

# Message from the Board

August 2022

Dear VCC Members,

September will soon be upon us and with that might come a bit of nostalgia for all we wanted to do in the summer months. Hopefully you ticked off some fun items from your bucket list! At the same time, September can be a time of anticipation. While we left the school cycle some years ago, we still follow its rhythms in many ways.

And so, our 2022-23 **VCC programming will kick off on September 8, 2022**. Program Chairs have used the summer months to do some planning and we have some great programming ahead. And your Board is very happy to launch this new season **with the resumption of in-person Club meetings at Norway House!** This first meeting will be a hybrid meeting: meaning that you can attend in person if you wish, and otherwise you can connect by ZOOM. We have a tested plan to ensure that the hybrid experience will be a good one whether you're at Norway House or in your own home.

*At this first meeting*, we'll celebrate the year-end competition awards and will also name two life-time members. Rilla Ballantyne will be at the door to warmly greet you as you arrive. And there will be refreshments and goodies.

## Club Events Going Forward

*Thursday Night Meetings:* Going forward, we intend that Members' Night and Internal Competitions Night will be held in the hybrid format. Presenter's Night will be mostly by ZOOM as many of our planned presenters live outside our region.

*Workshops:* Workshops will be either in person at Camosun College, or by ZOOM depending on the presenter and type of presentation. Keep an eye on the VCC Calendar for the specifics!

*Shared Interest Groups:* Each SIG will set its own path, but it seems that for now Creative and Nature SIGs intend to run by ZOOM. Drone SIG will be mostly an outdoor activity going forward.

*External Competitions:* We have a new External Competitions Committee who are rearing to go. The deadline for the first entry is September 1 and is themed: "Life in BC or the Yukon". You still have time to put in your entry! Check our website calendar entry for September 1 to get more details.

*Internal Competitions:* The deadline for the first entry is September 8, the theme is "friendship" which is defined as "a unique image that depicts affection, playfulness, closeness (not limited to friendship between humans)".

*Novice Image Review:* A monthly workshop, to be led by David Clow, will provide an opportunity for novice photographers to get feedback on their images and to prepare for competitions. The first review will be on September 26.

## New Members

Seven new members have joined us since our 2021-22 season wrapped up: Rob Huntley, Eric James, Nancy Matheson, Frank Pellizzon, Jules van Rosebrook, Mike Ross, and Michael Torontow.

We wish a warm welcome to all of you!!

## Website Orientation

An orientation to the VCC website is scheduled for August 29, from 7 to 9 PM. This is a great refresher for anyone and would be especially helpful for new members. There is a treasure trove of resources on our website and Greg Blaney and Richard Letourneau will be happy to take you through it all.

## Close-Up

First, we wish to offer a big round of applause to the Close-Up Team and its contributors over the 14 years that it's been a print and digital magazine under Richard James' leadership! If you've been a Club member for a while you know that the Magazine has won multiple accolades and awards over the years. And once again, the team brought home some awards this year! We recently received the good news that the Photographic Society of America (PSA) awarded third place to Close-Up's December 21, 2021 edition in the large club category competition for best newsletter/magazine as well as awards for "Best Variety of Material" and "Best Technical Article" (Tom Stewart: Capture One).

Congratulations to all the authors and photo contributors for that winning edition! And thank you on behalf of all of our members for the sustained hard work to create a magazine that made us proud!

If you have paper copies of the Magazine, hang onto them!

And now to explain how Close-Up is evolving...

The Club has a long tradition of publishing a version of Close-Up that began in 1946. In the beginning, it was a typed one-page newsletter and it eventually evolved into the full print magazine that we have known most recently. VCC is a bit unique in this regard as most Canadian clubs don't have a newsletter, let alone a print magazine. So, the long history of Close-Up reflects the sustained importance placed by our Club in involving members in sharing information and knowledge with each other. We intend to continue the tradition.

Given our proud history, the decision to cease Close-Up in its recent magazine format was not taken lightly. But, over time, production of the magazine became more challenging especially with respect to providing club info on a just-in-time basis. It was also sometimes difficult to find writers to fill the pages of the magazine.

In keeping with recent trends away from print, we will launch a digital version of Close-Up in the next few weeks. The digital format provides exciting opportunities such as: real-time communications on club business and events, flexibility in terms of when to publish and the length of articles, the ability to include live web and video links, and being able to show all our photos in their original colour mode.

We plan to start modestly and to grow the variety of content with input from all of you. Our future editor is Roger Botting who is a former photojournalist and was frequent contributor to Close-Up magazine. Roger will be supported at first by a small team of reviewers to ensure we maintain a high

quality of content. The team will grow a bit over time, and you'll be hearing about that as things evolve. You will soon hear from Roger as he begins to populate content for the inaugural digital edition.

In closing, we all look forward to an exciting year of VCC Club meetings, workshops, outings, competitions, and social time. And we can't wait to see you at Norway House on September 8 or on ZOOM!

Your VCC Board Members,

Danielle Labonté

Margaret McNay

Bob Law

James Dies

Jason Frank

Ian Faris

Deb Thurlbeck