

Our mission is to expand photographic knowledge, creativity and skill, through education and social interaction.

NOVEMBER 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from Club President
- TDPC Website Updates
- New Featured Members Galleries
- Time to Update the TDPC Print Gallery
- 1st TDPC Members Showcase
- Follow Us on Social Media
- Ontario Council of Camera Clubs Invitation
- Peeling through the layers, and finding the right one
- 2024-2025 Freeman Patterson Photographer's Choice Competition Results
- Competitions Bulletin Board
- Images from the TDPC Outing -Downtown Architecture
- Some Images from the Algonquin Park Outing
- Photography Speaker: Architecture & The Art of Graphic Elements
- Photography Tips
- Camera Gear Review
- TDPC Member Recognition
- Nature Ethics Corner
- We're looking for a Program Chair
- Interesting Events
- Exclusive Tour Package
- TDPC Newsletter Schedule
- Member Testimonial

MESSAGE FROM CLUB PRESIDENT.

The results of the Photographer's Choice competition were announced at the club meeting held on October 15. It was a very impressive showing with many new members participating with outstanding images demonstrating their skill and creativity. Participants are to be commended for entering a competition. It takes courage and fortitude to submit your work to the critiques of the judges. We hope you'll benefit from the experience and continue to enter future competitions. Congratulations to **Manny Goncalves** who won in the Novice division, **Marlene Duhig** the winner in the Intermediate division and **Lyle Sadovoy**, winner in the Advanced division and winner of the Freeman Patterson Trophy. Well done!

Our 2024–2025 Featured Members are: Vera Gilman (Novice), Michael Salter (Intermediate) and Ann Alimi (Advanced). Visit the website galleries to read their bios and view their work. It's time to update the club's gallery of framed prints at the Edithvale Community Centre. Having the opportunity to exhibit photography in a public space is a privilege for the Toronto Digital Photography Club. Please reach out to our Membership Committee (Irv Benovich and Luba Citrin) for more information, if you are interested having one of your images framed and displayed for the community to enjoy. At this point I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member Boris Snirch. Welcome aboard.

In this issue, Vice President **Dino Melissa** has shared his experience in Hanoi, Vietnam and enthusiastic participants from the club outing organized by **Robert Robson** and the Algonquin Park outing organized by **Jacqui Jeruzalski** have shared their architectural images. Our next photography talk on *Architecture and The Art of Graphic Elements* will be sure to please both members and guests. I want to express my gratitude to the Programming Committee for the great talks we have planned this season. Don't miss the 1st Members Showcase and in-person event on Nov. 12, 7 p.m. at the Edithvale Community Centre.

Check out the photography tips, reviews, and recommendations on interesting events. Congratulations to **Gary James** one of our avid nature photographers who was recognized by the Govenor General of Canada for his volunteer work and outstanding commitment to the community. We're proud of our

members and how photography can contribute to the greater good.

— MAX WYNTER PRESIDENT@TDPC.CA

Let's welcome new club member Boris Snirch!





Visit TDPC.ca

Membership Directory (Updated) Our webmaster Roger Correia has updated the TDPC Membership Directory. Login to the Members' area to access the Members Directory in the Club Library.

2024–2025 Featured Members Galleries (New) Roger has updated the Featured Members Gallery – now featuring Vera Gilman, Michael Salter, and Ann Alimi.

The Programming Committee has posted new presentations by David DuChemin and Sally Stone in the **Members Only** area, under **Speakers Presentations**,.

2024-2025 FEATURED MEMBERS

Every year, at the start of the season, the Membership Committee selects a new group of three members to be featured in our **Featured Members Gallery**; a Novice, an Intermediate and an Advanced member. Each gallery contains 12 images selected by the featured member, and a brief story.

Last year's Featured Members were: **Marlene Duhig** (Novice), **Jeff Berger** (Intermediate) and **Anthony Schatzky** (Advanced).

