

# VIEWFINDER



Vol 49 No 2

Sept / Oct 2009



**Gold & Image of the Month**

**“Panned Pines”**

**© Joe Vitale**

## Competition Results: Photographer's Choice 1

Congratulations to all the winners! – All winning images can be viewed on the ECC web site

Intermediate: Entries: Accepted:		Average:
<b>GOLD</b>	IRENE BARTON	Stranded In Peggy's Cove
<b>SILVER</b>	SANDRA LAURIN	Waiting
<b>HM</b>	BRUCE BARTON	Rubble By Lake Ontario
<b>HM</b>	CLIVE TONGE	Sunrise on Toronto
<b>HM</b>	CONNIE MILLER	Blue Stairs
<b>HM</b>	CORRINE SELLARS	Daisy Bee
<b>HM</b>	JAN KARNIEJ	Mountain Peaks
<b>HM</b>	RICHARD MORENCY	AUGUST SUNSET ON OLD QUEBEC

Advanced: Entries: Accepted:		Average:
<b>GOLD</b>	JEAN WALKER	reflection
<b>SILVER</b>	MICHEL GAGNON	Valensole1
<b>HM</b>	BRIAN QUAN	Snowbirds Salute Arrow
<b>HM</b>	CAROLYN FRANCIS-SCOBIE	PARROT TULIP
<b>HM</b>	CAROLYN FRANCIS-SCOBIE	DETAIL DISTILLERY DELIVERY TRUCK
<b>HM</b>	CAROLYN FRANCIS-SCOBIE	REFELCTIONS ON ROY THOMPSON HALL
<b>HM</b>	GERALD SEWELL	Autumn Scene
<b>HM</b>	GUNTER HAIBACH	Autumn Window
<b>HM</b>	KENNETH HARRY	forgotten door
<b>HM</b>	MICHEL GAGNON	Valensole3
<b>HM</b>	ROD LORD	Bruce sunrise
<b>HM</b>	VINCE ELLERY	Onaping Falls

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Superset: Entries: Accepted:		Average:
<b>GOLD</b>	JOE VITALE	Panned Pines
<b>SILVER</b>	SANDRA HAWKINS	Tree Swallows
<b>HM</b>	DIANE SAWATZKY	Connemara Landscape
<b>HM</b>	DON POULTON	Gerbera Daisy
<b>HM</b>	EARNET MARHLE	Frost
<b>HM</b>	JUDY GRIFFIN	FORBIDDING
<b>HM</b>	JUDY PUCHER	Daffodils
<b>HM</b>	JUDY PUCHER	Lily of the Valley
<b>HM</b>	KAS STONE	Winter Beach Patterns
<b>HM</b>	MAGGIE SALE	Evening Walk
<b>HM</b>	MAGGIE SALE	Vancouver Evening

Judges: Clara Parsons      Ron Manning      Nancy Mungall



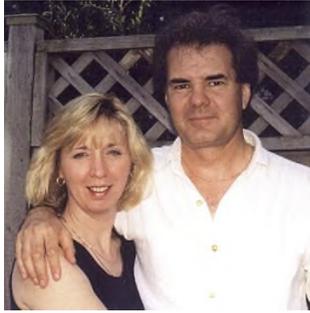
© Jean Walker "Reflection" – Gold Advanced



© Irene Barton "Stranded in Peggy's Cove" – Gold Intermediate

**PRESENTATION:****Peru – A Diverse Landscape**

Ray &amp; Mary Ann Anderson, Toronto CC



*Introduction by  
Judy Griffin.*

I am so pleased that the Andersons are here to kick off our new season at ECC showing off their digital format.

We always consider ourselves extremely

fortunate when Ray & Mary Ann visit, as we know their presentations are outstanding.

I know you are waiting to enjoy yet another presentation. But for new members and guests who are not familiar with their work, let me acquaint you: Ray & Mary Ann have been members of Toronto Camera Club for 18 years, and they both belong to 2 multi-media groups:

PEG (Photo Essay Group) and GEM (Group of Essay Makers). They have been presenters for TCC Public Presentations, the Granite Club, the Latow A/V Festival, the Rotary Club, and the various GTCCC clubs including our club.

Ray and Mary Ann love to travel to exotic and far-flung destinations to capture the essence of the country or region, and its people. They research destinations and organize their travel independently and they try to time their travel to coordinate with festivals and special events. They often put up with hardships and adverse conditions that we would probably never consider enduring to get into the real heart of a country or region. They have travelled to approximately 40 countries and have presented destinations such as Tibet, Myanmar, Guatemala, Turkey, Iberia, and Angkor Wat.



