

Message from the President

May-June 2017

In March, guest speaker, Dion Manastyrski, presented his documentation of change on the Prairies. Afterwards, Wayne Swanson asked how many members present had a prairie background. A surprising or perhaps not such a surprising number of hands went up, which I estimated at over thirty percent. This spring was cool here in Victoria, resulting in the very late emergence of blossoms from their winter's slumber. Connecting these two lines of thought led me to reflect on the relationships between locations, seasons and our photographic pursuits.

How do locations and seasons influence, limit or enhance your photography? My penchant is to shoot outdoors using available light and to get out there in all seasons. That said, I cannot deny that there were times, even months, in my former home city of Winnipeg, when it was simply too cold. Likewise, here in Victoria, it may sometimes simply be too wet and windy, causing me to wimp out. Perhaps I should consider developing an interest in still life, macro and table-top imagery, artificial lighting and related genres, all of which can be practiced indoors. Despite those options, though, I seem to steadfastly stick to themes and genres in which I have long found great pleasure. As a result, my Winnipeg tally shows a decided skew towards summertime shooting. In Victoria the distribution is much more uniform throughout the year. Chalk this one up to Victoria.

But what of the locations? Roaming on foot from home is my favourite way to find those pixel-sized bundles of light. They are most often details found in the urban environment. Nature shots generally have been captured in and around parks and streams, locations offered in almost any city. That said, my move to Victoria came with a significant change and expansion in readily accessible

shooting opportunities. Pacific shores, right in the city, with seascapes, wildlife and the human activities associated with marine matters, provide limitless possibilities for the photographer, a whole new slate of offerings ready for the picking. Chalk up another point for Victoria.

Perhaps your photographic muse arises most strongly when you are in travel mode. For me the opposite is true. Opportunities when traveling are not to be overlooked but it is from home base that I most often set out with deliberate intent. Clearly, from a photographic enthusiast's point of view, my wife, Margaret, was right on when she uttered those fateful words, "I think we should move to Victoria!"

Garry Schaefer, President