



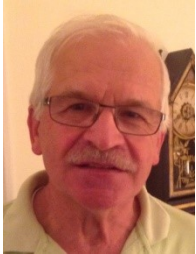
# Tick Talk - Chapter #33 N.A.W.C.C.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TORONTO CHAPTER OF NAWCC

MEETINGS ARE AT The Best Western Premier Hotel Toronto Airport.

135 Carlingview Dr, Etobicoke

## President's Message



Dear Members,

It has been quite a while since we last communicated with you. It appears that the pandemic situation is not abating and that we will not be able to meet in person in the foreseeable future. We have found a way to keep going, however. The Chapter has started a program of virtual meetings using the Zoom internet app. Our first two meetings have been successful and have attracted an audience both locally and from far afield. I will have more on this later in this message.

First, I'd like to thank Barry Armstrong and Ron Metcalfe for submitting articles for this Tick Talk. We would like more so that we can continue to communicate with you in this way. As we become more and more isolated, we ought to use whatever means we can to make contact with one another and to keep our enthusiasm for clocks and watches. Doug Thomson has done a great job of putting together these newsletters. Our Chapter owes him a real debt of gratitude.

I'd also like to thank Alex Kung and Bob Pritzker who have worked to get our Chapter meetings online. Our next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on January 31. There will be a presentation on the fabulous Strasbourg Astronomical clock that is to be found in the Cathedral there. Since it is very unlikely that

any of us will be able to travel to see this clock in person in the near future, you really should join the meeting and see this treasure and its workings at our meeting. The link to our meeting is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87887225919?pwd=aStrRmZqTG1ESzZjK1FWWFRWakdlZz09>

Just click on the link above at 2 p.m. on Sunday January 31 and you'll be there.

One feature of the meeting that we enjoyed last time was the mart. We are going to host another one as part of our January meeting. If you have something you want to sell or something you want to buy send a picture of the item to [chapter33toronto@gmail.com](mailto:chapter33toronto@gmail.com) before January 30. You will be given an opportunity at the meeting on January 31 to describe the article and indicate the price and any other considerations. Buyers and sellers can complete their transaction after the meeting privately through email. The Mart will also give people an opportunity to seek advice on projects they are working on. If you are having a problem with a timepiece or need information, consider sending a picture along of the item or, when you are attending the meeting, you can present your issue to those attending. We would welcome the discussion.

Please consider writing an article for the Tick Talk - it needn't be long. Our editor, Doug Thomson is more than willing to take your ideas and choose the right words with you. In addition, if you would like to make a presentation at one of our virtual meetings, we would greatly appreciate you doing so.



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One hopes that 2021 will see an end to these troubled times so we can get together in person. With that in mind, I wish you the very best for the New Year and hope to see you on January 31.

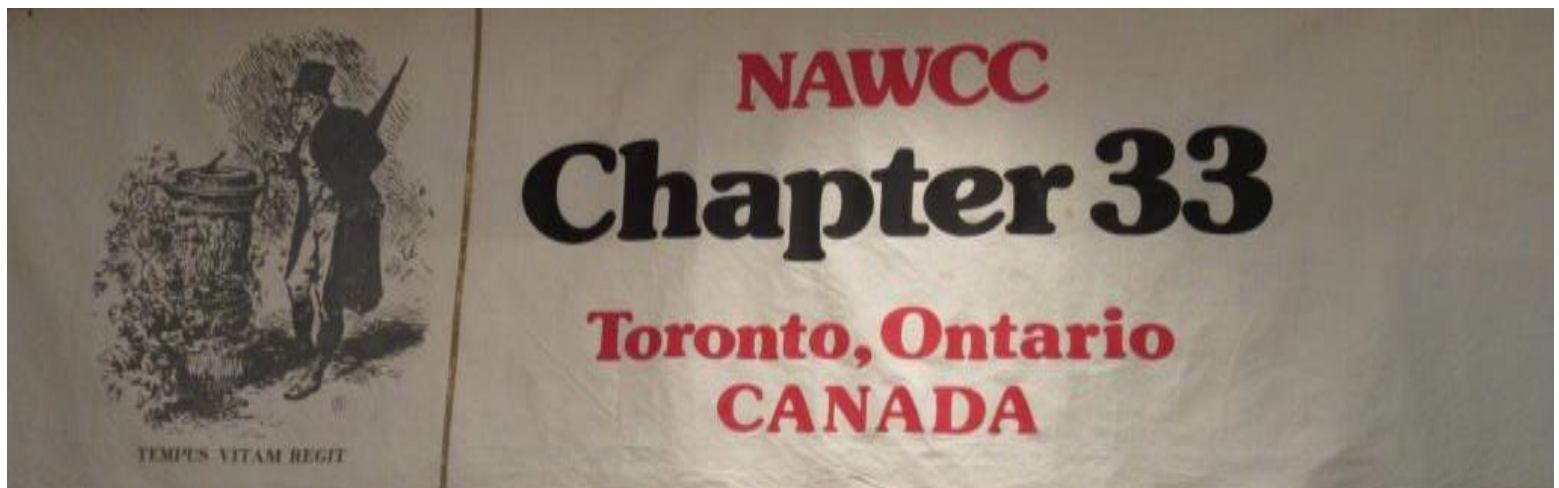
As I wrote this, I received sad news that our member John Volodovic has passed in late November 2020.

