



# The Viewfinder

Newsletter of the Peterborough Photographic Society

March 2016

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## President's Message by George Dimitroff

### Take A Risk to Conquer Fear

*"The aims of the Society shall be to encourage and develop the skills and increase the expertise of the members in photography and provide fellowship and support for people with similar interests".*

#### Take A Risk To Conquer Fear

For this issue of the Viewfinder, I want to once again take inspiration from **Scott Bourne's** book, *72 Essays on Photography*. The purpose of this book is to inspire all photographers, whether they are beginners, enthusiasts or professionals wishing to move forward with their passion for taking pictures. In this section, Scott encourages photographers to leap off the edge, regardless of their past experience. He speaks of having a tough past and not being in the greatest of health but in spite of these things, he takes many risks himself and encourages all photographers to take more chances.

Aside – successful people talk about having tough times! You'll find that many do this to encourage you to consider that you're not alone with difficulties, mistakes, poor choices or lousy pictures. I'm always impressed hearing **Joe McNally**, who I consider to be a top photographer and my portrait and lighting hero, admit to taking a lot of bad pictures. Phew, I'm not the only one!

Here are some points offered by **Scott Bourne**, and embellished by me, to inspire you to take a risk:

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If you have a weakness then go out and do it! If you struggle taking portraits and you say to yourself it's too hard to take portraits, you won't get anywhere if you just say that you can't do it. But if you jump off the side of the pool and try taking some portraits, you will progress. The same applies to any area of photography. Don't complain but rather do it.

Look at lots of pictures. Look at magazines, galleries, books, historical documents and take your time absorbing the pictures. What could you have done differently? What do you like and dislike? This habit inspires you and helps you to be more creative.

Pay attention to the world around you. Next time you walk by an area, whether it is in the middle of town or out in nature, notice the details, colours, textures and compositions. Pay attention to the lighting, whether it's a streetlight or a sunset. Look at the shadows. Look at the little details like the wrinkles on a person's face, a crack in the brick of a building or a tiny flower growing out of a piece of bark. Be inspired to try new things.

Take pictures that please you, whether or not they sell or get published. Make photographs that move you. Maybe others won't be moved the same way, but if you get an emotional response from the pictures you take, it's worth everything. Does the photo make you feel happy? Help you to relive a memory? Make you appreciate nature and creation? Enjoy great times with family or

## President's Message (continued)

Don't copy others. Find what you like and do it! It's your personal vision that matters.

Stay away from fear of failure! Maybe you don't try some things because you think you suck. This can be especially true if you think everyone else is really good. At PPS we see wonderful images on the screen and it's easy for some to think "I could never do that" and so you might not try. The dilemma is that if you don't try you won't be able to practice and build your skills. The only way to develop your photography is to keep trying and keep doing it.

This theme of avoiding fear of failure affects several areas of your photography. The first is trying out new areas. For example, is your favourite area of photography shooting flowers? Do you ever try taking pictures of other subjects? For one thing, if your passion is flowers and you're absolutely satisfied doing floral photography, that is absolutely okay. But if the reason you stay with one subject is because of fear of trying something new, then recognize that the real enemy is not your set of skills or other people, but rather fear. As you probably know, fear can be powerful. I encourage you to think about some areas of photography you'd like to try and think about what's holding you back. One thing you might try is to start taking pictures in the new area without having any expectations. Treat it as an experiment and don't judge the results. Look for a reason to have some fun. For example, if you are afraid to try street photography, plan a little excursion for yourself where you walk downtown with your camera, take a few pictures of anything that is comfortable (e.g., the bricks on a wall) and then go to your favourite cafe or ice cream shop and enjoy a treat while looking over your pictures. This might inspire you to try some more shots or to call it a day and enjoy the experience of doing something different and enjoying a hot cup of coffee or delicious ice cream. You can do this alone or with a friend or photo buddy.

