

# Bytown Times



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## NEXT MEETING

### WHEN:

Sunday, November 23, 2008

Course begins at 11:00 AM

Meeting begins at 1:30 PM

### WHERE:

Qualicum & Graham Park  
Community Centre

25 Esquimault Ave., Ottawa

### MEETING AGENDA:

- Special Feature: Members' Show and Tell Event—please bring your treasures!
- Mart Tables

## Gary Fox's CHI Research: Update



There is a lesson to be learned. As collectors, we tend to look for and acquire "things" - artifacts that meet the criteria for our collections. We comb antiques shows, we attend auctions, we search tables at flea markets and we

browse the internet - all in search of new items to add to our collections. But we are missing something really valuable. Sometimes it isn't as important to *own* the collectible as it is to see it, to learn from it, to enjoy it and to be sure that the current owner respects it. We can help in this last regard, because often we know more

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## November Workshop: Cleaning Wooden Works

On Sunday, November 23rd, 2008, at 11:00 AM, Ben Roberts will be giving a workshop on cleaning wooden works. Ben will present and demonstrate a tried and true method for cleaning and preserving wooden works movements. There will be a discussion on methods for:

- Securing loose posts (plate separators)
- Re-bushing wooden movements, including the re-bushing of the brass bracket on the front plate which provides the front bearing for the Escape Wheel Arbor.

Ben will also discuss a method of repairing or replacing broken teeth in wooden wheels using epoxy cement.

Time constraints do not allow for attendees to work on their own movements. However, Ben will demonstrate each procedure in detail and will provide plenty of literature and notes to take away. Attendees may still bring their own movements for discussion and analysis.

*Course information provided by Dan Hudon.*

## Visit to Unitarian House Residence

On the afternoon of Monday September 22, five Chapter members met with occupants of the Unitarian House retirement complex at 20 Cleary Avenue in Ottawa.

The residents had been invited to bring along their watches and clocks for evaluation, dating, and discussion, and a good number of them visited us in the meeting room which had been assigned for our use.

We did not keep count of the number of people who visited us, but all 5 of us were kept very busy during the entire 90 or so minutes available. To support our visit, we also provided a good display of clocks,



*Above: Members Gary Fox and Pete Graham speaking with two residents*



*Above: Clock display at the event*

watches and horological books which attracted much attention and interest.

After the assessment sessions were over, we were invited to partake of tea and cookies in the reception area, during which both residents and staff expressed their thanks for a most successful and interesting visit.

Thanks to Maynard Dokken, Pete Graham, Gary Fox and Bill Pullen for their individual time, effort and support which went to ensure the success of the event.

*Article written by Ben Roberts*

## Update on Training Activities

### May Lathe Course

The Lathe course being offered in May, 2009, is already full. If you are interested in attending, there is a waiting list. For more information, please contact either myself, or speak with Dan Hudon at the next chapter meeting.

*Course info provided by:  
Dan Hudon*

## Horological Word-Find Puzzle

Find the words listed at the right, in the table provided... a fun way to spend some time!

T	O	O	L	R	A	Q	B	T	F	A	C
X	C	V	M	E	W	C	Y	H	J	N	K
Z	P	I	N	S	K	L	O	P	B	T	U
B	I	N	K	E	Q	O	A	S	H	I	C
U	V	E	W	A	T	C	H	D	M	Q	T
K	O	C	G	R	R	K	X	B	G	U	J
E	T	I	L	C	D	V	D	N	B	E	S
Y	U	P	O	H	Z	N	I	M	W	I	T
G	H	A	N	D	S	R	A	E	Y	I	H
O	R	E	H	S	P	H	L	J	C	X	G
L	S	C	A	S	E	L	Q	K	W	D	I
O	F	L	R	P	E	Q	W	I	N	D	E
R	N	I	C	R	J	K	B	I	A	G	W
O	A	M	O	V	E	M	E	N	T	O	E
H	I	S	T	O	R	Y	C	N	O	L	S

- WATCH
- CLOCK
- HAIRSPRING
- CASE
- HOROLOGY
- DIAL
- RESEARCH
- TOOL
- KEY
- PINS
- HISTORY
- JEWELLER
- ANTIQUE
- HANDS
- MOVEMENT
- PIVOT
- TICK
- WIND
- WEIGHTS

