



The Viewfinder

Newsletter of the Peterborough Photographic Society

September 2013



George Gillespie-PPS President

President's Message

Welcome back to another PPS season. I hope you had a great summer and captured a lot of pictures to share with us over the coming months. Brian and Suzanne have been busy putting together an interesting program, and Terry has been developing a list of interesting places for club outings. You will see their descriptions elsewhere in this issue of the Viewfinder. So it looks like an interesting ten months ahead for the club.

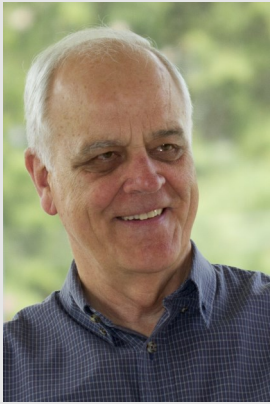
Something else you might already be aware of is that our website has been terminated. Bob Brown describes what happened further on in this issue. *** Of course we will no longer be submitting images for our meetings through the website. Terry outlines the new procedure in this issue as well.

If you look at the PPS Constitution you will see that "The aims of the Society shall be to encourage and develop the skills and increase the expertise of the members in photography...." Now how do we go about achieving this? Are your photos of a higher quality compared to when you joined? Would you like them to be better? There are many paths we can take in producing better photographic images. One of the best is available right here in our club. It is the critiquing session that occurs at each of our monthly meetings. Rather than fill this message with more on the subject, I have written an article that appears elsewhere in this issue of the Viewfinder.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our September meeting, and am anticipating another great year ahead.

Although we don't currently have a club website, Suzanne Kirk has created a Facebook Page for PPS. It is not a substitute for a website, but does contain club and photographic information. If you would care to have a look at it, it is located at: <https://www.facebook.com/PeterboroughPhotographicSocietyCanada>





Improving Our Photographs

George Gillespie
PPS President

When I bought my first SLR about 25 years ago a friend, an experienced photographer, told me not to bother joining a camera club. He believed that we can learn to take better pictures by simply taking lots of pictures, and sitting down and analyzing them to find out what works and what doesn't. That might have paid off eventually, but I would have gone through an awful lot of film trying to get there. How long would it have taken me to learn that a bland sky hurts an image? Another approach is to buy books containing good photography and determining what the characteristics of the photographs are that make them good. That will only work if you already know the characteristics of a good photo and you use that knowledge to see how a good photographer achieved them. Most of us do not start out with this level of knowledge.

So what can we do to learn what makes a good photograph and what things we should avoid? There is no "silver bullet" when it comes to improving our photographic images. It takes some dedication and work. To me, the best way to improve the quality of my images is to have knowledgeable photographers view my images and tell me how I might go about getting better results. That way I don't have to spend hours looking at my pictures trying to figure out what is right or wrong with them.

When we attend photography courses, or photographic workshops we get some instruction and are given photographic assignments which we run off and do. The instructor looks at our results and suggests things we could have done to make our images better. In other words a knowledgeable photographer is critiquing the images to help the student do better. At PPS we do the same kind of thing. Anyone who wants to have his or her images looked at and commented on by a knowledgeable photographer can submit those images for critiquing. Because of time constraints we limit this to one image per member per meeting. The most valuable part of this process is for you to see how your own image could have been improved. You will probably remember that. Another valuable part is to observe what others have done and learn how those might have been made better. Critiquing is normally limited to technical aspects of the photo – camera settings, composition, and so on. The message intended by the photographer or artistic merit are almost never mentioned.

Having an image critiqued can be unsettling for the photographer. It might be embarrassing as well, and that is why the name of the photographer is not shown with the image. Don't let this hold you back and don't let any negative comments upset you. It wouldn't be surprising for the photographer to not agree with the person doing the critiquing. Listen to the comments and even if you don't agree, at least you've heard a different point of view. We all see photos in a different way, and the opinion of others helps us understand this.

