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Among the changing months, May stands confest The sweetest, and in fairest colors dressed.

James Thomson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome May! The sun gets stronger, the grass is greener, and the promise of spring's blooms is finally met. Halleluiaah, the fresh breeze may now flow through the open windows of our homes.

As we continue the practice of social distancing in this time of pandemic, we will sadly not be meeting as a club for the foreseeable future. While most members look forward to the speakers and slide shows, the executive have taken the decision to forego gathering in person until safe to do so. It was not an easy decision, but it had to be made, especially as the demographic of our members meets the conditions of being most susceptible to Covid-19.



The executive met on April 20th to discuss how we might proceed in the future. This is what we decided:

- We will waive membership fees until September 2021 (approximately 18 months from now).
- We will keep the year the same, but not charge any membership dues for 2020/21.
- If it becomes apparent that the club is indeed able to meet as a group, we will ask for volunteer presenters and speakers from within the club. In this way, we can start with meetings and not worry about low attendance.
- We will again pay dues in September 2021 and get paid presenters.
- The above information will be available on the club's website and on Facebook.

In the meantime, our Outings Committee, led by Sandra Peters will continue with the ***"Innings and Outings"*** side shows to keep us engaged and connected.

You can find these "outings" on the NPC Newsflash Page <https://www.northumberlandphoto.ca/newsflashes>

President's Message Continued..

Here are the suggestions for the month of May:

1. Playing With Abstracts (refer to Alasdair Gillespie's article in the Monitor April 2020)
2. Light Painting (Donna Edmonds will provide direction on this topic)
3. The World As I See it Today - continue to document the times
4. Still Life Photography – create a still life using objects from the kitchen or whatever else you set up <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6Kz62IEjyw>
5. Creative Self Portraits - you may want to google some famous photographers and look at their self portraits for inspiration eg. Cecil Beaton <https://expertphotography.com/21-creative-self-portrait-photography-ideas/>

The outings committee has a grand list of photography challenges lined up for us. Donna Edmonds has graciously offered her services in the production of a YouTube slide show. (I hope you saw last month's slide show – it was great). You can watch the slide show at your convenience on your device, whether it be your phone, tablet or computer. You can even cast the slide show to your Smart TV and get a grand view of the photos submitted by the membership. So, get involved, and show us your photographic talents. Submit your photos for the slide show and give the membership a feast for the eyes



TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

BY BRIAN HART



Brian is a retired Professional Engineer who worked in both the public and private sectors. He has been active as a volunteer in many community organizations over the past 46 years while living in this community. Photography has been a part of his life since his early teens when he first learned to process images in a darkroom. He has been a member of the NPC since its early days in the basement of the Ruth Clarke Centre in Port Hope. A documentary style of photography characterizes the type of photography that gives him the most satisfaction, although a good portrait is always a thrill.

Street Photography in Rio

In early March of this year, my partner and I spent three days in the amazing city of Rio de Janeiro. We took the opportunity of arranging a tour of a favela in order to get a more complete feeling of the city, in addition to the general tourist routine of visiting Christ the Redeemer and Sugarloaf.

These tours have been offered for several years now in the Rocinha favela, or “neighbourhood” to be politically correct. Crime and personal safety are always an issue in the favelas but at the present time this particular favela is safe to enter if you are in an organized tour with a guide.



Like most favelas, Rocinha is built on the side of a mountain and is a self-administered community. The residents basically build their houses and services themselves with minimal participation from the city. It is an underground economy that is self-sufficient in many ways. For example, electricity is free but they have to manage all the wiring themselves whereas cable television comes from two commercial providers and it is not free. This is reported to be the most well-to-do favela because it is close enough to the city that many residents can have day jobs there.

Local Enterprise

Continued...

Travel Photography continued– Brian Hart

Our tour group met at a hotel on the Copacabana Beach and we took the subway to the base of the favela. It was a hot sunny day and we were all very thankful that a local bus took us well up the side of the mountain on a steep, winding and congested road. From there we walked all the way down to the same subway stop where we had started. Some of the time was spent descending in one of the main roads and the rest of the time we climbed down through the crude passageways between the jumble of buildings. These were the routes used by the locals and would have been totally confusing without a local guide. The ingenuity of people to find a way to survive was present at every turn.



