



# A.T.C.A. NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ATLANTIC TOOL COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION  
Vol.21 No.4 December 2016 [www.tallships.ca/atlantictoolcollectors](http://www.tallships.ca/atlantictoolcollectors)



## BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT EVER

The 1930's were hard on families. If crops did grow, harvesting became a problem, as many family members moved away trying to find work. The Owen family was lucky. Their children, Martha, 12 and Billy, 10 did everything to help...hoeing, planting, harvesting and selling at the local market. They were great kids.

Winter and the holidays were fast approaching and Mr. Owen was hurrying to get the farm "winterized" as in mid-January he would leave for Maine to cut ice. With money scarce, what to get the children for Christmas was a bit of a problem. Mrs. Owen said that they had taken a liking to their neighbour's jersey calf. It was a twin and not doing well. Its owner was thinking about "knocking" it because he didn't think it was worth his time to nurse it. This seemed like the perfect solution and a price was agreed upon. With their father's help, Martha and Billy built a make-shift pen in the summer kitchen from some old doors, and barn boards found around the farm, they removed nails with a crowbar, straightened them and re used them. They made a gate. It was primitive but adequate.

When the calf arrived she was in very bad shape, but the kids thought she was beautiful. She had a perfect "9" on her forehead. "We'll call her Niner", they said. Martha had heard that goat's milk was good for everything so she talked to the weird goat lady down the road who agreed to let her have any extra milk in exchange for a few chores. After a week on this milk with a touch of molasses in it, Niner began to perk up quickly. Through the winter Martha and Billy would take her for walks on nice days to get exercise and soak up energy from the sun. As time went by Niner grew into a beautiful cow ( the children could see it all along!) and had many calves of her own. Martha and Billy grew up as well and went out on their own, but Niner stayed with the Owens long after her producing years were over.

Actually they often brought their own children to see Niner, their best Christmas gift...EVER!

~ Art Keeble

**JOKE:** *How did the farmer finally get a wife?*

## EDITORS' NOTES

In September we emailed Art and Barb to express our interest in taking over the reins of the ATCA Newsletter. According to Barb not much can rouse Art from his afternoon slumber with Norman, their dog, but when Barb read our email out loud to him to say he sat up and took notice would be an understatement! After 10 years of tireless service they were thrilled to hear that we were willing to take over the responsibility of co-editors. We had been throwing around the idea of offering our services to the association for several months, but we weren't sure we had the time to devote to it. After all, we have young kids and we both work full time, sometimes out of town. In the end we decided it was something we both wanted and felt capable of doing. Our children are 10 and 12, hardly babies, and we want to make it somewhat of a family effort. We made plans to meet with the Keebles, at our home in West River, Antigonish, on October 16th. Art arrived, box in hand, eager to hand over the 'archives', while Barb brought cookies to go with the tea we had promised. A cup of tea and several cookies later we were swapping stories, bragging about our pets and kids, and it became apparent that these two really enjoyed the newsletter and the opportunities that went along with it. Although they said they were happy to hand it over to us we're quite sure that it won't take much begging on our part to get a contribution or two from them in the future. Heck, before they had left our yard, Art had already promised to provide a Christmas story for this very issue! We welcome any feedback or suggestions you have, so don't be shy!

Nicole & Rob

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**Atlantic Tool Collectors Association** is a registered non-profit society, whose purpose is to promote fellowship and increase knowledge of antique tools and crafts. Visit our website at [www.tallships.ca/atlantictoolcollectors](http://www.tallships.ca/atlantictoolcollectors))

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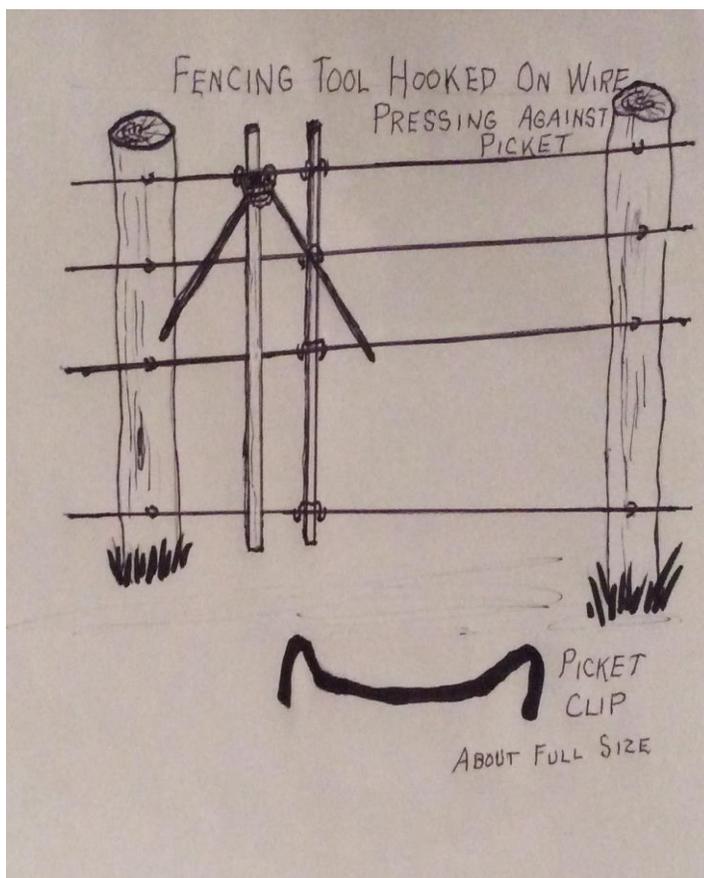
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## WHAT'S IT?

