

President's Message – John Draper

We are fast approaching the time when we need to choose a new executive. There are several people standing down and this will make room for new people who can bring some fresh thinking to the club. If you have been a member for at least a year, you are eligible to stand for election. If you are interested, see anyone on the nominating committee: Mary Talbot, Bill Bates and Richard Looye.

In April we will have our second “special event” which I am hoping can become an annual happening – last year’s event will be a hard act to follow but this year’s looks good!

The keynote speaker is Richard Martin and if you visit his web site you will see that he is not only a good photographer but is busy conducting workshops and photographic tours in Sicily and more. I am looking forward to his talk on Friday 16th and I’m sure I’ll learn more from him as well as from the workshops on the following day.



Contents:

President's Message
Outings Report
Mary's Musings
Featured Personality
Histogram – Use of
Upcoming Events
The Last Word

Meanwhile, the strange weather should actually help you getting out for winter shots – little snow to get in the way! Did many of you get out to shoot the floods in Cobourg? I know some did. But the shots I got of the Polar Bear dip could have been taken mid-summer – no ice or snow to be seen!

Outings Report – Bob Robertson. Sat. March 6, 2010 – 10:00 – 12:00 Cobourg Fire hall. Lunch at Buttermilk Café at noon. The department operates out of one fire hall, which is located at 111 Elgin Street East.



I have accepted the invitation to be the official photographer for the citizens' committee on the new recreational centre in Cobourg. The request was to photograph the progress, perhaps twice weekly, eventually inside when possible, with the goal to watch that the features promised are actually being built. If anyone lives close enough to the project and would like to help with this endeavor, please let me know. There's no money involved, just a chance to do something useful with our cameras.

Editor's note: anyone interested in assisting Bob with this project should contact him directly.



Mary’s Musings ...

“Not Simply a Loaf of Bread, No Matter How You Slice It”

As I walked from the gallery into the parking lot a few years ago, the smell of bread baking wafted over me. Inhaling the aroma, I got into my vehicle – and immediately got out again, drawn to the small artisan bakery which had recently opened across the street.

The warm glow in the deep, waist-high hearth greeted me as I opened the door. preparing to load another batch of dough into the oven. Jill was offering previous batch to their eager customers. There’s nothing like the aroma of from the oven to bring on a hunger.

A large round loaf with a crisscross pattern on the top immediately caught my my mental camera and sending me into abstract mode. I pointed to the loaf and carefully into a crisp, brown paper bag.



Doug was samples of the bread straight eye, turning on Jill popped it

Hesitantly, for fear she might think me rather strange, I revealed that I had chosen this particular loaf in order to photograph it. I needn’t have worried. Jill turned to her husband in delight and said, “Did you hear that? This person thinks your bread is so beautiful she wants to photograph it!”

A week later I returned for another loaf, another delight to satisfy my eye and my appetite.

And each time, when I had done all I wanted photographically, I cut a couple of slices and sat down to enjoy them. That way I got to both eat my bread and have it too.



When we slow down and take time to really see what is all around us, we will find there is a limitless supply of subjects to photograph.

Editor’s note: Mary Talbot is not only a superb photographer, she is also a talented writer. Hopefully, a little encouragement will entice her to share both of these talents with us more often.

NPC members capturing Images at the Cobourg Fire station.



A fun part of all outings is to meet at a local pub or café and share image-capturing techniques! The refreshments are also much appreciated.



Featured Personality

Editor's note: Each month, our newsletter will feature a specific member of our club. The purpose of this is to broaden our awareness of who we are, as a group, as well as whom we are as individuals.

This month's **Featured Personality** is: **Isabel Veldhuis**: Silver place winner of the Trent Hills Heritage Barns

Photography Competition!!!



Congratulations, Isabel, on your
Second-place winning photograph!!

Questions we asked Isabel – and her responses:

Residential area: Port Hope ;

Favorite hobbies/pastimes: Photography, drawing, painting, folk art, woodworking, crafts, cake decorating, crocheting, hiking and biking

>When/how did you develop an interest in photography? “I have always enjoyed photography but became more interested when I started photographing scenes for my paintings. My interest in photography peaked when I met Bill Crowley and he formed the original Shutterbug camera club. Bill’s constant help and patience encouraged and expanded my love of photography.”

>Which do you prefer: film or digital photography? Explain why: “I prefer digital photography because it gives me immediate results. I know instantly whether or not I have captured my subject. Digital gives you the opportunity to not miss that perfect shot.” **>Which camera(s) make(s) and model(s) do you use?** “I have 2 SLR Sony A100s and a Sony DSCH 9 point & shoot that I carry with me every day.”