Finally, the people doing the critiquing are simply other members of PPS, albeit experienced photographers. They do not believe that they have all the answers, nor do they assume they are above you in some way. When Suzanne and Brian ask people to do critiquing, they select those people whom they believe are good photographers and who are able to constructively criticize other members' photos. A person who does critiques one month might be having one of their photos critiqued the next month. We all have something to learn.

Submit an image for critiquing every meeting. It's surprising how you'll see the improvement in the quality of your images



Suzanne Kirk

Program Notes Sept 2013

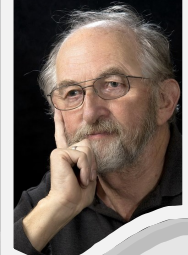
Themes for 2013

September –Entryways

October-Wheels

November-the Letter H

December-Portraits



Brian Crangle



Part 1 (Suzanne)

Henry's Comes to Visit the Peterborough Photographic Society...

As the final guest speaker of the 2012-2013 season, on Tuesday June 4th the Peterborough Photographic Society enjoyed a presentation by David Librach, Manager of the Henry's Photo-Video-Digital store in Pickering.

David has presented at many clubs throughout the country and has been on the executive board of many as well. As such, he knew what type of information the members would like to hear. He spoke a bit about Henry's and how they can support the club and members, and he then continued with a very informative and enjoyable presentation revolving around "choosing the right lens". Following the presentation the members had many questions to ask of Dave, taking the opportunity to tap his vast wealth of knowledge about photography.

He had also brought along a few of the items that were on the 'wish list' members had provided. His collection included items such as F2.8 lenses, full-frame bodies, tripods...etc. Many members took the opportunity to peruse his table of goodies. He has since emailed the club stating that he had a great time and that he was very impressed by the images club members had submitted for the evening slide show. He says that he is looking forward to a continued relationship with the club and its members. He also provided a link to his website - www.dlphotography.ca - as some of the members expressed an interest in the type of photography he does.

Other speakers are lined up and yes, David Librach from Henry's will be back later in the year!

We will still be doing critiques each month (Best way to improve you skills). If you would like more information about the products and courses he offers, he can be found at :

Henry's Photo-Video-Digital
705 Kingston Road, Unit 20, Pickering, ON L1V6K3
T: 905-831-7777

Part 2. (Brian.)

Suzanne and I have been diligently working on the 2013-2014 program.

Here is what we have lined up for you,

September.. Speaker Terry Carpenter..'Terry's Tips and Techniques'

October.....Speaker Julie Waterhouse..'Secret Sauce'

November.....Speaker Lydia Dotto..'Wildlife,Luck & Skill'

December.....Christmas Dinner at the Lions Club.

Members are allowed to submit (ONE) image per month for critiquing.

Suzanne has set up a Facebook link at www.facebook.com/PeterboroughPhotographicSocietyCanada . There will be upcoming events listed here, if you wish to add anything send it first to suzanne723@gmail.com

Hope you have been out shooting with the themes in mind over the summer, look forward to seeing y'all in Sept..Cheers..Brian

I guess I like to think of myself as a Natural History Photographer.

A Hard Lesson in Depth of Field

You've been training your lens on backyard birds, small mammals, maybe a toad, snake and other critters in your neck of the woods. Your quarry were captured in likenesses focused, unblurred, and well-exposed. You like how you can soften distracting background elements by using large apertures, pairing them with complementary fast shutter speeds, or portray your subjects within their habitats by choosing small apertures and slower shutter speeds. I'm a firm believer in the fact that you can take the woodpecker out of the woods, but you can't take the woods out of the woodpecker, so why not show it? But I digress. Now you've got a hankering for the exotic – you're going to the zoo!