John was recovering from stroke and suffered a heart attack.

John was a gentleman with a friendly nature and was very active in chapter 33 as a watch dealer. He also was an active participant in many Regionals.

He'll be missed by many.

Ben





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## How I Became Member Of NAWCC

### Ron Metcalfe

I met my wife Martha in 1960 at a mutual friends' wedding. I was an usher and she was a bride's maid.

We began dating immediately after the wedding. I was working at Domtar in Etobicoke and she was at the Provincial Laboratories on Christie St. and Dupont as a Lab Technician in the TB lab.

While at the TB Lab, Martha became quite friendly with another Lab Tech, Marilyn Mighton, who left Christie St. in the mid '60s to seek employment in the private sector and left our sphere of friends.

Martha and I were married in 1963 and in due course had 3 children and bought a house in Brampton, so that by 1980 I was in a position to start buying the occasional antique, which we determined would include a modest collection of old clocks.

Coincidentally at this time, I heard about an auction of antique clocks, and knowing not the first thing about them, decided that we should go and trust luck to point us in the direction of a good buy. The auction began on time and we were introduced to a whole litany of strange sounding makers' names, such as Pequegnat, Ansonia, Junghans, New Haven, Seth Thomas etc., of which the only one I had ever heard was Seth Thomas.

As there was a lonely Seth Thomas on the calendar, I determined to buy it – which I did. I was now hooked on the antique clock bug.

So after the auction, and while waiting our turn to pay the clerk and claim our prize, I indulged in the pastime of people watching, and immediately saw Martha's old lab friend Marilyn and said "isn't that Marilyn Mighton over there?" to which she replied, "I don't know, let's go ask her."

It was indeed her old friend who said "you must come and meet my new husband Jim Connell"

And that is how I became involved in the world of NAWCC and clocks in general.





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## My Evolution as a Clock Collector

### Barry Armstrong

My journey started when I was forced into retirement 5 years early. My plan was to slowly start to process of learning how to repair watches. But the plan was only in my dreams. So, the question was, "how to get started?"

At an auction that I attended to bid on a nice Longines pilots watch, I was standing beside a nice old gentleman that I was bidding against. After the auction (I had won) we were talking about the watch and the small collection I had. I told him about my dream of repairing watches. He told me he could help. He invited me to his place in Dundas. And this was the start. The gentleman's name was John Farnam and he was a member of Chapter 33.

After touring John's house and seeing his workshop a few weeks after the auction, he suggested that I start with clocks and work my way to watches. He went to his basement and retrieved an old OG. He told me to take it home, disassemble it, and try to put it back again and when I ran into trouble to call him.

Little did I know that would be the last time I talked to him. He passed away due to cancer very quickly.

But he gave me somewhere to start, Chapter 33.

I turned up at the January meeting, knowing no one but was welcomed warmly. There, I heard of someone that gave watch/clock repair lessons from his house. I called Ron Metcalfe and arranged to start attending his Thursday morning lessons. I took the OG that John had given me and with a lot of help and direction from Ron, got it back together and working.

After the OG, I started taking pocket watches to class to repair. It soon became apparent the watches were too small for my eyesight and uncoordinated hands. So, after the first couple of watches I turned my attention to clocks.

Shopping for clocks just meant I had something else to look for as my wife and I visited Junk/Antique shops and auctions. I started by looking for anything that my wife and I agreed looked good and would fit our meagre budget. These turned out to be the mostly American mantle clocks, and the occasional French, English, or German clock. With each, I would take them to the Thursday class, learn about the history of the company, the clock style etc. and would disassemble it, clean it, do any repairs deemed necessary and reassemble. I also discovered that the French and British clocks seemed to have thicker plates than the American clocks and therefore needed fewer bushings during the repair process. Their quality clocks either used solid wood or thicker veneers so the cases kept their looks. So, I started looking for these clocks, keeping an eye on the movement quality as much as I looked at the case. I still bought American clocks, but their looks must really say something to me. I also started to attend the Syracuse Clock Convention which really opened my eyes to the different varieties and historical significance of clocks around.

So now I'm starting to be a little selective on what I buy. Has it got a quality movement? Is the case well-made and holding its looks? Does it have historical significance?

At this point I'm starting to run out of room at home to display my clocks. So, I start thinning the herd. I bring a few to club meetings and have a little success in selling some. I give a few away to family and friends. The local auctioneer is a friend and he sold a few for me. It is now important to try to use the adage "One in requires one to leave."

