

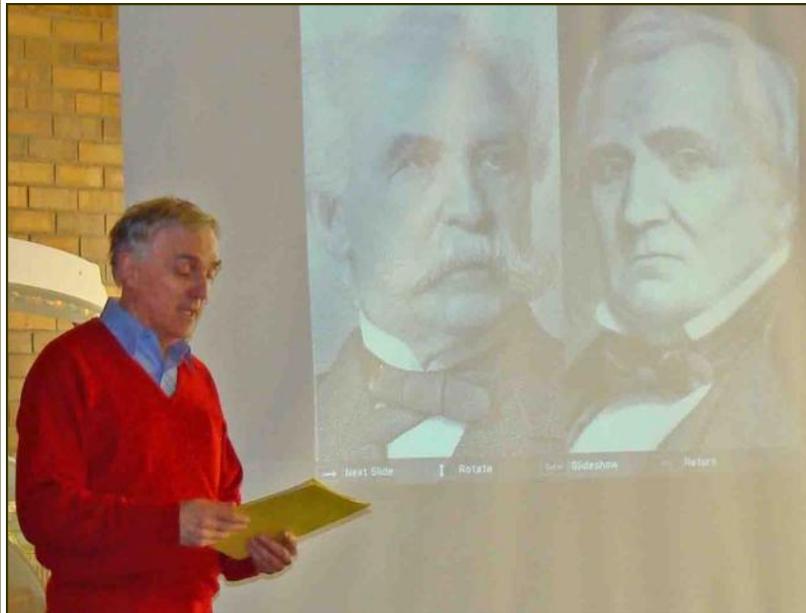


# The Bytown Times

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## NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Dan Hudon presented a comprehensive overview of the "Ups and Downs of the Waterbury Clock Company"

Forty-five members of the chapter were in attendance for the last meeting before Christmas.

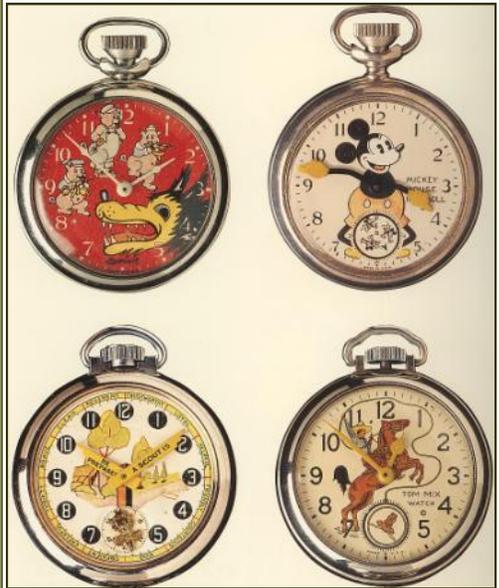
### **The Ups & Downs of the Waterbury Clock Company**

Dan Hudon gave the main presentation "The Ups and Downs of the Waterbury Clock Company".

The company was started by wealthy businessmen, Aaron Benedict and Gordon Burnham. They didn't start the company from scratch, but rather opted to buy out the machinery and stock from other companies that had gone bankrupt. Waterbury did well for 30 years, selling clocks with inexpensive stamped out movements, but by the 1890's, a significant economic downturn forced them to lay off staff. Their fortune, however, significantly improved when Robert Ingersoll approached the company in 1892 with a proposal for Waterbury to build a pocket watch for him. Ingersoll would take full responsibility for selling the watches. Both partners in this arrangement did very well, in part because of the one year guaranty that came with each watch sold. In two years, they had sold 500,000 watches and by 1900, the production had topped 6 million. The business was incredibly profitable, with Waterbury even providing a 130% dividend to its shareholders. The Ingersoll watches were in sharp contrast to Waterbury's own watches. These were of very poor quality and gave the company a bad name. **Cont'd Page 2**

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Waterbury-made Ingersoll Character watches

**The next meeting will be held**

**January 27, 2013**

**At the**

**Ottawa Citizen Building,  
1101 Baxter Road**

**+++++**

## **Annual Trash & Treasure Auction**

**Bring all that stuff you have been meaning to get rid of & make some cash (so you can buy MORE stuff!)**

**PLUS,**

**as always, there will be a....**

**Show and Tell**



## *OFFICERS & CONTACTS*

<b>President :</b>	Daniel Burgoyne	<a href="mailto:burgoynedaniel@yahoo.ca">burgoynedaniel@yahoo.ca</a>	
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<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Wally Clemens	<a href="mailto:wallysc@gmail.com">wallysc@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Program</b>	Don Purchase	<a href="mailto:donpurchase@rogers.com">donpurchase@rogers.com</a>	

## *MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)*

Another economic downturn in the 1920's, combined with Ingersoll facing increased competition with Swiss companies dumping their wristwatches in the US, caused Waterbury to once again lay off staff. Ingersoll was also going bankrupt and the business seemed doomed. But another rescue was in store when Walt Disney arrived with a proposal for Waterbury to make his wrist watches. Given their bad reputation for watch manufacture, they bought out the Ingersoll name. The first Mickey Mouse watch showed up at the Chicago Worlds fair in 1933.

