

President: Elaine Amenta, **Vice President:** Larry Keeley, **Treasurer:** Laurie Robertson, **Secretary:** Bonnie Brown, **Technician:** Andreas Gada, **Membership:** Patricia Calder, **Communications:** Bob Robertson, **Program:** Alasdair Gillespie. **Outings:** Allan Short,

March 2014

President's Message:

"Answering the call" Elaine Amenta

A group of NPC members have been meeting once a week at Northumberland YMCA to instruct a group of young folk in the joys of how to take photographs. This is part of the NPC Outreach program. There are 6 of us and 9 and of them...yikes! The introductory class was not very well thought out (by me!). I showed up with all my research on "purchasing your first camera"; as they all sat there with some very nice cameras in their hands! One student showed up with a DSLR with 3 lenses. Not an I-Phone in sight! Bob Bell is traveling in from Oshawa to instruct the kids on the importance of exposure and available light. The kids seem to have taken to him and his gentle manner. It should be some party when he shows them "Fun things to do with your photos"! Sandra Peters, a retired school teacher, will be wowing them with composition tips and will do a fabulous job and Bob Robertson will be showing them the beauty and ease of editing with Picassa. Chloe Craig will be covering "finding points of interest" along with how to adhere to the rule of thirds and Donna Edmonds, along with saving me when I feel overwhelmed with the eye rolling that sometimes takes place, jumps in with actual photos to show them and discusses the "Do's and Don'ts" of photography and how not to have a tree growing out of your subjects head. I feel that we are giving back to the community by answering the call from The YMCA to do this. Giving back is important to me and I am so happy that it is also important to other NPC members. I am so grateful to them for stepping up and also that I was not left to be devoured all alone! Kids today are smart and they expect more of us then I remember. I was a preschool instructor for a few years for The City of Ottawa and I remember loving my job. Of course I was 25 years younger then and some of my biggest challenges were cutting out valentine hearts and remembering the words to "Skinamarinkidoo".



We have other NPC members answering the call and in the coming months we will find out who our new executive will be. Patricia Calder has taken on the position of Nominating Chair and is doing a fine job of finding nominees for the soon to be vacant board positions. Don't forget, we are always looking for baked goods to serve at our monthly meeting. Donna Edmonds has taken over as refreshment coordinator and would love to hear from you if you are going to be baking for us!

I hope you are all happy with our new meeting place. The executive worked long and hard to find the perfect place and I do believe it was achieved!

A quick reminder that "The Framed View" in Cobourg offers a discount for mounting and framing to NPC members. Patronize our local businesses and let them know that NPC supports them.

Enjoy these last days of winter. As I write this the sun is shining brightly and the snow is all sparkly and beautiful. I am heading into downtown Cobourg to take photographs of the "Winter Festival" and I know I will bump into a few NPC members while I am down there. Thanks, once again, to our hard working executive for all you do and to NPC members who also answer the call!



TIME TO TOUR THAILAND..... by Bryan Marjoram

I had the pleasure of visiting Thailand for the month of November. It is a country of contrasts each unique to a visitor's tastes and preferences. Is it beaches and lounging, snorkeling and scuba diving, meditation and Buddhist temples, shopping for silk and bargains galore, or a culinary experience in a Thai cooking class? All of the above? Whatever your wish, it's all here.

After landing in Bangkok I had the opportunity to visit a few areas which allowed me to get a feel for Thailand's uniqueness. Accommodations, food, and shopping throughout this vast country are quite inexpensive.

(1) For those that want to be close to sandy beaches, warm water, wonderful snorkelling and some



breathtaking cliff side road trips, Phuket is the ideal spot. I took a side trip by tuk-tuk (a small covered truck with benches) to the impressive Buddha statue of Muang Phuket (25 metres wide and 45 metres high) This mammoth statue, which is covered in Myanmar (Burmese) white marble, offers stunning views of Phuket, and will eventually become a park where people gather to relax and meditate.

From Phuket, a group of us went on a day trip by speed boat to Koh Phi Phi, which was the filming location for "The Beach", starring Leonardo DiCaprio. What impressed me the most about the island was the incredible snorkelling experience. If you scattered pieces of bread or banana you were soon greeted by a beautiful array of tropical fish within centimetres of your mask.

