



The Viewfinder

Newsletter of the Peterborough Photographic Society

December 2017

Editor: Judith Bain

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President's Message By Margaret Hamilton

What Christmas Means To Me

Growing up in a home with three siblings allowed for moments of great excitement, laughter, and anticipation. My brother was three years younger, then there was a ten-year age gap, and then my sister, and three years later, another brother.

There wasn't much money for presents for each of us, but there were always two or three little things under the tree. Of course, Santa always brought something a bit special for each of us. My brother, closest in age to me, and I were little sneaks. We'd get each other up in the early, early Christmas morning hours, sneak downstairs ever so quietly and we would gently unwrap our gifts. Gosh, we had received something we thought was pretty cool at the time. We'd then carefully re-wrap the gifts, set them back under the tree and go back to bed. Our parents always wondered why we weren't up at the crack of dawn to open our presents.

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It was a time for our large extended family to share Christmas dinners together, play games, sing songs, have the kids do silly little skits, play Christmas music, and create new memories each and every year. Of course, in my family, there was always lots and lots of laughter and joking around. We'd visit grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins.



Christmas, 1954

Cont'd on Page 2

President's Message cont'd

When my children came along, we began our own traditions. Christmas Eve, we would sometimes go to Christmas Eve service at church. Sometimes we would take the girls and either go carolling in our neighbourhood or we would make up little boxes of baked cookies and deliver them to our neighbours, and wish them 'Merry Christmas'. While the girls still lived at home, each Christmas Eve we would do cheese fondue and then chocolate fondue for dessert.

We always knew the girls would go around the house looking in every nook and cranny hoping to come across the presents we had for them. Little did they know, we always kept their presents at a friend's. We had a rule on Christmas morning, that the girls could open the items in their stockings before coming to wake us up. Of course, I'd wrap each little item so it would take them some time to open their stockings, and if we were lucky, that would give us an extra hour of sleep.

When she was little, our eldest daughter would just shake with excitement each time she was handed a gift to open. Once opened, she would always declare, "just what I always wanted".



Lindsay, Christmas Pooh PJs



Marlo, decorating the Christmas Tree

President's Message cont'd

Our girls are now married with children, and have developed some of their own traditions, which are special to them. The special part of this, for me, is watching the excitement and joy experienced by our grandchildren at this time of the year. Our youngest and her family go to church on Christmas Eve, and our eldest daughter and her very close group of friends and family throw a "Happy Birthday Jesus" party. I appreciate the significance these traditions mean to them.

In this lifetime, I have learned that Christmas means different things to different people. For some, it is a sad time, for some it's a selfless time to give to those less fortunate, for some it's no different from any other day. Each of us attaches our own personal meaning to Christmas.

After all of the frivolity, for me, the greatest gifts are not those wrapped in pretty papers and decorated with shiny bows. For me, the greatest gift is to be blessed enough to have time with my family.

Our ability to love one another for who we are, to renew our faith (whatever your spiritual belief), and to bring hope into our lives and the lives of others, is the best and most priceless gift of all.

Whatever Christmas means to each of you, I wish you joy, peace and lots of love.



Christmas, 1972



Kevin and Lindsay, Christmas at Marlo's



Kevin and Chris with their Mother-in-Law



Program Notes By Anita Erschen-Pappas

Bring Your Festive Appetite!

EC Catering will be providing a delicious, warm, turkey dinner, that will be served beginning at 6 p.m. The bar will be open at 5:30 p.m., and will remain open throughout dinner. If you have purchased a ticket, please bring it to the dinner.

The regular meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Programming Updates for Our Meetings

Components of programming consist of presentations, demonstrations, and workshops, covered in a variety of media. The Program can involve segments that are not defined in other areas of image submission, as well as provide discussion, explanation or instruction to support a presentation.

If a member is interested in giving a presentation, please contact me to see if there is space available in an up-coming meeting.

Thanks go out to our member, Lydia Dotto, for her November presentation. It proved to be very informative regarding the elements of photo-journalism. The various styles of photo-journalism can even apply to how we create a narrative for a photography exhibition, for example. Something, perhaps, to think about for the PPS Exhibit in April at the Spark Photo Festival!



Stock Photo



Program Photos by Brian Crangle

November: Photo Essays Explained



Good Job, Lydia!



An Attentive Audience!



Murray's New Lens Cap!

Notices and Information

The Clothesline

Please bring your un-framed prints to Paul Macklin so he can pin them on the Clothesline for the duration of the meeting.

