

**VICTORIA CAMERA CLUB  
PRESIDENT'S REPORT – AGM 2023**



It has been a privilege to serve as your VCC President for this past year. It was a blessing to work with a very talented Board who kept our member interests at the forefront: James Dies, Ian Faris, Jason Frank, Bob Law, Margaret McNay, and Deb Thurlbeck. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Our Club offers a wide range of opportunities for engagement and creative expression: three monthly meetings (internal competitions, Presenter's Night, and Members' Night), several workshops each month, three Shared Interest Groups (aerial, creative, and nature) with their own monthly meetings, a mentorship program, week-end field trips, and Tuesday/Alternate Tuesday outings.

We are actively networking across Canada and beyond with participation in the BC/Yukon Inter-Club network, the Canadian Association of Photographic Arts, and the Photographic Society of America. Some of our members have received prestigious recognition from International Salons. We are a talented and passionate group!

Our competitions offer opportunities to help you hone your skills and measure yourself against others. Internal competitions are a great way to grow and test your skills. After a one-year time out, VCC is now back in the external competitions arena, too, and winning awards.

We are one of just a few clubs in Canada to produce an online publication <https://close-updigital.victoriacameraclub.ca/> and we think we are leading the way with this newsletter in the form of an evergreen blog.

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of the Club and I want to give a special "thank you" to the forty or so volunteers who drive our activities and do all the behind-the-scenes jobs—jobs such as maintaining our website—that are so essential to the Club's smooth functioning.

Our Club numbers stand at about 250 which makes us one of Canada's largest photographic clubs. We have even welcomed a number of new members during the COVID-19 years, including some people who left for one reason or another and then came back. Our return to in-person meetings in September 2023 will provide an opportunity to build social connections and properly welcome our new members. We are re-building our mentorship program and in-person meetings will help forge the relationships that can make this program thrive. We have all missed the social networking that is such an important part of Club membership.

Like most camera clubs, we have sought over the past couple of years to find the optimal way to hold our meetings, especially in this past year when COVID-19 was almost but not really gone. How can we now bring members back to in-person meetings? A small group worked hard to optimize hybrid meetings, but we are ready to return to in-person meetings in September 2023. We appreciate our members' patience and continued participation through the last few years. Now you can get ready to return to Norway House!

The transition from print Close-Up to Close-up *digital* consumed a good amount of the Executive's time this year. There were many issues to consider: staffing the new roles, choosing a format and optimal platform for the digital site, integrating that platform with our VCC website, and creating initial content. We are now confident we have a solid digital space, and we look forward to receiving from members more and more contributions to the new blog.

In 2022, our Club had a wonderful opportunity to give back to the Greater Victoria community by accepting the challenge to become the official photographer for the BC 55+ Games. Under Bob Law's leadership, an amazing 41 volunteers covered over 100 events over the 4 days of the Games and uploaded over 1,500 photos to the Games Flickr site ([www.flickr.com/photos/bcsg/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bcsg/albums)). Games organizers were blown away by our contributions.

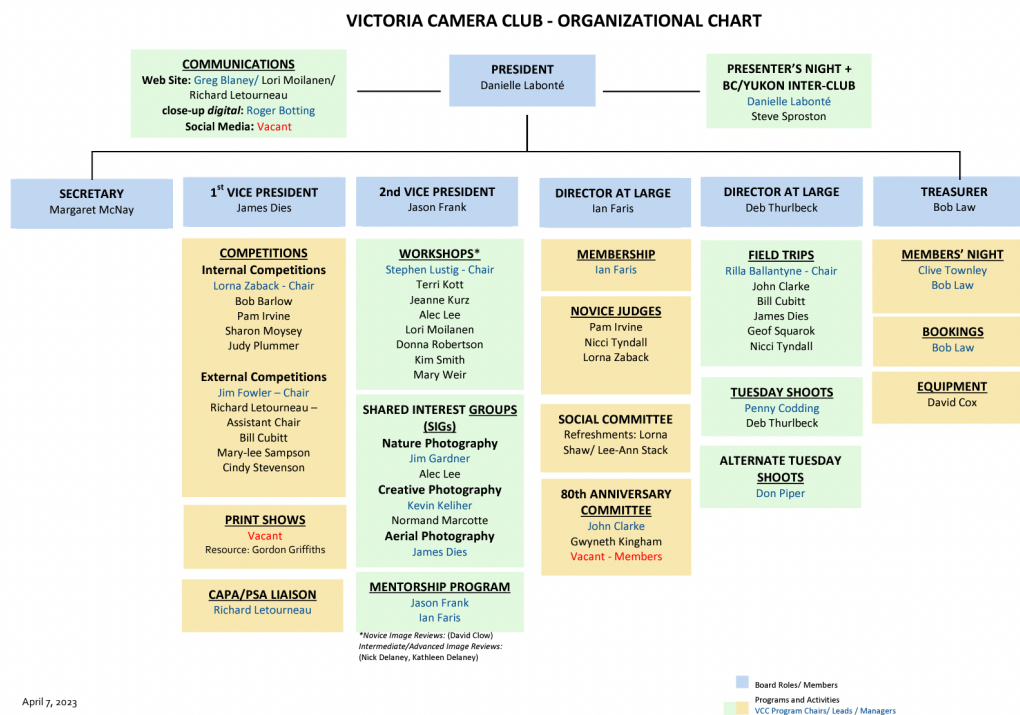
Your Executive began this past year to prepare for the Club's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which we will celebrate in 2024. Special events will be sprinkled throughout the year, including a Print Show at the Victoria Arts Council in September 2024. Stay tuned for more!

