

# President's Message #11

## Christmas Message

*The Street Photographer's Poem*

- *Alexander Edward Jackson Smith*

*When our attention is grabbed by a street scene,  
we then try to capture what we have seen.*

*A person and place, at a moment in time,  
a record then... and it's all mine.*

*We march all day and cover much ground,  
secretly noticing all the people around.*

*Wrapping our hands on our optical box,  
we covet and clean... and avoid all knocks.*

*Taking our time to watch for our next,  
and running away if the reaction is vexed.*

*We candidly capture the world as we see,  
we live on the streets... and we are free.*

Our Board of Directors, Rilla Ballantine, Ron Charles, Dennis Crabtree, Bob Law, Margaret McNay, Jerome Rozitis, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish every member of the Club and their families a very happy holiday season and a safe, bright, and prosperous New Year.

This holiday season is a good time to reflect on our club's shared achievements and shared experiences this past year, and there have been many. Thank you to all our members from the Board of Directors; all the Committees, all the managers, all the SIGs, and all the many, many volunteers who make this club the great club that it is. Thank you everyone for putting your heart and soul into making this club a great club. Your efforts enhance our sense of community and belonging and make this club what it is supposed to be.

After a long absence we had our first Christmas party since the Covid pandemic and what a blowout it was, with almost 90 people there having a good time, laughing, talking, and enjoying each other's company. The Christmas party committee put on a great show. Next season we want to see 140 club members, the Norway House limit. It was a perfect ending to this great year of 2024; it will stand as one of our stellar years.

Whenever I walk into Norway House, I feel like I'm coming home; I feel like I belong. We want everyone in this club to feel the same way. That is what we are all striving to accomplish for our members in this club.

I feel proud and honoured to be the President of this fantastic club—we are 260+ strong and still growing. All of us who put in the long hours running and organizing our committees, events, and activities look forward to another year of shared accomplishments and success.

We on the Board of Directors wish everyone happy holidays and a Happy New Year.

James Dies – President – Victoria Camera Club.