



Woodstock Camera Club

A community of photographers sharing the art of photography

WCC Contest #2- First Place Images

Contest Themes:

- *Life Without Colour* • *Electricity*
- *Getting Schooled*

Life Without Colour - open to black & white images from all that man surveys.

Electricity - From light bulbs to lightning, electricity is everywhere, so show us something shocking.

Getting Schooled - learning anything and everything about learning.

Another wonderful contest in the can, film can, not garbage can. Just does not sound right to say "in the card" or "in the HDD".

24 images were submitted and 10 ribbons awarded to the WCC club members. All categories are really shining - keep up the great work! When you look at the scores, it was a tight race among the Novices and the judges had a tough time selecting 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. The results were outstanding among the Intermediates as well. There were only two ribbons in the Advanced group which resulted in a 1st and 2nd place. After an unfortunate delay, we are happy to announce the winners of each level as follows:

Novice

3rd place - Karen Aubin - Score 22 - Yellow Ribbon

2nd place - Diane Broad - Score 22 - Yellow Ribbon

1st place - Lee-Ann Creery - Score 22 - Yellow Ribbon

Intermediate

3rd place - Tim Stewart - Score 23 - Yellow Ribbon

2nd place - Colin Hutchinson - Score 24 - White Ribbon

1st place - John Nicol - Score 27 - Blue Ribbon

Advanced

2nd place - John Novak - Score 25 - White Ribbon

1st place - Jeff Brown - Score 25 - White Ribbon

All the images were excellent and I am so happy that I am not judging. The judging was very informative and listening to the comments really helps me to evaluate images differently and to be thinking about composition, cropping and lighting, not only before I release the shutter, but even before I even lift the camera. Thank you for that!

Remember, everyone is welcome to watch the judging for contest 3, so mark Sunday, February 15th - 2:00 pm on your calendar and plan on joining us. It is a very interesting process and gives you firsthand experience into the mind of the judges. Plan on participating in our last contest so we can all learn and improve in our photography.

The February 4th deadline for submitting images for contest 3 is past, but if anyone has a last minute entry, they should contact me and deliver it as soon as possible. Remember to log in and upload your image on the website.

Result night will be Wednesday, March 4th.

The year end Gala will be held Wednesday, May 27th, an evening you do not want to miss! Contest awards and Photo Art awards will be presented that evening.

by Jeff Brown, Contest Chair

ADVANCED Category - *Life without Colour*

Jeff Brown



Round Trip

©Jeff Brown



INTERMEDIATE

Category - *Life without Colour*

John Nicol



Busker's Touch ©John Nicol



NOVICE

Category - *Life without Colour*

Lee-Ann Creery



I've Got My Eye on You ©Lee-Ann Creery

Second Place Images



ADVANCED

John Novak

Category -
Life Without Colour
Hawk Lake Lookout



©John Novak



INTERMEDIATE

Colin Hutchinson

Category -
Life Without Colour
Norman



©Colin Hutchinson



NOVICE

Diane Broad

Category -
Life Without Colour
Misty Morning



©Diane Broad

Third Place Images



INTERMEDIATE

Tim Stewart

Category -
Life Without Colour

**Fine
Line**

©Tim Stewart



NOVICE

Karen Aubin

Category -
Life Without Colour

**Replica
of the
Eiffel Tower**

©Karen Aubin



Snowy Owls flocking to Ontario

Some may say what is there to photograph in the winter, but snow and ice? This is a wonderful time to capture images and the snowy owl is one subject that is a favourite among many photographers. Their big eyes, fluffy feathers and broad wings with a blue sky background makes an outstanding image. It has been reported that owls have been seen flocking to our part of the country over the course of the past month and one was seen near the GM plant.

The owl's arctic home is flat and barren, and the birds are sticking to similar landscapes in Southern Ontario. If you want to see a snowy, your chances are good if you check in areas like fields where the birds can find mice and rodents. If you do spot the owls, send an owl alert to our communication guy, Bob and he will inform the members. bobofwcc@hotmail.com

The passing of Kent Garrett



A lot of us met Kent at the Woodstock Camera Club.

He started his career as a college administrator at Sir Sanford Fleming and Seneca Colleges. In 1996, after twelve years of service, he retired as Fanshawe College's Academic Chairperson at the Woodstock Campus.

Kent's 2nd career was in the ministry, graduating as an ordained minister. He then became a spiritual leader for churches across Oxford County until he retired. Retirement brought him to the Woodstock Camera Club where he enjoyed socializing with photographers and learning how to capturing the beauty that surrounded him.

One of Kent's photos qualified for the Annual Woodstock Art Gallery Juried Art Exhibition - a proud moment for Kent.

His work in the community and his love for music and the arts was well known.