In the next few pages, you can read more fully about our accomplishments as a Club.

Danielle Labonté, VCC President

## VCC VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any club. Many thanks to the forty or so volunteers who keep our Club busy with multiple activities every week and a special thanks to those who wear multiple hats.



Note: A few volunteers stepped down during 2022-23 and are not shown on the above organizational chart. Our thanks are extended to them, too: Douglas Layden (web), Gordon Griffiths (workshops), and Thomas Stewart and Chris Vardy (field trips).

## MEMBERSHIP (Ian Faris)

Club Membership has settled at about 250 members. At the end of March 2023, we had 252 active members whereas at the same time last year we had 249. VCC welcomed 47 new members over the last year but 50 existing members did not renew their memberships. Next year, being the Club's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we hope, because of the increased level of activity and exposure that will occur, to see a swelling of the ranks.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Three membership-wide meetings are held on Thursdays every month:

- First Thursday: Internal Competitions
- Second Thursday: Presenter's Night (an external presenter often from outside the Victoria area.
- Third Thursday: Members' Night

## INTERNAL COMPETITIONS (Lorna Zaback)

First, a heartfelt thank you to members of the 2022-23 Internal Competitions Committee: Pam Irvine, Judy Plummer, Sharon Moysey, Bob Barlow and Denise Ashby. I greatly appreciate the support they have given me as Chair, their hard work and dedication, and the many volunteer hours they have put into making Internal Competitions the best they can be.

That said, several members of the Internal Competitions Committee - 3 or 4 of us, myself included - will either be stepping down or wanting to reduce our responsibilities at the end of the 2022-23 year. Since the committee has a great deal of work to do over the next couple of months (organizing and hosting the Year End Awards Night and preparing for the 2023-24 Internal Competitions) it would be in the best interests of the club for anyone who is interested to let me know and join us as soon as possible. That way people who are stepping down can train new members as to what is involved with the committee's various tasks. I am also willing to act as consultant to whoever takes on the role of Chair for next year.

Some concerns and questions arose during the 2022-23 Internal Competitions year:

- 1) The stats listed on the next page suggest that interest in Internal Competitions, particularly in print competitions, has waned over the past year in comparison to previous years. Although we can't definitively attribute a cause to this, it does make us wonder if there is still enough energy in the club for competitions in the form that they have historically taken. Should VCC be looking at some other ways of showcasing the work of members? How much did COVID-19 precautions contribute to the apparent decline in interest?"
- 2) A request has come in from a few longtime members that we add a regular (perhaps monthly) monochrome competition to our array of competitions. This is something to be considered for the coming 2023-24 year.

We will discuss these issues, and others, over the next couple of months.