Another area which may involve taking a risk is attending a PPS outing. We now have two outings every month. One is a regular outing where people go to a special area and the other is a breakfast outing which generally happens somewhere in town followed by an opportunity to get together with fellow photographers for a Saturday morning breakfast. If you don't go on many or any outings, consider trying one. It doesn't matter if you have an expensive camera or a phone camera, the point of the outing is to give you an experience to get out in the field and do some photography. If you prefer to be alone, that's okay. You can do your own thing on outings and you can choose to join others for coffee or breakfast or not. You don't have to show anybody any pictures. If you enjoy people, the outings provide a great opportunity to ask questions and get into discussions on any topic. If you have some form of difficulty on the outing and aren't sure what's going on, you're free to ask for help and other members would be happy to help out. Realize that the enemy is not other PPS members, but rather the real enemy is fear!

The final area I want to mention is submitting your images for presentation at a PPS meeting. Maybe you've never done this before. Realize that the main reason for showing images is to give the membership an opportunity to see what you enjoy doing. It is not for judging! Since you have the option of submitting images in several different areas (photographer's choice, theme, outings), you can choose which area suits your photography best and if you're afraid of jumping into the fray, you can always submit just one image. Once again, this means avoiding fear and doing it. If it really makes you afraid to put something in front of others I want to make the following suggestion. Pick a pseudonym or a nickname. This will make your image anonymous and you have the benefit of seeing your work on the screen without fear of identifying yourself. If you do this a few times, it may eventually become easier to attach your name to your work.

The bottom line is that fear of failure is destructive to your photography. Take little steps and get out there and do it. When the weather is not great, you have to force yourself to dress up, get outside and start that walk. However, once you start walking, it really feels better and you wonder why it took you so long to get going. The same goes for photography, whether it involves a new area, going to outings or submitting your images at meetings. Just start doing it and kick fear in the butt!

**Lightroom Tip:** Photoshop has already become a subscription service, which means you don't buy it but rather use it by paying every month. **Lightroom 6** can still be purchased as a standalone product at this stage but may become a subscription service in the future. This means if you don't buy it, the only way to get future versions in future may be through subscription. At this stage, the subscription for Photoshop and Lightroom Creative Cloud is \$10 US a month. If you stop paying for the subscription, you don't get to access the product any longer. If the idea of a monthly subscription bothers you and you want to own Lightroom, you should consider purchasing the standalone product. You can try it out for free at <http://www.adobe.com/ca/products/photoshop-lightroom.html> to see if you like it.



## Program Notes by Marg Hamilton

# March Heralds the Return of Brian Tyson

### February Meeting

Thank you again to club member **Terry Carpenter** for a most fascinating and informative talk. Who knew that Terry had all these beautiful and yet somewhat quirky ideas that allow him to produce absolutely stunning abstract images? I don't think I'm the only one that really wants to try some of his ideas and maybe even come up with a few different abstracts, as well!

### March Meeting

**Brian Tyson** is back! So many of you told me how much you enjoyed Brian's talk on black and white photography and said you would love to hear him again. Well, March he will be back to talk about the ins and outs of street photography. Brian's talk in this subject is normally much longer than we will allow him, so I thank him ahead of time for his willingness to condense it down to one hour. Come and see some wonderful photography! Brian has travelled all over and loves to do street photography. For those of you who already do street photography or those just venturing out into this facet of photography, you will indeed get some valuable tips.

### April Meeting

PPS Club member **Judith Bain** will be speaking about her travels last year on a riverboat cruise. More details will follow in next newsletter.

### May Meeting

There will be no photo contest this year. Instead the club will feature a program of five-minute **member slideshows** or videos at the May meeting.

You still have two months to plan and execute your slideshow or video. They should be no longer than five minutes and can be on any subject(s) you wish. If you need any help putting one of these together, please contact our club Projectionist, George Giarratana at [ggiarrat@gmail.com](mailto:ggiarrat@gmail.com).

If you have any other questions or comments about any of our programs, please contact me at [marghamilton@nexicom.net](mailto:marghamilton@nexicom.net).



Program Director Marg Hamilton thanks February guest speaker and club member Terry Carpenter (at left). — Photo by Brian Crangle, all rights reserved.