By the late 1930's, clocks were not selling, materiel prices were skyrocketing and the company was in trouble again. But fortune smiled once more when Waterbury received a contract to make bomb fuses for a British company. They also started making electric clocks as well as converting their old mechanical clocks to electric upon request.

Dan closed his presentation by explaining that controlling interest in the company was bought by Thomas Olsen from Norway. He kept manufacturing going in support of the war effort, but after the war, he stopped clock production and morphed the company into Timex.

### ***Show and Tell***

For Show and Tell, Brian MacDonald presented his Sangamo Clock. Brian described the issues that electric clocks had with accuracy in the early years because of the inconsistent electric service. He described how Fred Holtz, the company engineer, got the idea of using electricity to wind a mechanical clock movement in order to improve the time keeping accuracy. Sangamo produced 40 clocks in 1924 based on a pocket watch movement but by 1926, they were using jewelled movements.

John Johns then presented a marine chronometer he recently acquired through an auction. This was the second time the chronometer was sold by the same auction house. The timepiece was labelled Dent but the original purchaser found that the timepiece was not made by this historic chronometer maker. The auction house refunded the customer's money and put the chronometer up for bids a second time at a reduced price. That was when John won the prize.

Allan Symons presented a dollar watch which commemorated the 1939 Royal Visit of King George VI and his wife Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (affectionately known as the Queen Mother). The watch is a new addition to the Canadian Clock Museum.



### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The bi-annual election of chapter officers was held at the November meeting.

With the resignation of Wally Clemens and Georges Royer, the positions of President and Vice President were both open. The incumbents in the positions of Treasurer and Secretary (Ray Springer and Gary Fox) agreed to stand for an additional term. The members present elected Daniel Burgoyne as President and Don Purchase as Vice President. The two incumbents retained their positions. Congratulations, Daniel, Don, Ray and Gary.

We owe a great deal to Wally and Georges who served us faithfully and well for the past few years. **THANK YOU!!**



The new Chapter 111 Executive (from the left) Treasurer, Ray Springer; President Daniel Burgoyne; Vice President Don Purchase; Secretary Gary Fox