Competitions (Print)	Sept '22	Oct '22	Nov '22	Jan '23	Feb '23	Mar '23	Total
Advanced Print Monochrome	9	11	11	6	6	7	50
Advanced Print Nature	6	8	6	4	5	5	34
Advanced Print Open	5	6	6	2	3	5	27
Novice/Intermediate Print Open	0	0	3	1	2	2	8
Monthly Total (all print competitions)	20	25	26	13	16	19	

Competitions (Digital)	Sept '22	Oct '22	Nov '22	Jan '23	Feb '23	Mar '23	Total
Advanced Digital Altered Reality	15	9	10	9	9	10	62
Advanced Digital Nature	14	18	15	18	13	16	94
Advanced Digital Open	15	18	16	16	14	14	93
Advanced Digital People	15	15	13	13	12	13	81
Advanced Digital Theme	14 Friend-ship	16 Beautiful BC	20 Nautical	13 Mono Street	12 Weather	16 One Colour	91
Intermediate Digital Altered Reality	4	4	6	4	6	7	31
Intermediate Digital Nature	16	13	17	12	11	13	82
Intermediate Digital Open	14	16	20	17	16	12	95
Intermediate Digital People	11	11	15	11	9	9	66
Intermediate Digital Theme	13 Friend-ship	12 Beautiful BC	24 Nautical	15 Mono Street	14 Weather	13 One Colour	91
Novice Digital Open	2	4	9	10	6	5	36
Novice Digital Theme	3 Friend-ship	6 Beautiful BC	9 Nautical	7 Mono Street	3 Weather	3 One Colour	31
Monthly Total (all digital competitions)	136	142	174	145	125	131	

## **PRESENTER'S NIGHT (Danielle Labonté)**

Presenter's Night continued by ZOOM for the 2022-23 season on every second Thursday evening of the month. The ZOOM platform allowed us to bring in speakers from a wide range of perspectives and geographical bases and will continue in this mode for 2023-24. Attendance was typically in the range of 60-80 members.

Our presenters in 2022-23:

- September: Chuck Kimmerle, (California), *"Taking the Road Less Traveled"*
- October: Ed Struzik, (Edmonton), *"45 million Years of Arctic History in 45 Minutes"*
- November: Chris Miles, (Victoria) *"Deuce Days and More"*
- December: Ann Piché, (Ottawa), *"Beyond the Visible"*
- January: Paul Illsley, (Halifax), *"An Icelandic Adventure"*
- February: Eileen Rafferty, (Montana), *"Seeing in Black and White, Mimicking the Darkroom"* (posted to our VCC YouTube channel with Eileen's kind permission)
- March: Angie McMonigal, (Chicago), *"Abstract Architecture Photography – Creativity in Composition"*
- And in May, we will host Luba Citrin, (Toronto): *"Still life, But Not so Still"*

Our line-up sought to cut across different genres and next year we will include input from our three Shared Interest Groups to further broaden the scope of this series.

## **MEMBERS' NIGHT (Clive Townley and Bob Law)**

A long-time feature of our Club, Members' Night is an opportunity for VCC members to showcase their photographic creations, skills, and travels. There is a great deal of talent and photographic skill in our Club and every Members' Night is a window into that talent. Members present short slide shows and videos of about 5 to 10 minutes, followed by lively discussions and questions.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month. Typically, 30 to 50 members attend. This year we started out on Zoom and then resumed in-person meetings at Norway House, broadcast via Zoom. In September, we plan to return to in-person only meetings at Norway House, to bring back the social aspect (and cookies) to Members' Night.

This year members' travel presentations were limited because of COVID-19, but we expect to see more of our members will be returning to travelling this year. Our members stepped up with many other interesting presentations ranging from AI, Black & White, and Abstract, along with some archival travel presentations.

## **EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS (Jim Fowler)**

In March 2022 Richard Letourneau took it upon himself to start contacting members he thought might be willing and able to form a new committee. By March 21, there were two confirmed members, me, and Richard, and by the middle of April, five VCC members had agreed to form a

new External Competition Committee. Those members were Jim Fowler (chair), Richard Letourneau (co-chair), Bill Cubitt, Cindy Stephenson, and Mary-Lee Sampson.

Agendas were planned, meetings were held, and decisions were made to proceed with ten external competitions. As we were all new Committee members, a limited number of competitions was chosen purposely to allow us to learn as we went along. A test “judging” session was done to familiarize the Committee with the Image Competition Manager software. All the External Competition VCC web pages were updated to reflect the status and conditions as they were announced by the various competition sponsors.

Over the course of the Club’s active months, September through March, VCC entered club entries in 10 competitions. Seven were CAPA competitions: “Pacific Zone”, “Nature”, “Fall Monochrome”, “Artistic”, “Photojournalism”, “Fall/Winter”, and “Canada: My Country”. In addition, VCC entered the North Shore Photographic Society’s “Photographic Challenge”, Lions Gate Camera Club’s “Celebration of Nature”, and the 2-club competition between Eastwood Photographic Society and Victoria Camera Club.

