

# Message from the President

July-August 2016

Club, clique or cabal: what flavour do you taste as you contemplate the nature of the group that you have just joined? Or have belonged to for a number of years? In our distant hunter-gatherer past, nine stalwart individuals made up a viable hunting party. Immediate one-on-one communications proved effective in the hunt. A group of 30-50 around a communal fire provided both comfort and safety from predators. Today we mostly hunt light using the sensors of our digital cameras. We also come together in larger groups, in excess of 200 in our case, to pursue our passions collectively rather than in isolation. My question is, what determines the flavour of that experience to each of you?

How does one 'join' a group? A personal experience might provide a glimpse. In September, 2005, I stepped into Norway House, a fresh refugee from the Prairies. There was a test. "Do you shoot Canon or Nikon?". My answer, "Olympus." Oops, would I be accepted or rejected by the in-crowd. Unbowed, I plunged ahead. Tried to overcome my innate ineptitude in group chat. Entered a competition, damn the torpedoes. Ultimately, I matched up with a task that needed doing. That has proved to be just the ticket for me. Volunteer!

Walking along a beach, casting an eye here and there, shiny treasures are often discovered. The Victoria Camera Club is such a beach, offering a considerable spectrum of activities and smaller groupings. Does one walk just the broad expanse of monthly meetings at Norway House? What of the SIGs, the workshops, the field trips? Smaller groups. Are they welcoming? Ultimately, each of you will chose your own path as you sample the flavours of available club experiences. I believe that there are, in fact, treasures to be found across the beach that the VCC places in front of you.

Working with my camera in the field is truly 'shutter therapy' for me. Field trips, including Tuesday shoots, are a priority on my agenda. However, on this, my tenth full year with the VCC, new horizons continue to open up. With the Lighting SIG, Scott Laird demonstrated how to destroy light bulbs and create magic in his camera at the same time. Later, with the Creative SIG, Lois Burton provided an enlightening glimpse into her skill and artistry as photographs were transformed into water-colour art. Treasures found!

During these months of summer I wish each of you plenty of 'shutter therapy', a chance to participate in those activities of the club which do continue, albeit at a reduced frequency, and plenty of time to ponder some of what I have attempted to convey. Your personal contributions will determine both the well-being of the club and the flavour of your experience with us.

Garry Schaefer