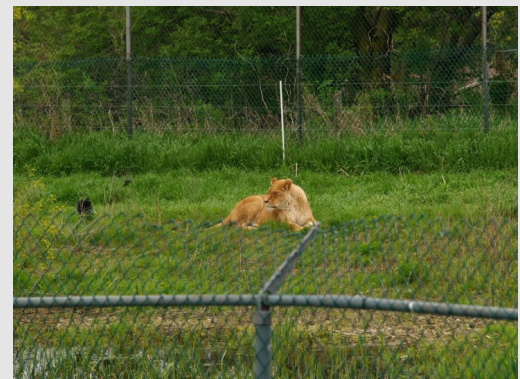
Murray Palmer

In order to get images through the cage/wire fencing you need to understand the three factors that govern depth of field or DOF: the aperture selected, the camera to subject distance, and ...? Yes, that vocabulary-enhancing property called focal length or your images will be blurred with the barriers.

You need a lens that seems more like a portable cannon. A 300 mm might do the trick, but I'd go for a 400 mm, which may be the largest lens you can handhold or lug around for long. Now don't try to weasel out of this. It's best to experiment with the lens you intend to use. For example, a 300 mm f4 lens with a 2x teleconverter has an effective f-stop of f8 and a focal length of 600 mm. The DOF is the same as the original 300 f4 lens, which is the same as any 600 mm f8 lens. Notice the reciprocal relationship between a lens' maximum aperture and its focal length. But you need a large aperture to ensure a shallow DOF as you will see below, and many lenses with a maximum aperture smaller than f5.6 will not permit the camera to autofocus making a 400 mm f5.6 lens with its better reach more practical.

Now that you're loaded for bear, here's the trick to get unobscured images: Choose a wide aperture like f5.6 or better. Approach the area of the fence in front of your quarry where and/or when the metal fencing doesn't gleam in the sun. Your camera should be as close to the fence as possible. Not so the subject. It should be some distance away so that when you focus on it, the shallow depth of field moves far beyond the fence where the latter no longer registers in the viewfinder's image. Almost like X-ray vision, isn't it? Use the same technique with glass, except that you may need wipes for hand-plastered panes, and a shielding device to prevent reflections in your images.

A long, or super telephoto, lens set to a wide aperture is also a definite advantage when shooting wildlife where vegetation interferes with a clear view of the subject. In the morning of March 12, 1994, I was lying on an ice and snow-covered back road for three quarters of an hour with a Pentax MX and 400 mm lens as I focused past intervening branches to catch the erect pose of a male pileated woodpecker with its head cocked back between bouts of rapid hacks into a rotting poplar. I shot about twenty-two frames to make sure at least one would be a keeper. What some people will do for a picture!





As your new outings person I am offering up to two outings each month, this will give members the opportunity to submit images for either outing. If possible prior to trip a map of the location etc. will be e mailed to members who give me their names and contact info etc.

On several of our trips this year I have asked other clubs to join us. Bancroft Club will be hosting us this Sept and also joining us along with the Port Hope club to our Algonquin trip, Hopefully throughout our year of photography Hastings and Belleville will be joining in on some outings too.

So grab your equipment and get ready to join others at some fun filled excursions.

Terry

If you plan to attend an outing I would ask you to please let me know by e mail ppsoutings@cogeco.ca This will enable me to email maps etc. and also know if we need to reserve tables for lunch etc. and also to know how many people and cars to expect.

SAT. AUG 31ST OUTING (This outing will be prior to our first general meeting so please let me know if you plan on attending.)

Our first outing of the year will be on Sat. Aug 31st We will be leaving Harper road commuter parking lot at 9:00am to Presquile Parks Monarch and Migrant weekend. <http://friendsofpresquile.on.ca/monarchsandmigrantsweekendp87.php>

Then after a delicious lunch (for those who wish too) at Vitos at 12:30 we can carry on to Memory Junction. This was Brightons original railway station built in 1855 and now a museum. We can then venture to Proctor House and its conservation area before going home.

Traveling through Presquile you may have the opportunity to capture images of Butterflies and insects getting ready to fly south. Don Davis will also be here with his very popular Monarch Butterfly tagging demonstrations from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Also the opportunity to shoot images of Barred Owls, Deer and fox may present itself. Don't forget to visit the Nature center and also the lighthouse.