The Journal

Have a question about photography, your camera, settings, or other photography-related issue? There is a journal available at each meeting for you to jot down your question, and someone in the PPS will get back to you with assistance shortly.

Do You Need Help With Computer Work?

Any member who needs assistance with the computer aspects of photography may feel free to approach our Web Master, George Giarratana, at any meeting, for advice and assistance. Issues with post-processing, cropping, preparing photos for export, etc., are the things that George can help you with.

December Outings

Regular Outing

December 9th

Healey Falls & Campbellford

Breakfast Outing

December 16

The Lift Lock

PLEASE NOTE!!

The Due Date for submitting photos for the monthly slide shows has changed.

Beginning with the December Deadline, you must send in your photos, via the appropriate Dropbox links, by Midnight on Tuesday one week before the PPS Meeting.

Preparing the slide shows is time-consuming, and this will allow the Projectionist more time to complete the slide shows in his always professional manner.

THANK YOU!



Location Challenge By Pat Carpenter

Doesn't Involve Snow!

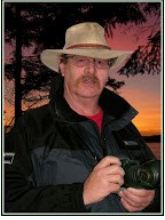
Hello Everyone,

Just a reminder that the December Challenge images are due no later than midnight on November 28th, 2017. (This is the Millennium Park entrance.)

The Challenge for February is to take an image of a single house flower of your choosing. It can be anything from a flowering plant to a long-stemmed rose. As always, make the image your own interpretation. This should be easy, and it doesn't involve any snow!!

Please send it to the Miscellaneous DropBox file. Images are due no later than midnight on January 30th, 2018. They will be shown at the February 6th, 2018 PPS meeting. We are looking forward once again to seeing your wonderful and creative shots.





Outings By Terry Carpenter

Great Photo Opportunities!

REGULAR OUTING:

DECEMBER 9TH: We will be meeting at 8:30 on Saturday morning, at the Harper Road Parking lot. We will then proceed to Healey Falls (north of Campbellford). Then, after shooting the falls and surrounding landscape, etc., we can go to Campbellford for lunch. After lunch, we can wander around downtown Campbellford to shoot the bridge, old buildings, and maybe the church on the hill. Some may want to venture on to The Ranney Gorge Suspension Bridge, located at the south end of town and within Ferris Provincial Park. The bridge hovers 30' above the Ranney Gorge. This can offer some opportunities for spectacular images. On the other side of the bridge we can walk along the trails in Ferris Park. For the more venturesome you could stay 'til evening and shoot the Christmas lights along the canal. Maps and info will be sent to those who sign up at the meeting.

BREAKFAST OUTING:

DECEMBER 16th: For the Breakfast Outing, we will meet at 8:30 at the parking area along the canal at the Lift Locks. We can shoot the Lift Locks and area 'til 10:30 a.m., and then go for breakfast at the Carousel Restaurant on Lansdowne.

Keep in mind, while shooting in both of these areas, that we have the up-coming themes: "Something Old", "Texture", and "From a Low Angle". There is also "Rain", but let's hope not. Both of these Outings should provide opportunities to get some great shots for these themes. We will have fun, regardless.



Campbellford



Ranney Gorge

Outings Cont'd

PLEASE NOTE

If there is any member who cannot attend an Outing because they need a ride, please let me know and arrangements can be made. This year you should get to at least one Outing. It is a great opportunity to get photos and learn something new from other photographers. And they are a lot of fun!

ALSO: If you plan to go on one of the Outings, please sign the appropriate sheet at the meeting, or send Terry an e-mail. It's much easier to make reservations when we know how many will be attending. Thank you!



Terry Carpenter ©

Lift Locks



Terry Carpenter ©

Healey Falls



Photo Essay By Robert Ferguson

Trumpeter Swans: Graceful, Powerful, and Elegant

Trumpeter Swans are magnificent birds, the largest waterfowl in the world. Thirty-five years ago, photographing wild trumpeters in Ontario would have been impossible. For almost a full century, beginning in 1886, the skies above Ontario's wetlands were silent – not a single Trumpeter Swan was heard.

