

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy 2023 everyone!

As we ramp up our spring season, we wish you all a Happy New Year filled with health, good friends, and, of course, photographic opportunities.

First, we take this opportunity to give warm thanks to the 40 or so volunteers who make the Victoria Camera Club a happening place. If you've joined us from another club or region, you will have noticed the richness of VCC's offerings. There is an activity to grab your interest on most days of the week: workshops, outings, shared interest group meetings, image feedback at any level, competitions, guest speakers, etc. All of these are run by our volunteers! And each of these groups could use extra help.

And did we mention the VCC website? There is a lot of useful information to be found on <https://www.victoriacameraclub.ca/> and on our new blog, Close-Up Digital. Warm thanks to Douglas Layden who recently has had to step back from the role of web manager. And thank you to Richard Letourneau who is filling in on an interim basis. We are looking for a new volunteer web manager to replace Douglas. You would be working with Greg, our web administrator, who is a wizard at keeping the site working smoothly. Some of the tasks you might perform include updating the VCC website Home Page, calendar entries, galleries, and new pages; responding to queries; and creating and updating specialty pages in WordPress. If you are interested in helping, please contact Greg Blaney at website@victoriacameraclub.ca. It is very helpful to have more than one person managing this key communication function.

Second, after surveying our membership regarding the format of future meetings, we have decided to resume hybrid meetings in February. New equipment has been purchased and we have also learned that Norway House has updated all its audio-visual equipment. We aim to make this a quality experience as we go forward. Competition and Members' nights will be the two meetings using hybrid format. The doors will open at 7:00 pm so that those who attend in person can socialize before the formal program begins at 7:30. Lorna Shaw and Lee-Ann Stack have kindly joined our volunteer ranks to take care of refreshments. Meeting breaks will be kept brief so that ZOOM participants are not left waiting online. We'll try that for a while and see how it goes.

Third, we would like to give warm greetings to our three newest members: Eric Clayton, Vlad, Dzhubarov, and Lucie Sager. We hope you will find lots of photographic inspiration with us.

Finally, don't forget to bookmark our new blog site <https://close-updigital.victoriacameraclub.ca/> and check it often as new articles are posted every few days. You can also find the blog and the former Close-Up Magazine under the Close-Up tab on our VCC website.

Danielle Labonté

On behalf of the VCC Executive