

Bytown Times

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NEXT MEETING

WHEN:

Sunday, Nov. 25, 2007
workshop begins at 10:30 AM,
meeting begins at 1:30 PM

WHERE:

Qualicum & Graham Park
Community Centre
25 Esquimalt Ave., Nepean

MEETING AGENDA:

- Cleaning porcelain pocket watch dials workshop (see details on page 2)
- Allan Symons will discuss 1950's Snider mantel, wall and TV lamp clocks
- 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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>The Gastown Steam Clock</i>	1
<i>Clock Course Success</i>	1
<i>Holt Renfrew</i>	2
<i>Training Activities Update</i>	2
<i>Notes on our Last Meeting</i>	3&4
<i>Time Sharpening Shop</i>	4
<i>In Memory of our Friends</i>	5
<i>Club Info & Contacts</i>	6
<i>Secretary's Corner</i>	6
<i>The President's Desk</i>	6

The Gastown Steam Clock

During our March 25th, 2007, meeting, Paul Williams spoke to the club about his research on steam clocks, and specifically the Gastown Steam Clock in Vancouver.

The famous Gastown Steam Clock was built by horologist Raymond Saunders, owner of The Gastown Steam Clock Company. He built the clock in 1977, based on an 1875 design.

Following his apprenticeship as a watch and clock technician at a major Vancouver department store, Ray spent ten years as a jeweler, and watch & clock repair estimator, receiving honours in the company's management-training course.

In 1970, Ray opened his own business, building sculptured

clocks. One of his first commissions was to design and build the world's first steam clock in Vancouver's 'Gastown' district.

The motion of the Gastown clock is controlled by a weight-driven pendulum tower clock from Gillette & Johnston, England. The steam engine raises the weights.

The weights are steel balls with a 2-inch diameter. The balls are held in cages as they fall down the drive train to drive the clock. At the bottom of their fall, they leave the cage and follow a track which brings them to another cage, which is raised by the steam engine. Once at the top, the ball falls on another track and rolls to a cage to start another downward passage. At any given time there are

five or six balls in the drive train.

Over the past 40 years Ray has designed and built more than 150 public clocks, including six different steam clocks. The latest was installed in May 2002 as an entrance attraction for the new Indiana State Museum. The 18-foot high stainless steel and brass clock plays 'Back Home Again in Indiana' on eight steam whistles.

Steam clocks built by Saunders are also located in Otaru, Hokkaido, Japan (a replica of the Gastown clock), Whistler, B.C., and Port Coquitlam, B.C.

Notes and research for this article were provided by chapter member Paul Williams.

Clock Repair Course Success

The 2007 Clock Repair Course for Beginners was a great success. Course certificates were handed out to all participants at the end of the last class.

From left to right: Frank Kapounek, Bill Jones, Irena Dixon, Peter Dixon, Wally Clemens, Dan Hudon, Scott Whiteside, and Ray Springer



Holt Renfrew and Borrowed Time

Jacinte Anderson works in visual presentation at Holt Renfrew, one of Ottawa's best-known and upscale stores. In October, Jacinte was preparing the decoration of the store windows and interiors. The theme that head office in Toronto had selected for that period of the year was "Time well spent".

She was supposed to bring in timepieces and display them among other items featured by the store such as fall and winter clothing, shoes, handbags, hats, jewelery, etc. Holts head office had provided the visual team with large photocopies of clock dials on cardboard and plasticized foam boards, and she wanted to display real timepieces to better attract the attention of passer-bys.



And this is how Jacinte got nine clocks from Georges and was able to add her own touch to the window displays. She was impressed with the number of clocks she could choose from, going for variety in size and colour, clocks to attract the eye but not distract from the items for sale. So, for two weeks, Holt-Renfrew's windows were spiced up with a little 'borrowed time'.

Article and photos contributed by chapter member Georges Royer



So Jacinte went down Bank Street to the antique dealers of Ottawa South trying to rent or borrow clocks for the store windows. She only got a few pieces but Dave Brown, the manager of the Antique Market, suggested she might have luck if she asked Georges Royer, "the clock guy" who lived just a few blocks away. He knew that Georges had quite a collection of clocks and he thought Jacinte had nothing to lose.



