

A.T.C.A. NEWS

Vol. 23 No.1 March 2018

www.atlantictoolcollectorsassociation.ca



Learn To Teach By Teaching



As parents of two active 4H members it has become an important part of our household and keeps Nicole and I busy from January to October. I have been the woodworking leader for our club for the past ten years or so. When I started there were 4 teenaged boys in the class and I had no idea how to teach anything. Despite that, those guys continue to love woodworking and send me pictures of their work from time to time. This year, including my own kids, there are 12 boys and 3 girls in the class and I still have no idea how to teach! We have a great time together though, and most importantly the kids learn to do by doing.

4H has been around for more than 100 years, so I'm sure most of you have heard of it, but here is a simple description, just in case. 4H is a community-based program dedicated to educating youth aged 7 to 21. Each club has volunteer leaders who instruct kids in all sorts of projects including cooking, crafts like knitting and sewing, small engine repair, all sorts of animal showmanship, and most importantly woodworking.

The highlight of the 4H year is getting to compete with your project at the local exhibition. The kids love showing their work to the community and connecting with members from other clubs. Local experts judge the projects and the winners go on to compete at provincial shows and in some categories they even go on to national shows like the Royal Winter Fair in Ontario.



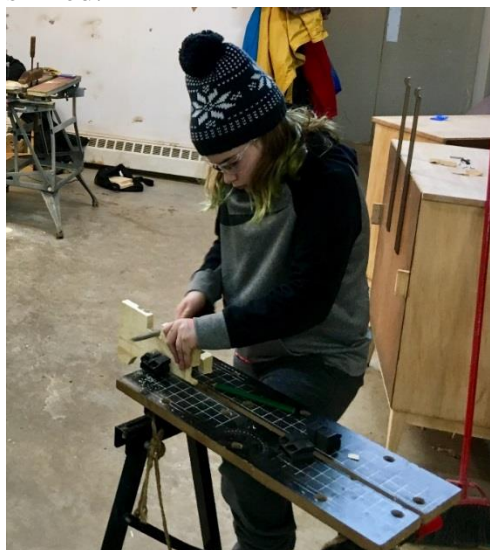
A sample of items on display at exhibition.

All of the members in our club present a speech or perform a demonstration at a public rally and are coached on their performance. The club also organizes several bingo nights at a nearby retirement home where the kids interact with the residents by running the games and serving them a light lunch. Our kids always look forward to those nights and by the looks on their faces, so do the residents. Each spring the county organizes a woodsmen team, which allows the boys and girls to learn how to crosscut logs with bow saws, boil water over a campfire and run an obstacle course while carrying a fire extinguisher on their back. However, the favourite event in our house has to be tug of war. The kids spend many summer evenings pulling on the rope; hands blistered and rope burned, but smiling through it all. There is an intense rivalry among the clubs and it shows in the main ring at exhibition. Watching them compete is great fun!



West River 4H members in a game of Tug-o-War.

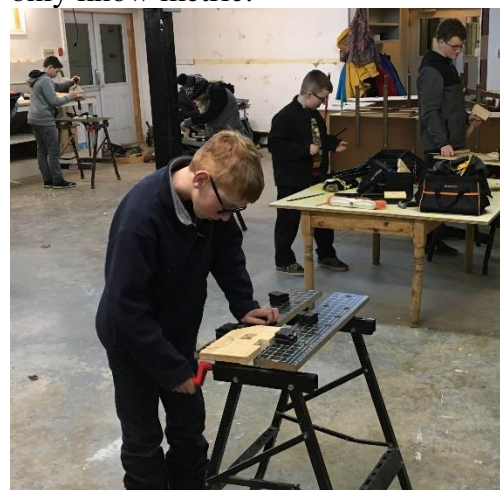
Our woodworking group currently consists of kids aged 8 to 19. We only use hand tools and focus on traditional joinery like dados, tenons, and dovetails. Hand tools work well for these kids for a couple of reasons. First, many of the tools are intuitive and the kids already have an idea of how to use them. Because they aren't powered, the kids are less intimidated by the tools and are unafraid to try them. With a little help and practice I am always amazed at how quickly these kids become skilled.



One of the 3 girls in the class perfecting her skills with a rasp.

Second, kids are full of energy. 15 kids can saw, chisel and hammer more wood than you would think possible. I find they really enjoy the opportunity to use their muscles and imaginations to create things as they want. Kids just don't get the opportunity to do that sort of thing often enough anymore. Lastly, the kids have told me they have a greater sense of ownership and accomplishment if they complete their projects by the power of their own two hands.

The kids also learn measuring and marking skills, which are always a challenge because I only know imperial and they only know metric.



A member braces his piece before getting to work.

