

# CENTURY-OLD HEIRLOOM REUNITED WITH FAMILY

## REPAIR RECEIPT FROM 1944 LEADS CLOCK BACK TO ORIGINAL OWNERS

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Bill Steedman admits the purchase was a bit extravagant.

He had first noticed the oak clock with two pillars on either side of the face when he had taken his own clock in for repair at Tick Tock Clocks in Peterborough last month. Though he wasn't a collector, Steedman was drawn to the pristine Canadian-made clock.

"Every time I would go in, I'd keep going back to that one," he said.

Steedman's interest in the clock eventually led to a century-old heirloom be-

ing reunited with a long-time Georgetown family.

Steedman purchased the clock for \$800 and Tick Tock owner and master clocksmith Mark Jakubiak offered to replace a leather tether on the striker arm to give the clock a better sounding chime. When he opened up the back of the clock, he discovered a receipt that gave a clue to the clock's history.

A \$5 repair receipt dated Oct. 11, 1944, was made out to Mr. J.A. McKane of Georgetown, Ont.

Intrigued by the clock's history, Steedman contacted The Independent & Free Press, which led to him getting in contact with Jim McKane, who shares the same initials as his grandfather.

McKane, who now lives near Warton, filled in some family history and



Bill Steedman

A century-old clock that belonged to the McKanes has found its way back to the family. A repair receipt from 1944 found inside led Bill Steedman, who purchased the clock in Peterborough last month, back to Jim McKane, the grandson of the original owner.

together they were able to trace the clock's history.

The clock was made by the Arthur Pequegnat Clock Company in Berlin, Canada (now Kitchener).

The Swiss family immigrated to Canada and made clocks from 1904 until 1941, when it was forced to close due to a shortage of brass during the Second World

War.

The clock, an Ontario model (the company used province and city names for most of its models, including Milton and Brampton), has nothing that says when it was built. But Berlin changed its name to Kitchener in 1916, so the clock was manufactured sometime between 1904 and 1916. Jakubiak said it probably sold for \$18-\$24 at the time, the equivalent of \$485-\$645 today.

James Albert (J.A.) McKane, lived northwest of Kitchener until he was 14. He moved to Georgetown, where the family had owned land since the late 1840s, in 1886 and the family settled on the corner of Old School and Heritage Roads.

J.A. McKane married Isadore Cook Lyons in 1910. Based on a similar clock

still in the family, Jim McKane suspects the clock may have been a wedding gift from his great-grandfather.

J.A. McKane died in 1960, leading to the only gap in the clock's timeline. "I'm not sure how it got out of the family's hands," said Jim McKane.

Jakubiak bought the clock about three years ago in Erin from the widow of a collector. He was told it had been purchased at an estate auction.

McKane says he remembers seeing a clock like the one Steedman purchased in his grandfather's home. McKane asked Steedman if he would consider selling the clock to him.

"It's just one of those quirky things that happen in life," Steedman said. "I thought about it and decided the little clock should go back to its family."

"It's wonderful, and so generous of Bill," McKane said. "It's like the whole thing was meant to be."



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## NIGHT PARADE STARTS AT 5:00 PM

Date: Saturday, November 16th, 2019 Theme: **A CANADIAN CHRISTMAS**

### ENTRY FORM

Name of Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Float Design: (Brief Description) \_\_\_\_\_

Music: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Marchers/Walkers: \_\_\_\_\_ Overall Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry forms must be returned no later than **Saturday November 9th, 2019** to ensure your spot. All participants of the parade should arrive no later than **4:30 pm** to avoid confusion.

**PARADE ROUTE** Guelph St. from Sinclair to Mill St. and Charles St. to the fairgrounds.

Due to increasing rising costs an entry fee of \$75.00 would be greatly appreciated

Please mail entry form to: **Lions Santa Claus Parade**  
P.O. Box 73, Georgetown, ON L7G 4T1 or by email to [louieviolo67@gmail.com](mailto:louieviolo67@gmail.com)  
**Louie Violo @ 416-346-4080 • Al Watt @ 905-877-9896**

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