The last installment in our “What’s it?” tool department had a lot of us scratching our heads trying to decipher some sort of use for the oddly shaped contraption. It has come to our attention that this item is actually called a *snow fence slat replacer*.

Our friend, Allan Cross, was kind enough to forward a photograph of 2 such items in his possession, along with the description below.

“I am enclosing two pictures showing the picket fencing tool. To use it, you first stretch four or five wires between wooden posts. Set a picket up against the wires. Open the tool and hook it on one wire and pressed up against the picket. Close the handles and insert the clip around the picket as shown.



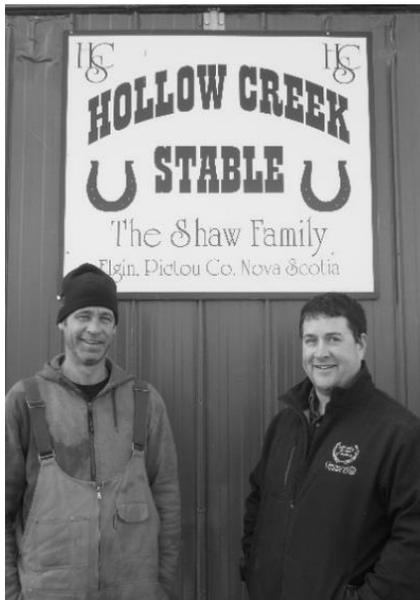
Open the handles and remove the tool. The wire tension secures the picket. I have two kinds - one gear type like yours, one lever handled (see picture). I cannot find a patent to support this claim, but I have used the tool to repair fences.” ~ Allan Cross

The Canadian Home Workshop magazine supports this explanation in its March 2003 edition. In an article entitled “Mender Bender: Fixing fences one slat at a time” by George Gouldburn, they explain the necessity to mend snow fences along the highways and rural roads in the early 1900s.

## A NEW TWIST ON AN OLD TRADITION

Like most Maritimers, Justin Shaw turns his hand at more than one task in an effort to busy himself year-round. The difference with Justin is that the things he turns his hand at are a little uncommon nowadays. Unsure of what to do after attending the College of Geological Sciences, Justin decided to build a career for himself in the forestry industry and bought himself a tractor and pulp trailer. However, when he got an offer to spend the winter in Florida working with draft horses he was quite sure that sounded a lot more appealing than a Nova Scotia winter in the woods! Part of the work he found himself doing down south was farrier related and Justin took to it like a duck to water, naturally.

When the majority of people hear the word farrier, after they ask what it means, their mind usually goes to the traditional image of a blacksmith pounding the red-hot shoe over an anvil until it forms the shape of a hoof, followed by the dramatic burst of steam as he dips in a barrel of water to cool. Now, after 20 some odd years, Justin's made a career of doing something for which most people don't even know the correct word!



Justin Shaw & Rob Porter

He still employs the traditional equipment that farriers have used for ages; a hammer, apron, nippers (to cut the hoof), nail pullers, rasp, tongs and 2 hoof knives; one for cleaning and a sharp one for cutting the frog. However, he doesn't make individual shoes in a forge the way people tend to imagine.



Pre-made horseshoe

Instead, he buys pre-made shoes in ¼ sizes from an Amish company in Oklahoma. As well, he has a dual-burner propane fuelled forge and anvil, mounted in a

trailer he hauls from farm to farm.



Justin's portable forge

This allows him to make minor adjustments to the shoes, add heel corks or bending heels for pulling horses, on site. As he puts it, "In the Maritimes you have to be somewhat diversified. I don't shoe racehorses, but (I) do shoe pleasure horses, horses that work in the woods, horses that pull, a lot of show horses. In the run of a week I could do a mini-horse, to a donkey, to a draft horse." Basically if something needs to be shod, Justin's the man for the job.