Nothing Straight

Passage Way



Our Guide

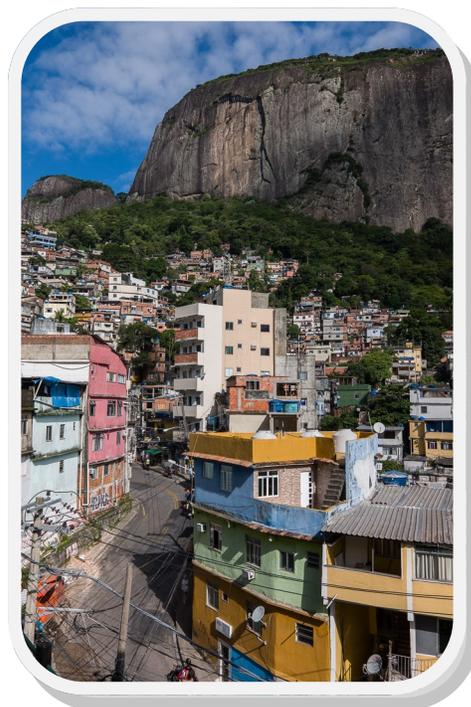


Wires Everywhere

Travel Photography continued– Brian Hart



Street Chaos



The Setting

The recent speaker from Adventure Canada talked about getting your photos on the run without the luxury of time or perfect conditions. This was very much the case. It was catch-as-catch-can and don't lose the group. I took a mirrorless camera with a 16mm lens and no other equipment. I thought that was the most flexible kit for fairly close quarters and because of its compact size it might not draw unnecessary attention. It was a street photographer's gold mine. There were a million photos hiding there but in one quick pass-through one had to be thrilled at the opportunity to get just a few good images to remind us of the experience.



Popular Transport



Street Scene

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

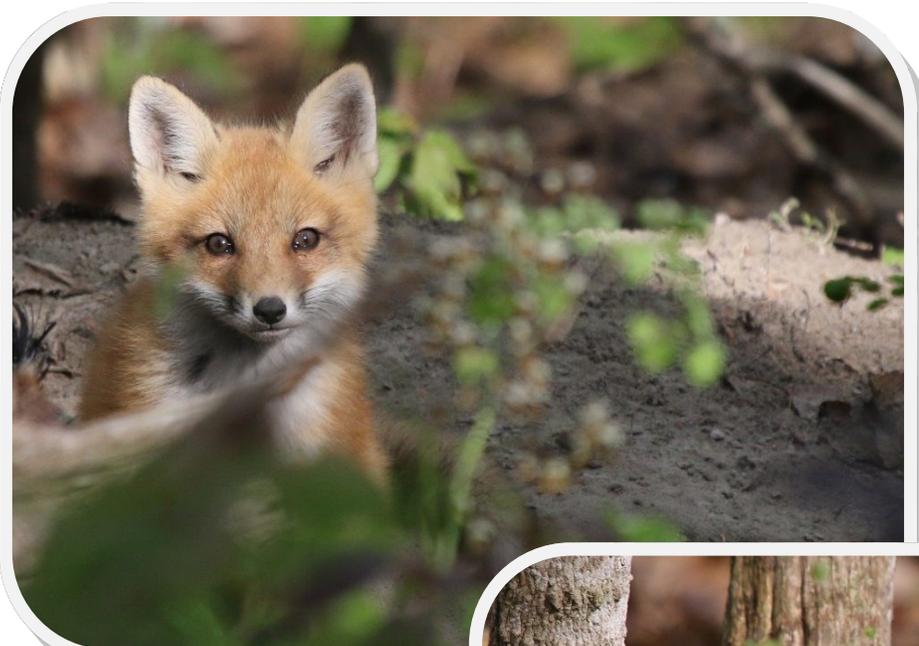
BY LESLIE ABRAM



Foxes in the Forest

*With the permission of Leslie Abram Photography, Wildlife of Eastern Ontario
June 18, 2019.*

This May, I found two fox dens in the forest near my home. They are near places I walk by almost every day, protected and hidden.