This year our new Featured Members are:

- Vera Gilman (Novice)
- Michael Salter (Intermediate)
- Ann Alimi (Advanced)

All three members are honoured to be featured in our galleries and all have an interesting story to share about their photographic journeys.

Vera Gilman – "I was lucky enough to find TDPC in my neighbourhood a number of years ago and bought an entry level DSLR..."



Michael Salter – "As I embark on this renewed journey, I recognize that I'm still learning and growing..."



Ann Alimi – "Photography has forced me to stop and look closely, study and appreciate things in life that otherwise are taken for granted...."

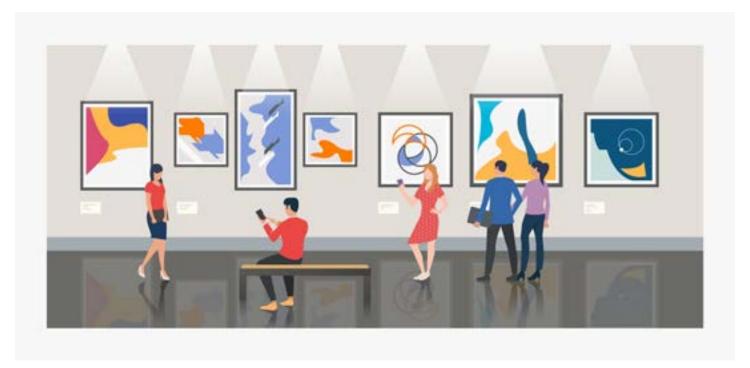
We encourage you to go check out their stories and wonderful images. Just look in Galleries >>> Featured Members Album.

We are sure you will be inspired!

Irv Benovich, Luba Citrin & Roger Correia



TIME TO UPDATE THE TDPC PRINT GALLERY

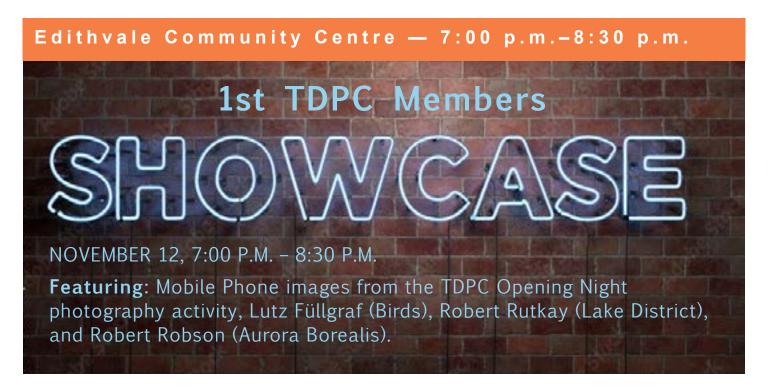


Designed by katemangostar / Freepik

TDPC has a fantastic display of club members' framed prints in the Edithvale Community Centre. They are hanging on the wall in the corridor leading to the Banquet Hall. We usually change these prints around once a year, but the existing set has been up since Covid started. So it's definitely time to give some other club members a chance to display their work.

If you are interested in having one of your favourite images in our hallway gallery, please let us know and we'll work out the details with you. All we need is the print, and we will mount it on a mat and in the frame. Send us a note at membership@tdpc.ca.

We're looking forward to seeing a whole new gallery soon.



ONTARIO COUNCIL OF CAMERA CLUBS

33rd Annual O3C Open Challenge Awards Show

The Ontario Council of Camera Clubs look forward to welcoming you to the Open Challenge Awards Show. Click on the event poster below to register right away!





FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

INSTAGRAM: @tdpc_pics

FACEBOOK PAGE:

Toronto Digital Photography Club

https://www.facebook.com/mytdpc

FACEBOOK GROUP:

TDPC Image & Information Sharing

https://www.facebook.com/groups/264695007282756

PEELING THROUGH THE LAYERS, AND FINDING THE RIGHT ONE

You book a trip; you pack your camera kit; you get on a plane; you arrive in a city so unlike your own; you want to capture everything and anything; you want to tell a story, any story, all stories . . . but what story.