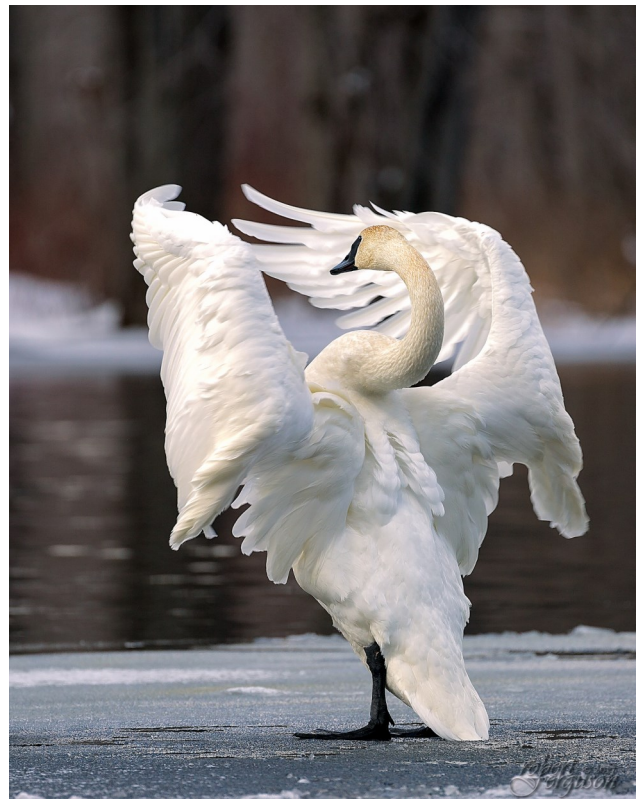
Today, Ontario's population has over 2,000 swans. The recovery of the Trumpeter Swan across North America is a remarkable conservation achievement. If you would like to learn more, please read my photo essay in the Spring 2016 issue of *Country Roads* magazine, available on-line at: <https://issuu.com/nancyhopkins/docs/countryroadsspring2016>



In Flight



Spring Fever



A Powerful Force

Photo Essay cont'd



Balancing Act



Watchful Cygnets

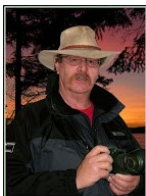


Left Behind

Photo Essay cont'd



Portrait



The Projectionist by Terry Carpenter

IMPORTANT!

Preparing Images for Submission to the Slideshows

Please note that in the future all Image Submissions and Challenge Submissions will have a new deadline.

The Submission deadline, from now on, is midnight of the Tuesday night before the meeting. This month's deadline will be at midnight of Tuesday, November 28th, for the December meeting.

This will allow the Projectionist to contact members in case of submitted images put in the wrong categories, etc., and will allow time to enable the re-submitting of those members' images. On average, the making of the slide shows takes from 4 to 6 hours, and these changes will allow the Projectionist a few more days to prepare these presentations.

Thanks for your co-operation in this transition.

Any questions please e-mail: ppsphotos@cogeco.ca

Cheers, Terry (Projectionist)

MEMBERS' PHOTO GALLERIES

George G., our Web Master, would like to remind everyone that there is space available on the PPS Web Site for each member to have an on-line Gallery. Every member is invited to send a selection of your favourite photos to George and he will set up a Gallery for you. Please re-size each photo to be 1024 on the long side. If you are not sure how to do this, George will be pleased to explain it you.

We would especially like to see some of our newer members contribute to the Gallery. It is a great opportunity for other members to get to see your work, and thereby, get to know you better.

If you already have a Gallery, it is probably time for you to refresh the photos, and send a new selection to George. Try to remember to do this every 3 months or so.

We are looking forward to seeing your photos!



From the Editor's desk By Judith Bain

Your Newsletter Needs You!

This is a reminder to all PPS members that *The Viewfinder* is YOUR newsletter.

We can only continue to publish our monthly editions if we have contributions from the membership. Please contribute to the PPS by sending articles, photos, and photography-related information for inclusion in The Viewfinder. Thank you!

Image Themes

Dec.: Curves

Jan.: Something Old

Feb.: Texture

Mar.: B&W Portrait

Apr.: From Low Angle

May: Rain

Jun.: Happiness

Equipment Sell / Swap

A table will be available at every meeting so members may display any photography-related gear that you wish to sell or trade.

December Meeting

Tuesday, December 5th

7:00 PM

@ the Lions Centre,
347 Burnham Street,
Peterborough, ON.

Viewfinder Seeks Submissions From Members

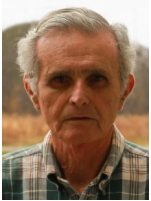
The Viewfinder invites PPS members to submit their work for any of the following features:

- **The Story Behind My Photograph:** Send in one or more photos and the story behind them.
- **Photo Essay:** Send in a series of 5-7 photographs on a topic or location.
- **Insights:** If you would like to contribute an essay with photos on anything to do with photography, you are welcome to send it to us.
- **The Parting Shot:** Send in an amusing or interesting photo that you have taken.