© Ray Anderson – Machu Pichu

In tonight's presentation, Peru: A Diverse Landscape, Ray and Mary Ann will be bringing you the colour and tradition of the Andean people and scenery, the sights and sounds of the Amazon rainforest, the spectacular Inti Raymi festival, and the ancient Inca mystery of Machu Picchu.

*Comments.*

Once again the Andersons treated us to some very colourful and unusual images. They are particularly skilled in capturing the local people both in the reality of their everyday lives and the colourful splendour of their festivals.

Always at the leading edge of technology, we've come to expect something new and different and this year was no exception. They included quite a bit of video in their shows, a lot more than we have ever seen in an A/V show in the past. It was tastefully done although several members commented that there was a bit too much video for our first exposure. Some really liked it and others are not so sure video has such a prominent place in photographic A/V shows. One thing we know for sure, we are going to see more and more video since virtually all point and shoots have video capability and all the DSL manufacturers are now starting to incorporate video into their cameras.

*Dorothy De Haas*

*(her comments sum up those made by many others)*

"It was a great presentation on Peru. Amazing shots looking down on Machu Pichu ! It appears that the Andersons live to travel and take photographs."

**PRESENTATION:****Iceland, China, Namibia & Other Goodies**

Clara Parsons, Trillium Photographic Group



Clara Parsons has been involved in photography for many years. She is a graduate of Sheridan College Photography program. Her interests are varied and run from Nature Photography to Digital Photography. She has turned her wet darkroom into a digital darkroom. Putting

together slide shows of her travels and other interests occupies much of her time.

Her work is sold through a Stock Agency and has been published in Equinox, Harrowsmith, text books and calendars. She constructed and taught a course in Photography entitled "Would You Like to Take Better Photographs?"

Clara is from Montreal and moved to Oakville via Zimbabwe. She spent 19 months in Africa while her husband fulfilled a contract with the World Bank. She has travelled to many parts of the world and feels photography makes you more aware of your surroundings.

Her motto for photography is - **“if the light is right take the photograph”**.



© Clara Parsons - Iceland Landscape

#### Comments

From the many positive comments, there is no doubt that Clara is a very skilled photographer and presenter. Her images are stunning.

#### **OUTING: 26 Sept 2009 Spencer Gorge Tews & Webster Falls**



© Clyde Etkins



© Mike Marshall

#### **SEMINAR:**

#### **Power of the Camera to Achieve Social Goals** *Andrew Stawicki, PhotoSensitive*



©Elaine Freedman

#### **Brief History**

The brainchild of Toronto Star photographer Andrew Stawicki and former Star graphics editor Peter Robertson, PhotoSensitive was founded in 1990 as a

non-profit collective of photographers determined to explore how photography can contribute to social justice. The idea was to bring together the photographic talents of a number of Toronto-based professional photographers to harness the power of the camera to achieve social goals. Each photographer would bring his or her own vision to the subject; the sum of these visions would provide a compelling social comment.

Today PhotoSensitive is branching out to include the talents of photographers from across Canada and seeks to photograph issues that affect our social well-being.

Our work is defined by the following characteristics.

#### **Social Issues**

PhotoSensitive projects focus on realities with which North Americans are familiar, including poverty, hunger, illness, racism, ignorance, injustice. But it concentrates, too, on their antidotes: the hope found in the face of adversity, the laughter and love that make the difficulties of life tolerable, the simple pleasures that lighten dark lives. The photographers use the camera's ability to tell a story, make social comment, and spur viewers to action.

#### **Black and White**

PhotoSensitive believes that still photographs, especially in black and white, have a way of touching people in a unique way. By working exclusively in black and white, the photographers force viewers to concentrate on the image rather than the photograph.

#### **Voluntary**

Photographers who contribute the PhotoSensitive projects as volunteers, give their time to photography that falls outside of their professional work.

See their site [www.photosensitive.com](http://www.photosensitive.com) for more info.

Andrew was a very dynamic passionate speaker and his enthusiasm was infectious in spite of the fact that he talked quickly and with quite a strong accent

which made it challenging to hear him properly at times.