## Club Outings by Dave Duffus

# March Outing: Maple Sugar Bush

The regular March outing will take place at Sandy Flats Sugar Bush on March 12. We will leave from the Harper Rd carpool lot at 8:30 AM. Since parking is at a premium at the sugar bush, we will park in Warkworth and be bused to the sugar bush. The admission cost is \$4 per person.

\* \* \*

## March Breakfast Outing

The theme of the Breakfast Outing is "Winter in Millennium Park."

The outing will take place on March 26.

We will meet by the Silver Bean Cafe at 8:30 AM.

There should be some interesting photos along the river, including a pair of ducks that have been in the park most of the winter. (They like corn!)

The breakfast location after the shoot will be determined at a later date.



Thirteen club members enjoyed the February 6 Breakfast Outing to Beavermead Park. — Photo by Dave Duffus, all rights reserved.



Club members who attended the February outing to Beavermead park bundled up warmly to photograph a section of Little Lake from the Park to Rogers Cove. — Photos by Kathryn Danford, all rights reserved.



## Image Review by Brian Crangle

# When Your Background Is Distracting, Considering Opening Wide To Blur It!

Hi fellow photographers.

By the time you read this the groundhog will be long forgotten and hopefully spring will be round the corner.

Many thanks to those who provided images for the February meeting and to my partner in crime Dawn Macklin who provided a different viewpoint. There was an excellent selection of images to peruse and I later thought about why some images were notable.

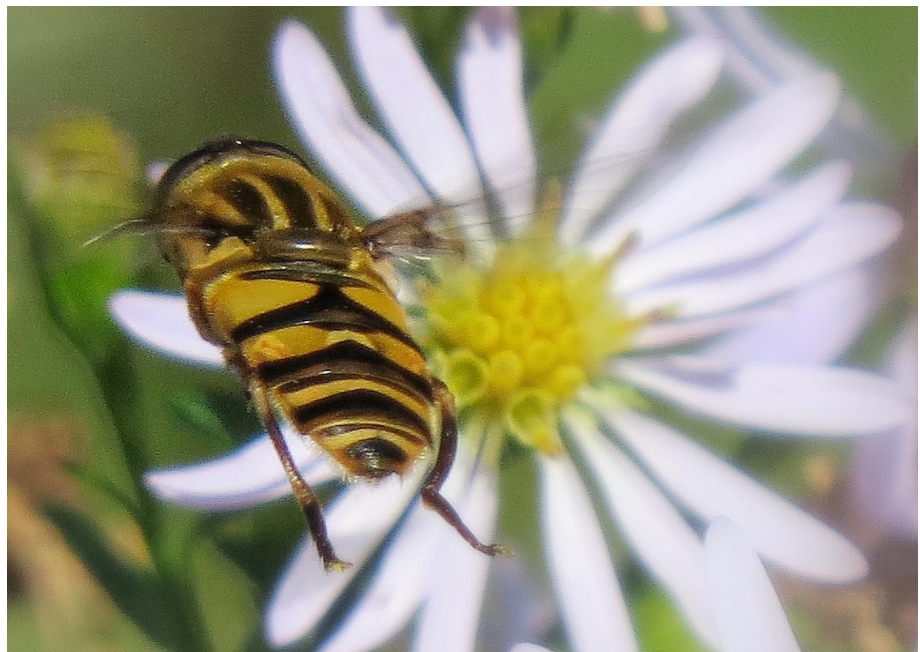
I remember about five years ago having the chance to chat with a professional photographer. He said, "The first thing I look for through the viewfinder is the background." Obviously it would be nice to have clear backgrounds in all pics but if that cannot be done then go to a long lens and use the widest aperture, (i.e., smallest number) and create a nice blurry, non-distracting background. The picture of the cherries reviewed at the February meeting was an excellent example of this technique.

Once again, if you would like an image reviewed feel free to e-mail me ([brian.crangle@cogeco.ca](mailto:brian.crangle@cogeco.ca)), or call 705 875 9121, or even just send an image to the email address. All names remain confidential.

Thanks for all your support.

Keep clickin'.

-- Brian C.



In the middle of this February deep-freeze I cannot help but dream of my bee field in North Kawartha, buried under the snow, waiting ... ..  
— Photo by Barry Killen, all rights reserved.