Lucky for me, the kids learned imperial so easily, because I am no closer to using metric than I was 10 years ago. As they progress through the program the kids do measured drawings for the projects they want to build. This makes them less reliant on “stock” plans and more open to creating whatever they think of.

Nicole will tell you this has worked a little too well, for like me, both of our kids often look at something she wants to buy and say, “We can make that!” Hopefully they will be better at making it within a “reasonable time”, which is a term whose definition Nicole and I often debate.

When getting ready to write this piece, I asked Fergus and Nora what they liked most about woodworking. Fergus answered that his favourite part is the feel of the tools as he uses them, which is a feeling most of us collectors understand. His favourite tool is the Disston backsaw, which is the tool he feels he has mastered the most. Nora likes the creative side of woodworking. She also enjoys drawing, crafting and photography, and the way they enable her to express herself. Her favourite tool is a Stanley no.71 router plane. She likes the control the plane gives so she gets better results easily. She also jokes that she loves “biscuits”, especially with molasses.

My favourite part of teaching woodworking is watching the kids make simple wooden tools. Some of the items they make are marking gauges, mallets, several sanding blocks so each can hold different grit, and a nice toolbox to house it all. When the kids realize they can make the tools they use to make their projects they really feel empowered.



Nora using her Stanley No.71 router plane we purchased from Holley Jayne last fall.

Over the years I have spent a lot of time making special tools and jigs to perform a certain step or make certain steps more efficient, and these guys are already thinking that way.

I have become a real 4H cheerleader over the years. Other than an obvious excuse to go to tool shows and auctions, I also really enjoy spending time with these dedicated and talented young people, who don't always get the credit they deserve.

Nowadays, kids are often labelled lazy and unmotivated, but watch them rip a board with a handsaw and they might change some minds! Events like the Fall Show and Sale at the Farm Museum and the demonstrations that ATCA members put on throughout the year aren't just for nostalgia, but serve as a way to introduce the next generation to the joys of tools. The kids who learn woodworking in 4H might just be the future of our club. As a matter of fact, one of those first four boys I taught is now a member of the club!

~ Rob Porter with Nicole Kelly ~





'DUELING' DEFINITIONS



Below is a list of 6 everyday words with dual meanings.
 Their lesser-known definitions are randomly listed
 on the opposite side of the page.
 Without any outside assistance, see how many you
 can match up with their numbered counterpart.
Answers are listed on page 6 (no peeking)!

RABBIT ()

1) Removing the sheet off pulp or dirt from pulp and paper machine rolls.

HIP ()

2) Impress a design into animal hide.

DOCTOR ()

3) The degree of hardness in metal.

TEMPER ()

4) A type of African baboon.

DRILL ()

5) Among dockyard workers, anything made at work, but meant for home use.

TOOL ()

6) Area on a roof from the ridge to the eaves where two sides meet.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Do you have a mechanical term or dueling definition you think would stump your fellow members or at least peek their interest? We hope to gather enough input from our membership over the next few months to include a similar article in a future edition of the ATCA News. Submissions can be sent by email to nekellyporter@hotmail.com

Nicole Kelly & Rob Porter, Editors

WHAT'S IT?!

This is where we put the membership to work by presenting a couple of items that we found to be worthy of a head-scratch or two. Let us know what you think these items are or what they were used for. We welcome any pictures you may have of odd tools you want more information on or that you think may stump your fellow members.



The item pictured above appears to be some sort of thresher. It was discovered on a flea market table in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, but the seller couldn't provide any details as to what it is was.



The item pictured above is obviously some sort of collar, but it is far too small for a horse. It was found on a 200+ year old farm that has operated as a both a dairy and beef farm during that time.

ATLANTIC TOOL COLLECTORS SPRING SHOW & SALE

Saturday May 12th, 2018

Museum of Industry

147 North Foord St, Stellarton NS



Admission to the Tool Show is Free

Open to the public from 12 noon to 3:00pm



AGENDA

10am: ATCA Business Meeting (Members, guests, perspective new members)

12pm: Tool Displays, Swap & Sell Tables and Tool Identification

3pm: Close



Take Exit 24 off the Trans Canada Highway,
which will take you to Foord Street, Stellarton.
The entrance to the Museum will be on your left,
and is only about 500 feet from the highway.

(Museum opens at 9am)

MEMBER PROFILE FORM

In an effort to get to know our members a little better we ask that you complete the form below and return it to the editors. The information will be used to help us determine what article topics may be of more interest to the members in future editions, as well as fill a few more pages of the newsletter.

Name _____ Town/Province _____

Collector for how long? _____ Trade/Profession _____

Reason for joining the club and types of tools you collect:

What would you like to learn more about?

If you are looking for a particular tool, or have tools you would like to trade, list them below. We will include it in a future edition and hopefully another member can help you.