With a hint of pride in his voice Justin explained to me "With horses, as a farrier, showman or judge, I've been able to be in every state, except Alaska and Hawaii, and every province in Canada."

He went on to say “Four years ago I was also invited to England to introduce a few of the North American traits of farrier work into their show animals.” In fact, he’ll be travelling to Colorado in January of next year to judge at the National Western Stock Show.



Clydesdale foal

Justin’s home, and heart, is at Hollow Creek Farm in Elgin, Nova Scotia, just outside of Stellarton. The farm is very much a family affair with his father, Dave Shaw, running an Oxford turndown mill that sits on the property. This mill runs off the PTO from a farm tractor and Dave, a welder by trade, remodelled and fabricated steel replacements for all the wooden parts. The mill is unique because it has an extra-long carriage that can handle 22’ logs. They mostly mill hemlock and softwoods for posts and deck boards for the locals.



Oxford turn-down mill

A quick wagon trip across the road and the saw dust that was once a messy by-product from the mill becomes an important component of the bedding used for the 10 horses they currently have, as well as the shorthorn cross cattle Dave raises. These cattle are actually descendants of a dual-purpose milking shorthorn breed his grandfather originally raised. The manure produced by the animals is used as fertilizer for the crops they produce and they still put up all their own forage with a 1960’s pull behind combine, so the entire operation is pretty self-sufficient.

Justin and his sister Jolene have been around horses their entire lives. Together they show 4-horse hitch with wagon during the local exhibition season. His 14-year-old daughter, Karley, has done a great job so far of following in her father’s footsteps. She is heavily

involved in the farm and has already started collecting awards with the draft horses she shows. As a matter of fact, she took it upon herself to rotate the horses while we were talking; turning the 3 from the barn out into the field and bringing others in to feed and water. When we arrived at the farm his partner Lindsay was in the barn, hard at work mucking out an empty stall. Heck, when he’s not busy napping, their 3-year-old son Jackson does his part. He runs a mini John Deere tractor to clean up any mess his Mother may have missed.

For a relatively young man, Justin Shaw has an old soul, and it shows. He lives his life respecting the old way of doing things while improving upon them with a modern twist here and there.

Chances are very good that he wouldn’t be half as busy as a farrier if he waited around for his customers to come to him. By devising a modern way to take his forge on the road and visit his clients where they live, he has also succeeded in preserving a craft that many people have forgotten, and still more never even knew existed.

~ Nicole & Rob

# ATLANTIC TOOL COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

October 1st, 2016 ~ Minutes from meeting at

Kevin Woods' big white barn

No new members were present at this meeting.

Bill Steeves moved to open the meeting; motion seconded by Art Keeble; approval by all in favour.

Art Keeble received a letter from the Farm Equipment Museum, thanking him for showing at their site.

Finances as reported by Ken Greene, club Treasurer: \$2,823.82.

Member Robert Porter and his wife Nicole Kelly have volunteered to be the new editors of the ATCA News. Art and Barb will visit later this month to arrange the takeover.

Tom and Lucy McCluskey accompanied the Keebles to the meeting at the Sutherland Steam Mill.

According to Kevin Woods, the estate sale held at Museum of Industry during Tool Show / Spring Meeting (May 2016) went well, thanks to the help of many people. It was noted that going forward estate sales could take place while the members / estate owners were still alive.

There will be a sub-committee created to oversee future estates sales. The sub-committee will be headed up by member Garth Goldsmith. The members of this sub-committee will include: Kevin Woods, Wayne Blenkhorn, Art Keeble, Garth Goldsmith, and Mike Illingworth.

More information about the sub-committee will be made available at the next Spring Meeting (May 2017) at the Museum of Industry.

Wayne Blenkhorn and Ian MacCalder are the Website Committee members. Wayne noted that his daughter was a senior web designer who could start up a website for approximately \$300 to \$500, with a \$10 to \$15 maintenance fee.

Frank Haines' plumb bob was won by member Wayne Blenkhorn.

Below are the bobs remaining in the set Frank donated to be drawn for at each fall meeting.



Ian MacCalder, below, won for best display.



“Hammers” was chosen as the theme for next year’s Spring Show, with the uses noted for each hammer to be displayed at that event (if use is known by their owners).

The names of the Association Directors was read. They are: Wayne Blinkhorn, Garth Goldsmith, Art Keeble, Ken Greene, Laurie Richard, Vic Hayden, Kevin Woods, and Bill Steeves.

New Business: Lunenburg Foundry (Lunenburg, N.S.) had many patterns for sale. Ken Greene purchased a case of stove lifters and gave them out to any member who wished to have one.

