



The Viewfinder

Newsletter of the Peterborough Photographic Society

May 2018

Editor: Judith Bain

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President's Message By Margaret Hamilton

Travelling, and the Whims of Mother Nature

Well, as I begin to write this President's Message, I'm smiling at Mother Nature's really lousy sense of humour. You will read this as the May newsletter, and, yet, I'm writing this at my daughter's home in New Jersey because we had to stay an extra day in order to, hopefully, avoid the ice storms our area of Ontario is experiencing at the moment. This was meant to be a short visit, and, yes, it's shorter than some in the past, but longer than originally planned.

We headed out in cold, but sunny, weather on Thursday, April 12th. It's about an eight-hour journey from our home to our daughter Lindsay's home in Princeton, New Jersey. We stopped at the duty-free at the 1000 Islands as we always do to pick up some alcohol and a couple of things for the grandkids. We had no issues at the border and must admit it was the fastest we've ever managed to get through the border (only two cars ahead of us!).

We arrived safely and were shocked to see green grass, forsythia blooms everywhere, daffodils blooming, magnolias blooming. It was so uplifting to see colour and feel the warmer temperatures. That was day one.

Day two, we woke up to very bright sun and a lot of heat. By the end of the day the temperature had reached 79 degrees Fahrenheit. We wandered around downtown Princeton and had a nice lunch, and then watched our granddaughter play soccer in the brutal heat. After that, we went to a new restaurant.

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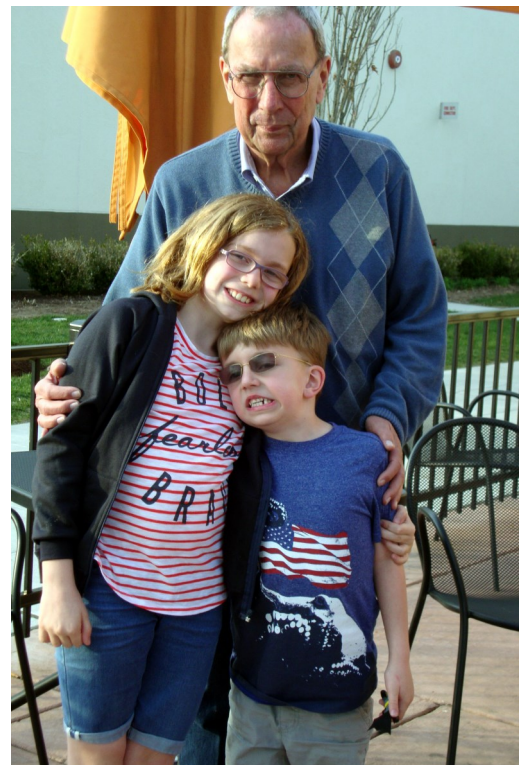
President's Message cont'd

Yesterday, I helped my daughter organize various cupboards, closets, etc. Then, Lorne and I suggested that Lindsay and her husband have a date night, while we looked after our two grandchildren. We took the kids to Bobby Flay's burger restaurant, and then we all went to the theatre to see 'Wrinkle in Time'. The kids were mesmerized and very well-behaved.

Today, we woke up to gray skies, on-and-off rain, and temperatures in the low 50 degrees. It just got colder as the day wore on. Maggie, our granddaughter, had an early morning soccer game, and played in 48-degree F. weather. Those girls were very cold, but persevered and won their game 2 to 1.

It's always so sad to leave, but every time we visit, the time becomes more and more special, so we make the most of it.

We have done a few trips in the past year into the USA, but nothing as adventurous as some of the PPS members have managed. We are planning to drive west across the USA this summer and then back home across Canada from Vancouver. We will take 5 weeks to do so. That will be our big adventure.



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President's Message cont'd





Program Notes By Anita Erschen-Pappas

The World of Bugs

We had a delightful guest speaker in April, when Leslie Abram shared her keen insights into the world of bugs, butterflies and plants. Leslie shares her discoveries about the natural world in her blog entitled “Wildlife of Eastern Ontario”, found at www.leslieabram.com. Here, she uses photos and stories to teach about everything from predatory insects, to owl pellets, to butterfly gardens. Her technique for macro photography illuminates the little wonders of nature. One of Leslie’s photos won the Canadian Wildlife Federation photo contest, and was part of the Wild Art exhibit in Toronto and Vancouver. You can find Leslie’s photos published in Birds and Blooms Magazine, Canadian Wildlife Federation Magazine, The Owl Pages, and many other wildlife-education publications.