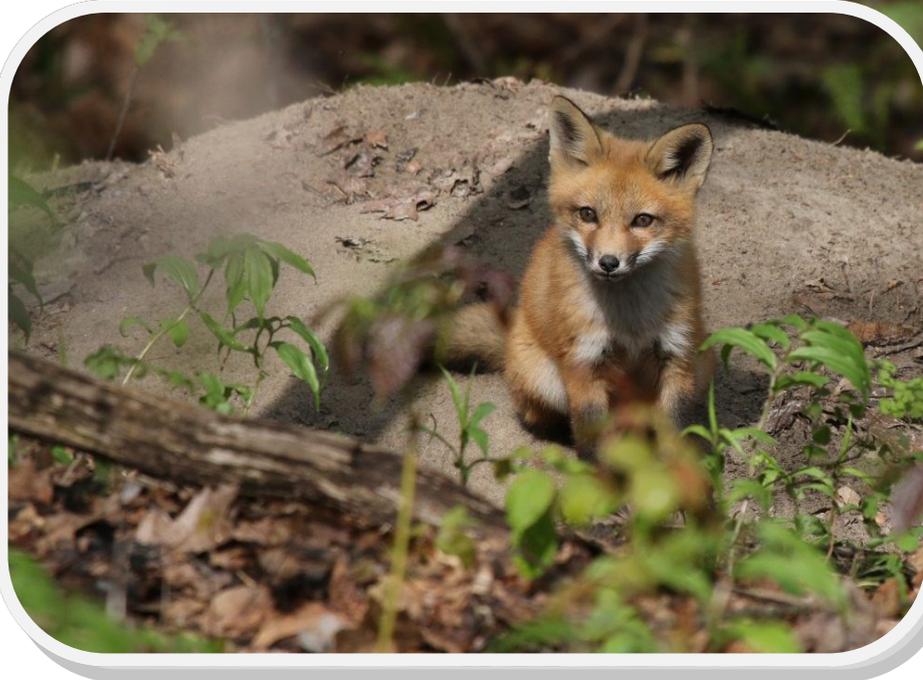
I went back to the first den with my camera and sat way up on the hill above it for a little bit one afternoon. Soon enough, I had four little sets of eyes peeking out at me. All the photos of the first den are from that one afternoon. I had really nice light for the photos, so am thankful for that.



(4)



Oh, my goodness!

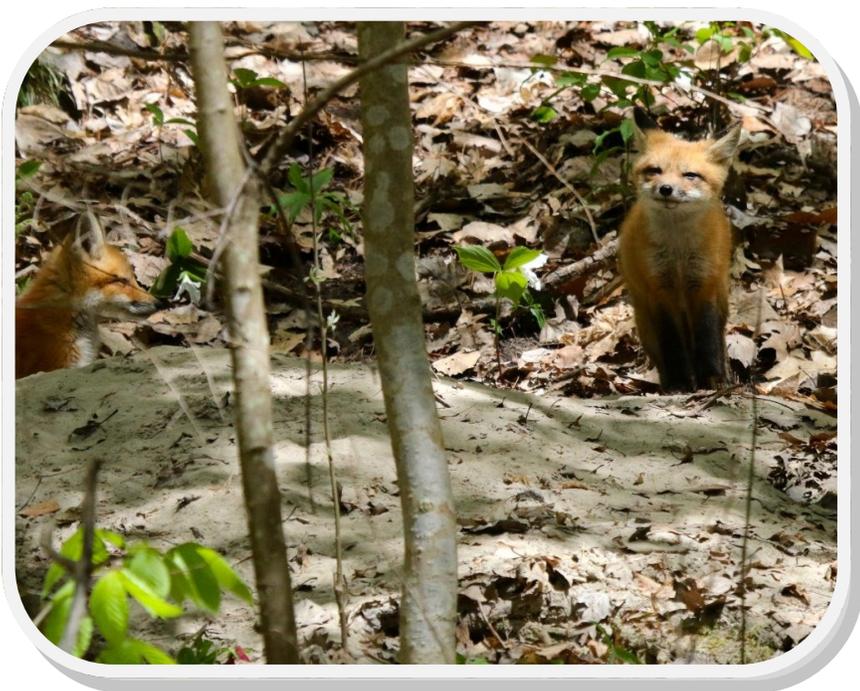
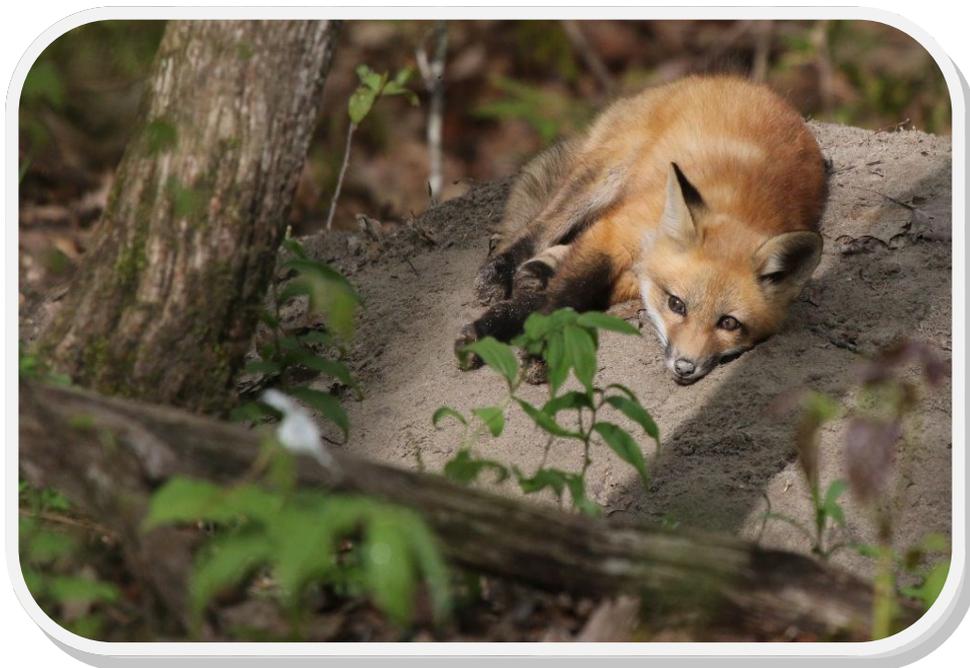