The Photos contained in this issue of The Viewfinder remain the copyright property of the respective photographers. All Rights are Reserved to the Photographers.

Do not copy or use in any way without the express permission of the Photographer.

Thank you.



Featured Photographer: Paul Yungblut

The Nature of Nature

From my earliest childhood years, thanks to the encouragement of my parents, I have enjoyed studying and exploring the countless facets of nature. The dynamic inter-relationships between the flora and fauna within ecosystems are limitless.

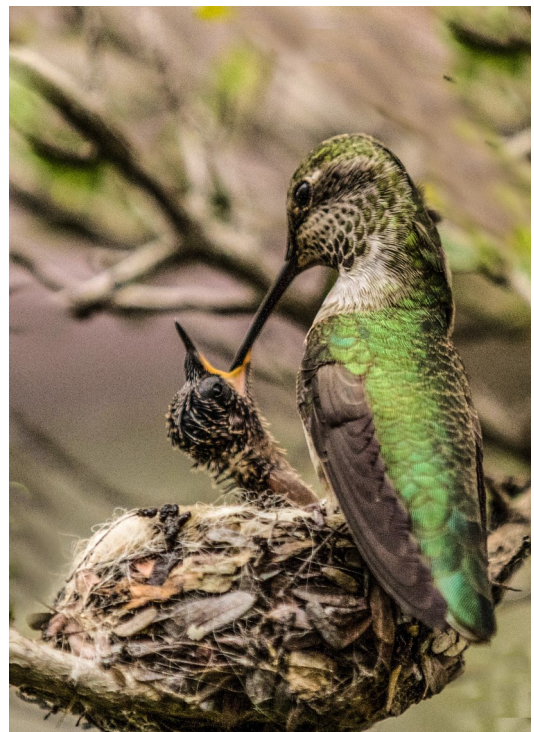
In 1962, it was this appreciation of nature that led me to a five-year career with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests in their fire, forestry, and wildlife divisions. That was followed by a thirty-year career teaching Environmental Science with both the Lake Superior and Hastings County Boards of Education.

Before our recent move to Peterborough, our home for almost forty years was within two kilometres of the south boundary of Algonquin Park, and so the photographic opportunities at our doorstep were endless.

My current bias is photographing birds that are exhibiting aggressive behaviours. That can be as simple as flight, or more intense, such as territorial defense, courtship, and predator-prey interaction. Once I have identified the specific bird and behaviour that I wish to photograph, I will spend countless hours observing in the field, armed only with my binoculars.

No amount of photographic luck can help you if you don't know something about the specific bird habits and flight movements. Your ability to be able to predict this behaviour and predict what will happen next, can make the difference between a very good image and an excellent image.

I also believe, adamantly, that it is essential to maintain a respect for the birds and their environments. In any conflict of interest, the well-being of the birds and their habits must always come before the ambitions of the photographer. Camouflage and telephoto lenses go a long way to satisfying this objective.



Featured Photographer: Paul Yungblut cont'd



As such, on my camera of choice for bird photography, the Canon 7D MII, I almost always use a 70 – 200 mm or 300 mm prime lens. Given that I am physically unable to hand-hold either of these lenses steadily enough to ensure sharpness of the eye and head feathers (my personal criteria and goal for bird sharpness), I employ either a Kirk Enterprises Ball Head or a Wimberley Gimbal on my Indura tripod. Needless to say, there is considerable right click and delete until I capture the image that satisfies my goal.

All of my images are shot in raw format, with the specific Manual mode settings I have previously determined from my binocular observations of their habits. Software editing in Lightroom is basically limited to cropping and corrections to the histogram.



Featured Photographer: Paul Yungblut cont'd

I would suggest that the “best” photographic moment I have experienced was “the one that got away”. While paddling my canoe in a shallow bay of Kingscote Lake, in south Algonquin early one July evening, two moose calves joined me as they feasted on lily pad tubers. Mother gazed cautiously and curiously from the shoreline. As I quietly paddled and observed, the calves munched on their supper for over an hour, totally undeterred by my presence. My only limitation was that all of my camera gear was at home in the office.

To witness powerful moments such as this is the Nature of Nature. The natural world is home to a wealth of wonderful photographic opportunities. There is much to appreciate, but of course, what you like about nature does not have to be the same as someone else’s preferences. That is what makes nature photography so exciting. Sharing images and experiences with each other is what makes nature photography most rewarding.



