

# Message from the President

December 2018

Our annual Christmas celebration is on December 6th. This is a time for us to unwind and mingle with other members who we have not seen in a while. I am always happy to see the camaraderie that occurs during our gatherings and I am looking forward to this year's event through the eyes of the president. It is a good time to reflect back on the many wonderful memories that we have of the past year and celebrate our achievements as a Club, and boy do we have a lot to celebrate. Our website received a makeover thanks to the wonderfully talented website crew of Steve Jakes, Richard Letourneau and Greg Blaney. They have made it more user friendly and it now has more information for us, not to mention the photos of key members for someone to see who they are looking for. The website also received an honourable mention from PSA in the 2018 Website Competition in the Large Club category. Well done!

Our Internal and External Competition Committees have been hard at work reviewing our submitted images and making sure that everything is in the right place. There have been such wonderful photos submitted and some of them have gone on to win awards in many of the external competition that we enter. Keep going with them!

Our Field Trip Coordinators have been organizing amazing outings at different places around the city and beyond. Our Workshop Coordinators have given us plenty to try out with the different techniques that we have learned. Our Nature and Creative SIGs are going strong and providing members with inspiration to try something new.

We almost lost Close-Up, but with the determination of the expanded team they are able to continue to produce this amazing magazine. The Close-Up team members, led by Richard James (Editor) received two 1st place awards in 2018 from PSA in the Newsletter Competition (Large Club category) for the "Best Newsletter" and "Best Competition Results Page". Don't forget that Close-Up would not be possible without the members who volunteer to write articles! There is a great deal to be proud of here.

One thing that I realize is that our Club has so many people who volunteer their time and talent for the betterment of its members and I count myself lucky that I am a part of it.

To you and yours, I wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Teri VanWell, President