## Word Images (Poetry Corner)

# Little Red Oak and Me

by Murray Palmer © 2015

Little Red Oak, you have great wants and hopes to fulfill ...  
 When you grow up, you'll be a hardy and stately tree.  
 Though I see you still clinging to but one leaf,  
 While snow pelts you in whipping wind, you inspire me.

Oaks once symbolized power to ancient priests and kings.  
 Some grew large, and were known features of woodlands,  
 Oak wood's low electrical resistance enabled lightning strikes,  
 And their place in folklore as the Thunder Tree still stands.

I brought you home to safety from ground disturbed,  
 Since red oaks are for wildlife one of the best trees.  
 I dug and prepared a bed for you, Little Red Oak;  
 It felt good to touch the earth on hands and knees.

Sometimes in autumn your leaves glow a lovely scarlet red.  
 The beauty you lend this city yard is worth any hassle,  
 For would that I could see you become a proper tree,  
 I would see a natural courtyard from this humble castle.



"Little Red Oak, you have great wants and hopes to fulfill ...  
 When you grow up, you'll be a hardy and stately tree."  
 — Photo by Murray Palmer, all rights reserved.

## Viewfinder Submissions

We encourage club members to submit their photos, personal news, as well as articles, poetry, writing, and humor about photography and our club.

Text submissions should be in one of the following document file formats: .doc, .rtf, .odt, or .pub. Image files in formats such as .jpeg, .tiff, .gif, or .png graphic file.

The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for size, content, and style without consultation.

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**March 1, 2016**

**Program: Brian Tyson**

**7 PM**



**“Striders” — Photo by Barry Killen, all rights reserved.**

## Contact Us

The Viewfinder is the newsletter of the Peterborough Photographic Society. It is published 10 times a year from September to June.

Write to us or send us your stories, images, articles, poetry, ideas and your humor here at [ppsviewfinder@yahoo.ca](mailto:ppsviewfinder@yahoo.ca).

You can also visit our website at [www.peterboroughphotographicsociety.com](http://www.peterboroughphotographicsociety.com).

We're also on Facebook! You can find us at [www.facebook.com/PeterboroughPhotographicSocietyCanada](http://www.facebook.com/PeterboroughPhotographicSocietyCanada).

## Contributors

The Viewfinder relies on editorial and photographic submissions from club members. This month's contributors are: Terry Carpenter, Brian Crangle, George Dimitroff, Dave Duffus, Kathryn Danford, George Giaratanna, Marg Hamilton, Barry Killen, Murray Palmer, Elaine Santos, and Suzanne Schroeter.

## Club Plans Photo Exhibit at Peterborough Square May 27

Organizers of the PPS photo exhibit at Peterborough Square at the end of May are getting close to finalizing the details of the event. It will take place on **Friday, May 27**, stated one of the organizers, club member Lydia Dotto.

“A number of PPS club members have already indicated their interest in participating, but I’m sending out this message to all members to remind them of this event and to let them know that they should contact me soon if they’d like to be involved,” she said.

“The club has the opportunity to extend the event to two days — **Thursday, May 26 and Friday, May 27**. I’m currently polling those who’ve already expressed an interest about their preference for one or two days, “ she said.

Lydia Dotto explained that participants would be expected to bring their images to Peterborough Square on the morning of the first day and pick them up at the end of the final day, and to help in hanging the images.

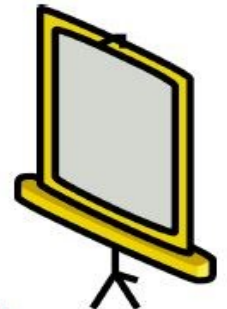
She asked club members to let her know if they couldn’t do this because it may be possible for other participants to help out.

“We will likely also assign people in half-day shifts to watch over the exhibit, rather than requiring all participants to attend their images during the entire duration of the exhibit,” she stated.

Those interested in participating should please email Lydia as soon as possible at **ldphoto@start.ca** with the following information: number and “framed size” of images available; preference for one or two days for exhibit; and availability to take a half-day shift watching the exhibit.

