

# Message from the President

May-June 2018

The candles on my birthday cakes have been growing ever more dense, like the pixels on the sensors of modern digital cameras. Time to take a quick look back at my first message as VCC president (Close-Up, May-June, 2016). A couple of themes were on my mind: what was the underlying nature of the Club and how does one, in the first place, truly “join” such a group? Those questions seem somewhat eternal. While our programs and our membership evolve over time, the flavour of the group and getting to feel comfortable in it may sometimes take a bit longer. It is my hope that efforts to make our club a welcoming place have borne some fruit. That imperative should always be top of mind.

My principal recommendation, then and now, was to stray off the broad path of Norway House meetings into the by-ways of the many activities in which smaller clusters of our members are involved. In those environments, it is likely to be easier to get to know fellow members and their interests. Those bonds then lend to positive vibes when in the company of the larger group. For some it will be through learning specific skills in workshops; for others, when participating in field trips or sharing images and techniques at a SIG meeting.

My personal favourite has been the pleasure to be found in the enthusiastic pursuits of the Tuesday and Alternate Tuesday groups. We always welcome new participants, as do the other groups that add to the scope of VCC’s programs. But these are only suggestions. I respect that each of you has your own take on a preferred path forward. We may meet only on the broad main route or we may also enjoy your presence just off the beaten path.

“Volunteer!” Now there’s a word I have used more than once in the months and years gone by, both to admonish and to celebrate. The word can be a spur to action to meet our collective needs. It can also be used to hoist a toast in tribute to those who have stepped forward to meet those challenges. In the end, I can think of no better way to truly “join” the Club.

As I step back from my current role, I reflect on what a privilege it has been to work with the members of the Board and the program coordinators on behalf of all of you, our members. I’m confident that the incoming team will successfully navigate the challenges ahead and that the Victoria Camera Club will thrive in the years ahead!

Garry Schaefer, President