Message from the President
Sam J. Heron

We have two months left in our year before our summer break. Spring is in the air and there’s no better time to get out and take some photos. It’s great to see all the great work being created by our members. The club made a great showing this year at the GTCCC inter club competition placing 10th as a club out of the 20 who participated. Thank you to everyone who entered and congratulations to all the acceptances, honourable mentions, and places!

In another great example of our club’s creativity we just wrapped up our member-led meeting in April. We have been debating doing this twice per year and if you’d like to see something like that please reach out to the nearest board member and let them know!

We are looking forward to our end of year meeting on June 27th at the St. Francis Centre. Check the meetup site for details in the coming weeks.

Sam

Make great things
APC Member Meeting: 
Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Presenter: Norm Ullock
From Grab Shot to Art

APC welcomes Oshawa Camera Club’s, award winning photographer, Norm Ullock on Tuesday May 23rd, 2017. He will be presenting on compositional techniques from capture to photo art. Bring a photo friend.

APC Member Meeting: 
Tuesday, June 27, 2017

Presenter: Trina Koster

June 27th, 2017 will be APC’s AGM and second gala evening, with fantastic photography and fabulous food. The format will be similar to last year with photo essay presentations and photo clinic results. We are very pleased to announce our presenter for June’s evening: Award-winning and professional photographer Trina Koster from Guelph. Trina has been teaching & shooting since 1995 and will be sharing her love of image-making and introducing students to new ways of seeing the world through photography through her focus on portraiture and travel photography. Her creative talent is in portraiture and travel photography. See Trina’s website http://trinakoster.com

Along with Trina we may have a special guest from Santiago de Cuba, educator German Portuondo. German is a surrealist painter, professor of art and sociology at the University of Santiago. He’s also the director of the Guillermo Collazo Galeria de Arte in Chivirico, Cuba.
Last newsletter Angela wrote a wonderful piece on not buying the newest/sharpest/fastest lenses you can and I want to pick up where that article left off. I agree with all of her points particularly renting expensive lenses and adapting older lenses to modern cameras. If you haven’t read it please check out our last newsletter at this link: [https://goo.gl/vFiKHR] I certainly have a blend of new vs. old but if I look back at the images from the past 3 years, most of my favourites were taken with vintage, second hand, or modern manual focus lenses.

Quick story: in the months before I was born my father bought a Contax Quartz 139 SLR to help document my childhood - and later my sister’s. Years later he pressed it into my hand as he dropped me off for university telling me the story of its purpose and that it was mine now. I still have that camera and the three lenses he bought for it, and recently took his portrait - 30 some years later - with one of those lenses adapted onto my current Sony camera.

What we’re all trying to do is tell the best story possible. While a rapid-fire motor drive at 12, 14, or 20fps might help catch that moment between moments that best expresses your vision, thinking about what to include, what to exclude and the atmosphere of your environment will impact your images more than frames per second and make you, and your work stronger.

If you engage your brain and your heart as much as your shutter finger you will be better for it. Slow down and let them all work together.
Member Showcase

Post processing class • photo by Ron Pereux

Lightpainting Workshop • photo by Todd Murrison

Lynde Shore meetup • photo by Richard Cousineau

Members Photo Feedback Forum
photo by Ella Jeans
As we wind up the 2016-2017 photo year, I’m shocked by how time flies. This year’s theme is Creativity it was on display in the member presentations at April’s member meeting. We saw time-lapse, travel, wildlife, concert, and black and white photography. Some of our newest members shared some very inspirational slideshows and I can’t help but marvel (and thank them) for their courage to participate. Thank you to everyone who shared.

A notable outing for me this past month was to Lynde Shore Conservation area in south Whitby. It was a good turnout with lots of opportunities to capture local wildlife. It was my first time using a long lens, the Sigma 150 to 600mm telephoto. I don’t usually shoot wildlife but I believe it’s important to broaden our understanding and practice of photography. I certainly learned more about working with fast moving objects, like the Chick-a-Dee.

Here is an example of one of my first attempts (if only they would hold still).

Michelle Valberg was the keynote presenter at the GTCCC 2017 Capture Day and Awards Banquet on April 22nd. Her work surrounding Canada’s Arctic showed the beauty of the people, wildlife and ever-changing landscape. I really recommend her photo book titled Arctic Kaleidoscope. A highlight of the evening was the first-prize win for our own member John Stager in the “Pure Nature” category. Overall this year, and out of over 3000 entries, we had seven members qualify, and APC placed 10th out of 20 camera clubs. The APC has evolved so much, so quickly.

Also keep in mind this month is the Contact Festival in Toronto. If you have time, check out the many talented Toronto photography exhibits, workshops, installations and projects. See link: http://scotiabankcontactphoto.co
APC Exhibits

Frans Grootveld

APC Exhibits
We currently have Exhibits in 4 locations, stretching our resources to the limit.