It can be overwhelming to arrive in a new location with all the excitement and opportunity it holds visually. As I write this I have just spent three days in Hanoi, wandering the streets of its old quarter, meandering through its markets, and visiting its monuments and shrines. There are so many layers to this place that, as much as I want to, it would be impossible to meaningfully photograph them all.

Aside from the tourist and "I was here" shots, I wanted to find one story to tell visually about this city. One that would resonate with me and show something special about this place. Hanoi feels like absolute chaos compared to Toronto. Where among the chaos would I find a story that visually speaks of this place? Would it be among the people I saw, or on its streets? Would I find it in the temples, or the markets?

Then it hit me, or rather almost hit me several times during the first few hours of wandering the streets and learning the new skill of crossing Hanoi's roads and pedestrian passes. There is one overwhelming cause for most of the chaos around me, and one million individual causes – the humble scooter. They were everywhere. Masses of them on the street ignoring signs and meandering around obstacles like water finding the path of least resistance. Scooters parked on sidewalks and in shop entrances. Scooters driven right through markets making deliveries and down



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sidewalks to avoid parked vans. Scooters carrying families; scooters loaded with boxes; scooters used as taxis; scooters honking at cars and trucks and people, and especially at other scooters.

I had found my layer, the one that made this place unique to my eyes and had me visually engaged. Over the course of the next 24 hours I focused on the scooters. I photographed them parked in interesting places. I photographed herds of them moving through traffic. I photographed them being used as cargo vans and mini vans.

And the story that these images tell is not about the chaos – it's that Hanoi is a city that relies on two wheels more than it relies on four.

So, the next time you travel, peel through the layers and try to find that one that stands out and draws you in. . . . just don't let it run you over.

Dino Melissa (Ducking the scooters in Hanoi)









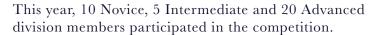




2024-2025 FREEMAN PATTERSON PHOTOGRAPHER'S CHOICE COMPETITION RESULTS

The results of the above competition were announced at the club meeting held on October 15, 2024.

The Freeman Patterson Trophy was established in 1978 by the club in recognition of contributions to our club by Freeman Patterson, a Past President and Honourary Life member of the TDPC. The subject matter is photographer's choice. The Trophy is awarded to the single highest scoring image in the Competition.



Here are this year's winners...



The Winner of the Novice Division was **Manny Goncalves** for his image, Mother in Waiting. Novice Runner-Up was **Manny Goncalves**. Honourable Mentions were given to **Jennifer Alexis** and **Manny Goncalves**.

The Winner of the Intermediate Division was **Marlene Duhig** for her image, Awakening. Intermediate Runner Up was **David Sherman**. Honourable Mentions were given to **Sanling Wang**, **Michael Salter** (2), **Lutz Fulgraf** and **David Sherman**.

The Winner of the Advanced Division and the overall Trophy Winner was **Lyle Sadavoy** for his image, Solar Eclipse Montage. Advanced Division Runner -Up and Trophy Runner Up was **Ann Alimi**. Honourable Mentions were given to **Lance Gitter** (2), **Kat Lovassi**, **Rob Robson**, **Arjuna Samaskandan** (2), **Rachel Schneiderman**, **Howard Lipman**, **Roger Correia**, **Bill Shuster**, **Leon Blum**, **Larry Durst** (2), **Lidia Brandes** (3), **Ann Alimi**, **Wendy Thurston** (2).

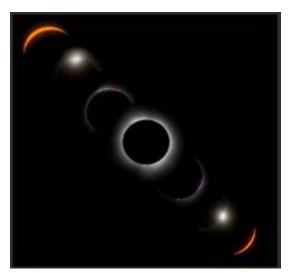
Thank you to all participants!