Some do's and don'ts Andrew shared with us:

- Talk to people first and let them know what you are doing and who will benefit, then ask permission
- Written consent is required if you are going to make a profit from the image
- Use wide angle lens – don't be afraid to get close – it requires confidence
- Don't use flash – instead use high ISO if necessary – even grainy images can make a social statement, sometimes more powerfully than a non-grainy image – Andrew often shoots at 3000 ISO
- Use auto focus
- Make the picture, don't take the picture
- Don't use a tripod in social situations (tripods are for scenery and macro photography)
- Jpg is faster – RAW is better but not always necessary
- Don't spend a lot of time in the digital darkroom – if the image is not there, then tweaking it will not make the image
- Andrew uses a 16-35mm lens most often and occasionally a 70-100mm lens
- Takes time to get the picture
- Everything is connection with people

They use an average of 10 photographers per project. Only one photographer is assigned to a single person or family. On the other hand, they could do projects that involve anywhere up to 1000 photographers.

Andrew strongly urged the club to consider doing our own social project and in fact he donated the honorarium we gave him for his presentation to kick start it.

#### *Comments*

*Judy Griffin* – “Andrew's program last night was a rewarding change from our usual program. He focused on passion in our photography instead of getting caught up in "the pretty picture syndrome". We can get so intent on getting the perfect image in reference to competition shots, that we can miss the real story. I realise that these story -telling images may only work in the context of a project or show, and may not always score well as a one-off in competition, but his enthusiasm and passion were so tangible that they can only help us relate to our

subjects and make better photographs. It was a very refreshing and worthwhile presentation.”

### **MEMBER'S SHOW: Pointe Pelee**



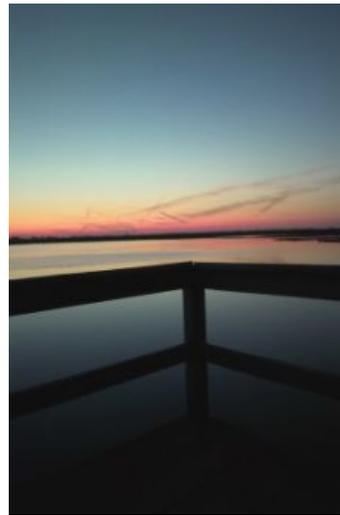
*Bruce Lewis*

Bruce has been an enthusiastic member of ECC ever since he joined 3 years ago. Bruce started his show by providing lots of info about Point Pelee. His presentation was relaxed, humorous, and professional. Bruce's first introduction to

Point Pelee was with a local photographer and guide (Steve Pike), and from his first visit, he was hooked. He has been back 10 times at different times of the year.

Everyone was amazed when Bruce told us that this was his first A/V presentation – “ever – “anywhere”.

Using a map Bruce oriented to the park and gave us a good sense of where his images were taken. The beauty of his images were a real eye opener for those of us who didn't know much about Point Pelee (most of us). I'm sure his show has inspired many members to plan a trip to Point Pelee. His sunrise images were particularly inspiring.



©Bruce Lewis

The well chosen music was from a CD called Nature Quest composed by Hennie Bekker.

The best time to visit Point Pelee is from mid April to the end of May and from August thru October.

Check out the following websites for more info about the park:

[www.stevepike.com](http://www.stevepike.com)

[www.friendsofpointpelee.com](http://www.friendsofpointpelee.com)

PS: For those who missed his show, Bruce is also a great story teller.



**Comments:**

“Bruce is an entertaining speaker”

“Loved the way that Bruce provided lots of info about Point Pelee, he even had handouts – he clearly put in a lot of effort”

“Hard to believe this was Bruce’s first A/V presentation”

“Some great images – Point Pelee is now on my list of places to photograph”

“Will you be our guide to Point Pelee?”



**OUTING: 17 Oct 2009  
Riverwood**

*Bruce Lewis:* It started out very cold; then as we started walking and taking photos the sun came out and brought out the colours and warmed up the weather.

What a great day photographing Black-capped Chickadees, Downy woodpeckers, and common Robins.



© Catherine Roe



© Bruce Lewis (above 4 images)



© Bruce Lewis



© Bruce Lewis

## JUDGING – Photographer’s Choice 1

This is was the first competition of the year and for some new members, their first competition ever. Even trained judges can differ in their opinion of the quality and impact of an image. For those new to competitions, these differences are normal (and very human) but you should be aware that over several competitions good photographers will get better than average scores so the process does work.