I decided to venture north to the charming, relaxed town of Krabi. The guest house owner arranged a half day guided sea kayaking adventure for me. I paddled through a mangrove forest and mountain tunnels, complete with ancient paintings and stalactite ceilings. I also visited Tiger Temple (Wat Than Sua) which involved climbing up 1272 steps to reach the summit and view the golden Buddha and surrounding vistas. The spectacular views are worth the challenging trip upwards.

Along the way you encounter numerous groups of monkeys which make (2) a great photo op. Just beware of any items you set on the ground. They are fair game for these ADHD primates.

Make sure you try a street vendor banana roti. It's a light pastry that is rolled and spread before being fried. To top it off, a covering of heated condensed milk and sugar are added. Beware: They are delicious!

Two days later I took an overnight ferry to the island of Kho Tao which is a highly acclaimed scuba diving centre. After originally thinking I would make one fun dive with full gear, I decided to stay for four days and become a certified open water diver which is PADI approved, and recognized worldwide. An incentive to stay longer and dive, was the free accommodations offered by a local resort/dive school. Compared to Canadian prices for the same training, this was a real bargain. After a couple of days of watching videos, doing some homework (on my holidays?), and in-pool training sessions, I was ready to make four incredible dives and explore the floor of the Gulf Of Thailand. The multi-coloured aquatic life was quite impressive. I felt like Lloyd Bridges, although I probably resembled Jerry Lewis.

My last destination was Chiang Mai. A city that is home to more than 300 temples or wats. I rented a standard bicycle for about \$1.50 per day and leisurely toured the old city which is surrounded by remnants of historic walls and moats. I visited numerous wats, some dating back to the 14th century. It is often said, if you've seen one temple, you've seen them all. I would definitely disagree. They each provided their own unique photo opportunities and also a chance to chat with a number of friendly Buddhist monks.

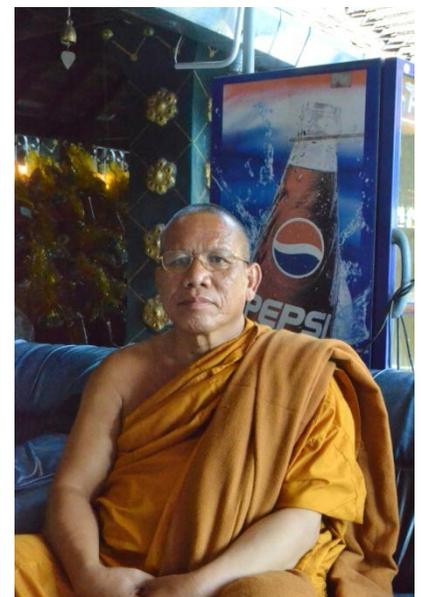


(4) The Chiang Mai Night Bazaar stretches the length of a city street, jammed with locals and tourists, walking shoulder to shoulder, ready to haggle over the price of silk scarves, t-shirts, souvenirs, purses, shoes - basically anything you could possibly be looking for plus a nice array of local food products which are unique to the taste buds of most visitors. (5)

I also went on an organized tour affiliated with my guesthouse and joined a group with six other people. We hiked 9 kms through the jungles of northern Thailand and spent the night in a hill tribe village. This adventure included swimming under a 50 metre waterfall, lounging in a hot springs, riding elephants down the river (behind a herd of water buffalo), and travelling on handmade bamboo rafts while navigating along a winding waterway. The opportunity to be part of a safe and guided hiking trek in northern Thailand will be a lasting memory of my month long journey.

Oh, did I mention the incredibly intense, yet soothing, Thai massages ...?

(See captions for photos on page 4)



Captions for photos included in :Time To Tour Thailand submitted by Bryan Marjoram:

Photo 1. The lady in my picture was a local tribal villager who showed her hospitality by sharing her pipe filled with a harsh local tobacco. I was open to many experiences, but this is one I gladly declined.

Photo 2. Buddhist monk admiring Canadian maple leaf pin I had given her.

Photo 3. Street vendor mixing ingredients for a tasty treat.