### The Projectionist by George Giarratana

#### May Program Will Feature Five-Minute Member Slideshow & Video Submissions



Once again this year we are offering the members the opportunity to release their Joy of Photography in the form of a slideshow or video.

May 2016 meeting features member’s slideshows (or new this year ) video’s. The slideshow or video should reflect a theme or tell a story of your choice.

**The maximum length is 5 min** for either the slideshow or video . Of course music or a narrative can be added.

If you know how to forward your finished product by email (i.e. Drop box) please do so and if not copy it to a memory stick which can be downloaded to the club laptop the night of the meeting.

If you are able send your slideshows and video’s to  
[ppsimages@peterboroughphotographicsociety.com](mailto:ppsimages@peterboroughphotographicsociety.com)

If you would like some suggestions on how to put a slide show together send your requests , questions also to

[ppsimages@peterboroughphotographicsociety.com](mailto:ppsimages@peterboroughphotographicsociety.com)



## Slideshows by Elaine Santos

(retrieved from <http://features.en.softonic.com/how-to-create-a-photo-slideshow-in-powerpoint>)

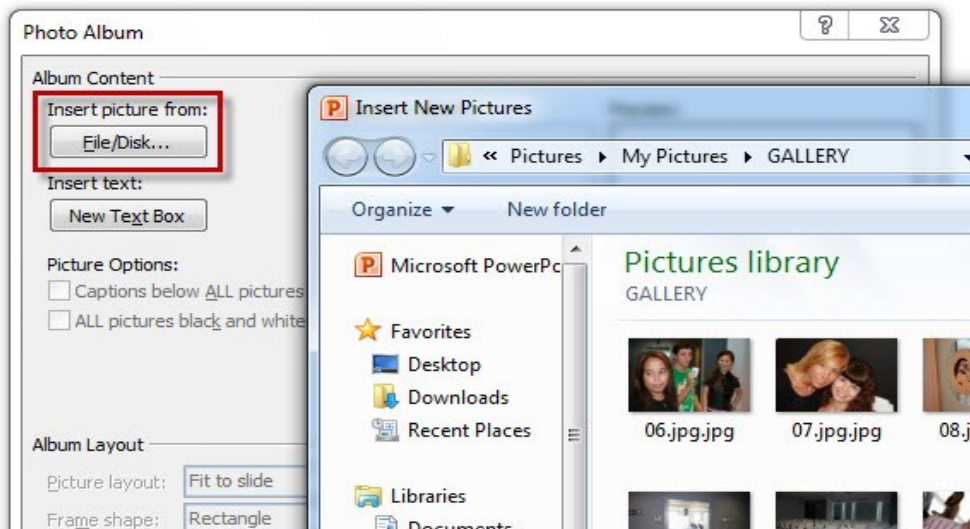
# How to Create a Slideshow in PowerPoint

You've probably had a few **PowerPoint** photo slideshows in your email already. They seem to be a popular topic for messages coming from friends and relatives with too much spare time on their hands. But have you ever tried creating one? It's easier than you think, and it might actually be a good way to share pictures - just don't abuse the slideshows with cute kitty images!

1. Open up PowerPoint, click the **Insert** tab and then the **Photo Album** button. Select **New Photo Album** to open the Photo Album settings menu.