The clocks that Ron has in his repair shop that as students we see weekly, mainly have oak cases and are mantle clocks. I found out that they were made by Pequegnat Clock Company of Berlin Ontario. Yes, that is Berlin Ontario, now known as Kitchener Ontario as of the first world war. A Canadian made clock! From right here in Ontario! The history buff in me is starting to peak! I didn't know that there was clock manufacturing right here in Canada. Not only that, but almost in my backyard.





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I started to start focusing on Pequegnat clocks. First one (a Bedford). Then a second (a Brandon). And then a third (a Barrie). Then I bumped into Jim Connell at a club meeting and he told me about other Canadian clock manufacturers. Namely the Canada Clock Company (Whitby) moved to Hamilton as the Hamilton Clock Company then bankrupt and reopened as the Canada Clock Company Ltd Hamilton. These companies survived from 1872 to 1884 - just a few years after Canada became a country. On top of that, right in my hometown of Hamilton. The interesting thing about this is that they are truly Canadian companies and that everything was produced in Canada - the case, movements, everything! None of this "buy an American movement and make the case and assemble it in Canada." All of it was Canadian.

Now the hunt is on. It is not hard to justify buying a clock made in Hamilton. On top of that that, their production numbers aren't what the Americans or the Pequegnat clocks are - so, they are harder to find. I now have 13 different models (of 29) of the Canada Clock Company and numerous Hamilton Clock Company clocks as you can see by the following pictures. If you happen to have a Canada Clock/Hamilton Clock Company clock that you're not interested in let me know. As you see I'm now HOOKED on them.



Canada Clock Company Time only regulator



Hamilton Clock Company Advertising OG From the Jim Connell collection. He claimed it was the only printed Advertising from the HCC he could find.



I was lucky to make this group buy (costly but worth it)



On the shelf are Canada Clock Company models from left to right: Ontario, Forest Beauty, Quebec, Victoria, Windsor Extra, St Lawrence, Winnipeg and the City of London



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## Classifieds

**For Sale:** Dutch Clock Parts. Stoel and Staarklok parts available.  
Contact Jerit Vanderzwan 1 844 252 0177.

## Member Services

We are often approached by folks looking for someone who can help them fix a watch or a clock they have. At Chapter 33, we have a lot of talented folks who may be able to help you out. Do you provide a service? Buy or Sell? Drop us a note at [Chapter33toronto@gmail.com](mailto:Chapter33toronto@gmail.com) and tell us about it. We'll feature your ad in the Newsletter as well as our club Internet site:

[www.TorontoChapter33.ca](http://www.TorontoChapter33.ca)

### Service Your Watch or Clock

John Rocha - Cambridge ON  
[joaorocha73@yahoo.com](mailto:joaorocha73@yahoo.com)  
519-620-3723

Rob Poolman – Hamilton/Grimsby  
[robsantiqueclocks@bell.net](mailto:robsantiqueclocks@bell.net) 905-407-0360

### Clock repair instuction

Ron Metcalfe - Brampton ON  
[rmetcalfe1048@rogers.com](mailto:rmetcalfe1048@rogers.com)  
905-793-1048

**WANTED:** Pequegnat clocks , both large and small Beaver, Regina, #1 Regulator, Moncton and Toronto. Also large American weight driven regulators and an Eureka clock.

Contact: John Burke at 416 319 9974 or email [john.burke@rogers.com](mailto:john.burke@rogers.com)

**Buying:** Watches and Clock Collections. Large electric master clocks and parts wanted. Watchmakers tools.

Contact: Harold Steurer 905 450 6211  
[haroldsteurer@rogers.com](mailto:haroldsteurer@rogers.com)

Something to add? Contact us at:  
[Chapter33toronto@gmail.com](mailto:Chapter33toronto@gmail.com)

### Halmo Jewelers

Mark & Cheryl Halmo –  
Watchmakers/Gemologists  
140 Queensway E. Simcoe ON N3Y 4Y7  
PH: 519-426-3948 FAX: 519-426-2582  
Mechanical and quartz watch repair with many vintage parts in stock. Clock parts including Hermle and some cuckoo clock parts.  
[www.halmojewellers.com](http://www.halmojewellers.com)

### Glass Tablet Restoration/Reproduction

Dennis Burgin - Oakville ON  
[dennis.burgin@sympatico.ca](mailto:dennis.burgin@sympatico.ca)

### Glass Cutting/Bevelled Glass

Ben Orszulak - Grimsby ON  
[ben.orszulak@gmail.com](mailto:ben.orszulak@gmail.com)

### Roman Dial Restoration/Repainting

Dennis Burgin - Oakville ON  
[dennis.burgin@sympatico.ca](mailto:dennis.burgin@sympatico.ca)

### Gear Cutting and Precision Machining

Ben Orszulak - Grimsby ON  
[ben.orszulak@gmail.com](mailto:ben.orszulak@gmail.com)