Photo 4: Young girl climbing stairs up to Wat Than Sua (1272 steps).

Photo 5. Buddhist monk relaxing with Pepsi machine (Western influence) in the background.

APSLEY WINTER CARNIVAL



Dog sled races photos submitted by Dawn Knudsen

FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

Louise Weldon



When Larry asked if I would be the featured photographer in the newsletter, I was quite flattered. After re-reading some articles on those featured in past issues of 'The Monitor' the word 'flattered' has been replaced with 'intimidated'. What amazing talent lies within our membership. The Northumberland Photography Club has so much to offer to beginners like me and sharing the art of photography is a great experience for all.



My husband, Doug and I both grew up in Kapuskasing, Ontario and have lived in various cities and towns in this beautiful province. London, Ottawa, North Bay, South River, Sundridge, Cobourg and currently Port Hope. We have two adult children, Kate lives in Calgary and Andrew and his wife have just moved to this area.



In 2012, I retired from my job as Development Coordinator at the Capitol Theatre. Although I really enjoyed working at such an exciting place, I am thrilled that I can finally spend as much time at our cottage on

Eagle Lake as I want, indulging myself with reading, entertaining, and taking photos of our little piece of heaven, Tranquility Bay!

We love to travel and have spent many vacations travelling by van across Canada and much of the U.S. We have also travelled to Spain, Cuba and Jamaica.

Our most recent adventure was a road trip to Newfoundland last July. We decided to travel in style, so Doug built a raised bed in the back of the van and we bought a tent that straps onto the hatch, which gave us a bit of living space where we could sit and sip cocktails in the evenings.

We stored all of our clothes, camping gear, cooler and footwear under the bed. We felt like teenagers again!



We travelled over 7,000 km in 3 weeks, and we were still the best of friends upon returning home. Newfoundland is a perfect destination for anyone interested in landscape photography. Landscape and nature provide my favourite subjects for photography and inspiration is everywhere.

Doug and I spend hours travelling back roads where I have captured some pretty cool images.



So many things to see through any lens!

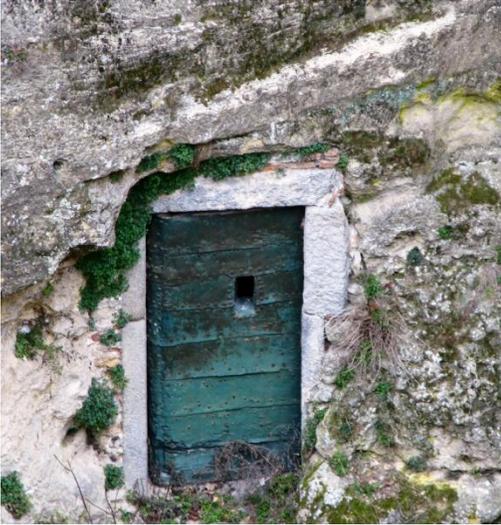
Last spring I met a lovely lady from Peterborough at one of our NPC workshops. She and I were both 'newbies' to our respective photo clubs and immediately became friends.

This fall we began a 365 Day Challenge together and have been diligently testing our creativity. We post our photos and offer our unbiased opinions on light and subject matter.



Having to take a photo a day really makes you look at what is around you with a very different eye and has been a lot of fun for both of us. Doing the challenge with a friend is inspiring, and we are learning as we go.

Thanks to Alasdair Gillespie, an interest in photography has become my favourite hobby. Anyone who has been part of this club for any length of time knows Alasdair's passion is infectious. After a dinner at the Gillespie's about 4 years ago we were looking at some of his amazing photos on the flatscreen when Alasdair commented about his 'new' Canon camera. The majority of photos we had just seen were taken with his older camera. "Alasdair, if you ever want to sell the old camera, I would be interested", says I. The following week, he called with an incredible deal on the point and shoot Canon and I have been hooked on photography ever since. Thank you, Alasdair!