Fellow photographer & Kent Garrett enjoying the fall colours on the trail.

On January 3rd, 2015 Kent passed peacefully with his family at his side. He will be missed and thought of often. Our prayers are with his wife, Joan and family.

In the memories you cherish, may there be so much goodness and love that they will offer comfort when you need it the most.

Photo Art Deadline

Wilson Johnston Junior launched the Photo Art Contest in memory of his father. This contest allows you to take one of your images and use any digital program to create a piece of art.

The Wilson Johnston Senior Trophy will be presented at the Year End Gala

Deadline is April 15th, 2015

Ending 2014 with a Delicious Potluck Dinner and Christmas Fun!

Before the Woodstock Camera Club members knew, it was time for the Annual Christmas Potluck once again. How fast a year can go when you are having fun with photography.

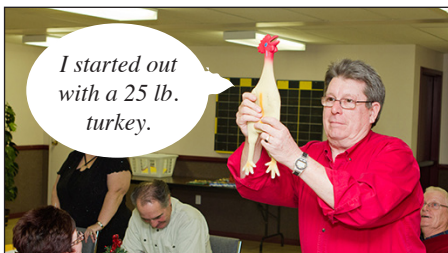
On December 10th members and guests came together to celebrate the Christmas Season and to enjoy a delicious dinner at the Emmanuel Reformed Church in Woodstock.

The hall was adorned with decorations for the season, making the ambiance festive. The WCC President, Linda Feick welcomed the members and guests and Bill Hall gave thanks for the wonderful potluck feast that was placed before us. The committee started off the evening with the "Funniest Caption Game". Knowing how hard it is to put a caption with an image the committee placed five photos on a board for everyone to create a caption for each photo. This time the members had no stress, only fun!



Bill Hall writing down his captions

The first place winner was Linda Feick for her funny caption . . .



Denise Rooke took second place for her funny caption . . .



The next game left Donnie Bowker-Allan standing alone while the rest of the members and guests sat down. He took the title of 'Last Man Standing' and was presented with a



Denise Rooke and Linda Feick

Christmas gift from Santa's elves. 'A Christmas Story Game' was puzzling to the group. It was hard to believe that there were members who haven't seen the 1983 comedy Christmas Story, based on a Christmas in the 40s". It's nearly impossible not to catch a glimpse of the movie when flipping through the 24 hour marathon of movies before Christmas. It is an enjoyable movie of the simpler holiday season and how kids entertained themselves.



One scene that will forever be ingrained in kid's minds is when the character Flick gets his tongue stuck to a metal pole when triple-dog dared. While this event is what stayed with people the most, and is probably the reason many kids got their tongues stuck to icy poles.

Other games such as 'What's in the Christmas Sock' and the 'Gift Draws' finished off a great evening. Our Christmas Elf, Bonnie Hewitt captured candid shots throughout the evening.

The laughter subsided and the evidence of a



Bill Thompson



Dianne Ward

Christmas party soon disappeared and Merry Christmas echoed throughout the hall as members headed off for a long winters nap hoping that sugar plums would be dancing in their heads while dreaming of a new camera.

Christmas is a busy time with many commitments. For the members that missed this year's party remember to mark your calendars for 2015 and come join us for a fun evening.

Thanks to the planning committee; Pat Foord, Ruth Ann Rule, Yvonne Boniface and Karen Guthrie for bringing the festive season to the hall and Bonnie Hewitt for the generous donations of gifts.

(Photography by Bonnie Hewitt)

Ody's Restaurant

Drop into Ody's after the club meeting to enjoy a refreshment and socializing.

Linda Feick
WCC President



Here we are halfway through our Club Year already! We have been very busy thus far, what with our Contests 1 and 2, and several guest speakers, workshops and a few outings.

The Santa Claus Parade garnered us a donation of \$100.00 from the Parade Committee and I would personally like to thank them for the sponsorship. Also, thanks to our members who withstood the freezing cold to take photos. Santa House was another big success for us this year. If you've never been there to volunteer think about it for next year. You won't be sorry you gave of your time and effort for this worthwhile event.

Some things have had to be postponed or cancelled due to the inclement weather, but all in all we have made it through. As we move forward, we have some interesting speakers coming in the next few months with various topics including portraiture, macro flower photography and nature just to name a few. I know that most of us will be glad to see the snow gone and be able to get out to photograph these subjects.

We also have an exciting announcement coming up on February 4th that you won't want to miss!

In closing, I hope all our members had a good Christmas holiday and we want to wish you a very prosperous New Year.

Get your gear out, dust it off and see what you can find to improve your photography skills! Don't be afraid to try something new or different from the norm! You may be surprised at what you come up with!