## Canadian Horological Institute, cont'd...



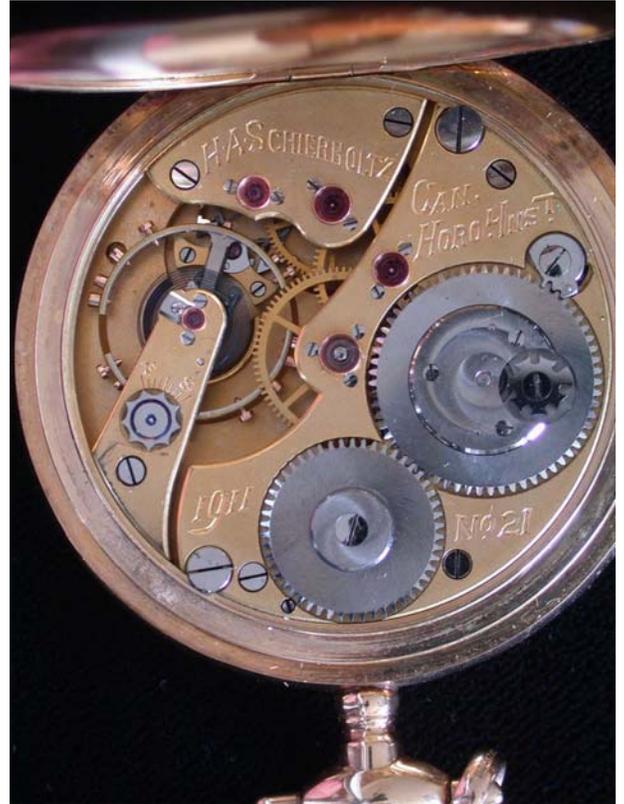
*Above: classroom, circa 1899*

*Continued from page 1...*

about their keepsake than they do.

Gary Fox gave an update on his research into the Canadian Horological Institute at our last meeting. His research has come a long way since his first discovery in 1999 and his last overview presentation in 2004. While he had lots of goodies to show, he was most proud of the connections he had made with the families of students from the school. August Schierholtz, was an A1 graduate from 1911, and his family were surprised to hear from Gary. However, once they understood his mission and the objective of his phone call, they opened so many doors. They let Gary photograph a previously undocumented A1 watch; they had scans made of the blueprints for the watch; they provided him with class pictures that he had never seen before; they had scans made of the blueprint of a second student's watch and; they provided the first pictures he had ever seen of the inside of the third school building - the one built by Playtner as the first purpose built school for watchmakers in Canada.

If that wasn't enough to convince him to seek out families and not artifacts, he soon had another



*Above: August Schierholtz watch movement*

example to prove the point. Gary tracked down the family of "A student" George Koeberle in California. In spite of his cold call, the family quickly warmed to his research and provided lots of new information. Probably the most exciting find though, is still on its way. Koeberle, who left his family in the States to attend the school for two years, wrote to his wife regularly. For whatever reason, she never threw away the letters and the family have scanned the lot and will send them to Gary - hopefully to provide a student's perspective on life at the school.

Gary's presentation was thorough and enlightening. We wish his continued success in his research and in the completion of his book, which is well underway.

*Pictures and information for this article provided by Gary Fox.*

## Meet Our Members! Introducing: Erin Fox

Some of the original members remember me from my youth. I can't say I was a member at the time, but I remember coming to meetings with my Dad (Gary Fox) as far back as 1983, when I was only 5 years old. At that time, the meetings were held at the War Museum, when it was located on Sussex Drive, next to the National Art Gallery. My attendance at the meeting wouldn't last long, distracted as I was... fortunately for me, Pearl Beaudoin (who was married to member Larry Beaudoin) was kind enough to escort me to the museum's displays, which were infinitely more interesting to my five-year old mind than the clock-talk going on in the other room.

Unlike many of our members who have come from far stretches of the world, I was born here in Ottawa, in

1978. We lived in Stittsville for a few years, before moving further into Ottawa itself, living in the south end of the city. Growing up, my parents loved to 'go antiquing'; Dad searching for the next watch for his collection, and Mom looking for whatever cute little knick-knack would tickle her fancy. My sister and I had two choices: whine about being bored, or find something we want to collect ourselves. I chose the latter.

My first hobby, which remains an interest for me today, was bottle collecting. I began collecting antique pop and beer bottles, gathering the 'typical' pieces

of a standard collection: a dark brown Crush bottle, a couple of turn-of-the-century Coca-Cola bottles, a Stubby bottle, etc. Eventually my interest became more focused on Ottawa-related bottles, including many pieces from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

By age twelve, I had begun to develop an interest in clocks as well. Growing up in a house with the constant ticking of multiple clocks per



room, the sound had become a comfort to me. If you offered me a room in which to sleep that had only one clock ticking, I'd be up all night... but if that room had three or four clocks ticking, I'd be in dream-land in no time. I don't remember what drove me to acquire and fix my first clock, but I do remember the pride I had when I had finished its restoration. It was a mock-Vienna Regulator, and it needed a good cleaning. With much help from Dad, I drew a nice sketch of the movement from different angles, took the movement apart, cleaned all the parts, polished the pivots, and put it back together... and by some miracle, it worked! Having cleaned up the case as well, I brought my prized piece to the next Clock Club meeting, and presented my clock to the group.