In all, 391 images were submitted by VCC members to external competitions Club entries, and 44 individual VCC members had one or more photos selected for entry. The Club won 1 Gold Medal (Lions Gate), tied for Gold (North Shore), 1 Bronze Medal (CAPA Pacific) and 1 Honourable Mention (CAPA Artistic). In the Fall Monochrome we were 1 point shy of an Honourable Mention, and in Nature we were bumped out of an Honourable Mention when one of our entries was disqualified for a technical issue. Canada: My Country has not yet closed at the time of writing this report.

The Committee has a meeting planned for the last week of April. At that time, we will review the past year, and begin the process of planning for next year. The writer considers this to have been a successful return to external competitions for the Club and looks forward to next year.

## **WORKSHOPS (Stephen Lustig)**

The Workshop Committee consists of Terri Kott, Jeanne Kurz, Alec Lee, Stephen Lustig (chair), Lori Moilanen, Donna Robertson, Kim Smith, and Mary Weir.

Over the past year, we have presented workshops on website orientation, novice image review, intermediate/advanced image review, wildlife photography, urban abstract photography, travel photography, looking versus seeing, impressionistic photography, Lightroom, black & white photography, luminosity masks, planning with PhotoPills, and composition. Over the next month, we have workshops planned on photographing nightscapes, creativity with long exposure, architectural abstracts, and street photography.

A total of 769 participants attended our workshops. We invited members of other clubs in BC and the Yukon to some presentations, which helped to defray costs for the VCC. Most of our workshops have been presented by Zoom, which allows an unlimited number of attendees.

Our committee’s work, like most of our lives, has been influenced by COVID-19. However, despite restrictions easing, we will continue to present most workshops to VCC members by Zoom, to maximize attendance opportunities. We will not be inviting and charging members

from other clubs to our workshops next year, as photographers are travelling more and fewer members from other clubs have been signing up for our workshops.

Each year the committee sends out a detailed questionnaire to determine the learning needs of our members. We then tabulate those results, and this guides our future planning. The Workshop Committee is currently working on the 2023-2024 workshop season. In addition, we have created a Workshop Committee Process Manual which will make it easier for new committee members to get acquainted with our procedures.

For information on our workshops, please check the VCC Calendar or see Upcoming Workshops under the Members Only tab on the VCC home page. It is necessary to register for workshops and a Zoom link will be emailed to you after noon on the day of the workshop. If you are interested in presenting a workshop, please contact the workshop committee.

See you at one of our workshops!

### **SHARED INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)**

VCC currently has three Shared Interest Groups: aerial, creative, and nature.

#### **AERIAL (James Dies)**

It's been a slow start for this SIG. The weather is the biggest factor—it has not been good to fly with the wet and cold weather. We did get up in the air once on a field trip to St. Steven's Church, but it was 0° C and everyone froze.

A friend of mine in the club and I are planning to do a YouTube video of interesting clips this summer and should have it ready by Members' Night or Presenter's Night when we meet again in the fall. We have all summer to do it. We are considering inviting other drone flyers in the club to submit clips too. It will be set to an amazing soundtrack and should be very enjoyable.

#### **CREATIVE (Kevin Keliher)**

Normand Marcotte and I continue to enjoy working together on the creation and running of the Creative SIG. Our intent is to continue to inspire and support our members' creative efforts, and their artistic perspectives. Normand continues to use the VCC YouTube Channel and the Creative SIG forum as a resource to our group. I have persisted in finding new presenters to share their artistic viewpoint.

DATE	ATTENDANCE	PRESENTER	PARTICIPANTS THAT SHARED IMAGES
<b>2022</b>			
September	34	C. Parris	9
October	36	D. Smith	7



November	26	K. Delany & S. Smith	6
<b>2023</b>			
January 2023	45	Meaghan Kraus	6
February 2023	39	N. Marcotte	6
March 2023	43	Nancy Dolan	8
April 2023	TBD	Survey/Poll	TBD

### **NATURE (Jim Gardner)**

Nature Shared Interest Group (NatureSIG) continued to meet via ZOOM on the evenings of the first Wednesday of each month between September 2022 and April 2023, excepting December. The primary activity of the group remains the voluntary sharing of participants' images of any nature-related subject matter. The selection of imagery is not governed by any rules as is the case in most competitions. While this has encouraged participants at all levels of expertise and experience to share their work, it also has opened the opportunity to show images containing artifacts of a human presence and their impacts. In their sharing of images, participants are encouraged to provide background commentary on the why, where, when, and how of an image, and to engage in discussion with other participants. Critiques of images are not required or expected unless the sharer requests such.

