



Woodstock Camera Club

A community of photographers sharing the art of photography

- Congratulations to the WCC Contest #3 Winners -



John Novak - Contest Chair

It is my pleasure once again to announce the finalists of the third Woodstock Camera Club contest:

Reflection Category: - 1st Place Dave Feick - *Red Necked Grebe*;
2nd Place Tim Stewart - *I miss you Dad*;
3rd Place Bronwyn Moody - *Tranquillity*.

Open Category: - 1st Place John Nicol - *Preparing by candle light*;
2nd Place Bronwyn Moody - *Hey, is it lunchtime yet?*;
3rd Place Fred Conboy - *Running water*.

Congratulations go out to all the winners and to all the entrants for your valuable and creative input because you have helped make the contest a success. We received 37 entries from 22 members, 17 prints and 20 digital images, all of which gave our judges an enjoyably challenging job. Winners were selected by an expert panel of judges that included highly qualified photographers Harold Watling, from Woodstock and Vic Whitcroft, from Norwich and we invited a person who is both an Artist, accomplished Photographer, and past Advertising Art Director - Earle Barr from Tillsonburg. Earle as a youngster attended art classes at the Art Gallery of Ontario started by 'Group of Seven' painter Arthur Lismer.

We thank the judges for their excellent work and expertise. Thanks also goes to Dave & Linda Feick, Brian Harris and Jeff Brown for assisting with the judging.

Our third contest has come to an end but there is the Photo Art contest right around the corner in April and a new round of contests in the 2016-2017 season.

It has been a pleasure being your Contest Chair this year and I hope everyone who participated has both enjoyed the experience and learned what they did well and where they can progress to take their photographic skills to the next level. The end of year Gala is just around the horizon at which time the award winners for the year will be announced and I hope to see many of you there.

John Novak

Spring - A long Awaited Season

In the last newsletter I was saying that the club had returned from a Christmas break and here it is April already - a month we have been patiently waiting for, but our spring has been fooling us with occasional warm and cold spells and snow in April. By the time the newsletter has reached the members I hope we have seasonal weather and everyone is out taking photos.

Spring is the season for capturing the beauty of nature. It is a beautiful and amazing time of the year, a season that brings nature back to life after a cold winter. The spring leaves us with an open book of ideas for picture taking, a season of new beginnings. - new buds bloom, flowers popping from the soil, animals awaken and the earth seems to come to life again. Farmers and gardeners plant their seeds and temperatures slowly rise. Remember everything is showing their best at this time of year.

There will be one more newsletter in June featuring the awards and the highlights of the Gala. I enjoy paginating the newsletter, collecting editorials and capturing the odd picture but, without members submitting editorial and pictures the newsletter would not be a success and we thank you for that. Special thanks to the newsletter team for helping with quality control. The WCC and the newsletters will start up once again in the fall. If you would like to submit photo opportunities or stories please email to ralrule@rogers.com or jhcornell@execulink.com

Ruth Ann Rule

Reflections



First Place Winner

Dave Feick

Red Necked Grebe



© Dave Feick

Open Category



First Place Winner

John Nicol

Preparing by Candle Light



© John Nicol

WCC Year End Gala

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016

WCC members will meet this year for the Year End Gala at the **Emmanuel Reformed Church** on Clarke Street, Woodstock. (Door on the south side of church and go to the Lower Floor).

This will be a night of celebrating photographer's achievements and awards will be presented to the winners of the 3 Woodstock Camera Club Contests and the Photo Art Contest.

Come out and enjoy an evening of socializing and a "Sweet & Salty Potluck". Members please bring a dessert or a salty treat.

2nd & 3rd Winners - Reflections



2nd Place
Tim Stewart



©TimStewart
I miss You Dad



3rd Place
Bronwyn Moody



©Bronwyn Moody

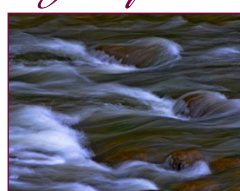
Tranquillity

2nd & 3rd Winners - Open Category



©Bronwyn Moody

2nd Place
Bronwyn Moody
Hey, is it lunch time yet?



©Fred Conboy

3rd Place
Fred Conboy
Running Water

Gadgets and More Gadgets!



Antony Chodas

Antony Chodas from Forest City Image Centre in London was the guest speaker at the March 16th Woodstock Camera Club meeting.