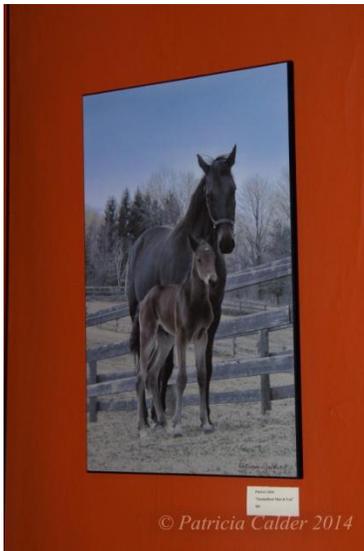


Oh, yes.....I almost forgot to tell you what cameras I use. Canon Powershot S5IS and Canon Powershot SX240HS. They both take great photos for now, anyway!

Why I do shows

by Patricia Calder

People ask me and, if they don't ask, they wonder I'm sure, why I do shows. I have been doing three or four shows a year lately. It's a lot of work. The pay is lousy; in fact, I'm losing money. If I sell a few calendars and cards, or even if I sell a framed picture, I'm not out of the red in the photography business.



I'm hooked. I'm smitten. I'm obsessed. The money flies out the window with no rationale. I say yes when I should say no.

The night before a show I bag each picture to protect it from the weather. As I'm going, I make sure it is labelled on the back, and add it to an inventory list. Before I sit down to watch "Murdoch Mysteries" or "Republic of Doyle", my living room is littered with 30+ bags and tool kit, ready for tomorrow's task.



When hanging a show, three of us stand around pondering whether this picture should go on this wall or that one, whether a nail should be 1/2" or 1/4" to the left, and whether this ladder is too wobbly. Four hours later we leave the venue, the show having been hung, feeling very satisfied. Are we nuts?

At the end of the show, the process is reversed. I collect all 30+ pictures off the walls using the same wobbly ladder, bag them, pack them into the car, drive home, carry them all into the house, unbag them, hang a few in my dining room, stash most of them in the spare room. Then wait for the next show.

What's it all about? I dunno. You tell me.

NPC BULLETIN BOARD

**Upcoming events, for sale items, Websites,
Work Shops, Anything of Interest to Our Members!!!**

Pat Calder: "Thought some of our members would enjoy this website."

<https://scottkelby.exposure.so/a-colorful-journey>

Bryan Marjoram: Could/Would you please mention an excellent framer that lives in the area: T.G. Barker Studio (Karen and Terry Barker)

Custom Picture Framing, (905) 372-6989. 4138 County Road 45, RR#6, Cobourg.

Eduard Merbis: This guy is quite interesting, especially for the snowflakes photography. Might be something to mention in the Moni. See link below. He had an interesting interview on CBC Radio as well. Or maybe we could get him out for an evening's presentation??

<http://www.cbc.ca/player/Radio/Local+Shows/Quebec/Breakaway/ID/2426647841/>

Jeff Gardiner: I will be offering a two day workshop on image processing starting Sat March 29 in Cobourg. If you are interested, please contact Jeff Gardner 2jeff.gardner@gmail.com for further information. A sample of topics covered include:

- **Colour Space, File Formats: JPEG vs Raw**
- **Creative Editing: non-destructive camera raw workflow**
- **Global and Local Adjustments - making your images come to life**
- **Sharpening (Capture & Lightroom Output sharpening)**
- **Lightroom Catalogue Settings**

Cost: \$250.00 - this includes a \$50 discount for NPC members

Please feel free to contact me for further information and pass this message on to anyone who may be interested in developing their skills.

Russ Donaldson: You may have seen a short clip of this on national TV last night

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLDYtH1RH-U> **It's two young guys who sneak into a construction project and climb a 650 meter tower in ShanghaiThis might make for an interesting Camera Club outing we could get some amazing shots !!!**

Bob Kearns: Here we are setting up on tripods to avoid all kinds of things that this eagle in full flight did not worry about and the camera took pretty good shots.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2424716/A-camera-strapped-eagle-provides-breath-taking-footage-French-Alps.html>

Howard Goodfellow: Here are some interesting pictures of frozen bubbles. You are welcome to make a reference to this in our newsletter

From: Cottage Life <dockside@cottagelife.com>

NPC SUCCESS STORIES!!!

.....A new addition to our newsletter where news of “who” has done “what” in our club, when and where, will be printed.