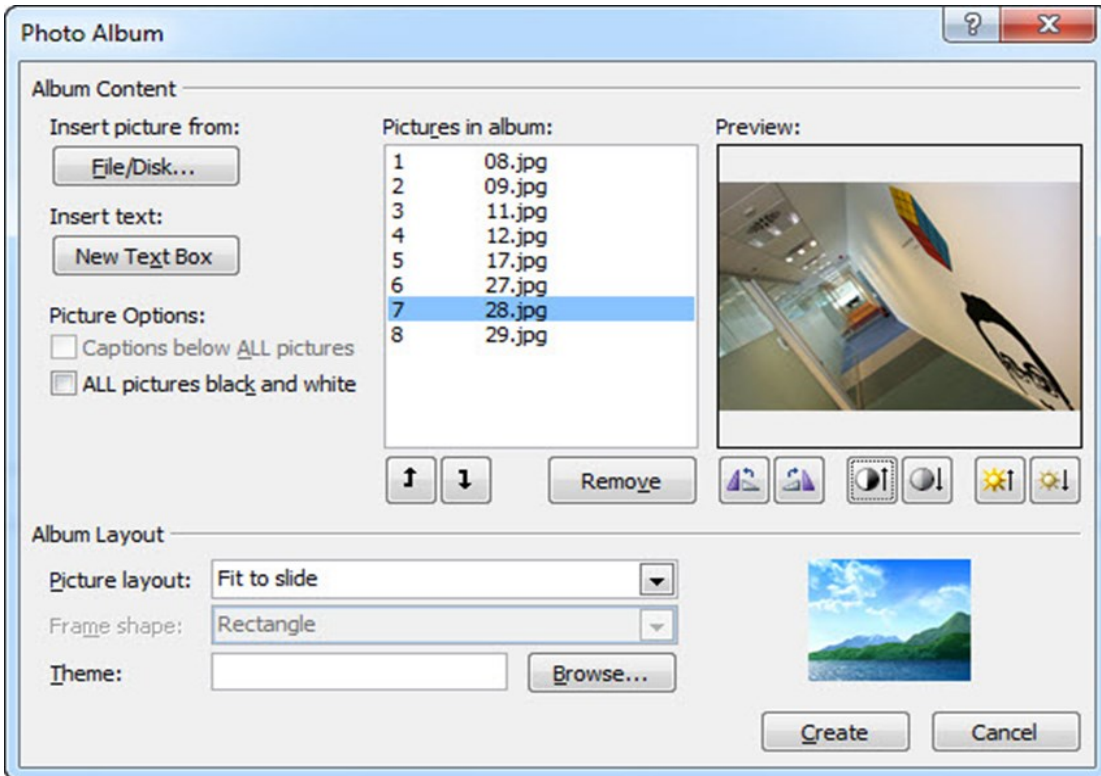


2. In this new window, click the **File/Disk** button to select the photos you want to use in your slideshow. Remember you can select multiple files simultaneously by holding the **Ctrl** key while selecting them with your mouse.

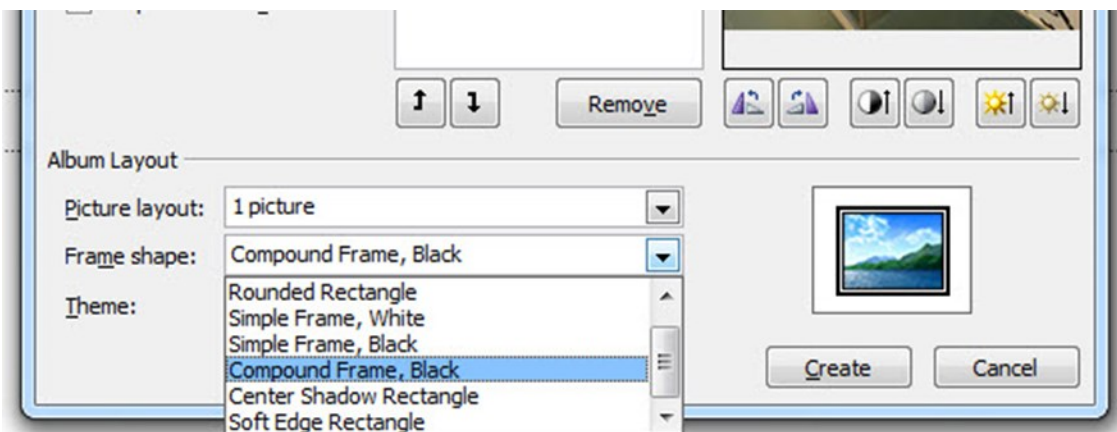


## Slideshows (continued)

3. Once you've selected all the photos, they'll be listed in the "Pictures in album" box. You can rearrange them, preview them, rotate them and also adjust their brightness and contrast values.