Photographer’s Choice is one of the most difficult categories for judges since images span such a wide variety of subjects. We like to encourage the judges to use as much of the scoring scale 1 to 10 as possible, but in this particular case, the judges tended to be conservative with their scoring.

So for those new to photographic competitions (actually this applies to everyone), don’t be disheartened by any individual score or comment. The competitions still provide a great learning opportunity for everyone.

## SEMINAR:

### Creating From Within

Rob Kennedy, Mississauga CC



Passionate and enthusiastic about photography, Rob’s focus is architectural, and abstract nature themes. In nearly twenty years as a professional touring and recording musician, Rob has combined his love for music, travel, and photography in places as diverse as the American southwest, the Middle East, and Zimbabwe.

For the past 6 years, he has lead visual design workshops in Ontario while continuing studies of central Mexico’s architecture, landscape, and culture.

## SIC Theory

### Seeing – Interpreting – Capturing

**Seeing:** *Seeing before Making*

Seeing is probably the hardest aspect of this theory to learn but probably the most important to understand. Seeing enables us to create an image from the world around us by first discovering, then manipulating our subject matter to *enhance* what we see to create an interesting and dynamic image.



Copyright Rob Kennedy

**Interpreting:** “to tell the meaning of, to represent by means of Art”,

Interpretation is how we represent our work as an individual. It is also where we make a lot of our decisions on how the image is to be viewed or understood by others.

Telling a story visually:

Not unlike a great novel, we have to communicate some kind of message *visually*. Interpretation can tell a lot about the artist or very little, as a glance is to a stare, there is almost always some kind of information given in varying degrees.



Robkennedyphotos.com

*Making Choices:*

It can be highly personal at times and it is up to the artist and his/her feeling about the subject matter and there approach to it.

**Capturing:**

Capturing an image involves the technical aspects of bringing the image to life.

*Lens Choice:* Understanding how different lenses effect the outcome of the image is also very important in our final image.

*Perspective Choice:* Making a statement by your camera position & perspective choice is also important in capturing and personalizing an image.

*Exposure choice:* Exposing for mood is important. Your light meter is only a guide.

Many photographers tend to be obsessed by technical terms and equipment and often let all else fall by the wayside. This can lead to a static or boring image with *little* or *no* feeling if this approach is taken.

Working with your equipment should be *second nature* to you, so you can concentrate on having fun, Seeing, Interpreting, and Capturing the world around us.

**Compositional Tips:**

Simplifying your images into simple graphic qualities:

**Using Visual Ingredients**

**Arranging shapes, lines or textures within the picture space**

- ❖ **Seeing before Making** - Take time and care when composing
- ❖ **Diagonals add Dynamics** - Use Lines, Edges or Corners to add dynamics
- ❖ **Verticals vs. Horizontals** - Bracket your compositions for variety

❖ **Decide what to include or exclude.** “Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication”.

See our club Website Members Section Only for Rob’s **Ten Commandments of What Not to Do.**

**Comments:**

“Good review of techniques to use in camera”

“The presentation definitely inspired me to try to be more creative in my photography”

“Humorous & inspirational approach”

“Excellent images, creative work great, more time required on the actual techniques used”

“Images creative, impressive!”

“Would liked to have seen updated presentation using newer digital images”

“Rob reminded many that photography should be about the SKILL of creativity, not the knowledge of computer programs”

“Images very creative using camera, not manipulation – shows what you can do without a computer”

**NEWS**

**Welcome to 24 new members so far this season.**

Adam Antczak	Jan Karniej
Bill Raney	John Stevenson
Carol Ann Brown	June West
Carol Smiley	Linda Gilbert
Catherine Labelle	Marija Tanasijevic
Clive Tonge	Mark Guilbeault
Connie Miller	Mary-Beth Wallace
Dianne Werbicki	Roni Furst
Elizabeth Robb	Rose DeSousa
Gail Robinson	Sandra Laurin
Gord Burrell	Sandro Ubaldino
Irina Sedenko	Will Reinhardt

**Here is an interesting link submitted by Mike Fanjoy:**

It is a collection of the historic Life Magazine photos going back to the 1860's.

<http://images.google.com/hosted/life>

**There are also interesting portrait exhibitions on at the AGO and ROM – check websites for info.**

**Heritage Lighting Project** – St Lawrence Market area downtown Toronto - Nov 6 & 7 after 6pm.

**Best wishes to Gerry Sewell** for a continued speedy recovery from heart surgery.