NatureSIG meetings during the 2022-23 session were coordinated by Jim Gardner and Alec Lee with Jim chairing and Alec acting as host and attending to technical details. Alec also assisted newcomers in setting up and operating screen sharing of their imagery. Some participants preferred to send their images to Jim and Alec to share while the participants provided background commentary. During the 2022-23 session the average meeting attendance was 30 participants; between 5 and 9 of these participants shared images. On two occasions special presentations were solicited. Jill Turyk presented on her "birds in flight and otherwise" images undertaken as a project during Covid. Christine Gallagher presented a selection of bird images from the Frank Lake birding site southeast of Calgary. As has been the case throughout the Covid interlude, most but not all the imagery shared in NatureSIG came from nearby and regional locations. Perhaps a positive outcome has been an enhanced understanding photographically and otherwise of where we live.

We now have used the ZOOM format for 3 years and it has facilitated a significantly greater number of meeting participants than was the case with in-person meetings, in part due to a reduction in the need to travel to central Victoria. Other factors may include an influx of new club members. In addition, the ZOOM technology seems to provide improved image quality as compared with the projection systems at previous in-person meeting locations.

## **OUTINGS**

VCC has a variety of outings under the headings of “field trips” or “Tuesday/Alternate Tuesday Shoots.”

### **FIELD TRIPS (Rilla Ballantyne)**

Our field trip committee has six members, Rilla Ballantyne (chair), John Clarke, Bill Cubitt, James Dies, Geof Squarok and Nicci Tyndall. In the past year, both Tom Stewart and Chris Vardy have stepped down from the field trip committee. A huge thank you to both for all the work they have done on the committee.

All COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted so we no longer post the question on the calendar requiring members to agree to the participant agreement.

We hold monthly planning meetings via zoom.

Field trips we have held this year were Mary Lake, Heritage Acres, Street Photography numerous times, Classic Cars, Salt Spring Island, a 2-day Trip to the Comox Valley, Pride Parade, Damali Winery and Lavender Farm, Northwest Deuce Days, Drone Field Trip, Jaguar Car Show, Sooke Fine Art Show, Sidney Car Show, Dragon Boat Festival, Tall Ship Cruise, Classic Boat Sail Past, Fall Festival at Heritage Acres, Full Moon Rising, Sea Lions at Cowichan Bay, IEOA Lighted Truck Parade, Greek Orthodox Church, Ashton Military Museum, St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, Q Center Sports Complex, Sunrise at Whiffin Spit and Sooke Marine Boardwalk.

Planned for April are Historic Buildings in Downtown Victoria, Sooke Potholes and Tod Creek Falls and Ross Bay Villa and Cemetery. At the time of this report, these field trips have not yet taken place.

Bad weather caused us to cancel several field trips during the winter months.

We scheduled some events that did not appear to appeal to the membership (very little or no response) and as a result were cancelled. Our aim as a committee is to try to schedule a variety of places and events to have something for everyone’s interest.

A special thanks to all members outside our committee who helped as group leaders: Karen Towne, Kahsia Hartwell, Danielle Labonté, Bill Green, John Clarke, Ian Faris and Bob Law.

During the 2022-23 season, 255 participants attended our various field trips.

### **TUESDAY SHOOTS (Penny Coddling)**

"The Tuesday Morning Shoots" are held on the second and fourth Tuesday mornings every month. The group meets in downtown Victoria; for the 2022-23 club season this was outside in Bastion Square. The group was led for several years by Deb Thurlbeck who was replaced by Penny Coddling in the fall of 2022.

There is a theme for each meeting and participants seek out creative expressions of each theme; results are posted on the Tuesday Shoots Gallery on the club website. Attendance this

past year ranged from 10-15 participants per event. In addition to some of the internal competition themes, other subjects this year included *Ubiquitous brands*, *Shoot through*, *Needs to be cleaned up*, *Parts of things*, *Architecture*, *Delicate*, *Polished*, *This city works*, and *This city doesn't work (or Broken)*, *Resting*, *Patterns*.

