

# Message from the President

January 2017

A New Year lies ahead. Time for new ventures, new ideas, new arrows in our quiver. But, wait. What of our traditions? Valued programs? The tried and true? When applied to the Victoria Camera Club, a balance must be struck. While moving forward in stimulating ways, we must not forget how we got here and what we value. I have been drawn to this line of thought through two examples from the closing months of our recent fall session.

In November, I finally got the opportunity, at a busy Members' Night, to present the results of our Summer Scavenger Hunt. A scavenger hunt in this format was, in itself, something new to our program. Participating was good fun for a number of our members and the presentation of results was well received by the members and others present. What was more cutting edge for me, though, was the ability to post the resulting video to our newly established YouTube channel. Even so, it was only the second show to go up, the first being "Troll Country Adventure" by Margarita Huang and James Kissinger. This development brings a significant new opportunity forward, to share our Members' Night presentations with club members who could not attend as well as with the world of potential viewers beyond.

My second example pertains to the subject of traditions. For want of a coordinator, I had been willing to forgo holding our Christmas Pot Luck Social. Bad move! It soon became apparent that the tradition which surrounds this event was beating strongly just beneath the surface. A number of members came forward, voicing their concerns and suggestions regarding possible ways to proceed. Nadine Soan, a new member not versed in the traditions of the club, came forward with valuable organizational skills. A show of hands at a meeting indicated the desire to carry on. As I pen these words, a healthy contingent of members have registered and a growing list of delectable offerings has been identified. Clearly, the value of our traditions ought to be carefully weighed before changes are entertained. A second lesson is that, when in doubt, ask the members.

With the above lessons in mind, I look forward with optimism as our Club steps forward to engage with the events that will be ours to undertake and enjoy in 2017. While embracing the new we will be mindful of what we continue to value from the past. Happy New Year to each of you as your hopes and wishes, both personal and for the VCC, unfold in the days and months ahead!

Garry Schaefer, President.