Eventually just one fox kit decided to stay outside, and I got to watch it as it settled in

Continued– Leslie Abram

Petty relaxing except for the flies!

As I left I set up a remote video camera and went back a few days later to retrieve it. I got some fun videos of the foxes running, playing with a Wild Turkey wing left over from dinner the parents had brought in. I did not know foxes could catch a Wild Turkey! Apparently they can! After that I left them alone to grow up. I keep hoping I will see one dart across a path when I am walking, but nothing so far.



This second set of fox kits I ran into when I was out looking for owls. I had heard and seen a pair of Barred Owls on the hill right above where this fox den is located.

I have discovered a lot about myself through my photography- and one thing for sure is that I like to go out quietly by myself. Every once in a while in the nature photography world some bird or animal will be discovered, and before you know it there is a huge crowd of photographers lined up taking photos. I witnessed this in Ottawa a few years ago when the Great Grey Owls showed up in Rockcliffe Park. I also saw it on Amherst Island this winter when 20+ Snowy Owls decided to congregate all in one spot for a few days, and cars were parked all over the sides of the roads.

Continued...Leslie Abrams

I know that anytime I am out taking photos of birds or animals I am impacting their behaviour somewhat, no matter how quiet or hidden I try to be. But I think that going back to the same place over and over and getting really close just to get a great shot is not necessary. I saved my money for a big lens, and it helps me keep my distance. I can crop my photos quite a bit without affecting the quality as well. And as far as lining up with a big group of photographers- forget it. I am so grateful that I was able to spend some quiet time observing these little foxes, all by myself.



There were at least four kits in this second den as well. They seemed happy and healthy. I loved watching them snuggle into logs to have a sleep

I set up a remote camera at the second den too. I love these “spy cams” since I can see what is going on without bugging the animals. This camera captured video of the kits playing, one of the parents, and a BLACK BEAR sniffing around the den!

I will be keeping my eyes open in my neighbourhood for a glimpse of these little ones as they grow, learn, and expand their territories.



BOOK REVIEW

BY SUSAN DUBOIS

“The Visual Toolbox: 60 lessons for stronger photographs” by David Duchemin



60 lessons in 60 short chapters, all with an assignment at the end; this book is meant to teach you to think for yourself by providing many of the tools to guide you. What this book does not do, is teach you how to use your camera; it goes by the assumption that you already know how to use the various dials, buttons and functions and what they mean, making this a perfect book for the intermediate level photographer.

