

VIEWFINDER



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kas Stone



As summer draws to a close, our thoughts turn again to Monday evening get-togethers with friends at the Etobicoke Camera Club. As I mentioned when I took over the presidency at the banquet in May, I value our Club for the many opportunities it provides for members to learn new photographic techniques and discover new ways of seeing. So I know that I, for one, will not be disappointed by the lineup of Club activities in the season ahead, which promises to be among our finest yet.

Andy Heics and Kent Wilson have put together a splendid program of seminars and presentations to educate and entertain us this year. Guest speakers and ECC members will share the spotlight, contributing their expertise and stimulating us with their images – beginning with our Club's own Maggie and Julian Sale on September 8th.

Meanwhile Gerald Sewall and Mike Marshall have spent the summer busily scouting locations for Club Outings. The result is an exciting itinerary for participants that includes a paddling excursion on the Credit River, a tour of historic Bovaird House, and a blissful visit to the tropics in January (well, the African and Australasian pavillions at the Toronto zoo anyway). Stay tuned for more information as the season progresses.

The ECC has undertaken the transition over the past few years from film to digital, and consequently our programming has concentrated on helping us stagger up the steep learning curve with a minimum of

frustration. A new tradition of Digital Demo and Photoshop How-To evenings has emerged, and will continue strong in 2008-2009 (our final year for slides in competition). However we have not forgotten that we are *photographers* first, and our programming continues its even longer tradition of striving for photographic excellence by including topics like design and composition, f-stops and shutter speeds in its seminar schedule as well.

The Club's Rules of Competition have undergone a major overhaul in the past two years as our Image Evaluation team came to grips with the changing technology and the increased number of competition entries that our growing membership has generated. The new Rules are in effect for the Photographer's Choice #1 competition on October 6th, so be sure you've read and understood them before making your submissions in order to avoid the disappointment of having any of your images rejected! As we adapt to ever-improving technology and the changing character of our membership, these Rules will *continue* to evolve, so please bear with us during the tweaking process.

The Club's Image Evaluation and Equipment teams work extremely hard to ensure that competitions run smoothly, dealing efficiently with the administrative and technological glitches that occasionally arise. We welcome several new members to these teams this year, whose skill and assistance will be much appreciated by all of us. We also welcome some software upgrades and a new scoring laptop (approved by the Board for purchase from the Club's equipment fund), which it is hoped will resolve some previous technical difficulties.

Details of the Club's Program, Outings, and Competitions, as well as membership forms, useful links, and other things relating to the Club are always available on our website at www.etobicokecameraclub.org. Have you visited it lately? Julian has done a marvelous job of keeping the site up to date and easy to navigate. The *Members' Only Section* is worth browsing on a regular basis as new images and information are frequently added. The *Viewfinder* is another valuable source of news, published monthly during the camera

club season. Submissions for the *Viewfinder* are always welcome, so if you have any articles, reviews, tips or photographs that you would like to share with other members, please email them to Julian at info@etobicokecameraclub.org.

Over the summer months, whether you have been travelling to distant lands, vacationing at your cottage or sneaking away for hours of relaxation closer to home, I hope you have found some time to enjoy with camera in hand. I look forward to seeing the best of your images during the coming season, and to seeing *you* when our Club meetings resume on September 8th. Until then, happy snapping!

RULES OF COMPETITION CHANGES

The Board of Directors and the Directors of Image Evaluation have been working on the process of submitting images for competition so that the upcoming season will be run in a more efficient manner.

The Image Evaluation Directors include from the previous season, Diane Sawatzky, Mike Fanjoy, and Don Dawson plus new directors this season Robert Todd and Sema & Seit Toprak.

Here is a summary of the changes of which members should all be aware, however, we strongly urge you to read the complete Rules of Competition on the website. It is available both as a web page on the site and as a pdf download. All changes this year are highlighted in **Red**.

1. With our growing membership, one of the biggest changes this year is the **reduction in the number of images you are allowed to submit for each competition from 4 to 3**. This will allow us to continue with judges' comments, a feature which the vast majority of members have asked the Board to retain.

This change triggers a number of other changes in scoring etc, all of which are outlined in the updated Rules of Competition.

2. This is the **last year that the club will accept slide entries**. The club will make every effort to help those who continue to use slide film to get their slides scanned for competitions.
3. The **digital entry forms must have a file name in the following format:**

Your Name_Competition Name.doc

Eg:

Sally_Brown_Photographer's_Choice_1.doc

4. You can now **submit your competition images with a maximum dimension 1024 pixels**. Since this is a "maximum" specification, you can still submit your images at 768 pixels as you did in the past year if you prefer. We will continue to project images at 768 pixels maximum dimension (ProShow will automatically downsize any images submitted with a larger dimension).

One of the reasons for making this change is that CAPA has decided to change their image size back to a maximum of 1024 pixels. If you choose to continue submitting your ECC competition images at 768 pixels and one of them is chosen for a CAPA competition, you will have to resubmit it at the 1024 pixel size.