Meeting was adjourned by member Wayne Blinkhorn.

## **STEPPING DOWN**

It's been a great ride. All good things must come to an end. Time to take a back seat. Use whatever cliché you wish, but after nearly 10 years as editors of the ATCA News we are handing the task over to Nicole and Robert Porter. We have enjoyed our time doing this letter. It has allowed us to visit many places, back rooms, etc. that the general public would never get to see. There comes a time though, when you reach a point where you lose your enthusiasm and sense of adventure and we are there. We believe the popular term is "Burn Out"!

The Porters seem the perfect fit for the job. Young, enthusiastic, with a fresh perspective on things. Please support them in their endeavours by sending articles, stories and classifieds.

Remember that the Newsletter is the heart of this Club. Thank you for trusting us with it for so long!

~ Art and Barbara Keeble

## **TOOL DEFINITIONS** (*amended for accuracy*)

**Drill Press:** A tall upright machine used to suddenly snatch flat metal bar stock out of your hands, thus enabling it to smack you in the chest and send your cold frothy beverage flying across the room, effectively soaking that freshly-stained heirloom piece left to dry on the other side of the room.

**Skil Saw:** A portable cutting tool most often used to make studs too short!

**Belt Sander:** An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up work into major refinishing jobs.

**Hacksaw:** One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija Board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes

**Table Saw:** A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

## **SPRING MEETING & SALE**

Next Meeting May 13, 2017  
Museum Of Industry, Stellarton  
Theme: Hammers

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

A warm ATCA welcome to our four newest members David Baldwin, Chris Crowell, Daniel Deveau, and Donald MacDonald, as well as returning member Sefton Craik! We look forward to benefitting from your knowledge.

## **2016 MEMBER DIRECTORY CORRECTION**

Please note that Bill Steeves' new email address was not included in the 2016 directory. It is billsteeves@outlook.com.

## **MEMBER INPUT NEEDED**

The editor's would like to put a call out to the members for submissions to be included in future editions of ATCA News. If you have an item in your collection that you need help to identify please send photos and a note with any information you have that may assist in identifying it.

Member Profiles are a great way to introduce yourself to other members and make contact with those sharing common interests. Even if you send a rough draft of what you'd like to say, we can polish it before it goes to print.

If you happen upon a tool show, auction or something else you think other members would be interested in, snap a few pictures, write a brief description and forward it to us. Remember, this is your newsletter and we want to include as much news about you, the members, as we can.

Submissions can be mailed to us at:

Rob Porter & Nicole Kelly  
PO BOX 1137 Stn Main  
Antigonish NS B2G 2R6

Or email us at:  
nekellyporter@hotmail.com

Or just give us a call at:  
902-863-2971

## TOOL & INFO EXCHANGE

*Editor's Note: Remember that ads in this section are still free.*

**Ken Greene** is looking for Stanley #6, #6C, #8 planes, the closer to mint the better. If you have one or just want to see his collection call him at 902-435-2250.

**Art Keeble** is assisting Gordon Hammond from Memory Lane Heritage Village with collecting the articles mentioned in the minutes in the Dec. newsletter. As the village depicts 1940-1950, any items prior to and during this era would be appreciated. Art's email is artafax6@gmail.com.

**Scott Ross** is collecting Mining paraphernalia and is in need of a miner's helmet and light. Condition doesn't matter. His email contact is woodtick3@hotmail.com

**Kevin Wood** is looking for the following items:

Buggy wheels & nuts L&R

Mi'kmaq stone tools

Work benches

Ship's wheel

Caulking tools

Mandrel (Blacksmith's)

Large anvil

Whale oil lamp

Wooden dasher type butter churn

Contact him by email at:

kwoodsunnysidefarm@gmail.com

## NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Beginning with the Spring 2017 issue we plan to offer newsletter delivery via email. Non-computer friendly members need not worry though, paper copies will continue to be delivered by Canada Post. Please send your request for email delivery directly to the new editors at: **nekellyporter@hotmail.com**

## NEW MAILING LIST

Does the address on your newsletter look a little different? Is something missing that was there before? The mailing list has been revised to accommodate printing by the new editors. We would like to apologize in advance for any errors or omissions. Please advise us of any changes that you would like to be reflected in your mailing address on the next newsletter.

## 2017 MEMEBERSHIP DUES

This is a reminder that the 2017 Annual Membership Dues are now due. Please make cheques, in the amount of \$15, payable to "Atlantic Tool Collectors Association". If anyone is uncertain of their membership status please contact Ken Greene at:  
131 Bellbrook Crescent  
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**JOKE: He tractor down!**