This group meets year-round; members are encouraged to join in and to submit suggestions for themes to [tuesday@victoriacameraclub.ca](mailto:tuesday@victoriacameraclub.ca) ”

### **ALTERNATE TUESDAY SHOOTS (Don Piper)**

On the first and third Tuesday of each month several VCC members meet at various locations around Victoria and take advantage of the location to shoot some photos. Then the photographers upload 4 or 5 of their best images into the website Gallery for all to see. This includes the public who may visit the club web site.

There are usually 10 to 15 of us who participate, but we encourage up to 25. After the shoot, if a good restaurant is nearby, we usually meet for lunch. This is a great time to talk photography and learn many things of interest about photography and Victoria.

Some of our shoots this year were at Ross Bay Cemetery, Kings Pond, Panama Flats, Heritage Acres, Sidney Waterfront, Dean Park, Fernwood Village, Cattle Point, Island View Beach, Macaulay Point, Sooke Potholes, Parliament Buildings, Oak Bay Christmas, Butterfly Gardens.

Jim Fowler was the organizer for most of the season. Don Piper took over from Jim later in the year.

### **MENTORSHIP (Jason Frank)**

The previous team that ran the mentorship program did an exceptional job of getting it up and running, creating spreadsheets, tracking, creating a database, and getting the talented camera club members in place to help those that are needing some of that one-on-one teaching to further their knowledge on a specific topic.

Knowing first-hand how important it is to have such a program for our club, Ian Faris and I stepped up to keep things rolling after the original team stepped down from their roles.

There was a slow start to the season for the program; with the uncertainty of COVID-19 still lingering, many felt the need to maintain distance and hold off on any mentoring. We also noticed a drop in people volunteering to be mentors compared to the previous year. But, after securing a small but mighty team of mentors, it was time to get the word out to the club that we were open for business. A few trickled in and were partnered up quickly to learn their wish list of photographic topics. We noticed a fantastic spike in interest once *Close-up digital* was launched. The new site featured an article about the program on what it can offer.

We look to continue through the summer with the current team; no time off for us. If anyone is interested in the program as a mentor or a mentee, we welcome you to reach out to Ian or Jason to sign up.

In closing, a huge shoutout to our Mentors; without you the program would not exist.  
From Ian Faris (co-chair) and all those who have asked to be mentored.

### **80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY (Ian Faris)**

The Victoria Camera Club is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024. Preparations are being made for events and activities throughout the year which will highlight the Club and bring it an increased level of exposure in the local community.

An 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been struck with John Clarke acting as Chair and long-time member Gwyneth Kingham providing historical advice. Ian Faris, Director at Large, represents the Committee on the Board.

The VCC will be staging a Print Exhibition at the Victoria Arts Council Gallery on Store Street in Victoria in September 2024. We are also exploring the possibility of securing a speaker to do a presentation (*and workshop*) in April 2024.

The VCC website, *Close-up digital*, and the VCC's social media platforms will serve as venues for disseminating more information about the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary throughout the year. One idea is to revisit archival Close-Up articles from each of the previous eight decades of the VCC's existence.

The Committee will be seeking help from the general Membership to make our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a success.

### **COMMUNICATION**

#### **Close-up digital (Roger Botting)**

During my journey through photography over the past 50 years and more, many photography-oriented publications have risen and mostly fallen.

The list includes US Camera, Camera 35, Modern Photography, Peterson's Photography, American Photographer, American Photography, Penthouse Photo, Darkroom, Darkroom and Creative Camera Techniques, international magazines like Zoom, and, in Canada, Canadian Photographer, Photo Canada, Photo Life, and Outdoor Canada Photography.

A few magazines like Popular Photography and Shutterbug have shrunk to a minimal digital presence. The few remaining publications occupy very narrow niches, come from Europe or Asia, or seem to exist almost at the whim of the publisher. This has been the fate of many hobbyist and general interest publications of the past 30 years.

At the same time, a variety of online publications has arisen. Most are run by photographers with the intent of promoting themselves. A few commercial on-line publications have arisen and then fallen prey to the whims of their corporate owners, the latest victim being Digital Photography Review (dpreview.com). A few successful on-line publications do exist, mostly behind paywalls.

When I heard of the shutting down of the Victoria Camera Club publication, Close-Up Magazine, I was saddened. Yet another publication that I had contributed to was ceasing publication. The executive had their reasons and I understood. A couple of months later I, as a former

contributor to Close-Up, was contacted about creating a new version. I met with the Board, suggested possible formats and pluses and minuses, and walked away from the meeting with a new role—to produce a new publication, Close-up *digital*.