This evening was Gadget Night to see and hear about the direction cameras are moving in and see unique gadgets that will make a photographer's life a little easier.

Antony suggested that if you have an over loaded camera bag and find it heavy to carry, it is time to downsize as there is a very good se-

lection of compact camera bags on the market. Members found the cameras and gadgets that were displayed on the tables very interesting.

Forest City Image Centre is unique and the staff provides customers with a one-stop shopping experience for photographic and digital hardware services. You can find Antony downtown at 217 Dundas Street, on the corner of Clarence in London.

WCC members, Bill Hall, Perry Hughes, Paul Smith and John Novak also presented some homemade and store bought gadgets that they found useful while photographing.

A Gopro camera and an app for controlling your camera from your phone were some of the great ideas presented that evening.

If you can not afford new gadgets just use your imagination. Can you believe you can take a strong string and create a tripod? Bill Hall demonstrated this and he finds the tripod useful in places where they do not allow them and it is great for traveling. Also, see a video on the website: "How to: DIY string tripod - YouTube". This will take you through a way to construct this kind of tripod. Another idea was to put a large clip on your belt and clip your accessories or hat on it to free up your hands when photographing and hiking. Drop in and see Antony and I am sure he will advise you on all your photography needs.

Thousands of Tundra Swans Arrived in Aylmer

Brian Harris, Dave Feick, Robina Cullen and Jeff Brown took a trip to Aylmer to photograph the Tundra Swans.

Thousands of these magnificent birds use the Aylmer Wildlife Management Area to refuel on their migration to the Arctic Region between Alaska and Baffin Island.



Photos by ©Brian Harris

The tundra swans' flight north was underway at the end of February in Long Point with some spottings in early March, however it's really the middle of March when the floodgates open. Some swans fly through Southwestern Ontario on their way north. These swans congregate in the open water where they will rest. You can also find these birds feeding in the fields as you drive the country roads. Along with the tundra swans, you will see mergansers, ducks, grebes, and geese returning. This year swans visited Lake Lisgar in Tillsonburg, which was unusual. This gave photographers a close up view.

What a great time to get out your cameras to get a few images of birds returning from the south. You can follow the arrival of birds on the web.

St. Mary's Camera Club FUNRAISER

The St. Mary's club is selling bean bags (\$30.00) so you can rest your camera on the car window or other places instead of using a tripod. The club's fundraising is for purchasing equipment. If you are interested in purchasing a bean bag to support our fellow photographers in St. Mary's, contact Bill Hall.

The bean bag can really come in handy and holds a camera securely. Strap it to a camera bag with a bungee cord. If you are traveling or you are not allowed to use a tripod in a location, you can still use the beanbag.

What are the WCC members doing Today?



Karen Aubin

Photography has always been a real passion for me from the age of twelve when I had my first camera. Growing up in Northern Ontario, I spent every moment outdoors, fishing, snow shoeing, skiing, hunting, hiking, later ATVing and camping. I enjoy the outdoors, watching the movements of the wildlife, especially birds, while I photograph them. Walking in the bush in the fall is my favourite time of year, it brings back happy memories.



I am a mother of three and I work part time as a software analyst.

I decided to join the WCC in January 2014. At that time it had been two years since the death of my husband and it was time to do something I loved, like photography. At the club it has been a wonderful experience making new friends, and learning new techniques. Prior to joining the club most of my photography education has been from reading books and magazines.

In the past four years I have had the wonderful opportunity to travel a great deal; in 2012, I drove my truck camper to Victoria BC; in 2013, I traveled to the Gaspé Peninsula; in 2014 to PEI with my mother. I also traveled to Europe last year on a river cruise, Bucharest, Romania to Amsterdam. This coming fall I will be traveling with my Aunt and sister to the Orient and will be taking a 28 day cruise from Tokyo, going to South Korea, China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand, finishing in Singapore.

I had the opportunity this February to travel with James Cowie, Photo Trekkers to Montebello, Quebec to see the wolves at Park Omega.

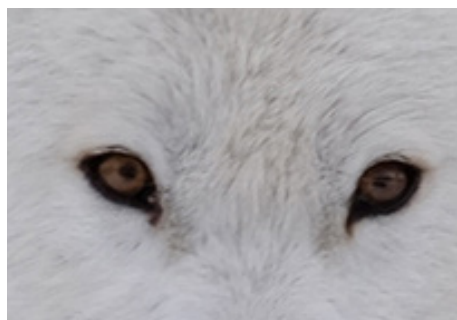
My first bus trip with a group was a lot of fun and a wonderful opportunity to learn more about photography and to meet new people with the same interests.