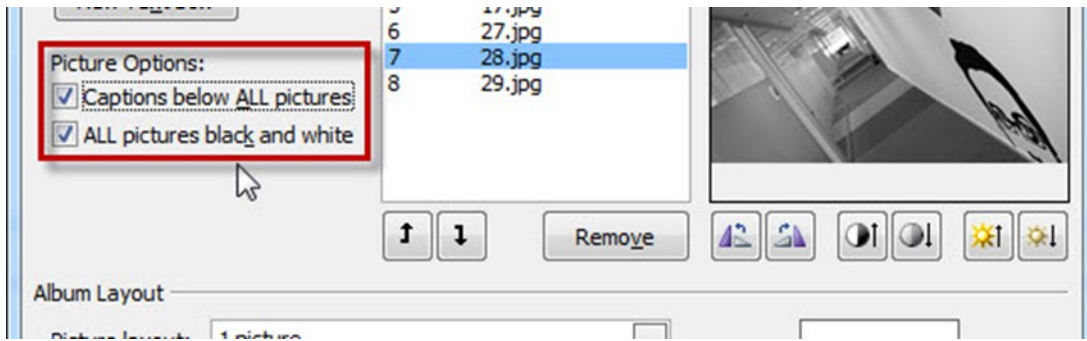


4. The options under "Album Layout" at the bottom of the window let you choose how many photos you want to have on each slide and select a frame or border to decorate each one of them. You can also choose the theme for your slideshow here, but my advice is to leave it for later because this menu doesn't allow you to preview the result.

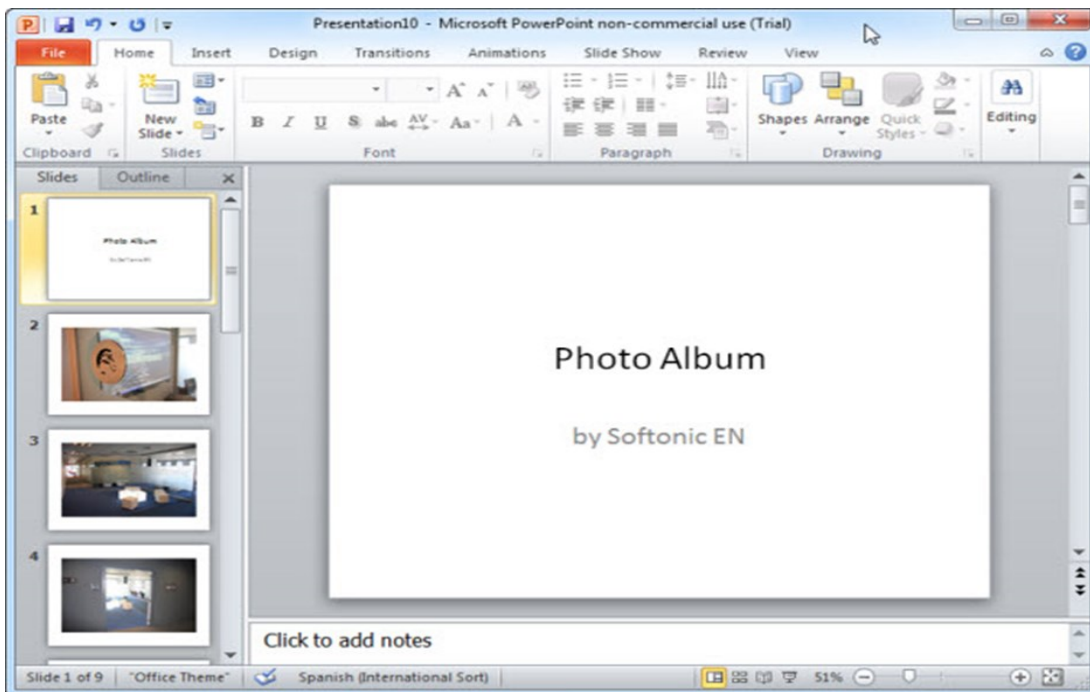


## Slideshows (continued)

5. The **Picture Options** let you set all images to black and white, and also insert a caption below them. Note this captions is just the file name, so if you want to customize it you'll need to edit each one of them manually.