Not long after I had finished that clock, my mother and I moved to Regina, Saskatchewan. During the two years I lived there, I was con-

tacted by a member of the NAWCC who was looking to start a local chapter. I had the opportunity to tour his home and view his collection, most of which (if memory serves) consisted of large wall and shelf clocks.

In 1995, I moved back to Ottawa. I graduated from Ridgemont High School, and went on to Algonquin College, to study Business Administration, Marketing. After school, I managed a café downtown for a couple of years, before taking a job with Costco Wholesale's Canadian Head Office, located here in Ottawa. The main function of the Head Office was purchasing: buying all the products sold in all the Costco warehouses across Canada. I began in the produce department, purchasing truckloads of lettuce, apples, berries, and all sorts of other fruits and vegetables. After a couple of years, I moved to the electronics department, purchasing cameras, home theatre systems, computers, and other electronics from companies like Sony, Apple, Panasonic, HP, etc. I left Costco only recently, to accept a position at Public Works Government Services Canada, again in the acquisitions/procurement field, purchasing Electronics, Simulators, and Defence Systems mainly for the Department of National Defence.

These days, my main interest in horology revolves around early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century character watches and clocks. I have a modest collection, which many of you saw last year when my common-law spouse, Paul, and I hosted last year's annual Holiday Soirée. I also expanded my role with the club a few years ago I began note-taking for past Secretary Ben Roberts, which eventually turned into the full-time Secretary and Bytown Times Editor position which I hold today.

# September 2008 Meeting: Pictures



Our last Chapter meeting was held Sunday September 28, 2008. Dan Hudon gave a workshop on the floating balance, Gary Fox gave an update on his research on the Canadian Horological Institute, and Jonathan Edwards spoke about his time at a watchmaker's course in Trois Rivières. Members shared show and tell items, and mart tables were also set up.



## September Meeting: Show & Tell Highlights

*At the left: JP Tourigny presented to the chapter his Seth Thomas clock, which had originally hung in Henry Birks & Son, in Ottawa (the timepiece is marked as such). The clock had eventually found it's way into JP's family, and was hung in the basement of the family home when he grew up. At one point, his parents had tried to sell it at a garage sale for \$25, but, thankfully, there were no takers. Now the clock hangs in JP's home. Surprisingly, when he recently offered the clock to the store where it originated so many years ago, the store refused to take the timepiece.*

*At the right: Allan Symons shared with the club a recent acquisition: a rare lapel watch produced by Westclox only in the year 1957. The watch originally sold for only \$14.95. During his chat, he was decked out in a Westclox cap—a gift from a lady who had worked in the factory for just shy of 40 years of her life.*



## 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

## Club Officers & Contacts

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

**Vice President:** Patrick Bigras

**Treasurer:** Grant Perry

**Auditor:** Georges Royer

**Librarian:** Wally Clemens

**Secretary &  
Bytown Times Editor:** Erin Fox

**Membership Chair:** Veronica West

**Immediate Past President:** Maynard Dokken

**Program & Social Director:** Tim Bryans

**Education & Workshop Chairman:** Dan Hudon



## Secretary's Corner

I would like to thank Wally Clemens, Dan Hudon, Gary Fox, Charlie Beddoe, Ben Roberts, and Maynard Dokken for their contributions to this issue, in the form of excellent pictures, and valuable information and articles.

As usual, I would like to welcome 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](mailto:erinfoxnawcc111@gmail.com)**

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

**[www.ottawaclocksandwatches.ca](http://www.ottawaclocksandwatches.ca)**

## Notes from the President's Desk

Over time, we've all collected many prized pieces for our collections. It's time we came together and shared them with the rest of the club! We've decided to skip planning a main speaker for our next meeting in order to allow everyone the chance to share their findings with the rest of the members. It will be our Special Show and Tell Event. So, please bring something from your collection to share with the club. It could be a favourite piece, an unusual find, or a recent addition. I'm also looking forward to Ben's workshop on cleaning wooden movements, which will run before the main meeting.

A little reminder: our January meeting is also fast approaching... and that means our annual auction is right around the corner. So start looking through those tools and timepieces you don't want... they may be someone else's treasure!

As usual, please do not forget to bring some slippers or 'inside shoes', so we can keep the floors nice and tidy. See you there!