5. **Images submitted for competition cannot have the # sign anywhere in the file name.**
6. **IMPORTANT** – Digital images submitted via e-mail for competitions must be sent to the NEW e-mail address:
competitions@etobicokecameraclub.org

Once again, we strongly urge you to read the updated Rules of Competition available on the website. (hardcopy will be available for those who do not have access to the Internet). If you have ANY questions, please do not hesitate to ask about them in order to avoid being disappointed.

FALL OUTINGS

The new outings team Gerald Sewall and Mike Marshall have put together a schedule of interesting and creative outings for this season. Here is a bit of information about the fall outings, however more information is coming from the team closer to each event.

September

21 Outing: Rattray Marsh and Kayaking / Canoeing the Credit River

This is really two outings in one. For those who are experienced in canoeing or kayaking, you can bring your own or rent one for a really different outing capturing scenery, birds, and wildlife on the Credit River. For those not inclined to such aquatic adventures, there is an opportunity of capturing scenery, birds and other wildlife while keeping your feet securely planted on terra firma at the close by Rattray Marsh.

See the end of this Viewfinder for more details about the location and time of this outing plus some images of Rattray and Credit River.

See the website for additional details.

www.creditvalleycons.com/recandleisure/rattray.htm

October

1 *Outing: Silvano Color Laboratories*

We are having a tour of Silvano Color Lab, 355 Weston Road Toronto at 7pm on Wednesday Oct. 1 2008.

Although most people now use digital cameras, may still have some prints made at a professional lab such as Silvano Color Lab. Here is your chance to learn more about the process, what is required, and the sort of results you can expect to get, etc.

There will be refreshments served.

Here is their Web address with map:

<http://www.silvanoimaging.com/areamap.html>

19 *Outing: Tommy Thompson Park*

This is the old **Leslie Street Spit** now named **Tommy Thompson Park**. The park is located on a man-made peninsula that extends five kilometres into Lake Ontario. Although man-made, it is amazing how nature has taken over. At this time of year there should be lots of colour left.

The park has become well known as a significant nesting and staging area for a wide range of birds and other wildlife. In total, more than 290 bird species have been observed on site. Of these, 45 are known to breed here, including ring-billed gulls, herring gulls, common terns, black-crowned night herons and double-crested cormorants.

For additional information on the park, go to www.blackcreek.ca and click on Other TRCA Lands.

November

16 *Outing: Bovaird House, Brampton*

An excellent example of a Georgian style farmhouse. Parking and entrance are free. Lots of great photo opportunities here. For more information, check out their website at www.bovairdhouse.ca



REMINDER

Images for the first competition of the year **“Photographer’s Choice 1”** must be submitted by the **Sept 15th** meeting. Now is a good time to select your images.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 2008

- 8 \$ *Presentation: From Tunisia to Georgian Bay* - Maggie & Julian Sale, Etobicoke CC
- 15 *\$ *Presentation: Jewels of the Aegean: Crete and Santorini* - Christopher Siou, Toronto Camera Club
- 21 *Outing: Rattray Marsh and Kayaking / Canoeing the Credit River*
- 22 \$ *Seminar: Composition and Design* - Hugh Jacob, Professional Photographer
- 29 *Member’s Show: Light Is . . .* - Brian Quan
Image Critique: Scenics

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

OCTOBER 2008

- 1 *Outing: Silvano Color Laboratories*
- 6 *Judging: Photographer’s Choice #1*
- 13 **THANKSGIVING - NO MEETING**
- 19 *Outing: Tommy Thompson Park*
- 20 *\$ *Presentation: A Mixed Bag* - Hillarie McNeil-Smith, Mississauga Camera Club
- 27 \$ *Seminar: Tips and Tricks for Photographing Wild Flowers* - Karin Adams and Chuck Carson, Country Images CC

See our website or the pamphlet for the entire program for the year.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership reached over 100 members last season, however, we still have lots of room for new members – unlike some clubs in the GTCCC who have run out of physical space. If you know anyone who is a photographer and does not belong to a camera club, or even anyone who is new to photography with a new digital camera, why not invite them to attend one of our meetings. Even people starting out with a point-and-shoot camera can participate and benefit from club events and competitions. As you know, the club provides interest and great value for all photographers from beginners to more accomplished photographers.

Reminder: Fill out the membership and waiver forms and along with your cheque made out to **Etobicoke Camera Club** (or cash but cheque preferred) bring them to Dario Di Sante, our treasurer. This applies to **everyone** - even long time members must fill out these forms.

OTHER NEWS / WEB SITES / TIPS

1. **Maggie & Julian Sale** win gold with their entry “*Tunisia – Sidi Bou Said*” in the CAPA Travel category for digital A/V essays this summer.

Congratulations to Maggie and Julian!

2. **Financial Statement for ECC**

A copy of the financial statement for ECC is now available in the Members Only section of our web site (a hardcopy will be included with the Viewfinder for those who do not get it via e-mail). Even though expenses increased in most areas last year, the club still has a good positive balance. Thank you to Dario Di Sante for his work in keeping our books in good shape.