6. When you're done configuring the Photo Album options, click the **Create** button and PowerPoint will automatically create a presentation with all your pictures.



7. The only thing left is to choose a theme for your slideshow. Click the **Design** tab and select one from the drop-down menu. Try picking one that fits with the topic in your photos.

8. Done! Now it's time to save it to PPT and share it by email. You can do this the traditional way (saving the file to your hard drive first, and then sending it with a third-party email client) or use the built-in **Save & Send** feature in PowerPoint, which automatically saves the file and sends it with the associated email client.

## The Projectionist by George Giarratana



**13 images or 1-minute and 44 seconds of video or a combination which adds up to 1:44**

Every month, each club member is able to submit up to 13 images OR one video with a running time of approximately 1 minute, 44 seconds (140 seconds) or a combination of images and video which add up to one minute and 44 seconds.

If you are planning to submit a combination of images and video, each image counts as 8 seconds. You could for example submit 4 images (4 x 8 seconds = 32 seconds) and 72 seconds of video. The total would add up to 104 seconds.

When you are making your video, remember to edit it into a story such as a music video or commercial. Add a narrative, music, or just the natural sounds which the scene produces.

Share a trip you are taking with us, some kind of event, or something in nature that for whatever reason you think would be of interest.

But remember, the maximum length of your video can only be one-minute and forty-four seconds, and if you submit that much video, you can't submit any images.

~ George G.



Club member Terry Carpenter delivered a terrific, idea-filled presentation on abstract photography at the February meeting. — Photo by Brian Crangle, all rights reserved.

# Submitting Slideshow Images

The deadline for submitting your images is always midnight the Friday night before the meeting. To submit, you must now e-mail your images to a new e-mail address: [ppsimages@peterboroughphotographicsociety.com](mailto:ppsimages@peterboroughphotographicsociety.com).

Members are welcome to submit:

## March Meeting

Tuesday

March 1

7 PM

Lions Centre,

347 Burnham St.

Peterborough ON.

K9H 1T5.

## Image Themes for 2016

March – Cars

April – Primary Colors

May – Weird Trees

June 2016 – H2O

- 4 Photographer's Choice images

- 3 Theme images

- 6 Outing images (3 per Outing)

- Image Review images (watch for updates in 2015-2016 Season)

Before submitting your image(s) please:

- name and resized them as instructed below

- ensure they are in JPEG format

- ensure your images are sent as an attachment to email

- when re-sizing your horizontal or landscape JPG images, re-size the width to 1024 pix, and let the height adjust automatically

- when re-sizing vertical or portrait JPG images, adjust the height to 768 pix, and let the width adjust automatically.

The category initials are:

- **P** for Photographer's Choice

- **T** for Theme

- **O** for Outing (Be sure to use the letter O and not the number zero)

- **OB** for Outing Breakfast (Use the letter O and not the number zero)

Sequential numbers, starting at one (1), are to be assigned to the images. Please ensure a space is placed between the number and your name.\*

**\*Note:** For members not wishing their name on their image, please replace your name with the last four digits of your phone number. eg.: P1 SPACE 1234 or P2 #####. Some examples of the naming system are as follows:

- P1 George Giarratana (Photographer's Choice)

- T1 George Giarratana (Theme)

- O1 George Giarratana (Regular Outing – use the letter O not the number zero)

- OB1 George Giarratana (Breakfast Outing – use the letter O not the number zero)

After resizing and renaming your photo(s), please send JPEG images as an attachment to your e-mail and send to: [ppsimages@peterboroughphotographicsociety.com](mailto:ppsimages@peterboroughphotographicsociety.com)

### Displaying Printed Images

For those members who like to make and show their prints we now have what we call *Members Clothesline*. A clothesline will be put up during each meeting and clothes pegs made available for you to hang your picture for members to view. These prints can be any size up to 11×14". NO FRAMED PRINTS, please. No more than two images per member. These images will not be critiqued and will be just for viewing only.

Get more information at: [ppsimages@peterboroughphotographicsociety.com](mailto:ppsimages@peterboroughphotographicsociety.com). Thank you for submitting your images we look forward to viewing them!