

## President's Message #9

"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime."

Babe Ruth

Our AGM is going to be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> at Norway House.

It's hard to believe but it's been a year since a new board was elected and what a lot of changes we have seen.

First some thanks for the great team the Board of Directors were. They are Bob Law, Dennis Crabtree, Ian Faris, Jason Frank, Margaret McNay, and Rilla Ballantine. It was a pleasure and an honor to work with these talented people. Their dedication to the club and their vision for the club to succeed and grow was inspiring. Unfortunately, we are losing 2 positions on the board of directors, they are Ian and Jason. They will be missed.

Let's start with our blog. Roger Botting, our Editor, has been working very hard to get those blog posts out there. We want to thank all those who wrote articles to be posted for the last year and we want that to continue, as well as more members contributing articles. We really want the committees to use the blog to get the word of what of they do. Roger has been a one-man show this last year and we need to find at least 2 Assistant Editors to help him. Thanks again Roger for your hard work.

Just an update: we are at 370 subscribers, and we now have subscribers and contributors from around the world from Scotland to Tasmania. We are truly around the globe. It's really great for the club.

I want to thank my friends and past President's Danielle LaBonte' and Steve Sproston. They did a fantastic job on Presenter's Night and had a wide variety of speakers from all over. Unfortunately, they will not be able to continue in that role. This is another opportunity for someone to contribute to our club by stepping forward and getting a new slate of presenters for our enjoyment and education. Good luck Danielle and Steve.

The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary is an ongoing project and has been headed by Ian, Dennis, Richard Letourneau, and many others who have contributed to the celebration. Ian, thankfully, has decided to stay on to finish the 80<sup>th</sup> celebration as he has been the leader for most of it.

The External Competitions lead by Jim Fowler and his team are on fire this year. They are winning awards again for our club. It's nice to see Jim's team putting us back in the lead as that is where we belong.

Internal Competitions is also doing a bang-up job being led by Sharon Moysey and Judy Plummer. They have a well-run committee and it's always nice to attend their Norway House Competitions Night.

Workshops, led by Alec Lee and his great team have really done a marvellous job again. They fill up the calendar with just about everything related to making our club members better photographers. From iPhone photography and postproduction to everything in between. Just a great job.

My friend Rilla and her team have again taken us on some fantastic field trips. Rilla and her team always manage to keep finding places to go and she has many more lined up this year.

Our Secretary, Margaret, pulled off a coup by convincing Camosun College to set up the Camosun College Student Photography Award and she as liaison for this year. This is a huge accomplishment and Margaret deserves all the praise for pulling it off. This a big feather in our cap for our club.

Our SIG's hold a big place in the club and many of our club members enjoy being part of that group. They are Nature led by Jim Gardner, Street led by Bill Green, and Creative led by Kevin Keliler. Many times, with my talks with club members, they tell me how much they love the SIG's and it's their favorite part of the club. Keep up the good work.

I want to mention David Cox and Jerome Rozitis who put a lot of effort into Membership. They are the first contact the new members have with the club, so have a very important role getting people into the club. I work closely with David and Jerome as they give me the names of the new members so I can call them to welcome them to the club.

And last but no way least are our website team of Greg Braney, Lori Moilanen and Richard Letourneau as advisor. Our club would not exist if we didn't have

our website. Douglas Layden works with Quadra Street Designs behind the scenes on our blog making sure it has the latest updates and fixes, so it runs smoothly.

As I said in the beginning, we've had a lot of changes.

Firstly, we got our picture in the newspaper. Bob Law and I had an article written up in the Times Colonist and many other local papers. That, I think was a first for the club.

Next, we reached out to the Saanich Fall Fair to set up their annual Photo Contest. That is also a first. Dennis and his team did just a superb job getting it going and we made a lot of contacts and made some new members. It showcased us as a club and made an impression at the Fair.

Also, our blog has grown and grown and is now around the world. This will give us a chance to see what other people in other parts of the world do in photography and will contribute articles. Our club will benefit from that knowledge.

As I mentioned earlier, Margaret has set up a scholarship with Camosun College. This is also a first and a big first at that.

Our membership is still growing. At the highest we were at 265 members. We are close to matching the biggest club in Canada. We may have lost a few since then, however.

I will continue to reach out to other clubs and promote our blog to as many people as possible. I will work tirelessly to reach the goal I set for the club of 275 members. I have one more year in my term to achieve that goal.

If I forgot to mention anyone, my apologies. Everyone in the club has an important role to play and everyone of you contributes something to the club and makes our club that much stronger.

My first job, as President, is to make sure everyone feels at home in our club and is welcomed at our club.

James Dies – President – Victoria Camera Club.

Blah, blah, blah

- Workshops
- Field trips
- Camosun College liaison
- Nature SIG
- Creative SIG
- Street SIG
- Website.
- Mentorship.