

Message from the President

February 2017

Whenever a rainbow appears I cannot avoid reaching for a camera and grabbing a shot. Perhaps it's those thoughts of pots of gold which make the situation so compelling. Such was the case this past December, when I spotted the prospect of not one but two pots of gold. A scramble to mount my wide angle lens before the fleeting opportunity passed me by resulted in "Rainbow Over the Songhees". You can see the image in our website's gallery for December and in our VCC Open Photo Share gallery on Flickr.

This led me to thoughts of images, themselves, as the gold coins in those very pots. When out on a shoot, whatever the overarching theme, it is most often the unexpected elements within the scene which prove most rewarding to me. Perhaps it's a discarded artifact on the street or the way in which a beam of light puts the spotlight on a particular detail. Such subjects may be transitory or easily overlooked, but, once captured, can provide much subsequent delight. Rather than one big ingot in the pot, images are more like gold coins of varying mass, each adding to the overall value of the treasure.

All of the above is, nevertheless, very subjective. What constitutes the gold at the end of your rainbow? While I may often seek small details, you may pursue your photographic passions from quite different perspectives. It may be at the grand scale of an expansive night sky view, in the depths of revealing detail in a portrait or within the fine patterns in an insect's compound eye. Or you may prefer to create your gold, like an alchemist of old, using powerful post-editing tools to modify and blend several individual images into your composite treasure. The great thing about photography is the immense range of options available to each of us. And what better place than the Victoria Camera Club to pursue them all.

As I write these lines, I have just read through the January issue of Close-Up. In doing so I have collected much treasure: a lead article featured an image reflected in the eye of a horse, a concluding article offered perspectives on selecting images for entry into competitions and one particular image was actually entitled "Gold". Those and many more coins added greatly to my accumulated treasure. Congratulations to Richard James, the CU team and all the contributors for another fine issue. Turning the old saying on its head, chasing rainbows can be both productive and a lot of fun!

Garry Schaefer, President