3. **ECC e-mails**

Group e-mails are now being sent out from our camera club e-mail address etobicokecameraclub@gmail.com

This e-mail address is reserved only for group mailings to all club members or the board, thus please do not reply to these messages.

All general mail should still be addressed to: info@etobicokecameraclub.org

PLEASE NOTE: Images for competitions or critiques should be sent to: competitions@etobicokecameraclub.org

4. Photographers Wanted

Two new local publications are welcoming submissions from photographers concerning activities and issues in Etobicoke. Both publications are new ventures in 2008, distributed free of charge to homes and businesses in the area.

Etobicoke Life is a quarterly, small-format, glossy magazine “with a soul purpose of connecting Etobians with each other”. Publisher Michael Stokes invites photographers to visit the magazine’s website at www.etobicolife.com for more information. Congratulations to ECC member Natasha Smiljanic who had several images published in *Etobicoke Life*’s Summer edition, including “Lady Bug”, featured on the front cover!

SNAP Etobicoke is a monthly newspaper-style publication (on high-quality paper) “specializing in a ‘non-political’, friendly and entertaining view of living in our community”. *SNAP*’s June edition included a spread about the CONTACT Photography Festival that showcased ECC members’ prints in a summer-long exhibition at Montgomery’s Inn. Publisher Peter Foy invites photographers to contact him through the paper’s website at www.snapetobicoke.com.

This information was provided by *Kas Stone*.

5. **Don’t miss our first meeting on Sept 8th** – Maggie & Julian will be presenting a series of A/V shows from their travels to various countries including Tunisia, Spain, Scotland, England, and Canada. One of the shows entitled “*Tunisia – Sidi Bou Said*” was the gold medal winner in the CAPA competition.
6. **Do You Know Others Interested in Photography?**

We are one of the few clubs in Toronto which has lots of room for additional members. Why not invite a friend or business colleague to one of our meetings. Just about everyone has a digital camera of some sort and they all seem to be looking for help. What better place to get that help and have fun than Etobicoke Camera Club.

Etobicoke Camera Club Outing September 21 2008

Rattray Marsh and Kayaking/Canoeing on the Credit River.

Meet at Jack Darling Memorial Park, Parking Lot at 10.00 AM

The Park is 2.9 KM west of the Credit River on Lakeshore Blvd W. South side, the parking lot is down by the lake. We will be at the marsh for about 2 to 2 1/2 hrs and then go to the Credit River by the lighthouse for lunch, there is a very nice Fish & Chip Restaurant, then the Kayakers take to the water and the rest of us can take photos of them starting out (and falling in!!!) and then wander this area.

Rattray Marsh

Large groups are advised to enter through the City of Mississauga's Jack Darling Park which offers washrooms and picnic facilities not available in Rattray. Just a short 1/2 kilometer walk west along the waterfront trail from the westerly most parking lot of Jack Darling brings you to the Turtle Creek bridge and the entrance to the 38 ha (94 acre) Rattray Marsh.

Rattray Marsh is an "environmental gem" located in a unique natural setting within the City of Mississauga. As the last remaining lakefront marsh between Toronto and Burlington, this environmentally sensitive wetland offers a different experience for nature lovers. Rattray Marsh is home to a variety of wildlife and plants and a definite must see for avid bird watchers, photographers and nature lovers.

A Lake Ontario Wetland



Blue Heron

Plant life is abundant and beautiful at the marsh. Rattray is home to a large variety of wildflowers which include Ontario's large-flowered trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit and the red-berried nightshade. There is also numerous tree species including oak, birch, willow, hemlock, ash and maple.



Although bird life at the marsh constantly changes throughout the seasons, bird watchers relish in sighting the ever-present wood warbler, eastern kingbirds, tree swallows, grey catbirds, and spotted sandpipers. Wading birds delight in the marsh and creek habitat of Rattray. Look for black-crowned night herons, green-backed herons and great blue herons during your visit. Wildlife within the marsh includes rabbits, beaver, and deer with occasionally foxes. Other creatures include the vocal spring peeper, American toad, turtles, snakes and more.

Kayaking/Canoeing on the Credit River.

I suggest that the kayakers and canoeists park their vehicles in the second parking lot as this is closest to put our boats in the water. Meet back at the restaurant or Starbucks. After lunch depending on the weather conditions we will head out to the old sunken boat if the weather is good. If the lake is choppy we will head north up the credit river. The land- lover can observe the boaters from the east bank and the dock goes out towards the lake or if the boats go north there is a track up to the railway track.

For the boaters who take their cameras there is the old sunken boat which we can get right around, watch for the rocks at the stern of the boat. When we go up the river there is marsh land which includes many bird species, turtles, flowers and an old haunted house on the west bank!



Don't forget sunglasses, mosquito repellent and most of all your life jacket. There are cormorants different seagulls and spider webs in port holes. If it's sunny we may get beautiful reflections on the hull.



Up the river