I'm already planning my summer camping and fishing trip this summer with my identical twin sister. Once again I will be packing my camera to capture many more photo opportunities.

Karen Aubin



All Photos by ©Karen Aubin



Photoshop Elements Basic Course



On March 19th Bob Bembridge introduced 4 club members to a Basic Course in Photoshop Elements held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in Woodstock. Topics like: how to get your photos from camera to the computer, the organizer, a work flow you can use, camera raw, cloning, cleaning and saving your finished product made for a full day of learning. The course ran from 9:00 to 4:00 pm. Thank you to Bob for sharing his knowledge. The next workshop will be with Robina Cullen in her portrait studio.

Donating to the needs of others



Linda Feick,
WCC President
presenting a
cash and food
donation to
Mitchell.



WCC members collected non-perishable items to donate to Salvation Army Food Bank that is located on Huron Street in Woodstock. Quite a number of personal items and a total of \$50.00 was collected.

On March 17th, Linda and Dave Feick dropped off the donations to Mitchell at the Food Bank and he was overwhelmed with the generosity of the Woodstock Camera Club. Many are in great need in our community and count on local organizations to help out in these very trying times. This donation from the club will go a long way in helping others.

Thanks goes out to our members for their kindness and generosity to this worthwhile cause.

The Salvation Food Bank is run by volunteers providing canned and boxed goods, bread, emergency items and much more. If you are interesting in volunteering at the Food Bank contact the Salvation Army Volunteer Program.

The History of Photography



On March 2nd the WCC members met at the Woodstock Art Gallery to listen to Mary Reid, Curator, who spoke on the History of Photography and Contemporary Trends in Canadian Photography.



*Linda Feick
President Report*

Has anyone else noticed how fast this camera club year has gone! It seems like we just got started and the year has flown by, leaving us behind! It has been a busy few months for our club, what with having guest speakers in, helping with the Alzheimer's Association walk and judging three CAPA competitions.

A few of our die hard members even went on some outings despite the cold weather and the snow! Just when we thought we were going to have beautiful April weather to get out and photograph spring, mother nature changed her mind and decided to give us a little more winter... as if we haven't had enough already! We even went back to school for an evening!

We have a few things to look forward to as we get closer to the end of our camera club year. We have the judging for our photographic art competition and then it will be election time again.

Immediately following that will be our Sweet & Salty Gala! June will be bringing us to the Relay for Life again to do all the team photos. This will be our 11th year that we have contributed our time and photographic skills to the relay. I am sad to see this camera club year end but I'm so looking forward to warmer weather, get-togethers and outings with friends and our new fall program. Sounds like I'm getting ahead of myself, but it will be here before we know it!

Take care and enjoy our spring weather, that I'm sure is right around the corner, I hope!

Linda Feick

Hiking Trails and Photography

The Thames River Trail

Oxford Thames River Trail was a dream born in 2007 funded by The Ontario Trillium Foundation that was built on county-owned lands, along the Thames River, between Beachville and Woodstock. The trail is hoping to be open this year. Their hope is to create a passive, non-motorized trail that will be accessible to trail users of all ages and abilities. Maintained trails to the highest possible standards allow hikers the opportunity to explore the historically significant heritage river. There is an outlook platform to bird watch or for photographers. Walk, Bike, Ski - Enjoy Nature At It's best.

Trillium Woods Trail

This wide, well maintained trail is a single loop through a mature maple sugar bush. It is a nice walk for the whole family.

In the spring you will find it covered with wild flowers and Trilliums. This delightful trail is located across the street from Jakeman's Maple Products near Sweaburg, Ontario

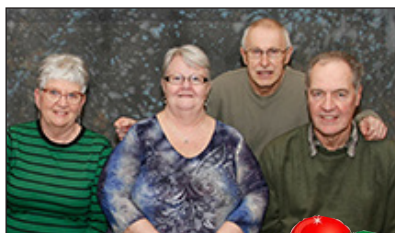


*Bill Hall
Program Chair*

It's hard to believe that the year is almost over. Our last guest speaker of the year is Eric Dumigan on April 13th. He is known through out the world for his outstanding air-to-air photography. April 27th is a Walkabout Night. It will be a fun scavenger hunt that will test your powers of observation and give you a chance to practice your low-light photo skills. As of this writing, there is still space available for the Portrait Workshop on May 14th, contact me if you wish to register. We're having a little trouble finding dates that will work for the other workshops. Any that we are unable to run this spring, will be scheduled for early fall. As I'm writing this, there is 2" of fresh snow on the ground, but spring is definitely in the air, so put some fresh batteries in your camera and get out there. Happy Shooting.