The Board and I had discussed the possibility of a newsletter format, a pdf publication, but I argued it was too rigid and time consuming a format. If a 'modern' publication was to come about we needed a fixed format but one into which we could easily drop articles with little effort. Hence, a blog.

With a blog in mind, we examined several publication platforms and discussed a few prototype blog layouts. Once we had some better ideas of what was wanted, the Board approached a professional blog designer who created our current format. We now have a professional, competent framework within which to publish. It allows us to be time sensitive, to have submissions of varying length and different numbers of photos, and, at the same time, eliminate many of the hurdles of the old print publication.

With a blog, an article does not have to meet a word requirement or be limited to a certain amount of page space. Back in my newspaper days, many an article or photo would be trimmed to fit a 'hole'—the space between ads or other articles. Many a person had their feet cut off in a photo; many a second-rate photo was run because a better photo did not fit the layout. The content of more than a few articles was either trimmed or padded to make the article fit the space, and much deserving material was never published. All that is now in the past. An article can be as big or small as it needs and deserves to be. Likewise, many hours of manipulating copy and layout are now saved because of our ability to custom-make every individual article.

We at Close-up *digital* have now got various teething issues out of the way, and we would like to ramp up the amount of material we publish. To do that, we need content from members. If each club member contributed one article every two years, we would have more than enough material.

We would like to see articles accompanied by photographs or videos, articles on all kinds of topics relating to photography and the activities of the Victoria Camera Club—articles about field trips, photo shows, book reviews, and photo workshops that you might have attended. We are open to pieces on the history of photography and notable photographers. Even photo-related poetry would be considered.

We have a few guidelines. We want quality material. If you have a good idea but are not sure how to bring it off, ask! Of course, material must be in good taste and not subject to someone else's copyright. Product reviews must be of items that you have used and are not being paid to promote. And each submission will be reviewed by an experienced copywriter who will smooth out grammar and sentence structure.

In conclusion, it's your publication; I hope to see your work get published.

## **WEBSITE ADMINISTRATION (Greg Blaney)**

This report summarizes the 2022-23 accomplishments of the VCC Website Administration Team: Greg Blaney (Administrator), Lori Moilanen (Manager), and Richard Letourneau (Assistant).

### **Website Administration Transition**

Several significant changes in Website Team organization occurred in 2022-23. Greg Blaney replaced Richard Letourneau as Website Administrator. Douglas Layden assisted Greg as Website Manager for several months before retiring from this role in mid-year. Richard recruited Lori Moilanen, who has previous website experience with another camera club, as Website Manager and for VCC Facebook page maintenance. These changes required frequent communication via email and Zoom meetings to ensure smooth transitions, establish roles, and to provide VCC website-specific training for Lori.

### **Close-up *digital* Website Creation and Maintenance**

In 2022-23, VCC transitioned from a traditional print newsletter to a new digital version ("*Close-up digital*"). The VCC Website Team provided essential support for the creation of *Close-up digital*, including participation in planning meetings; creation of a new, secure website domain; creation of temporary and permanent hosting accounts; account migration; creation of a Google Analytics account for tracking hits, and assistance in resolving various technical issues.

### **VCC Website Maintenance**

In 2022-23, the VCC Website included more than 140 pages of information and data essential to club function and received more than half a million hits from members and the public. The VCC Website Team updated website content and appearance on an almost daily basis for routine maintenance and to address specific requests for additions or changes. In addition, Website Team members also performed more specialized actions, such as creating an Excel script for generating calendar entries for recurring VCC events.

### **ZOOM Meetings**

VCC continued to use Zoom to host online meetings in 2022-23. The VCC Website Team posted Zoom links for the various SIG and Monthly Meetings multiple times each month and supported meeting organizers in using Zoom.

### **Photo Galleries**

The multiple photo galleries on the VCC Website are an important avenue for showcasing VCC activities, plus the artistry and competition successes of our members. In 2022-23, almost 6000 new images were uploaded to the website for competitions and sharing. The VCC Website Team approved the creation of all galleries for all field trips and competitions; updated/streamlined existing Featured Gallery pages; created the 2022-23 Featured Galleries page; and updated the Internal and External Competition pages. In addition, the Team tutored members in posting images to field trip galleries.