Update on Training Activities

Cleaning Porcelain Pocket Watch Dials

When: November 25th, 2007

The next workshop will be on the cleaning of porcelain pocket watch dials. This workshop is scheduled to begin around 10:30 AM on November 25th, 2007; the day of the next chapter meeting. Grant Perry will facilitate this workshop. Interested participants are asked to bring their own pocket watches. Grant will provide the cleaning products. Participants should also consider bringing a lunch as the workshop will last until the meeting begins. There is no cost associated with attending this workshop.

NAWCC Field Suitcase Workshop: Skills (F200)

A reminder that Chapter 111 will be offering another NAWCC Field Suitcase Workshop in Ottawa, in May 2008: 'Skills' (F200). This course is already advertised on the NAWCC site. The course has no pre-requisite. It is a good opportunity for members to enhance their skills utilizing hand tools, and also to learn how to make or adapt tools. The F200 course itself is a pre-requisite for the NAWCC lathe courses. Those members who eventually want to learn how to work with a lathe (whether watchmaker's or micro lathe) need to take this skills course. It is much more economical to take this course in Ottawa than in the U.S. Cost for participating in this course will be determined at a later time.

EXTRA: An expanded pocket watch repair course is also planned for 2008

Workshop and course info provided by Dan Hudon

Looking Back at our Last Meeting: Sept 2007

Our first formal meeting in 6 months took place on September 23rd, 2007. On such a beautiful summer day, 34 people, including a guest and a couple of new members, made their way to the community centre for the meeting.

Chapter President, Wally

Clemens, opened the meeting with updates on our chapter website and other administrative information. Dan Hudon gave the chapter an update on the upcoming training events.

Members Gary Fox, John Ruhland, Frank Kapounek, Peter

Kushnir and Iain MacDonald participated in the Show & Tell, sharing with the chapter their latest finds.

The main attraction was a talk given by Ashkan Zandi and his brother Vahid, who spoke about their shop: Time Sharpening Watch & Jewellery Repair.



John Ruhland found an article showing how to do repairs to gears using a particular tool to hold the gears. John built one of these tools himself.



Iain MacDonald showed the group the dial he repaired (the dial belongs to John Ruhland). The brass of the dial was corroding underneath the paint. Iain 'filled in the gaps', making a beautifully restored dial. Iain has offered this service to others, for a fee.



Peter Kushnir showed the club his latest acquisition: a captain's watch.

Frank Kapounek showed the group a unique chronograph by the manufacturer Dent, and a self-winding clock by Thomas Mercer (pictured below)



Gary Fox shows the chapter a class picture of the Canadian Horological Institute. Gary gave an update on the progress of his research, along with the frustrations and joyful rewards of his extensive research.



More September 23rd Meeting Pictures



Time Sharpening & Jewellery Repair

The main attraction of the last chapter 111 meeting was a talk from chapter member Ashkan Zandi and his brother Vahid, on the topic of running their watch and jewelry repair shop.

Ashkan was trained in watch repair by a master of the trade while he lived in Iran. He eventually opened his own shop in Iran, then moved his shop and home to the Philippines, before coming to Canada.

Ashkan's expertise in watch repair covers a large array of types of mechanisms: quartz watches, repeaters, self-winding watches, and hammer-type watches, to name just a few. Even more impressive is his clientele,



Ashkan Zandi (on the right) and his brother Vahid (on the left) speaking to the chapter at the September 23rd meeting.

which includes many high-profile people such as ambassadors, etc.

Vahid's expertise lies in jewelry repair. A goldsmith, geologist, and doing diamond grading, Vahid has an extensive knowledge of placing value on and working with precious stones and substances. He spoke to the chapter about the different elements that add value to diamonds, emeralds, sapphires, and pearls. He is also skilled in melting down gold to form jewelry and even watch cases.