Check out all the winning images that placed in this competition in the gallery here.

Members can review all the images, scores and comments <u>here</u>. (To access, you must first log on to the TDPC website)



Awakening, Marlene Duhig



Solar Eclipse Montage, Lyle Sadavoy

COMPETITIONS BULLETIN BOARD

REMINDERS

- 1. You can view all the images, scores and comments for every competition by signing into the TDPC website and clicking on image Uploads/Competitions/Competition Results.
- 2. Urban Wildlife Images: Over the last few years, we have become more liberal with the amount of hand of man (HOM) that is allowed in our Natural Things images. As a result, urban wildlife images, which typically include a large amount of HOM, are welcome in our competitions.
- 3. Members can find a number of competition rules and regulations documents in the club library. This can be accessed by signing into the TDPC website and choosing "Members Only" and then "Club Library."

The following documents pertain to Competition Rules and Regulations.

- Everything You Wanted to Know about Club Competitions
- TDPC Competitions Overview
- Use of AI Imagery Policy

COMPEITITION DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS AND RESULTS MEETINGS

| TDPC Competition | Deadline for Submissions | Results Meeting |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Landscape Competition, Naomi Cohen Trophy | Wed., Nov. 6, 2024, 10:00 p.m. | Tues., Nov. 19, 2024 at 7:30 p.m9:00 p.m. |
| Architecture Competition, Lorne Rose Trophy | Wed., Nov. 20, 2024, 10:00 p.m. | Tues., Dec. 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m9:00 p.m. |
| Nature Competitions, Kay McGregor Trophy | Wed., Nov. 27, 2024, 10:00 p.m. | Tues., Dec. 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m9:00 p.m. |

Volunteer Required: We're looking for a Competition Chair

If you are interested in learning all about the mechanics of running our competitions, and then applying what you have learned, you might consider becoming TDPC's Competition Chair or in sharing the work with a Co-Chair.

The role of the Competition Chair:

- To oversee the execution of all TDPC competitions.
- To coordinate elements of each competition with the Webmaster to ensure that all aspects of each competition are covered.
- To communicate with the judges of each competition.
- To lead the competition committee in formulating any changes to competition rules or policies.
- To prepare competition results presentations and present them to the club.
- To learn and operate the Competition Analysis Tool (CAT) which calculates competition results.
- To complete other "administrative duties," as required.

Helpful skills and experience (not all are necessary):

- You compete or have competed in competitions.
- You are familiar with the judging process.
- You are familiar with Excel. (This is a prerequisite).
- You are familiar with TDPC's competition policies and rules.

Training will be provided throughout the 2024–25 club season.

If you are interested or have any questions related to the role of the Competition Chair, please email Anthony at competitions@tdpc.ca.

SHARING IMAGES FROM OUR SUCCESSFUL TDPC OUTING - DOWNTOWN ARCHITECTURE

The club outing on Tuesday, October 1 in downtown Toronto with a focus on architecture was a success with a great turnout. Organized by Robert Robson, this outing was open to members, friends and guests. There was a lot of interest in getting out again in the near future. Let's make it happen!

Enjoy the images captured by our guest Bryan McGowan and images shared by some of our enthusiastic and talented members: Susan MacLean, Jeff Berger, Tony Scopazzi, John Weatherburn, Kat Lovassi, and Robert Rutkay.







