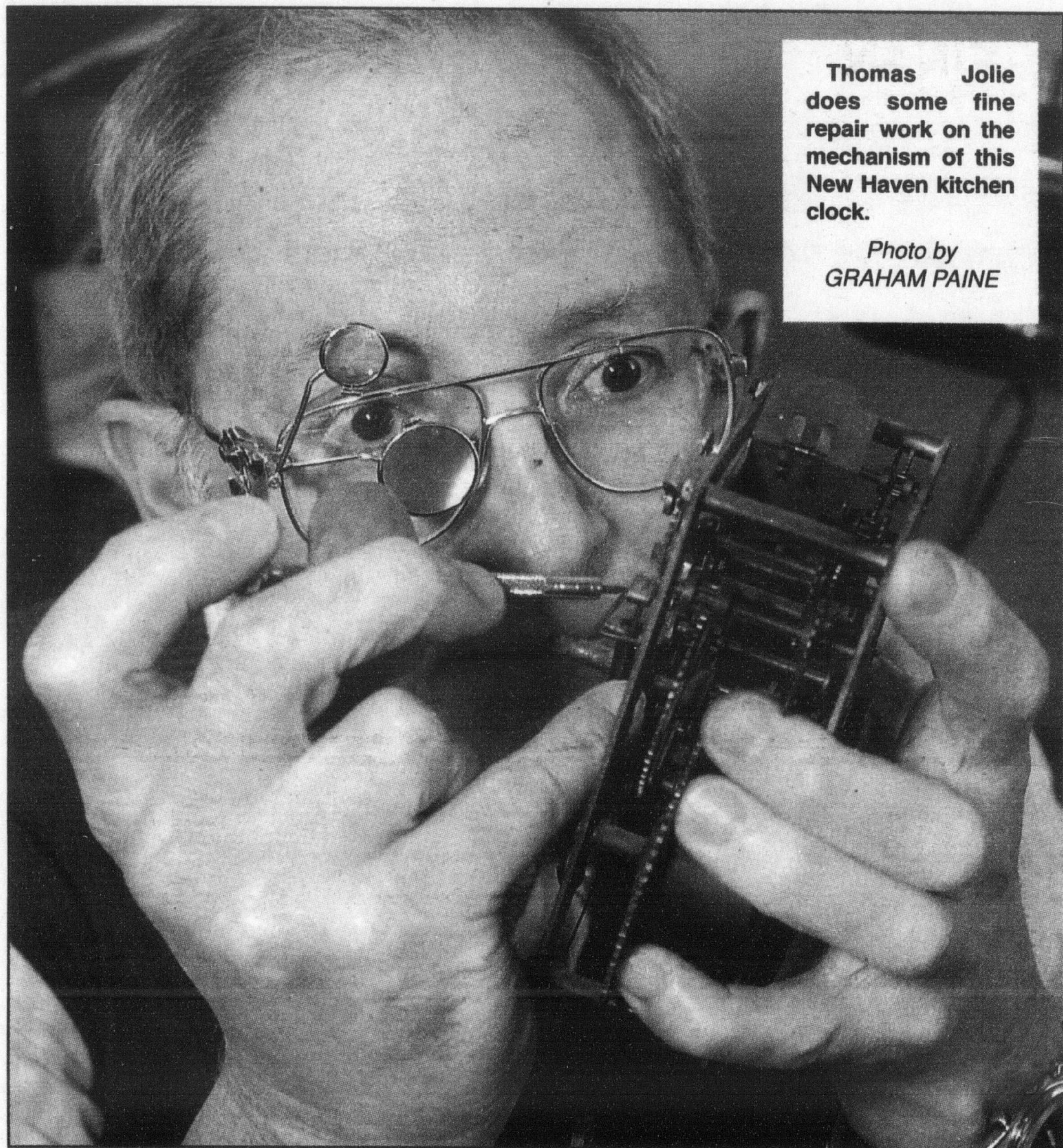


Milton Means Business

Repairman making name for himself after clock re-creation that Germans said couldn't be done



Thomas Jolie does some fine repair work on the mechanism of this New Haven kitchen clock.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

For Thomas Jolie, it's all about timing. That's because the soft-spoken repairman spends his days ensuring clocks and watches keep tic-tic-ticking along — doing so from a small second-floor storefront on Main Street.

After years as an apprentice in Toronto, Mr. Jolie brought his trade to town in 1980. Since then, his expertise and attention to detail has put him in good stead with the community.

Those qualities also landed him a unique opportunity a little over two years ago with long-time acquaintance Mark Bradley of Bronte Street's Bradley Woodworks.

At the time, Mr. Bradley was looking to re-create the Seth Thomas No. 2 Regulator — a popular weight-driven, eight-day railway clock used between 1860 and 1951 — that he felt railway hobbyists and former railway employees would be eager to obtain.

The problem was, a flood in Connecticut — where the clock was originally built —

had destroyed the plans.

Even after a company in Germany — the world's leading manufacturer of clocks — announced the time piece couldn't be duplicated, Mr. Bradley felt otherwise and called on the local repairman to back up his claim.

Mr. Jolie picked up the gauntlet and — though design info and parts were scarce — had the task completed in just a few months. More than 500 of these re-created clocks have been sold so far and according to Mr. Bradley, the market is far from exhausted.

"It's to Thomas' credit that this project succeeded. A huge German manufacturer said it couldn't be done and here a little guy from Milton does it," he said.

Added Mr. Jolie, "It was definitely a challenging and rewarding experience and the royalty cheques keep coming in."

The local repairman is also the one called upon whenever the Main and Martin street clock tower needs a little fine-tuning.

But it's regular clocks and watches that keep him busy, and to keep business coming takes a flair for meticulous work. He said, "It's an exacting, precise sort of thing. That's what drew me to it (watch/clock

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Region hosts seminar on business with U.S.

In an effort to improve business exports to the United States, Halton Region is hosting a series of seminars called 'Exporting in the Third Millennium'.

The kick-off seminar — 'Doing Business in the United States' — will bring together a variety of experts (a public accounting firm, advertising agency, transportation logistics company and banking establishment) to speak to local business operators about their opportunities in the American market.

"The seminars are designed to help current exporters improve their practices and to give those seeking to export the tools they need to develop a sound business and

marketing plan," said Javier Lopez, small business/export consultant for the Halton Regional Business Development Centre.

"The opportunity to learn from expert professionals who assist Canadian companies to export is a major benefit of the seminar series."

Doing Business in the United States will be held February 27 at the Halton Regional Centre (1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville) from 8 to 10 a.m. The seminar costs \$30.

To register or for more information, contact the Halton Region Business Development Centre at (905) 825-6000, ext. 6300, or on-line at www.haltonbusiness.com.

CIBC celebrates 125 years today

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Milton is celebrating a milestone today, marking 125 years of business in town.

To celebrate the occasion, the bank is holding a day of special events.

"Were having an open house and

ribbon-cutting with Mayor (Gord Krantz," said Christine Sarte, branch manager, adding the public is welcome to attend. "We're setting up a display of pictures dating back to when the branch first opened until now."

The branch first opened in 1877

as the Bank of Hamilton. In 1924, the franchise amalgamated with the Canadian Bank of Commerce and adopted its name. After the Canadian Bank of Commerce merged with the Imperial Bank of Canada in 1961, the franchise adopted the CIBC name.

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