Ashkan's and Vahid's shop, Time Sharpening & Jewellery Repair, can be found at 15 Beechwood Avenue, in Ottawa. Call 613-746-7927

Carl Kristian Jensen

It is with very deep regret that we record the passing of Carl Kristian Jensen on Friday 5th October 2007.

Carl was an avid clock collector with an impressive collection of clocks, and as a founder member of Chapter 111, was extremely active in the Chapter for many years, until ill-health forced him to limit his participation.

Despite no longer being able to be an active member, he continued his interest in, and support of the Chapter, and when he moved into a smaller home in 2003, donated most of his remaining horological items to Chapter 111. Their sale made a major contribution to Chapter funds.

Carl was made an Honorary Founder Member in 2004.

Before his illness, Carl was well known in Ottawa for his clock repairing expertise, and was known as 'The Clock Doctor'.

His extensive knowledge, and his kind and friendly help and advice, which was always available, will be sadly missed.

Written by Ben Roberts



Burkhard von Oppeln

It is with a sad heart that we note the passing of chapter member Burkhard Walther Friedrich Martin von Oppeln-Bronikowski, on October 10th of this year.

Burkhard joined our club in March of 2002, and was a very active member until the last year, when he became ill. Only 2 months after joining our chapter, he joined the group on a trip to the Canadian Clock Museum in Deep River, in May of 2002. Over the next years he brought in pieces of his collection to show the club, including a novelty Dickory-Dickory Dock mouse clock, pictured on the left.

Burkhard will be missed.

Anthony (Tony) V. Hall

We are sorrowful to note that our dear friend, and chapter member for over 25 years, Tony Hall, passed away this fall.

Tony's horological interests revolved around clocks, and clock repair. Known as the 'Tic Toc Doc', Tony founded the Ottawa Valley Clock Service after his retirement. Tony enjoyed chatting about clocks, of which he had an interesting curiosity—his expertise going as in-depth as a fine knowledge of the intricacies of the continuous loop mechanism for grandfather clocks.

Tony's home reflected his passion for clocks. The sizeable basement of his home included a den which housed his collection, while the rest of the basement was given over to his shop: shelves of tools, clock parts, and mechanisms under repair covered the room.

Tony, and the role he played in our chapter, will be missed.

The picture and caption on the right of the late Nate Segal (left) and Tony (right) appeared in the January 1984 edition of the Bytown Times



Watch out for Nate "the Saint" Segal and his partner Tony "the Enforcer" Hall. Both have stolen time; seconds, minutes and even hours. They are known to be dangerous, especially at auctions. They specialize in watches and clocks. You have been warned.

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
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Vice President: Patrick Bigras

Secretary: Erin Fox
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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

It's been only 2 days since our Wine & Cheese party, and I'm still smiling at the memories of the fun evening. Thanks to all who joined Paul and I at our home on November 10th. Please watch for a full report on the party in the next issue of the Times.

I would like to take this time to thank the many people who have contributed to this issue of the Bytown Times.

Intriguing stories were contributed by both Paul Williams and Georges Royer. Pictures were submitted by Ben Roberts, Charlie Beddoe, Maynard Dokken, Dan Hudon, and Georges Royer. Course updates were also provided by Dan Hudon. Most importantly, were the memories of our friends who

have recently passed, provided by Ben Roberts and

Gary Fox.

Without all your help, this newsletter would be little more than 6 pages of organized titles! I very much appreciate the help you've provided.

I would like to, once again, 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

It is difficult, with our busy lives, to get members to commit the time and resources to complete and present a presentation. However, if we all bring a show and tell item, that has a story, it would go a long way into making our meetings more interesting and entertaining. Items do not need to be hundreds of years old or worth a small fortune. We all have that watch or clock that has very special personal significance. Items do not need to be researched, it is quite possible that a member will have information on the item or be able to guide you in the right direction.

Clocks have been the mainstream of our presentation, but let us not forget about other horological items, WATCHES, Tools, Barometers or Books for example. Our club members have a wide area of interest and it's up to all of us to make our meetings interesting and entertaining.

Please bring your treasures.