Linda Feick

Bob Bembridge
Communications Chair



The Communication Chair's Two Cents

It is once again time to provide some input for the newsletter from my perspective. I find it difficult to say something different because most information is already on the web site, member's site, Face book page or has been emailed to the membership. A lot of time is spent maintaining these means of communications and trying to keep them interesting so I assume you already know what is going on in the club.

We have sent out a number of emails where you are requested to reply to someone else other than me. I continually receive the reply and have to forward them on to the appropriate sender. I tried clicking on the link the other day and discovered I got an email form started with the address filled in but everything else was blank. I see the problem now. I am in another association and they provide a link in their emails that takes you to a page where you can fill in your information. I like that and found a way to make that work. You get a confirmation and the interested sender gets an email with your reply. All the information is stored in a spreadsheet for the event organizer. I will be trying that.

If you take some pictures at a club event and want to share them and a little write up, forward them to me and I can put them on the club site for the world to see (that's actually about 150 people max).

The club year seems to be going well. We have had a few glitches, but I think we recovered well. Looks like we have an interesting program for the remainder of the year and even have a few events planned for after the Year End Gala. (Photography events in the warm weather.)

Keep clicking, BoB



Website: www.woodstockcameraclub.com

Bill Thompson
Program Chair



Welcome to the 2015 version of the Woodstock Camera Club. We will be continuing with some fantastic guest speakers (check your programs) and have updated a couple of trips. The Fernlea Flowers trip has been replaced with a partnered trip to Niagara Falls planned by the London Camera Club. Yes, it will be colder there than a February 7th in Florida, but you won't get a chance to photograph ice and mist unless you go to Niagara. If you have only been to see the Falls in the summer, make plans to see them in February for a much different experience.

Later on, in June, you can tour the new Aquarium in Toronto with a bus tour run by James Cowie. This will take you underwater (for a different view only) and extend our club year into June again.

And ongoing throughout the program are the sharing photographs on the website where you can view and critique members submissions and the remaining contests that Jeff Brown, Contest Chair, has organized. Come out, participate, and enjoy your photography.

Regards, Bill

Santa returns to Woodstock

The Woodstock Camera Club had another successful year at Santa House. The Jolly Elf himself sure had his hands full this year, what with no snow for most of the month, the barn too cold for the reindeer, Mrs. Claus making too many cookies for the elves and trying to decide what list to put the visiting children on!

The questions that the children asked this year were priceless and the pictures below give a sense that all were not happy to see Santa Claus this year. The youngest one this year was just 2 days old!



Much to Santa's surprise Miranda and Mark pulled up in a black limo, on the way to their wedding reception, just to make sure Santa had their list before they went on their honeymoon! A first for him I'm sure.

We would like to thank Kelly Morrison and the Woodstock BIA for having us help Santa again this year. Also a special thank you to all our members who helped out and filled in when needed.

We look forward to helping Santa again next year.

Linda Feick - Volunteer Coordinator

Trip to Niagara Falls, Ontario

The WCC Fernlea Flowers Outing on February 7th was cancelled due to the flowers not being at their peak. Since the date was open the London Camera Club invited the Woodstock Camera Club members to join them on a bus trip to Niagara Falls to photograph the butterflies at the Butterfly Conservatory, the Falls, and optional activities at the Bird Kingdom, Clifton Hill plus the Sunset. Thank you to the London Camera Club for the invitation.

More WCC outings have been planned. March 22nd will be a visit to Long Point and April 18th the club will be visiting waterfalls of the historic Niagara Escarpment.

The Tundra Swans Returning



By the last days of February, we will see and hear tundra swans migrating north across Southwestern Ontario. The swans are good weather forecasters and know when the lakes are covered with ice and temperatures have plummeted. Last year the birds did arrive late, because of these conditions.

The WCC members will be traveling this year to Long Point on March 22 for their annual trip

to photograph the swans. It is hard to plan when the birds will return this year, but if there is a date change the members will be informed.

Even though the tundra swans came later last year, photographers and bird watchers still eagerly anticipate their arrival and embraced these and other early migrants as an unofficial start to spring.

Majestic white birds are a marvelous sight when in flight. The birds are very vocal and you can hear the flocks coming in the distance. They are all just flying through, winging their way to their high arctic breeding grounds. By being the first ones to their summer nesting grounds they can lay claim to the best nesting areas. Although the tundra swans do get quite a bit of attention, it is equally exciting to see other early species returning.

Sign up at the club meeting for this outing to photograph the swans.



Bill Thompson, Program Chair and David McCammon

David McCammon is a Kitchener photographer with a wide background and interest in teaching workshops. His presentation on January 21st was from his Volunteer project, an innovative way to take photography and to highlight the volunteers in your community.

