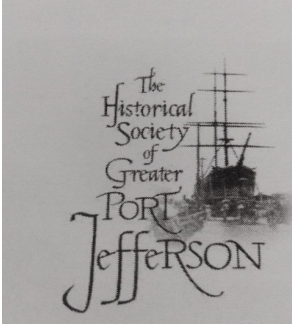


Press Release



The Historical Society of Greater Port Jefferson Receives Generous Support for Spinney Clock Guild from the Gardiner Foundation

The Historical Society of Greater Port Jefferson is pleased to announce that a grant request to the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation (www.rdlgfoundation.org) has been awarded. The Historical Society has received a grant award of \$1,000 to support the Historical Society's Spinney Clock Collection and Guild. Early in the 2000's, the Spinney Clock Guild was organized with the goal of training enough student members to become professional clock repair volunteers – to fix and maintain the 250 clocks and watches in the Spinney Collection. The Spinney Clock Collection was acquired from Ross and Tex Spinney.

In 1963, Ross Spinney and his wife, Tex, purchased a home in Port Jefferson. Their electrical contractor gave them a clock as a gift – a short drop schoolhouse clock. This began a 30-year journey of clock collecting. They went to auctions and antique shops looking to add more clocks to their growing collection. Ross' passion was grandfather clocks – he ultimately had 175 of them. Through the years, their collection grew to 910 clocks, which were displayed in their home. Ross had always hoped that their private collection would become a museum in Port Jefferson. After his death, the Historical Society was able to make his dream come true. Through a generous, anonymous donation, the Spinney Clock Building was constructed to house over 200 clocks from the Spinney Collection. The earliest clock in the collection is a Dutch grandmother clock – circa 1640.

The Spinney Clock Collectors' Guild runs a school for the maintenance, repair, cleaning and restoration of antique clocks. The Guild, at present, has a substantial library of books, vertical files, charts, pictures and posters for use in instruction and research. There are qualified expert instructors that teach the tuition-free classes. The repair school accepts donations of non-working clocks, cases and movements. These clocks are not part of the Spinney Collection but are used for the instructional purposes and practice by students. Only advanced volunteer members of the Spinney Clock Guild work on and maintain the Spinney clocks in the permanent collection owned by the Historical Society. "The Guild offers an innovative use of the historical society campus to the community. They are keeping a traditional skill and trade alive while welcoming a new audience to the collections of the society. Go visit. They are always welcoming and you might be inspired to a hobby or possibly a career as a horologist," said Kathryn M. Curran, Executive Director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.

Repair classes and the Spinney Clock Guild meet year-round at the museum complex in the Spinney building. Presently, there are 30 active members ranging from beginner to advanced status. If you are interested in learning about clocks, please call the Mather Museum Complex (631-473-2665) and leave a message. John Burns, Director of the Spinney Clock Guild, will return your call. The Historical Society of Greater Port Jefferson and the Spinney Clock Guild are very appreciative of the Gardiner Foundation's support! Their generous grant will help purchase supplies and equipment for the Guild.