>What are your favorite subjects to photograph? “Pretty well everything. I photograph scenes, barns, animals, trees, old buildings, water and anything that looks interesting. I especially like to go out and photograph in bad weather”

>Please share with us an amusing, or memorable event you experienced related to photography. “I think the most haunting event I can think of was in the spring of last year. We had been shooting the high water levels and rock caves at The Scuttle Holes on the east side of the Moira River. We followed the river and stopped at an old mill. I was totally absorbed trying to capture the swirling water as it roared over and around a wide dam. When I took my eyes off the water I glanced at an old stone wall that I was near and caught sight of movement. There, not two feet away, were three huge slithering black water snakes. I do not remember touching the ground as I screamed and flew the twenty feet back onto the road. A resident of the area came out just then and said to watch out as there were about 100 water snakes living at the old mill site. Needless to say that ended my photography for the day!

Image of Olympic Flame
Celebration in Churchill,
Manitoba.

(Brenda nutter)



Through the North
West Passage.

Brenda Nutter



Susanne's Report:



HISTOGRAMS For Dummies

By Susanne Pacey

A histogram is a chart that lets you know if you have overexposed or underexposed a shot. It also shows the distribution of an image's pixel values. There is both a horizontal axis and a vertical axis to consider.

Horizontal Axis

LEFT side: Far left is pure **black**. If more of the bottom part of the histogram is towards the left, the picture is darker (more **shadows**).

RIGHT side: Far right is pure **white**. If more of the bottom part of the histogram is towards the right, the picture is lighter (more **highlights**).

The bottom part of the histogram (it may be black or white in colour) should stretch across the entire area horizontally, although it may be at a low height at the edges.

If it doesn't spread all the way to the **left**, the picture is overexposed (too light).

If it doesn't spread all the way to the **right**, the picture is underexposed (too dark).

Vertical Axis

The vertical axis of the chart represents the total number of pixels within a given level. If many pixels are bunched up at either the shadow or highlight ends of the chart, it may indicate that image detail in the shadows or highlights may be clipped (blocked up as pure black or pure white).

To View a Histogram

On your **camera**: in play-back mode, press the DISP (Display) button twice (or until it shows you the histogram and other info.)
to clear it off, press the Display button again
In **Photo Shop** you can adjust the amount of lightness/darkness and the amount of different colours and view a histogram at the same time (under Window, click on "Histogram" and Photo Shop will then show the histograms for each picture until you take the check mark off, that is now in front of "Histogram").

In **Picasa 3**, when you use a dial to lighten or highlight or shadow, you are changing the exposure. A histogram can be seen by :

- double click on picture
- near bottom right click on icon that looks like a 3-coloured beanie hat
- the histogram will be superimposed on the bottom right corner of the picture
- to take it off, click the icon again

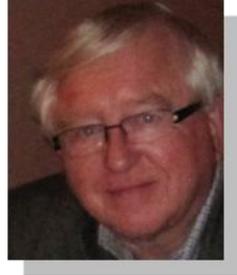
Some Advice:

When taking a picture, key areas should not be overexposed.

Some photographers try to do as much work as possible in camera and use the computer only marginally to tweak things. The more editing you do the more pixels you lose. (Hint: When you **do** edit, do it with a copy of your original.)

After you take a picture, check the histogram to find out if you need to try again with different settings.

The Last Word – Larry Keeley



Unfortunately, this issue of the *Monitor* has been delayed by one “excuse” after another. I am slowly getting back on track and hope future editions will be completed and delivered by the 25th of each month. Members wishing to submit materials they would like to see published in this newsletter should submit same to me between the **10th and 15th of each month**. If possible, a ‘head ‘n shoulder’ photo of yourself should be included with your first submission. I would particularly like to receive Outings and Photographer’s Choice images, as well as written articles and reviews on a variety of topics.

For your Information:

Roger Thompson sends the following link to a worthy read on Digital ISO -...”How the megapixel war is over and the ISO war has just begun.” <http://gizmodo.com/5470334/giz-explains-why-iso-is-the-new-megapixel>

Bill Crowley and Dawn Knudsen have images on display until April 11th at the Art Gallery of Northumberland in Port Hope. Congratulations to both for a fine exhibition.

Bev. McConnell, last month’s guest speaker, has provided a link to the frames and papers she uses for her enlargements. Contact: Phil.Nielsen@amplis.com for more information

Upcoming Events

Northumberland Photography Club meeting April 05, 2010.

Guest presentation by Andreas Gada – “Eclipse Chasing – An Excuse To See The World.”

Bring To Light Photography Conference – April 16 – 17

NPC Executive

President – John Draper 905 372 5839 –

Vice President – Russ Donaldson 905 372 7044

Debara Piercey – Secretary 905 377 8633

Treasurer – Lisa Poirier 905 885 7207

Diego Fabris - Membership 905 372 0368

Audio Visual – Josh Hamilton 905 885 9945

Outings – Bob Robertson 905 372 5640

Program – Larry Keeley 905 885 9288

Out Reach – Brenda Nutter 905 372 2683

Past President – Bob Robertson 905 372 5640

Please visit our website at www.northumberlandphoto.ca.

Image captured by
Jeff Gardner at Rice Lake