Check out David's websites.

www.davidmphoto.com

www.creativephotographyclass.com



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What are the WCC members doing today?

Mike Poole

I've always been fascinated by cameras, from meagre beginnings with a little 110 Instamatic camera with the plastic film cartridge and tiny negatives to the incredible image making machines of today. My first real camera, a Canon AV-1 35mm was purchased during university. I still have that camera and appreciate the solid heft and smooth mechanical action of its manual focus lenses, which is largely missing from today's cameras. Taking pictures was so much more deliberate, with each image costing fifty cents or so! How did we ever survive being restricted to 400 iso and one shot at a time? Nature and wildlife photography is my favourite activity because it combines a love of outdoors and numerous other hobbies, all activities very different from my career in finance. The camera always comes along whether we are hiking, kayaking or cross country skiing. By combining activities, every day is a good day, even if no good photographs are a result. Work obligations for the last five years have really limited my free time but I recommend travel as a great way to expand your photographic options. Each year we try to visit the French River area and Algonquin Park. Both areas offer endless photographic opportunities within a reasonable distance.



Locally I can often be found paddling at the Pittock Lake taking advantage of the variety of wildlife found there.



Each August there is an influx of green herons which are very entertaining to watch. In September 2013, we went to Tanzania and loved every minute of it.

This coming September we will be going to British Columbia to photograph grizzly bears, one more checkmark on the bucket list!

Photography equipment doesn't have to be



Our trip to Tanzania

grossly expensive. I would recommend spending the time to decide what you really need, do some research and then get it. Consider buying used. Often times people purchase nice cameras and find they are not using them, only to sell at a loss. Good lenses make the most sense and hold their value much better than the latest, greatest camera body. I've had Canon "L" lenses which I have purchased used, enjoyed for a few years and then re-sold at a minimum loss. Kijiji can be a good source, but be careful as there are some crooks out there.

I really enjoy sharing my work with others through my website and social media, and when asked am very happy to offer any assistance I can about technique. People are surprised that our walls have very few printed images on them, but my mom has a beautiful 3 feet by 3 feet owl image on her living room wall.

by Mike Mike



Ruth Ann Rule

Why did you want to become a photographer? That was the big question posed to me when I suggested photography as a hobby. To answer that question,

I worked in a creative environment as a Media Graphic Artist and it was coming to an end after 43 years of service.

Photography was on my bucket list. In the fall of 2007 I went with friends to the Woodstock Camera Club that was located in the Carman's Foto Source basement and joined a small group that was interested in photography. The club provided an excellent opportunity to improve my skills and knowledge, a venue to challenge those skills, and a place to share and socialize.

With my point and shoot camera I was off on a northern photo shoot weekend to take some macro and landscape images. Not knowing what a macro shot was at that time I went on the outing any way. Coming upon a group of photographers looking down at the ground, I approached the circle and asked, "what are you doing" and at the same time stepped right on

their subject - rare mini mushrooms. Was I embarrassed? - Yes! Some may not want this story told over and over again, but to me it keeps reminding me of how far I have come with my photography.

I became an active member in the WCC and joined the newsletter team, became the contest chair for several years, co-ordinated the Year End Galas and created a Photo Art and Youth Contest. For what the club had given me, I wanted to give back.

A SLR camera was my next purchase and I entered images into contests. I found this was a learning tool for me and it encouraged me to move forward. Now I enjoy watching new members enter contests and learn like I did. I am a carefree photographer with very little equipment. A lot of my subjects are usually found off the beaten path and subjects that had been forgotten. A spontaneous moment can produce the most interesting and enduring image. I delight in creating floral macro images that explode with colour and detail and also enjoy texture and detail in black and white photography by transforming a commonplace scene into a striking, artistic image.

With all the images that were in my collection I wanted to find a place where I could exhibit and sell my work. I became a founding member of the Oxford Photographic Arts Guild (OPAG), a group of artists who use photography as their medium for artistic expression and jointly exhibit and market their art. I also became a member of the Oxford Creative Connections - exhibiting at OCC art shows and art galleries in Oxford County, Lambert and Brantford.

My artwork along with other OPAG members is featured monthly at the Quality Hotel and Suites Gallery.

I owe my advancement in photography to the Woodstock Camera Club and Ted at Highlander Studios for sending me on this photo journey. You will not see me in any magazines, nor will I be a well-known world wide photographer, but you will find me wondering the back roads and places, discovering along the way and enjoying every minute of it. Retirement is great!

by Ruth Ann Rule

Acknowledging accomplishments is an important element of the creative process.

Write down your accomplishments and share with the Woodstock Camera Club members - we want to hear your story.

You can submit your story or just send in the points and we write your editorial for you.

Send to ralrule@rogers.com.