The first segment of the May meeting will consist of members’ slideshows. We have seen a variety of slideshows in past years. There is a range of software out there that you can use to create a slideshow, and it doesn’t even have to be a photography editing site. Microsoft Powerpoint is one example. Whether it’s a travel retrospective, a story, or a collage of nature images, one can add music or text. Perhaps it is time to try something new, or use this slideshow to share images that could not be submitted earlier in the year. The time-limit for a slideshow is five minutes. Please follow the guidelines in the PPS website for submissions to the Projectionist. Enjoy!



Leslie Abram, Photo
by Brian Crangle

Election for Executive Positions

May is election time for the positions on the Executive. If you have been a PPS member for at least one year, you are eligible to put your name forward for a position.

Brian Crangle is stepping down as a Member-at-Large and Anita Erschen-Pappas is stepping down as Program Director. There is an immediate need to fill both of these positions, but, any of the other positions are available, as well.

The positions of President and Past President are the only two positions that have one more year to serve.

If you would like to put your name forward for a position on the Executive, contact either member of the Nominating Committee, Paul Macklin or Claude Denis, and let your interest be known.



Outings By Dave Duffus

Spring is Coming!

BREAKFAST OUTING:

May 5th: For the Breakfast Outing we will take a ramble on Armour Hill. We will meet at the top of Armour Hill at 8:30 a.m. Make sure to check out some of the trails just below the top. Breakfast location is TBD.

REGULAR OUTING:

May 26th: The Regular Outing will be held at the Nawautin Nature Sanctuary near Grafton. We will car pool from the Harper Road parking lot, leaving at 8:30 a.m. Maps and directions will be provided at the May meeting.

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 Dave an e-mail. It's much easier to make reservations when we know how many will be attending. Thank you!



Photo Courtesy of Nawautin Nature Sanctuary Web Site. All Rights Reserved



Outing Photos By Lydia Dotto

Presqu'île Provincial Park



©Lydia Dotto

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 another 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.

May Outings

Breakfast Outing

May 5th

Ramble on Armour Hill

Regular Outing

May 26th

Nawautin Nature

Sanctuary

PLEASE NOTE!!

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

You must send in your photos, via the appropriate Dropbox links, by Midnight on the 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

Train Bridge Over the Otonabee

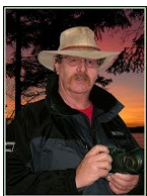
Hi Everyone,

We are looking forward to your wonderful images of the train bridge over the Otonabee. There is still a lot of time to get out and create your masterpiece.

Please do not trespass on the railway.

As usual, only one image per person, to be submitted no later than May 28th, 2018, to the Miscellaneous DropBox. At the meeting, please take a minute to tell us about your shot. Thanks again to everyone who participates. You all make it a lot of fun.

Cheers, Pat



The Projectionist By Terry Carpenter

Hi Folks,

Please remember that the next PPS meeting will be members' slide shows. This is a much-anticipated event with a variety of wonderful presentations throughout the evening. Any type of presentation is welcome so long as it consists of images (not video), and is no longer than 5 minutes, and is an executable file (meaning it can be shown on any computer). Please don't be shy, and, however you would like to present your show, talking, complementary music, etc., please remember: no longer than 5 minutes. **Send your slide show via the clubs Dropbox titled *Slide Shows*.** Thank you.

If you have any questions, please contact me at ppspphotos@cogeco.ca, and I will get back to you ASAP.

Cheers, Terry Carpenter, Projectionist



The Story Behind the Photo by Lydia Dotto

Not Rocket Science

During the PPS outing to Presqu'île Provincial Park, we found two mute swans getting frisky for Spring. They engaged in an elaborate courting display and then got down to business — or, rather, tried to. They didn't seem to quite know what they were doing, and got themselves hopelessly tangled up. The female poked her head through the male's right wing to let him know he was messing up. A third swan ambled over and observed the proceedings with bemusement. I imagined him thinking: "Seriously? This is not rocket science".





SPECIAL EDITION By Judith Bain

TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

This issue of The Viewfinder is a Special Edition on Travel Photography.

While the majority of us stayed home and braved the icy winds and frigid cold of this past winter, several of our members travelled to wonderful places; Costa Rica, Tanzania, and Scotland's Isle of Skye, to name a few.

I thought it might help those of us who did stay at home to live vicariously through the photos shared by those members who were fortunate enough to travel.

I have not been fortunate to have done much travelling for the past couple of years. I did go to Maine in 2016, and before that, in 2015, Ron and I went on a European River Cruise to celebrate a significant anniversary.

This year, I will return to Maine, in October, on a photography workshop. We will be in the Rockport and Bar Harbour areas for 8 days.

The photo below was taken while on the river cruise in 2015. It was taken in Nurnberg, Germany.





Travel Photography by Robert Ferguson

Costa Rica

As the years go by, each Canadian winter becomes a little longer and a little harder to endure. The soft, winter light of a snowy day is a favourite time for photography, but I happily trade those wintry pursuits for a week or two of tropical splendour. The warm, vibrant, and eye-popping colours of a tropical setting are a welcome relief from the monochromatic tones of a snowy landscape.