John Weatherburn

BRYAN McGOWAN





SUSAN MACLEAN



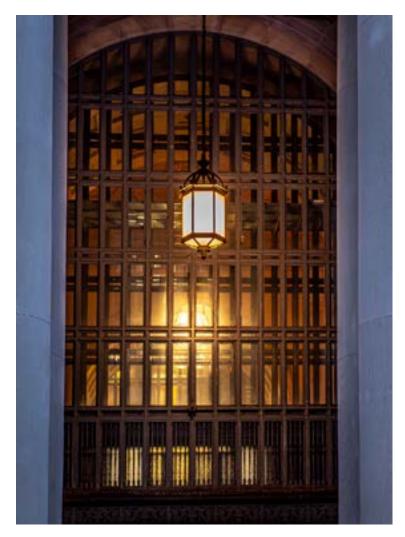


JEFF BERGER





TONY SCOPAZZI





JOHN WEATHERBURN





KAT LOVASSI





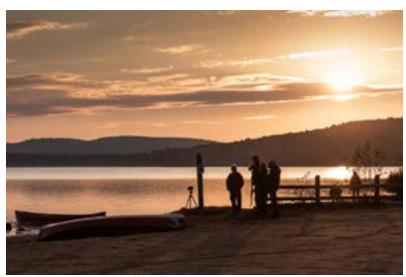
ROBERT RUTKAY





SOME IMAGES FROM ALGONQUIN PARK

A small but enthusiastic group of TDPC members met up Sunday, October 20th at 6:00 a.m. at Lake of Two Rivers campground in Algonquin Provincial Park. Here are some of images shared by those intrepid members who drove up to meet hosts Jacqui Jerulzalski and Arjuna Somakandan for this the crack-of-dawn outing. Thank you for organizing this event Jacqui and Arjuna.



Group Chat, Arjuna Somaskandan



Parked Canoe, Arjuna Somaskandan



Sunrise, Algonquin Park, Lutz Füllgraf

ALGONQUIN PARK OUTING



Canada Jay, Boris Snirch



Canada Jay, Boris Snirch



Beaver, Boris Snirch



Canada Jay and Arjuna, Lutz Füllgraf



Lake of Two Rivers, Boris Snirch

UPCOMING PHOTOGRAPHY SPEAKER

Architecture and the Art of Graphic Elements

November. 5, 2024, 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m

Online Speaker: Frank T. Smith



As an outdoor enthusiast, one of Frank's favorite subject matters is architecture. Frank provides a very unique perspective through his lens of buildings – both old and new and is artful in his ability to capture the lines and details that are often missed by the common passerby. Frank also, through various in-camera techniques, is able to highlight the sky and other details through live composite creating a dynamic image.

From his hometown with the old Bethlehem Steel Plant to inside penitentiaries and other urban decay projects, Frank has a portfolio of buildings as they were in a place in time. He also has the ability to see what others do not in highlighting the graphic elements that would otherwise be missed.

Bio

Frank T. Smith, a self-taught photographer with a lifelong passion for the art, discovered his love for photography at an early age. Specializing in outdoor and architectural photography, Frank has traveled on global journeys to capture the essence of remote locations, documenting both the people and their cultures, often supporting philanthropic causes.

As a proud member of the OM Ambassador program, affiliated with OM System (formerly Olympus), Frank utilizes the OM-1 and the OM-1 Mk II as his preferred cameras. When not venturing into distant locations, he explores local landscapes and seeks out unique architectural and urban decay sites for his photography. Beyond his photography endeavors, Frank generously shares his time and expertise through in-person and online forums, delivering engaging presentations to diverse audiences nationwide. Recognized for his gift of communication and passionate approach, he inspires others through workshops, classes, and mentoring. Frank also serves as a judge for camera clubs and photography events, aiming to foster creativity and reveal the unnoticed.

In addition to his photography, Frank has been creating a series of videos showcasing his photo shoots and providing insights into the details of each shot, accessible on his YouTube page.

Widely respected in the commercial architectural photography community, Frank collaborates with developers, architects, engineers, and owners to capture the essence of their projects. His work has been featured in various media, marketing campaigns, print, exhibits, and philanthropic awareness initiatives. View Frank's website at www.franksmithphotos.com.

Bookings

Members of TDPC receive free access to all speaker events. This is scheduled as an online meeting and a Zoom link will be sent out a day or two in advance of the meeting. Guests are welcome, if you are not a club member,

BOOK THIS EVENT.







