

Message from the President

July-August 2017

Stonehenge marks the march of the sun towards its most northerly position at the summer solstice. As an early riser, my personal 'Stonehenge' is the dome of the Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort. From the vantage of my condo balcony, I particularly enjoy the days in June when the sun rises exactly behind that dome. Did the ancient Druids use this as a time to take stock and reflect on things both personal and collective? Perhaps. For me, it serves as a time to consider how things have been and are unfolding within the Victoria Camera Club at the mid-point of my two-year stint as president.

As was affirmed at our AGM in April and our Awards Night in May, the big picture for the club remains bright. The VCC continues to stand out for the scope of its programs and activities, which provide many opportunities for members to enjoy, broaden and deepen their photographic pursuits. Membership numbers and the funds needed for our operations remain stable. Core programs have been maintained and are expected to continue in the year ahead. One might say, "Steady as she goes." One might ask, though, what of the mass of the iceberg below the surface?

A truism, which I have frequently stressed, is the vital role played by volunteers at all levels in the success of our joint ventures. Without them, there would be none. I deeply appreciate those who have continued to dedicate time and resources to our common ends even when experiencing deep personal loss and difficulty. I take great pleasure when I see volunteers stepping into roles new to themselves, which either serve to maintain or to expand upon our multi-faceted programs. It behooves each of you to look to those exemplars and to consider what you can give back to the club in return for all that it offers.

On a couple of specific instances, there is good news and bad news. Under Steve Smith's leadership, the Lighting SIG will be back, with a focus on hands-on exploration and learning. An important venture, given that photography is, above all, about capturing the light, either ambient or enhanced. On the other side of the coin, the Creative SIG, at this time of writing, lacks the leadership of one or more individuals to carry the torch forward. My hope is that a common desire, among those who have enjoyed its activities, will stimulate a positive response.

Whatever the challenges and opportunities we face in the fall, I offer my best wishes for your ongoing photo-fun during the summer months ahead.

Garry Schaefer, President