Costa Rica is my definition of paradise on Earth. It is a haven for birdwatchers, butterfly enthusiasts, photographers, and nature lovers of all kinds. Costa Rica is a small country – about the same size as Nova Scotia – but it is packed with incredible bio-diversity. There is a variety of ecological zones, ranging from sea level on two coasts (the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean) to elevations exceeding 2,000 metres in the mountainous interior. Costa Rica has it all: active volcanoes, lush rainforests, dry forests and savannahs, cloud forests, wetlands rich in water birds and other wildlife, and mile after mile of secluded sandy beaches. And some of the best coffee on the planet!



Travel Photography cont'd

Costa Rica

Christopher Columbus is credited with discovering and naming Costa Rica, the “rich coast”, because he believed (incorrectly) that the lands abounded in precious metals.

I return again and again to this beautiful country, with its amazing birdlife (over 900 species) and its friendly, welcoming people. “Ticos” never hesitate to assist disoriented, wandering souls who have made a wrong turn on the country’s bewildering network of roadways! During my travels I have captured well over 4,000 images. When Judith asked me to submit images for this newsletter, I knew that selecting just a handful would be a difficult task – but I hope I have given readers a tantalizing taste of what Costa Rica offers.

I am now planning my 7th visit. Pura Vida!!





Travel Photography by Brian Crangle

Tanzania

Liz and I have a wonderful daughter, Moya. She is a midwife, and is currently working for CUSO in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Her husband, Alan, and two sons, Seth and Wyatt, are there with her for two more years.

After a long trip (via Zurich), Liz and I arrived in Tanzania on February 10th. During our three-week stay we managed a safari (with a gift from Montezuma), and a trip to Zanzibar, which is about two hours by ferry from Dar Es Salaam. However, what we were most impressed with were the local people. They were kind, unassuming, and helpful. The language of the country is Swahili. "Karibu" (Welcome) was a word we heard many times.



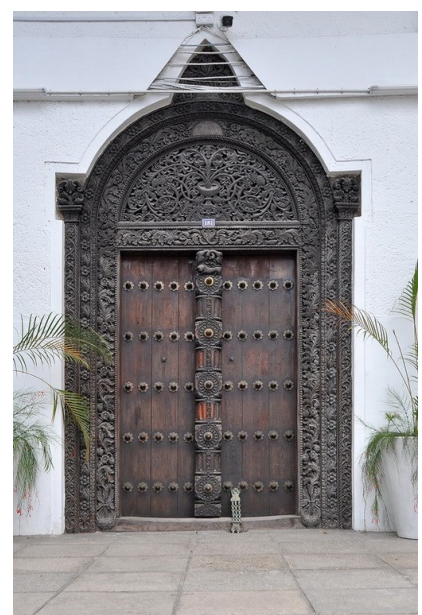
Travel Photography cont'd

Tanzania

Driving there was a nightmare! Rules seemed not to exist. The most courageous got the right of way, and in traffic, street vendors persistently knocked on the car window trying to sell their wares.

On reflection, the most notable things about the country were: 1. The harmony of the different groups. Maasai, Muslims, Christians, and 160 various tribes live along side each other. 2. The differences between those who have and those who have not. A daily wage is about six dollars Canadian, but people were very happy.

We had an amazing trip and made many lasting memories.





Travel Photography by Guy Ridgway

Over the Sea to Skye

Early one March afternoon, two intrepid photographers are following their guide, Colin, up a rocky, snow-strewn path to a summit, from which to capture the visage of the Old Man of Storr. "Colin," I said as we approached a less steep part of the trail, "You told us this was going to be 'a bit of an incline'. Tell me, if your goal were to ascend a vertical wall, would you tell your clients in advance that it 'might involve a bit of an incline'?" At which he only responded with a chuckle.

This was our first full day on the fabled Isle of Skye. Colin Jarvis, an accomplished photographer and personable educator, runs workshops throughout the UK. For me and my wife Caroline, and our friend and fellow photographer, Tanya, it was our pleasure to experience and record the incredible landscapes Skye has to offer, with Colin as our guide and instructor. This residential workshop extended from March 10 through the 16th.

These were long days. For most of them, we were determined to chase the Golden Hours, both morning and late afternoon. Generally, we had good weather, but we did get our share of shooting in wind and rain, the latter being a rather new experience for me. Several sites required a lot of hiking. Climbing over rocks and boulders at **Elgol Beach** was a must, but risky due to slippery surfaces.



The Quiraing, Trotternish, Isle of Skye

Travel Photography cont'd

Isle of Skye

What did I learn?