### NOVEMBER MEETING – PHOTOS



Allan Symons' 1939 Royal Visit Commemorative Watch



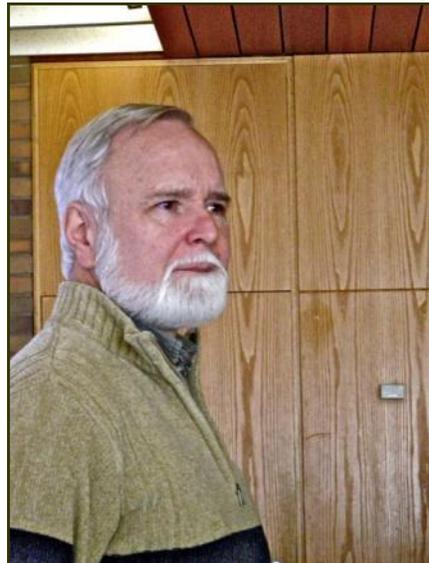
John John's "Fake" Dent Chronometer



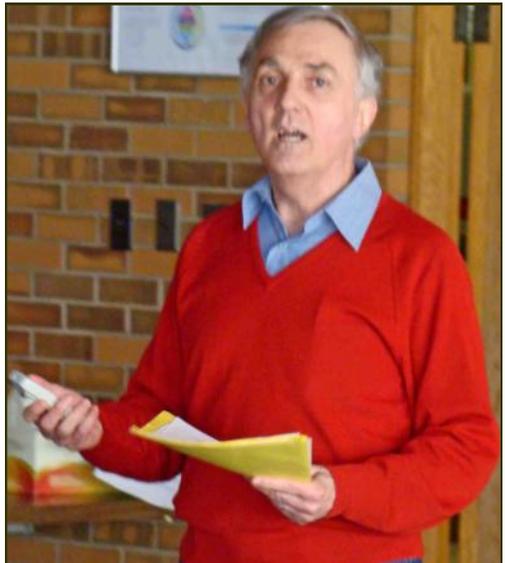
Bryan MacDonald's Sangamo Clock



Wally Clemens (2006-12) holds his last meeting as President



Michael Mazur was President from 1981 – 84



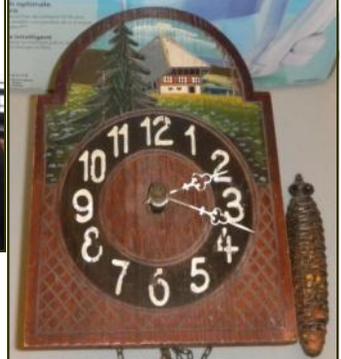
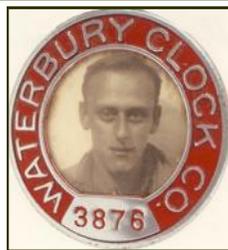
Dan Hudon was President from 1993—97

NOVEMBER MEETING – PHOTOS



(From left) Allan Symons speaks about the 1939 Royal Tour commemorative watch; Brian MacDonald describes his Sangamo Electric Clock; and John Johns relates his adventures acquiring a "Non-Dent" Dent Chronometer.

Doug Sinclair, a watchmaker, long time contributor to the NAWCC Bulletin, and good friend of JP Tourigny visited us from Calgary



NEW MEMBERS



Say "Hello" to Paul (left) & Tom Devey who both joined the club in November. Why not introduce yourselves to them at the next meeting?



DAN'S SUGGESTED READING

Clocks Magazine

October 2012

- Making a new eccentric bushing for a French clock.
- Repairing the Comtoise automaton.

November 2012

- Making weights and hooks for an English longcase clock.

FEE FOR THE FALL REPAIR COURSE

Just a note for everyone planning to take the Fall course with Dan Hudon, **Please bring your \$60 fee to the next meeting—January 27, 2013.**



## AN UNUSUAL BOX CLOCK

GEORGES ROYER

When I saw this clock, I thought, "Here is another German Box clock", but I was in for a couple of surprises! It had a case similar to most box clocks, with leaded glass on the lower part of the door, a round aluminium face with big black numbers and black hands. The movement is attached to a seat board which slides in between two guides and it has two metal brackets to fasten it to the backboard. Everything looked like this time-piece was German made. However, the word Forestville can be read on the face just below the number 12.

There was a Forestville Clock Manufacturing company in Forestville, Connecticut, in the 1840s which closed in 1855 when it was bought by E.N. Welch, but our clock is much more recent and was likely produced by the Canadian Forestville Clock Company which was founded in 1941. (See the information given by the Canadian Clock Museum on this company at the end of this story.) The Canadian Forrestrville company is known to have imported movements from Germany after the second world war, and many of the Black Forest clocks made by the predecessor of the Forestville Company were fitted with imported movements from Germany. But when I took the movement out of its case, I discovered that the movement was made in France. The stamp at the back clearly indicates a French manufacturer (Fabrication française). « Bté » means 'Breveté' (patented); SGD G means 'Sans Garantie Du Gouvernement'. It appears that the movement was imported by the Forestville Company, perhaps at a time when Germany could not produce clock mechanisms, probably during the war years. But this was not the least of my surprises.

Over the years, I have seen many clock movements, and generally, the back plate is removed in one piece, in order to clean the moving parts. In this French movement the back plate is in **3 parts** connected to each other with posts and nuts. (See the pictures on p 6.) Naturally this feature makes it easier to open the clock and clean each section. One third of the back plate covers the chiming gears, another covers the time parts and the last one, the striking train of wheels.

After cleaning all the moving parts I proceeded to put them all back in their place and I placed each of the plates back on. I was wondering if the three plates would fit properly together and be firmly connected to have the bushings lined up and enable the wheels to turn smoothly. In the end, when everything was connected and tightly fastened, the whole clock ran just like clockwork.

This movement is a good example of precise engineering. The brass plates were a bit thicker than those made by other manufacturers, and this contributes to making the whole frame more rigid and steady. In the end, this apparently ordinary German box clock, was in fact a Canadian product with a French movement. What a surprise!

