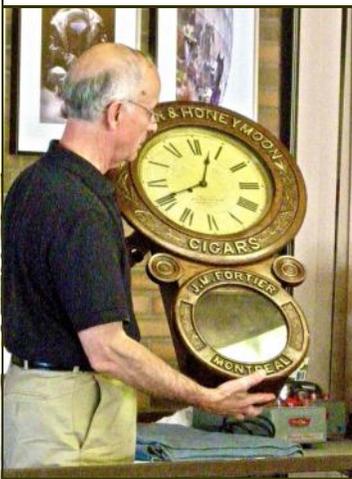
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)

for J. M. Fortier of Montreal. The clock was fitted with a Seth Thomas movement but the case was made in Montreal. The round bottom was created by kerf cutting a board so that it could be bent to shape.

Bernie Murphy presented a Welch Drop Octagon clock which has been in the family for several generations. His great grandfather acquired it while working for a railway and then hung it in his general store in Sudbury, Ontario.

Maynard Dokken presented two large scale original photos of the Westclox factory in Peterborough, Ontario. One photo was of the factory building from the mid 1940's while the other photo, from 1936, featured over 250 of the workers in eight rows, with the factory as the backdrop.

Peter Kushnir presented a clock taken from a Russian submarine. The clock has a Breguet overcoil hair-spring in a platform escapement. He believes the clock was made in Germany. Peter also resented a number of Gruen pocket watches. He noted that Gruen originally used Columbus, Southbend and Studebaker movements, before moving on to German movements. When Gruen started making their own watches, they provided movements for Rolex.



Allan Symons talked about Baird Clocks and in particular this example advertising cigars for a shop in Montreal

Bernie Murphy showed a Welch Drop Octagon Clock which hung in his great grandfather's general store in Sudbury.

Maynard Dokken presented a number of original 1930 and 1940 era photos featuring the Westclox factory and staff in Peterborough.

Peter Kushnir presented early Gruen watches made by Southbend and Columbus watch companies



## SEPTEMBER MEETING – PHOTOS



A great crowd for the first meeting after a long summer



Peter Kushnir's Russian submarine Clock



Georges Royer and Wally Clemens greet the members and collect membership dues



Peter Kushnir and Daniel Bourgoyne— check out the smiles



If there was a smiling contest, Bryan Holleb and Maynard Dokken would win!!!

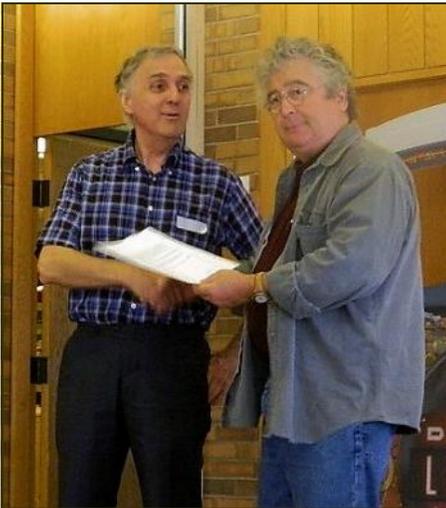


Grant Perry brought an exceptional collection of clocks for sale from one estate



Just some of the clocks for sale at the mart.. Most were Gingerbread clocks but there were also some mantle clocks and the beautiful OG on the left in this group of pictures

*A GOOD DEED RECOGNIZED*



*President Wally Clemens (on the right) thanks Dan Hudon, on behalf of John Carhart and the chapter, for helping John restore his old Sessions Clock.*

John Carhart had a problem. A friend was scrapping a Sessions clock that had “exploded” on him and John decided to rescue the old timepiece. He took the plates apart, replaced the click and spring and then worked for a month trying to assemble the 2 plates, 12 gears and 5 levers. In John’s words “I do not know the permutations and combinations of all these parts, but I must have come close to trying them all. I was stuck and very close to throwing this project in the trash.” That was when John contacted the club through its web site and was introduced to Dan Hudon. Living well to the north, near Kirkland Lake, communications were difficult. However, through numerous emails, Dan led John on a step by step restoration process, sending him clear concise instructions and diagrams showing the logical steps to get the clock going. On the way, John got hooked and is now looking to clock repair as his new hobby. Our Dan Hudon would not take any compensation for his efforts, but John showed his appreciation by donating \$100 to the club. “Thank you, Dan” and “Thank you, John”