Featured Photographer: Paul Yungblut cont'd





Word Images (Poetry)

To Know a Loon

By Murray Arthur Palmer, © 2017

Scarlet Eyes, what wonders have you seen
That lurk below the water's rippled sheen?
Summer red pigment endows visual strength
By filtering out blue and green wavelengths.
Nictitating membranes drawn across your eyes
Protect them as you swim where your prey lies.
Shallows shelter minnows, frogs, and crayfish.
Dive deeply for sunfish, perch, suckers, catfish ...
Powerful legs with webbed feet set far astern
Propel you fast as your targets twist and turn.
Solid bones make deep dives easy to manage
While you expel air from lungs and plumage.
You need low nutrient lakes clean and clear
To spot prey underwater as they appear.
Avoid lakes you can't run far on to fly -
To see you stranded would make me cry.
I want to hear you, Scarlet Eyes, night and day,
But all I have now is a recording to play.
Too soon will you leave for your winter range;
Your flashy coat and eyes to grey will change.



Photo by Murray Palmer



Photo Essay by Lydia Dotto

Dance Like Nobody's Watching: The Joyful Antics of Sandhill Cranes

The scientific name of the Sandhill Crane, *grus Canadensis*, means Canadian Crane. Nevertheless, these large birds can be found all over North America, from the Arctic to Mexico. Adults are typically about three to four feet tall; males and females look alike, and have a distinctive bright red patch on their foreheads.



Sandhills like open prairies, grasslands, and marshes for breeding and foraging. They usually live in small family groups, but form into large “survival groups” during the fall migration. Flocks of hundreds or thousands of birds fly into harvested fields to fill up for the trip south. They mostly eat seeds and cultivated grains, but will also eat insects and small animals. Sandhills have large wingspans, up to nearly eight feet in length. They soar easily and can stay aloft for hours.

Sandhills have elaborate and energetic dancing displays that involve in-your-face wing-flapping, bowing, jumping, and kicking. This type of behaviour can be seen during spring mating, and also in the fall, when individuals in large migratory flocks will suddenly erupt into a frenzy of aggressive and noisy dancing.



Photo Essay cont'd

The cranes leap high into the air and also bow down with wings and tails extended vertically. Sometimes a crane will seem to go kind of crazy while others look on, warily.



Sandhills like to jump and kick. They will playfully jump while tossing sticks or corn stalks in the air, or engage in mock battles with their mates. But, this type of posture has a more serious purpose -- cranes jump and kick to defend themselves and their chicks from airborne predators.

These birds have loud rolling and trumpeting voices. Their distinctive calls, which carry long distances, are often a photographer's first clue that the birds are in the vicinity. Sandhills mate for life; mated pairs will often throw their heads up and perform complicated duets known as unison calling.





Member News by Judith Bain

In October, I entered 3 of my photos in The Artful Lens Photography Show. You might remember that there was a posting in the September issue of The Viewfinder to invite entries. This was the 2nd year for this event, which is hosted by the Madoc Photography Club, and sponsored by the Municipality of Centre Hastings and Deer Creek Studio.

The Awards Reception was held on the evening of November 10th, with First, Second, and Third Prizes, and 3 Honourable Mentions being awarded.

I am very proud to be able to tell you that my photo, "Gone Camping", received an Honourable Mention, and another of my photos, "In the Shade of a Water Lily", received First Prize!



Gone Camping



In The Shade of A Water Lily



The Viewfinder

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Editorial

Editor: Judith Bain

Departments

President's Message: Margaret Hamilton

Program Notes: Anita Erschen-Pappas

Outings: Dave Duffus

The Projectionist: Terry Carpenter

The Challenge: Pat Carpenter

Contributors

Brian Crangle, Paul Yungblut, Murray Palmer, Robert Ferguson, Terry Carpenter, Lydia Dotto, Judith Bain

Viewfinder Submissions

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

Text submissions should be in one of the following 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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Program Director: Anita Erschen-Pappas

Membership Director: Dawn Macklin

Member-at-Large: Paul Macklin

Member-at-Large: Brian Crangle

Projectionist: Terry Carpenter

The Viewfinder Editor: Judith Bain

Website & Social Media

Director: George Giarratana



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, photos, articles, poetry, ideas, and your humour, here at:

ppsviewfinder@gmail.com.

You can also visit our website at:
www.peterboroughphotographicsociety.com.

We're also on Facebook! You can find us at:

www.facebook.com/PeterboroughPhotographicSocietyCanada.

The Parting Shot By Brian Crangle