### **Membership Website Training**

Because the VCC Website is extensive, the Website Team offers training to orient VCC members in its use. In 2022-23, the Team prepared and conducted two members-only VCC Website Orientation workshops that were included in the VCC Workshop Schedule. The most recent workshop was attended by 14 members.

### **Website Usage Statistics (April 2022 – March 2023)**

Hits on VCC web pages – 598,633

New Competitions Images submitted – 1,238

New Gallery Images – 4,731

### **OUTREACH**

VCC is an active member of several networks including the BC/Yukon Inter-Club, the Canadian Association of Photographic Arts (CAPA), the Photographic Society of America (PSA). Our Club is also a member of the Victoria Arts Council where we will hold a Print Show as part of our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024.

Finally, in 2022, our Club volunteered to be the official photographer for the BC 55+ Games.

### **BC/YUKON INTER-CLUB COMMITTEE (Danielle Labonté)**

Our Camera Club continues to be an active member of the BC/Yukon Inter-Club collaboration – which includes over 35 clubs across the region. Participation includes regular ZOOM meetings to share best practices and challenges faced by clubs as we adjust to COVID-19 restrictions and a return to “before” ways of doing things. Many clubs are struggling with maintaining membership and trying to run meaningful meetings whether in person, by ZOOM or hybrid.

As in the past three years, the Inter-Club hosted four guest speakers throughout the year:

- November 2022. Bryan Peterson: *“Understanding Contrast – Going Beyond Light and Shadow”* Host: Harbour City Photographic Club
- January 2023. Douglas Johnson, *“Exploring your Subject”*. Host: Comox Valley Photographic Society
- February 2023. Diane Bos: *“Beyond the Image: Alternative Photographic Processes and Approaches to Photography”*, Host: Victoria Camera Club
- April 2023. Craig Blacklock, *“Light Waves”*, Host: Salt Spring Island Camera Club

As noted above, VCC chaired the third meeting which was preceded by an outstanding slide show featuring VCC’s best recent work. That slide show was put together by Richard Letourneau.

### **CAPA/PSA (Richard Letourneau)**

During the past year, I have served as the Victoria Camera Club liaison with both the Canadian Association for Photographic Art (CAPA) and the Photographic Society of America (PSA). During 2022-2023, the newly formed External Competitions Committee agreed to offer members the opportunity to participate in 10 external competitions, 7 of which were with CAPA. No 3-part

PSA competitions were entered this year, but our PSA membership was maintained in good status.

During the year, I reminded VCC members who held membership with CAPA that even though they may have participated in a CAPA Club competition, they were still eligible to participate in competitions as individuals.

Some of our members attended CAPA judging courses this past year. One member, David Clow, completed all necessary requirements and is now a CAPA Certified Judge.

As I received electronic copies of the CAPA magazine, *Canadian Camera*, as well as their *Monthly Newsletter*, links were placed on the website, under the “News/CAPA Magazines and Newsletters” tab. I have been informed that the CAPA magazine will be renamed *Canadian Photographic Magazine* to demonstrate more emphasis on the output and not the tool (camera.)

The 2024 Canadian Photographic Conference will be held in Kelowna.

### **VCC at the 55+ Games (Bob Law)**

The 55+ BC Games is an annual province-wide event that was held in Greater Victoria this year, September 15-17. It was a massive undertaking with 2,500 athletes competing in 22 sports at 21 venues all over Greater Victoria. The games were bookended with Opening Ceremonies at the Save on Foods Memorial Centre and a Friday night party at the Roundhouse. 900 volunteers, 41 of whom were members of the Victoria Camera Club, staffed the events.

VCC’s 41 volunteers covered 103 events over 4 days and uploaded over 1,500 photos to the Games Flickr site ([www.flickr.com/photos/bcsg/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bcsg/albums)). Many of our members covered several events over the four days, often for several hours at a time. The Games Board was overwhelmed by the quality and quantity of the photos our members produced and every one of our 41 volunteers deserves recognition – you were amazing!!

The games assignment was not all work—our members had a blast. The athletes were a fun-loving bunch, and we were part of that. Many members found themselves pushed out of their photographic comfort zones, and then pleasantly surprised at how well they were able to adapt and produce brilliant images. For many, it was a good refresher on dealing with shutter speeds, depth-of-field, and changing lighting.

VCC can be very proud of our contribution to this major community event. Successfully photographing such a complex happening would have been a nearly impossible task without an organization such as ours stepping up to the plate and taking over. Well done!