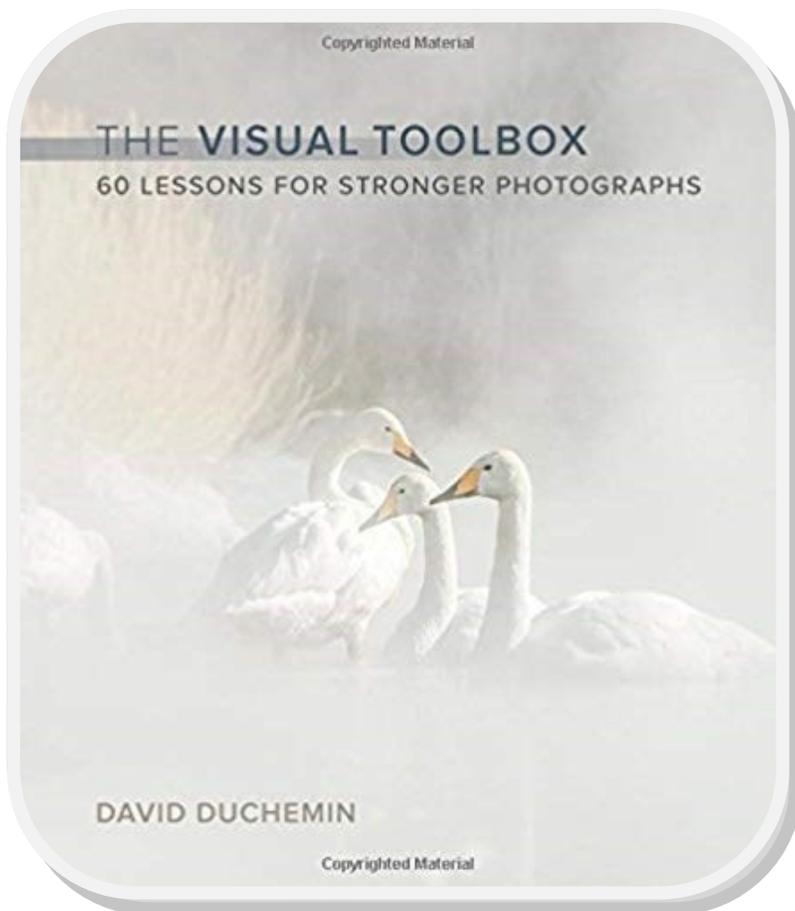
The book starts off by prompting you to ask yourself questions such as: “What am I trying to express in this photograph”, “what role does colour play”, “where are the lines in this photograph and would a change in framing, aspect ratio or lens make them stronger or weaker”, “what are the relationships

between the elements, and can a shift in my position, or change in my lens make those relationships stronger”.

The author’s next suggestion is to stop letting the camera do the thinking for you and set it to “Manual” mode.

Slow shutter speed for intentional blur, panning, isolating a subject, use of colour, point of view and lines, patterns, direction and quality of light, shadows, silhouettes, timing, understanding visual mass, balance and tension, negative space, juxtaposition or conceptual contrasts, frame orientation, aspect ratio, scale, simplification, optical filters are all covered by the author, along with photographs, suggestions and assignments.

This book is easy to read and understand, providing the reader with the kind of practical guidance that makes one want to step outside of their comfort zone to try something new.



IN OTHER NEWS...

NORTHUMBERLAND PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB IN NEED OF EDITOR

Pat Calder has tendered her resignation as an editor of *The Monitor*. We are looking for a new editor to replace Pat and hope that you will consider the job. There are two editors who split the responsibilities, Elisabeth La Fontaine will continue as an editor, but, we need one more. Janet Taylor will continue as publisher. Please contact Janet by email if interested at NPCpresident95@gmail.com.

Patricia has been a most valuable asset and resource to *The Monitor* and while we are sad to lose her expertise in editing, we wish Patricia great success in all her future writing and photography projects.

IMAGES 2020 UPDATE

Your "Images 2020" Organizing Committee and the NPC Executive Committee have made a decision to put the AGN Gallery Exhibition on the back burner until this Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic is behind us.

Our reasoning is this:

The AGN's whole 2020 Exhibition Schedule is by now in total chaos.

Who knows what might happen at the gallery once this pandemic is over.

We think that putting the whole idea of our "Images 2020" Exhibition on ice until we know where we are headed, sounds like the most sensible approach to take.

We have 50-60 Club members who have indicated that they will participate in a future Art Gallery Exhibition So stay tuned for future announcements

Gerry Atkinson
"Images 2020" Chair

"It takes a lot of imagination to be a good photographer. You need less imagination to be a painter because you can invent things. But in photography, everything is so ordinary; it takes a lot of looking before you learn to see the extraordinary."