*MONTREAL REGIONAL*

The Montreal Association of Watch and Clock Collectors held their annual show on Sunday October 14th. This is a small show but is always worth the visit. Several Ottawa chapter members were in attendance, including Daniel Bourgoyne, Irena and Peter Dixon, Pete Graham, Maynard Dokken, Brian and Judy MacDonal, as well as yours truly. I always seem to find something to buy. This year, it was a 12 size 17 jewel, G. M. Wheeler model Elgin watch. I was looking for a parts watch to fix one I had at home, but this one has a beautiful silver dial with raised gold numbers. The big question now is which watch do I turn into a parts watch? (Don’t worry, I found an ugly parts watch on eBay and will soon have two working G. M. Wheeler watches in my collection!) Irena and Peter always seem to take on kitchen duty here and they should keep that job. Lunch, coffee and the cookies were excellent! Peter Kushnir, once again, had the largest display. Next year, we should rent a bus. For a small show, it is lots of fun!

*Gary*





## *THE ANNUAL WINE AND CHEESE PARTY*

For the second time in three years, the chapter's annual wine and cheese party was hosted by Bryan and Jean Hollebhone. As usual, our hosts' preparation made for a marvelous evening. There was a wonderful selection of wines as well as a non-alcoholic punch; more varieties of cheese than I could count; fruit and veggie trays; and of course, delectable desserts and coffee. Jean even prepared a list that matched the various wines to the cheeses.

Bryan has one of the finest private collections of Canadian and Canadiana clocks in Ontario and possibly all of Canada. The clocks are beautifully displayed throughout the house, and Bryan seemed to be everywhere at once showing the clocks to his guests.

On behalf of the chapter and all those who were able to attend, "Thank you, Bryan and Jean! What more could we ask? Good food, good conversation, charming hosts, and lots of great clocks!"



*A WOODEN WATCH???*



You've probably never heard the words "wooden watch" spoken together, but how about "wooden Tourbillon watch"?

Valerii Danyevch is a third generation wood carver from Kiev. He has had no formal watchmaker training, but taught himself the craft by copying clock and watch movements in wood (Birch burls, to be precise). Over the last five years, he has made 11 clocks and watches—all out of wood.

In a Tourbillon watch, the balance wheel and other components of the escapement are enclosed in a tiny cage which rotates, usually several times per hour. This is intended to average out the effects of gravity on the balance wheel, should it not be perfectly "in balance" throughout the circumference. This is possibly the pinnacle in the watchmakers' trade.

All of the 90 parts of Valerii's watch are made from wood except the mainspring, hairspring, and some parts of the bracelet which are carved from Mother of Pearl. He had to make special tools for the work as none existed to do such tasks as cutting the threads in a millimeter long screw!

*WatchTime, June 2012*

*DAN'S SUGGESTED READING*

**Clocks Magazine**

**August 2012**

- Overhauling English longcase pulleys;
- The 'original' Comtoise clock (pre-1830).

**September 2012**

- Bluing hands with a Bosch hot air gun;
- Bluing hands with bluing salts;
- John Wood Watchmaker - an excerpt from a recently published book by his family in Montreal;
- Pivoting the pinion end of an English wheel.

*FROM TIMES GONE BY*

In late 1950, the Elgin National Watch Company announced to its employees that they were beginning production of the first automatic wrist watch made in North America. To explain how the watch could work without manual winding, they described how the motion of the wearer's arm would do the job. They went on to explain that **smoking one cigarette** would wind the watch for a two hour run! Imagine the test undertaken to prove that point! Were employees asked to volunteer as testers?? Logically though, most right handed people would have their watch on their left wrist while holding the cigarette in their right hand. What were they doing with the left hand to wind the watch? Just saying...

*Watch Word, November 1950*

*EDITOR'S CORNER*

This coming meeting is especially important. We will be electing the executive who will serve our chapter for the next two years. Ben Roberts and Grant Perry have done an excellent job in finding a quality candidate to stand for each position. But that does not mean that others cannot be nominated from the floor before the election. This is your club and chapter. Be there to vote for and welcome your new executive.

Once again, many thanks to all those who contributed to this issue of the newsletter, including, Charlie Beddoes, Ben Roberts, Erin Fox, Dan Hudon, Wally Clemens and Maynard Dokken. Please feel free to contact me with stories and pictures.

**Gary**

*PRESIDENT'S CORNER*

Earlier in October Adelle and I made our annual trip to New Jersey and as usual had a wonderful time. As of today, Nov 2nd, the friends we stayed with still have no power and are cleaning up the devastation cause by hurricane Sandy. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to those hardest hit by Sandy.

I do hope there is a good turnout for this November's election meeting. It is vital to continually update the course of our chapter by having new members take on executive positions. I look forward to seeing you and this transition take place later this month.

**Wally**