Memory Junction was a railway station built in 1855. Now a museum which may be open. However lots of memorabilia around the station including a 1906 locomotive and tender, 1929 cabooses, 1923 wooden CPR box car and a 1929 Boarding car Also this station presents a great opportunity to shoot some busy main line activity with up to 65 speeding trains a day.

Proctor House North end of Brighton <http://www.proctorhousemuseum.ca/history.html> May not be open but the grounds offer some great images.

SAT. SEPT. 21ST OUTING

Our second outing of the month Sat. Sept. 21st will be joining Bancroft club at 9:30 am The meeting place will be the new Tim Horton in Bancroft located on the south end of town on your left side of the road just before you enter town. Bancroft members will be taking us to some abandoned cars in a grove of trees. Then a trip to Eagles Nest a great view of Bancroft and York River and on to Egens Chute, a wonderful waterfalls and rapids (this will require a short walk. I recommend wearing rugged footwear also.) Then we will be having a BBQ at Jim Quirks home. After that, if we are not too full to move, we will be going to an abandoned church and buildings on private property, and if time permits we can photograph some waterfalls Jim knows of.

For this outing we are asking you to bring a small pot luck to be added to the BBQ also a \$5.00 donation per person for the burgers and hot dogs etc.



[ALGONQUIN TUESDAY OCT 8TH OUTING](#)

For October I have planned two outings for the month which I will announce at a later date. However we have an **overnight** outing planned for **Tuesday the 8th to Wed. 9th of October** to Algonquin Park. Bancroft Club and Northumberland Photo Club from Port Hope may plan to join us for this outing. This may be your chance to get some fantastic images of fall colours, wildlife such as Moose, Bear, fox, etc. Great early misty morning scenics. Waterfalls set in fall colour.

The plan is to go early on Tuesday morning spend the day, meet for supper at the Mad Musher. The next morning go out for early morning shots come back to Whitney for breakfast around 9:30 then spend the rest of the day shooting. I realize this is an outing in the week so for those who can't make it there will be other outings to somewhere else in October. It will be up to individual members to arrange lodging so please see list below. Please note, book as early as you can as I am sure rooms will go quickly for this time of year. *If you are planning to attend this outing please be kind enough to e mail me to let me know so we know how many are going. Thank you.* For those that attend I will e mail a map with highlights of the park. Any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at ppsoutings@cogeco.ca

All the accommodations are in Whitney area, and of course there is camping in the park. Other lodging can be found in Huntsville.

Dream Catcher Motel <http://www.algonquindream.ca/about.html> (new motel and very nice)

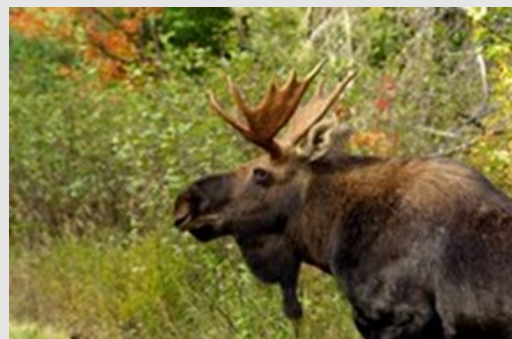
Bellwood Inn bed and breakfast <http://www.bellwoodbnb.ca/home.html>

The Mad Musher <http://www.madmusher.com/accommodations.htm>(restaurant and rooms)

East Gate Motel <http://www.algonquineastgatemotel.com/>

Riverview Cottages <http://www.riverviewcottages.com/>

Adventure Lodge <http://adventurelodge.com/>





Hi Folks

Hope you all had a great summer shooting those fantastic images and are all set to start showing off your achievements at our monthly club meetings. Brian and Suzanne have set up some challenging themes for us this year and I, for one, am looking forward to seeing them.

This year our submitting of images should be somewhat easier , I will now be accepting your submissions by Email. However all images must still be resized, renamed, and sent as Jpeg and attached to your Email. Please see below for full instructions.

