

# Message from the President

February 2019

In trying to decide what my message for this month was going to be I discovered that this year marks the Victoria Camera Club's 75th year, a Diamond Anniversary. VCC was formed in 1944 by the union of the Victoria Photographic Society (est. 1941) and the Civil Service Camera Club with 45 members in total. Initially the club was made up of black and white print makers with many using their own darkrooms. Today we are a club of over 250 members with strong interest in both prints and projected images from both film and digital sources. We are one of the oldest, largest and most active camera clubs on Vancouver Island, and in Canada. What an accomplishment that is.

Throughout our club's history, wonderful and dedicated member volunteers gave themselves in so many ways to keep the Victoria Camera Club as place for creative photographic endeavours. We should take pride in the efforts of those members who came before us in shaping our club into what it is today. One of the things that I hear repeatedly among members is how inclusive and giving our members are. When a new member (or potential new member) attends a meeting, you will always see a veteran member welcoming them to the club and answer any questions they may have.

We have a wide range of activities for all skill levels that include internal and external photo competitions, workshops, field trips, SIGs, monthly presenters and members night to name a few, and all with one interest in mind, photography. Along with all of our calendar activities we have the annual print show taking place in April/May. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to display their prints for the public to admire. We are also teaming up with Cowichan Valley Camera Club to bring a CAPA Judging Course to the Victoria area. This is a great way to gain a better understanding on what the judges are looking for in your competition photos.

There have been many changes over the years but the one thing that has not changed is the purpose of the club. Now, just as it was then, the purpose is to encourage and develop an interest in photography. That is something that we truly enjoy doing. It's all about photography and having fun.

It's been an honour and a privilege to be a part of keeping the interest in photography alive and exciting at our club these past 75 years and we hope to continue for at least another 75.

Teri VanWell, President