Sylvie Flynn writes to say....” I just thought I’d let you know that one of my entries made it in the AGN juried art show.” (Congrats, Sylvie. Many of our members’ photos were not accepted!!)



Beach Jewellery/Dawn Knudsen

Dawn Knudsen has qualified for the North Shore Photographic Challenge juried competition (30th anniversary). It is recognized as the premier photographic competition in Western Canada. She awaits the results of the judging.



Solitude/Sylvie Flynn



From the desk of Brenda Nutter

Inspiring Photographers : Focus on Mike Beedell.

In 2001, I was lucky enough to travel to the Canadian Arctic. I was still not walking that well due to a car accident so I was a little anxious about the rough ground.

This was my first Adventure Canada trip and I thought, heck, this is a Canadian company, I will mostly be in Canada, they will send me home if need be. So off I went.

Walking the tundra was a challenge, but the bigger hurdle came when this voice behind me yelled” Brenda, get out of your comfort zone with that camera!” Translated that meant I was supposed to get down or climb up, essentially do anything to gain alternate perspectives on the landscape. The voice was that of extraordinary Canadian photographer, Mike Beedell!



Mike has an exceptional talent and a deep and sincere appreciation for the natural world. In particular, he loves to share Canada’s amazing spaces and seeks to challenge himself whether he is on land or under the sea. Born in Sudbury in 1956, he now resides in the Gatineau Hills, north of Ottawa.

Mike’s photography career spans three decades and has taken him to remote parts of the planet. His work has helped raise awareness of environmental issues and he has facilitated the protection of wild spaces as national parks. He has circumnavigated Bylot Island by kayak, in the Canadian Arctic and hiked in the Torngat Mountains in Labrador. He’s done a hundred things! And, he shares these experiences through his tour company as well as through his leadership on Adventure Canada Expeditions.

His work has been published in a score of magazines including National and Canadian Geographic, Equinox, Time, Maclean’s, Above and Beyond and Our Canada. He has worked with the Canada Museum of Nature, the CBC, Environment Canada, Parks Canada, Health Canada, Sports Canada, The National, and the Fifth Estate. His work has been published by Key Porter, McClelland & Stewart, Random House, Oxford University Press and Wyman and Sons Publishing.



I asked this amazing Canadian photographer and adventurer to respond to our four questions so we could learn directly from his vast experience. Here are his answers in his own words:

1.What drew you to photography?

I was drawn to photography due to the fact that I was a visual explorer from an early age. I also had a menagerie at home: rabbits, turtles, a guinea pig, a 4 foot Iguana, injured birds that needed help & so on. So

I would document their lives & their beauty.

My Grandparents had an entire collection of National Geographics that went back to the 1920's & I can remember being drawn to their collection. I would lie in bed at night and go off on adventures and explorations between the covers.

My dad had a 35 mm camera and shot slides extensively when I was a child. My first camera was a Brownie Hawkeye Flash & my first major "shoot" was on a school trip to New York City in grade 7. I remember being

in the Brooklyn Zoo and feeling profound sadness for the caged animals. They had no natural habitat in their cages. It was just concrete floor and steel wire. So I photographed their destitute state and wished I could do something about it. But my draw to photography as a profession came shortly after I bought my first 35mm camera - an Olympus OM1 when I was 20. I had been hired as an assistant river guide for the summer with Trailhead in Ottawa. I was given the opportunity to paddle the Coppermine River to the Polar Sea. The river & its wildlife were a fabulous visual gift & it spawned my photographic career. I was so enthralled & inspired about documenting what we were seeing. Upon my return to school, a professor suggested I have an exhibit at the university & then a government bureaucrat with Parks Canada saw it & gave me an assignment & the rest is history !

2. At this stage in your career what inspires you?

I will always be inspired most by witnessing poetic light as it paints pristine landscapes with different hues. I am equally inspired by communing with some of the world's largest creatures such as whales, in their ocean habitat...but at the same time I am fascinated by the struggles of man & cultures that have a close relationship to the land.

I am inspired by many kinds of photography... from street shooting & documentary work to the macro-world & travel journalism.

I am now spending a lot of my energy working towards conservation projects & profiling creatures that are losing their habitat due to humanity's incessant growth and devastation of oceans, freshwater systems, landscapes & air.