Looking forward to seeing you all again *Cheers Terry -Projectionist*

Members can submit up to **two images each for monthly theme, and photographers choice, one image for critique, and up to five images for outings.**

Deadline for submitting your images is always the Friday night midnight before the meeting.

Before E Mailing your images to ppsimages@cogeco.ca They must be named and resized as instructed below. Images must be in JPEG format Please ensure your images are sent as an attachment with your e mail

When re-sizing your horizontal or landscape JPG image 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.

CATEGORY INITIALS WOULD BE

- C** FOR CRITIQUE
- P** FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS CHOICE
- T** FOR THEME
- O** FOR OUTING (**USE LETTER O NOT NUMBER ZERO**)

NUMBERS WILL BE 1 OR 2 FOR EACH IMAGE IN CATEGORY AND 1 TO 5 FOR OUTINGS DEPENDING ON HOW MANY IMAGES YOU SUBMIT. **Only one image can be entered for the critique category.** Please ensure a space is placed between the number and your name.

SAMPLES OF THE NEW NAMING SYSTEM ARE AS BELOW.

P1 TERRY CARPENTER OR P2 TERRY CARPENTER (FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS CHOICE)

T1 TERRY CARPENTER OR T2 TERRY CARPENTER (FOR THEME)

C1 TERRY CARPENTER (FOR CRITIQUE) **Only one image can be entered for the critique category**

O1 TERRY CARPENTER UP TO O5 TERRY CARPENTER (FOR OUTING) (USE LETTER O NOT NUMBER ZERO**)**

After resizing and renaming, please send JPEG images as an attachment to your e mail and send to ppsimages@cogeco.ca

Please note that the Outing images to be shown at Sept meeting are to be from the BOB-CAYGEON VILLAGE OUTING from last June.

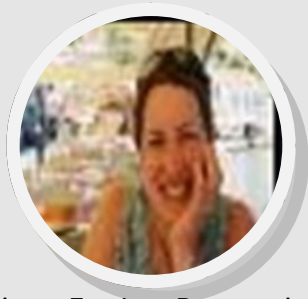
Bob Brown-Webmaster

It is very unfortunate that our website has been mothballed for a short time. The good people in England who developed it for us unfortunately had to shut down and due to a quick timeline



and an unfamiliarity with the coding that they used, it is being taken into consideration what we should do to replace it.

The website was backed up and we have a copy of it as it was when closed down. All images have been taken off the web.



Anita Erschen-Pappas -Assistant
Webmaster

Our mission in the next few months is to:

1. Create a landing page for our members to go to. (this may or may not be running by this publication).

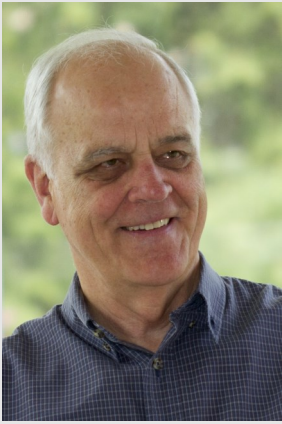
2. This page will direct you to our FaceBook Page site , any other site links and eventually our new website.

It has been tossed about whether we should use other free sites e.g.. Twitter etc., to accommodate our image galleries. As outlined in other parts of the newsletter, all your submissions will be handled through direct email to Terry Carpenter.

If you have any suggestions for our site etc., please write down and submit to me at the next meeting.

We'll keep you informed of the progress in relieving this situation.