Bill Hall

Roch Carrier French Immersion School Event "Rock the Night"



Yvonne Boniface, Linda Feick, Frank Calic and Dave Feick rocked the night at the French Immersion School Event. Along with everyone else the WCC photographers found costumes from the Tickle Trunk. It was a full evening of fun and photographing the students, families and guests.

Volunteers Needed

Cancer Relay for Life

The club is looking for volunteers to take photos of the teams and also candid shots.
If interested contact Linda Feick.



*Jerry Cornell
Communications*

Well folks, here we are looking forward to the spring that we thought we were about to have a short while ago.

As most of what I do as the communications person takes place on a regular meeting to meeting basis, I don't have a lot to pass on in this newsletter.

It's been a lot of fun getting information to the members over the last club year and hearing comments back from time to time. The job of the communications person is to keep the WCC membership informed and I enjoy being involved very much.

That said, we are not done yet – if you are planning any local photography ventures and would like to let us know about them, please do and we can pass it on.

Jerry Cornell

Come Walk With Us



Photos from 2013 Walk About

On Wednesday, April 27th the WCC meeting will be a Walkabout Night and Scavenger Hunt at 6:30 pm. Bring your camera and tripod or maybe a handy string tripod and discover.

Announcement for location and meeting place will be at the April 13th meeting. This is your opportunity to capture images of your community and maybe catch a few street photographs too.

We are sure that the photographers will have different visions. Some of the members are more interested in details while others have wide angle vision. You do not need to shoot an entire building but maybe concentrate on the details such as door knobs, peeling paint, textures and remember to look up and see what is on the buildings. It doesn't matter what your style is, when you are out on a photo walk, there will be things that trigger you and stir up an emotion and prompt you to click the shutter. These are things such as lighting, bright colours and different objects. Lighting and the moment is often fleeting so capture the objects right away. Have fun on the walk and we will be looking forward to seeing the photos.

Arctic Wolves' Photo Shoot

In February WCC members, Bill Hall, Deb Hall, Karen Aubin and Kim Eller joined James Cowie to photograph the arctic wolves at Parc Omega Montebello, Quebec. It is a photographer's dream to see and photograph wolves up close.

On the way to Montebello, the group stopped in Hull, Quebec to photograph the Parliament buildings from across the river.



Unlike Woodstock, there was lots of snow accompanied by cold temperatures. After the long drive, it was nice to settle in and sit by the

fire at Chateau Montebello.



Photos by James Cowie

The next day they all headed out for a day of photography at Parc Omega. Within the park there are several areas for opportunities to photograph the twenty-four different species of wildlife. In addition to the wolves you will see arctic fox, red fox, coyotes, wild boar, deer, caribou, bison and moose just to name a few. There were amazing photo opportunities, it was a full day.

After supper a few photographers took their

tripods and headed outside for some great night photography.

The last day started with a stop at Pleasance Waterfalls to photograph the frozen landscape. After a quick stop in Ottawa for a group photo on Parliament Hill, they headed home.

The next Photo Tours:

- Galapagos Islands - June 4th to 14th or October 22nd to November 1st, 2016.
- Chicago Weekend Photo Tour - June 24th to 26th, 2016. See Chicago and capture landscapes of the city.

For additional information, download the Photo Tours Trekker brochure.

James looks forward to having you join him on the next adventure.

Contact James at 519 679 8520 ex 2223 or

Gift Donations for Gala

If you would like to donate a gift for the Year End Gala please call Linda Feick or Ruth Ann Rule



Discover the perfect venue for all your desires in hospitality excellence!

- Complimentary Hot Breakfast • A modern on-site GoodLife fitness facility with 14,000 sq. ft. of equipment - open 24 hours on weekdays • Business Centre
- Complimentary Wireless Internet Access in all meeting rooms & bedrooms
- Outdoor Pool • 135 spacious guest rooms and suites

Our full service banquet facility can cater to all your special occasions.



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