- David Bailey

Patrick's Tips

By Patrick Romano



Bored ? Not if you have a camera. Being stuck at home can be a difficult time in your life but being a Member of NPC can be a life changer. Our executive have, instead of group outings, given us a variety of subject projects. Therefore, instead of choosing random topics for my tips submission I searched through my files and found some tutorials that fit what they listed. I have chosen some on Abstracts and Self Portraits. Hopefully these will keep you busy and keep your photographic juices flowing and help you stay sane while keeping safe. Have fun and please share your pictures.

How to Make Interesting Abstract Smoke Photos - By: Rick Ohnsman [Click Here](#)

Creative Abstract Photography with Food Coloring and Milk - By: Megan Kennedy [Click Here](#)

How Practicing Abstract Photography Can Influence Your Photography - By: Megan Kennedy [Click Here](#)

Types of Photography that go Beyond the Scope of Human Vision - By: Rick Ohnsman [Click Here](#)

How to Use Radial Composition in Photography to Create Awesome Images! - By: Megan Kennedy [Click Here](#)

A Fun Project You Can do in Your Own Home – How to Create a Physiogram - By: Megan Kennedy [Click Here](#)

How to Create Abstract Photos with Oil and Water and a Little Dish Soap - By: Megan Kennedy [Click Here](#)

13 Fun Self Portrait Mirror Shots - By: Darren Rowse [Click Here](#)

Next-Level Selfies – 7 Tips for Creative Self-Portraits (video) - By: Caz Nowaczyk [Click Here](#)

10 Amazing Photography Tricks You Can do at Home with Everyday Object - By: Darlene Hildebrandt [Click Here](#)

DIY Photography Hacks and Accessories You Can Make at Home - By: Darlene Hildebrandt [Click Here](#)

THE LAST PAGE

BY ELISABETH M. LA FONTAINE



As I face the computer to write The Last Page, I wonder if this is a death knell. Is this really the LAST page for anyone? I hope everyone is keeping safe, well and a good distance from those around us. Living alone, as some of us do, we are in control of our activities, our hand washing, our shopping and our walks. If we live with another or with a family of others it could be more difficult to ensure all are adhering to the “rules”. I wish everyone peace and a safe exit from the dark tunnel of COVID-19.

Our Executive is doing their best to keep us motivated and, as part of the Outings Committee I am delighted to see that Sandra Peters has given us some photographic challenges. Some “Ins and Outs” to keep our cameras and our minds occupied on

happy things until we can meet together again. I hope you will all participate in as many of these activities as you can. Once again Donna Edmonds will be making a slide show and we’ll be able to see everyone’s creativity.

Check your inboxes for full details of challenges for April, May and June. Here is a brief synopsis:



APRIL:

Images of Spring Awakening

Change an image from colour to black and white – Terry Self posted simple guidelines on Facebook and there are several links on the email.

The World as I See it Today – Document the times

Create a photo that somewhat imitates a work of art.

Above is a painting in the style of Georgia O’Keefe. To the left is my own interpretation—a still life.

MAY

Playing with Abstracts (re-read Alasdair Gillespie's article in the April Monitor)

Light Painting – instructions to follow from Donna

The World as I see it Today - Document the times.

Still Life Photography – Create a still life using household objects.

Creative Self Portraits



JUNE

Playing with Shadows

Forced Perspective – instructions to follow from Donna

Garden Delights – any garden, yours or another's.

Minimalist Photography



So, there you have it. In your inbox and in your May Monitor. Donna will be sending out details for submitting your images for the slide show.

Have fun and live in the moment. Keep in touch with family, friends, seniors, near, far and wide. We all have Skype, Zoom, FaceTime or a telephone. And above all, keep safe yourself.

Until next month I'm signing out of The Last Page for May.

Elisabeth M. La Fontaine

Executive: President: Janet Taylor, Vice President: Dan Milligan, Secretary: Susan Dubois, Membership Director: Donna Edmonds, Financial Director: Stan Kicak, Technical Director: Jeannie Gane, Outings Director: Sandra Peters, Outreach Director: Gerry Atkinson, Communications Director: Barbara Husband.

Newsletter co-producers: Elisabeth La Fontaine. Janet Taylor.