EXECUTIVE FOR 2013-2014



Liz Crangle Past President



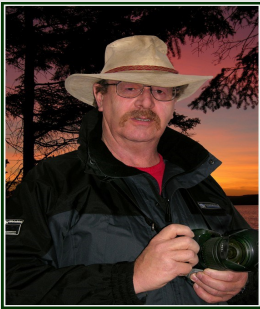
Brian Crangle



Suzanne Kirk

Program Directors

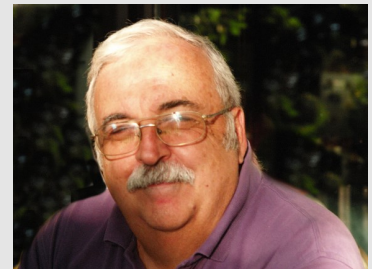
George Gillespie -PPS Pres-



Terry Carpenter –Projectionist/
Outings



Pat Carpenter-
Secretary



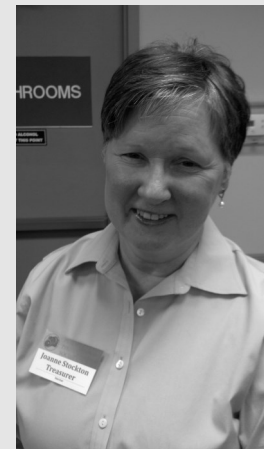
George Giarratana-Viewfinder



Paul Macklin-Member at Large



Dave Duffus –Assistant Member at
Large



Joanne Stockton-Treasurer



Dawn Macklin-Membership



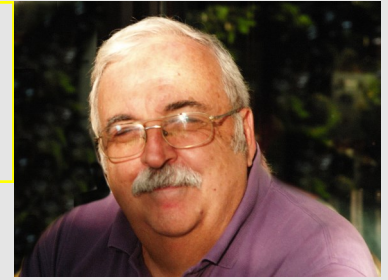
Bob Brown-Webmaster



Anita Erschen-Pappas -
Assistant Webmaster

Through the Viewfinder as seen by George Giarratana

Publisher and Editor



Some of you may remember that our Club received a request from ORCA (Otonabee Regional Conservation Authority) to put on a couple of basic type photo workshops at Beavermead Park where they were part of the Watershed Weekend Activities. Cheryl Kimball and I were able to contribute our time and expertise on two separate weekends one in July and one in August.

Although number of attendees was low I would have to say that both Cheryl and I enjoyed the experience of putting a workshop together and working with an organization like ORCA.

We did manage to connect with one individual who although she had her digital SLR for approximately 5 yrs needed some instructions in its basic use (had always shot in Auto) and then indicated after getting some details from us she was thinking about joining our club.

Cheryl and I were also able to supply a series of images to ORCA and Indian River Reptile Zoo (who did a workshop before us) for publication on their webpages or any publications.

If the opportunity presents itself once again in the future perhaps other club members might like to participate.





Dave Duffus –Assistant MAL



Paul Macklin-MAL

" Advance Notice

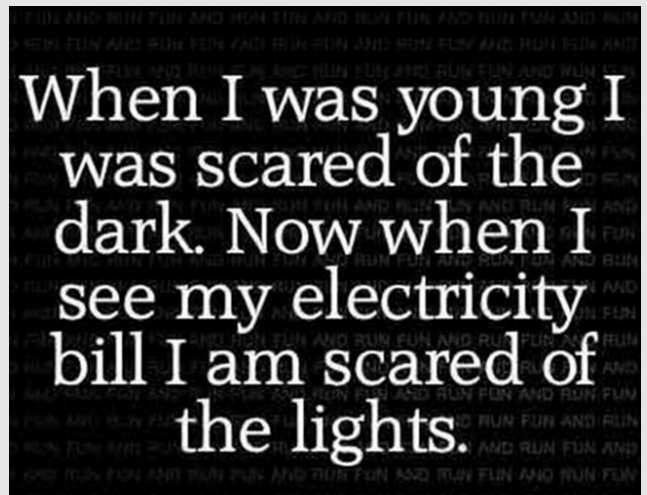
PPS will be having a photo contest this year.
More information to follow.

Dave and Paul your MAL contest team.

(Hint -- look for your best image) "

Thanks Paul

Paul and Dave our Members at Large
(MAL)



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ggiarrat@gmail.com or any of the Executive. Committee