Ajax/Pickering Hospital
The Hospital exhibit was refreshed on March 29th. The current display features 6 photographs each from John Stager and Todd Murrison. This display will be up until late June. These images are available for sale to the public with part of the proceeds supporting the Hospital Foundation. Past exhibitors have sold their photographs including this one by Ron Pereux from the last exhibit.

“Don’t Forget about me” Photo by Ron Pereux

Ajax Public Library
There is an exhibit in the Rotary Room at the Ajax Library which went up April 3rd and will be on display until May 1st. There are 30 plus images on display.

Town Hall
On April 13th an exhibit was put up in the Town Hall featuring 15 photographs.

This exhibit will on display until June 1st.

Debbie’s Café (an APC sponsor)
The ongoing display at Debbie’s was refreshed on April 5th featuring 10 photographs from past APC competitions. The display at Debbie’s is refreshed approximately every 8 weeks.

At Debbie’s customers are encourage to vote for their favourite image, placing votes in a bowl on top of the dessert counter beside the display. Debbie kindly donates gift cards for the winners of each display. The votes were tallied for the display that was removed on April 5th with Marlene Phillips placing 1st, Frans Grootveld 2nd an Anne Buffet and Ron Pereux tied for 3rd. Each will get a Debbies gift certificate.

"Don’t Forget about me" Photo by Ron Pereux
APC Contests & Clinics

Richard Cousineau, C.E.T.
APC VP & Program Director - Contests and Clinics

APC members have another great opportunity this month to participate in another photo clinic and also our year end print competition.

The deadline for the APC Year End Print competition was May 8th so hopefully you got your prints in!

Digital images will be printed and matted by APC for the competition. There are no subject categories. This open to your choice of subjects.

GTCCC Open Challenge Competition

The APC is proud to announce that member, John Stager placed first in the GTCCC Open Challenge in the Natural Wildlife category, while Todd Murrison and Frans Grootveld received Honourable Mention in Landscape and Pictorial respectively. The APC had 18 images from 6 photographers make it to the “accepted” stage. Of a total of over 3000 entries only about 1000 get to this stage. The accepted images are live judged and awards given in each of 12 categories including prints.

1st Place • Photo by John Stager

Honourable mention • Photo by Todd Murrison

Honourable mention • Photo by Frans Grootveld
Hello APC members and guests,

I am writing to share some joy. This is a terrific book and the author is a top favourite of mine. For several years, I have been reading and learning from Bryan Peterson. The copy in my hands has a penned writing under the front cover. A friend gave it to me as a gift with her inscription to celebrate a milestone.

Bryan’s style is relaxed and friendly and this is a good style for education. He is an award-winning author of dozens of books. You will find several of his lessons on YouTube. I find that his delivery is very effective and enjoy him as a teacher.

The first section outlines the exposure triangle concepts with explanations, examples and exercises. Then on page 28, Bryan introduces what I consider the pivotal point for the key message of the book. Here he describes six creative exposure starting points. You could think of them as base recipes. There are three creative options adjusting aperture and three creative options adjusting shutter. Next there are two major sections of the book explaining how to creatively use each of the aperture and shutter settings. There are exercises provided throughout the sections of the book. When you are ready, you can adjust any of the ingredients to make the recipe settings suit your taste and the situation.

Take away: With the recipes and the knowledge from the sections of the book you will be more prepared.

Now when you approach a scene you be able to consider the six recipes to select one or more that you would like to apply creatively as a starting point. That’s a wrap. I have shared my recommendation for this author and this book. I hope you get one as a gift or maybe you will find it at a book seller. I am convinced that you will enjoy the learning.
Camp Sumac Photo Retreat
October 13-15, 2017

Carol Painter

Once again The Ajax Photography Club will be hosting the 2nd Annual Photography Retreat at Sumac. The date for this fun filled relaxing weekend is October 13th - 15th, 2017. For those wondering where exactly Sumac is located, it is approximately 2 1/2 hours northeast of the Durham region in Mountain Grove, Ontario on the way to Ottawa and just past Kaladar/Bon Echo Provincial Park. Far from the metropolis, the area is peaceful and serene. The lodge is on the side of a small lake and surrounded by hundreds of acres of natural forest. The south wall of the common room is windowed so you can enjoy the view of the lake and scenery. You will find yourself wanting to explore the different trails and always finding something new to see, whether it is a small waterfall with a meandering stream or the beauty of the trees.

This is a relaxing, social semi-structured weekend, where you will learn from fellow photographers. Enjoy sharing your photos, getting tips on editing. There is lots of time to go off on your own or join a group who is venturing off to explore, including early morning sunrise and sunset photos along with some light painting at night.

The price for this fun-filled weekend which includes your accommodations (shared), all meals, great company and scenery is $170. A $65 deposit is required to hold your spot. Reserve your spot quickly as there is only room for 16 people.

For more information, feel free to talk to either Carol Painter, Roy Robinson or Eileen Nixon.