So I am spending a lot of time underwater in oceans, wetlands & freshwater communing with different creatures. The impact of technological excrement wash on our planet is devastating our entire ecosystem. I believe too much technology kills the human spirit & so I remain a luddite in the increasingly technical art/craft of photography!

3.What is the most important thing for amateur photographers to consider as they strive to increase their knowledge and skill?

Find your photographic niche & pursue it with passion & intensity. Study the work of photographers that inspire you & emulate their style. Go to the places that they travel to & see the things they have experienced. Take workshops – study on line, read but most importantly shoot, shoot ,shoot.

Mastering an instrument takes thousands of hours ... whether it is musical one or a tool. You should practice developing muscle memory with your equipment to the point where your creativity flows from your brain

into your fingertips & through your photographic instrument in one poetic motion.

4. What advice do you have for those striving to have a career in photography?

The biggest part of being a successful photographer is being a good entrepreneur. For anyone starting out, I think it is best to see where the best photo-schools are in the world or in Canada & get well-educated in a number of different disciplines. Computer manipulation is now a huge part of modern photography & the methods of sharing & selling imagery are changing rapidly. The world of photography is changing so rapidly that equipment is morphing every six months.

I have always followed the credo “do what you love to do and money will follow “.

National Geographic has just hired bloggers & shooters who use only an I-phone to explore the planet.

Where does that leave me as I cart around my 200 pounds of gear, gigantic underwater housings & underwater strobes etc! For further information on Mike’s work, please visit his website.

www.mikebeedellphoto.ca.....www.mikebeedellphoto.ca/o-canada-expeditions

Mike Beedell



Mike Beedell



Mike Beedell



Mike Beedell



Mike Beedell

The Last Page!!

..... Larry Keeley



Last month's 'Last Page' contained answers from several members to a question I had asked earlier: "Why did you join the Northumberland Photography Club"? Their answers varied somewhat; but, generally, four themes emerged: "I hoped it (joining) would inspire me to kick my photography up a notch", one member said. Another replied that it was "mainly to meet others with similar interests." Learning more about photography, participating in exhibitions, going on outings and socializing with like-minded people were the main motivations. Cookies and coffee was also included in another member's response!

Our club is making a sincere effort to offer a varied program with our limited resources. The educational opportunities are provided each month by guest speakers. In addition, several of our members have shared their expertise by offering workshops and other presentations of technical materials.

Each meeting provides an opportunity for members to share their artistic endeavours by submitting theme challenge photographs. Seeing how others interpret various themes can be quite an eye opener.

Several monthly outings offer opportunities for us to intermingle and learn different shooting techniques from each other. This is a valuable resource considering how technical much equipment is these days. The outing images shown each month allow us to appreciate how our photos compare with those of other members.

We include photo evaluation at every monthly meeting. These images are analyzed and assessed by very competent photographers whose comments allow members to see how and where their photography can be improved.

Editing programs are often quite challenging. Since they have replaced the old darkrooms of yesteryear, it is imperative that today's photographers learn at least the basics of editing techniques. This is a much debated topic amongst our club members.

Sharing our passion and enthusiasm for photography with other people in our community has led to the development of our Outreach Program. Our president, Elaine Amenta, discusses in this month's newsletter the effort our club has made to provide an educational program for our local YMCA. Several of our members were involved and found this interaction with young students to be very heartwarming. It is very likely that some of these young photographers may join our club sometime in the future.

It is difficult to include a comprehensive list of benefits and opportunities that are available to our members because this will vary with each individual. I have indicated some of the benefits membership in our club provides. What one gets out of his or her membership depends upon the extent one wants to be involved. A club is only as strong and varied as the individuals in its membership. With more than one hundred members, our club is very strong and has tremendous potential. It can be and will be exactly what we all make it out to be. There is room within this club for everyone to play a meaningful role in its development. Think about it. Be a strong part of it. Be proud of it. It's a great club!

Again, my thanks to all who submitted material for this edition of our monthly newsletter. Your newsletter is what you make it out to be with your contributions. And, if I may be so bold as to say so, this is a ***GREAT*** newsletter, thanks to you!