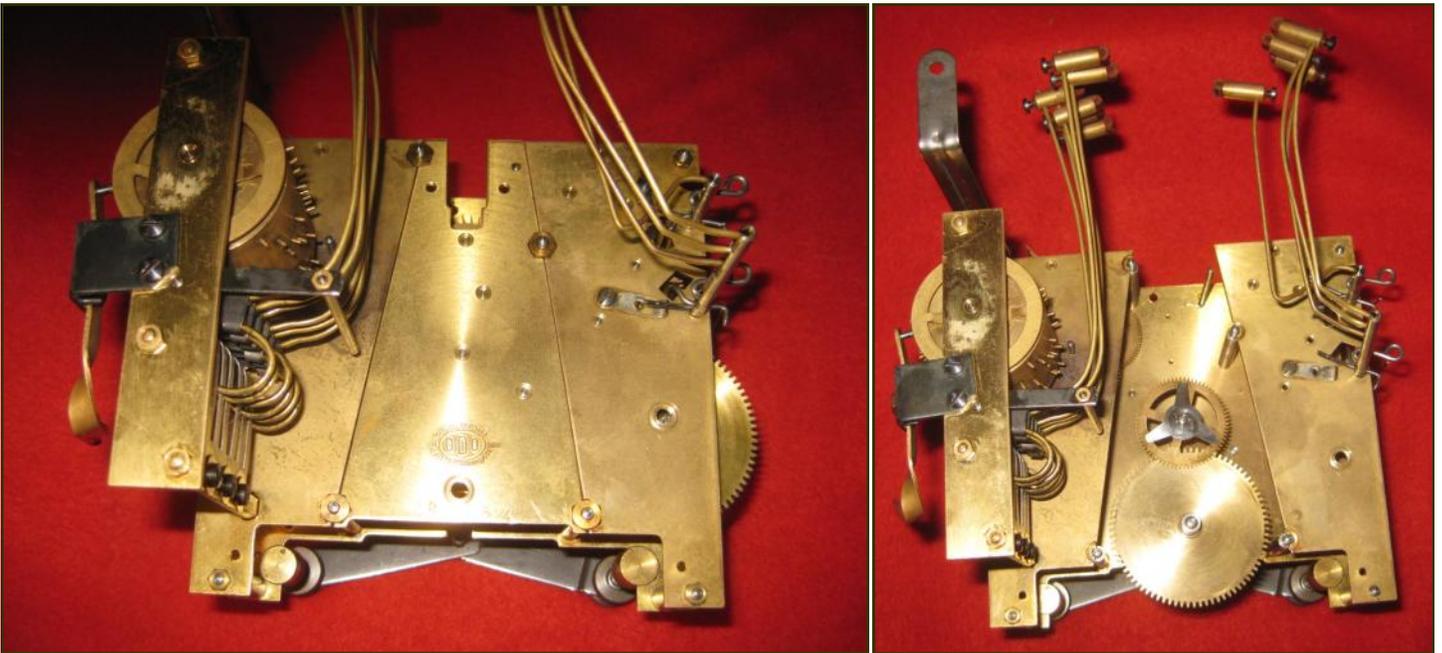
*Georges Royer*

For more on the Canadian Forestville Clock Company, see....

[http://www.canclockmuseum.ca/Canadian\\_Makers/Blackforest\\_Clock\\_Company\\_and\\_Forestville\\_Clock\\_Company.html](http://www.canclockmuseum.ca/Canadian_Makers/Blackforest_Clock_Company_and_Forestville_Clock_Company.html)



*For pictures of the unusual movement, see Page 6*

*AN UNUSUAL BOX CLOCK (CONT'D)**PRESIDENT'S CORNER*

Happy new year 2013! Bonne et heureuse année 2013!

May I take these few lines to wish everyone health and happiness for the coming year.

As we start a new year, two new figures have joined the executive: Don Purchase as VP and myself. Don and I are pleased to have accepted this responsibility and hope that we can do as good a job as the past members of the executives have done. I would like to express our gratitude to Wally Clemens and Georges Royer who have stepped down. I am personally thankful for the smooth transition to the new job.

As the club continues to provide a means for members to meet and interact socially, my goal will be to attract new members and develop a vision for the future.

At the coming meeting and next, the executive will be bringing to your attention suggestions for activities, including activities outside of our five regular meetings, in order to diversify the club's experiences. Stay tuned for more.

While the executive has taken on the task to plan the activities for the coming year, I would like to call upon those members that want to do something special outside meetings, or could do a small presentation or talk on their favorite subject at a meeting to manifest themselves to the executive. As Ray Springer said to me, "the members of this club have collectively a thousand years of knowledge." All would be delighted if you shared your knowledge with your fellow members.

The January 27th meeting is the time when all members can participate individually by bringing to the meeting their precious or not so precious clocks, watches, books, tools and other collectible items for selling. Be prepared to buy as well and don't forget cash or your cheque book!

Hope to see you all on January 27th

*Daniel Burgoyne*

*EDITOR'S  
CORNER*

Happy New Year everyone! The first meeting in January is our annual Trash and Treasure Auction. Be sure to bring something to sell!!! Once again, my thanks to all who have contributed to this issue, including Georges Royer, Daniel Burgoyne, Charlie Beddoe and Ben Roberts.

*Gary Fox*