Composition: On Skye you can always find yourself at a beautiful location, but you need to position your tripod carefully, use the right lens, and set the proper zoom and angle to capture your vision. And the most important element is the vision itself. Colin emphasized this aspect for each composition. His advice was to pay attention to distracting elements and try to eliminate them.

Quality of Light: Outings to various points in the Scottish Highlands were often timed to catch the proper light for a particular scene or composition. You need to be prepared to visit a location on multiple occasions to even try to approach the perfect combination of light and clouds. This was the case with the **Quiraing**, and **Neist Point**.

Filters for Landscapes: We learned the need for, and proper use of graduated and "stopper" filters in landscape photography. The stopper selected, i.e., 1.6 (6 stop) or 3.0 (10 stop) depended on the quality of light and how much detail one wanted to see in moving water. We also used the 0.3 (1 stop) and 0.6 (2 stop) hard-edged grad filters to reduce sky brightness to create a more evenly-toned image. **The Fairy Pools** image incorporated both types of filters.



The Quiraing Plateau, Trotternish, Isle of Skye



Neist Point, Duirinish Peninsula, Isle of Skye

Travel Photography cont'd

Isle of Skye

Over Too Soon

Tanya returned to Toronto after the workshop, and Caroline and I spent another two weeks exploring Glasgow, Edinburgh, and the Scottish Borders.

Back home in Peterborough, having returned to the everyday, and sitting in the Lansdowne Place mall with a coffee, waiting for Caroline to join me, all I could text her was, "I miss Skye".

<http://www.colinjarvis.co.uk/>

<https://www.guyridgwayphotography.com/>



Joe's Boulder, Loch Scavalg, Elgol, Isle of Skye



Marsco Among the Red Hills, West of Sligichan, Isle of Skye



The Fairy Pools, Glen Brittle, Isle of Skye



The Story Behind the Travel Photo

by Larry Keeley

Florence, Italy



The restaurant where Dawn and I had stopped for lunch in Florence, Italy, had several tables set up outside. We chose one next to the entrance to an old church whose architectural features had caught my attention. While snapping shots of the church, I paid very little attention to the woman sitting on the stairs. She was holding a cup and hoping to collect donations. People walking into, and out of, the church also pretty much ignored her. Occasionally, someone dropped a coin into her cup for which she nodded and smiled. When a bird landed next to her and waited for diners at a nearby table to toss it pieces of bread, the juxtaposition was complete and I couldn't resist capturing this image. As we left, I tossed the bird a piece of bread and then put some coins in her cup. She nodded and smiled.



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
 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.

May Meeting
 Tuesday, May 1st
 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.

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Thank you.



Word Images (Poetry)

To Feel Free Again

Murray Arthur Palmer, © 2018

While sitting in my canoe in a Sandy Lake bay
 I saw her slowly enter, and swim my way.
 She dove among yellow water lilies growing in patches,
 Surfacing many times to swallow her catches.
 With head held skyward, she flapped her wings against the light,
 Stretched and shook her streamlined body with sheer delight.
 I've never seen anything so beautiful, nor will I soon,
 For nothing exceeds the thrill of being with a Common Loon.

In mid-May '86 I saw the loons were in trouble.
 Their nest of two eggs was flooded; I had to act on the double.
 I built an artificial nesting platform, hoping they'd re-nest.
 Twelve-inch cedar logs to form a square worked best
 With chain link fencing to hold cover and nesting plants,
 Anchored diagonally at the corners to reduce the chance
 Of incoming waves unsettling the incubating bird.
 Anchoring it fifty to a hundred feet from shore is preferred.

On July 8th about five in the morning I heard the yodelling male
 Proclaiming to the world that their second nesting didn't fail.
 I shared in his excitement; to help the loons was no bother.
 Though I remained silent, I myself felt like a father.
 For many years since did I launch a nesting structure
 Until prevented from doing so by a family rupture.

Those years of helping and guarding
 loons meant the world to me;
 Soon after ice-out this labour of love was
 my way to feel free.





Spark Opening Reception by Paul Macklin



Spark Opening Reception Cont'd



Member News

Lydia Dotto's photo of an American Kestrel has been published on the front cover of **ON nature** magazine. Congratulations, Lydia!



On the cover: American kestrel.
Photograph by Lydia Dotto



The Viewfinder

Newsletter of the Peterborough Photographic Society

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, Robert Ferguson, Larry Keeley, Guy Ridgway, Murray Palmer, Lydia Dotto, Paul Macklin, 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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PPS Executive 2017-18

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Vice-President: Claude Denis

Secretary: Pat Carpenter

Treasurer: Kathryn Danford

Past-President: George Dimitroff

Outings Director: Dave Duffus

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.peterboroughphotographicociety.com.

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

www.facebook.com/PeterboroughPhotographicSocietyCanada.