BY JACQUI JERUZALSKI

The 500 Rule

Do you know about the 500 rule? This rule is used in long-exposure photography, especially at night.

One common concern among photographers engaging in long-exposure techniques is the appearance of star trails. These occur when stars move across the sky during lengthy exposures, resulting in streaks rather than points of light. To achieve clear, defined stars without trails, consider the 500 rule.

You will normally choose a wide lens and one with the biggest aperture available.

Then divide 500 by the focal length of the lens. This will give you time in seconds you can use before you will see those streaks.

For example, if you have a 24 mm lens:

500 / 24 = 20.8, therefore the longest exposure you should use is 21 seconds

you should use is 21

Another rule used by some is the 600 rule. In this, as the name implies you replace 500 by 600.

In the example below you can see the star trails beginning to form on the 30-second exposure and not on the 10-second exposure.





If you have a tip you'd like to share with the club, email Jacqui at sigs@tdpc.ca.

REVIEWS

NEW PIECE OF CAMERA GEAR

LEICA Q3

By Hanson Cheng

Trying to get a Leica Q3 about a year ago. And the best I could do was to get on the wait list of 2 or 3 dealers until a month ago, when I finally bought a new one through other means and forgot about the waiting game.

The Leica Q3 is definitely a new experience for me and for anybody who owns it, I think. The camera is very compact, feels very solid as expected. The image quality from a Leica lens, needless to say, is top-notched. The resolution from the 60 megapixel sensor delivers amazing details. The operation is smooth and the menu is simplistic. Unlike the Sony and Panasonic cameras that I have been using for many years, there is a learning curve I need to face for now I am still trying to get used to some unusual features that the Leica Q3 offers, like the completely quiet electronic shutter, the perspective control in the viewfinder, and the three preset digital zooms. The camera itself is a brainchild of a Swedish designer. It certainly has some unique characteristics, like the lack of grip handle so you likely need to get a separate add-on, the heavy shutter release button and the minimum number of operating buttons.

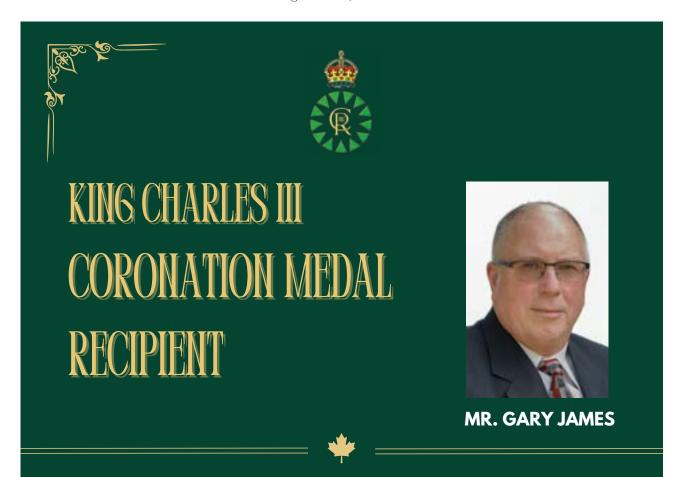
P.S., the above, is by no means a technical review, just my first impression of this fun piece of camera gear.



Hanson Cheng

TDPC MEMBER RECOGNITION

Congratulations to TDPC member Gary James recipient of the King Charles III Cornation Medal for profound love of nature and commitment to fostering vibrant, safe communities.



Gary James has always been driven by a profound love for nature and a commitment to fostering vibrant, safe communities. From a young age, he was deeply involved in volunteer work, earning the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Scouting and advancing to roles such as Scout leader and Venture advisor. His dedication to service continued as a Royal Canadian Air Cadet, where he achieved the rank of Corporal.

Following a 35-year career in policing, Gary's commitment to community service did not wane. He took on several volunteer roles, including establishing the Newtonbrook Creek division of Toronto Nature Stewards, where he led efforts to restore natural habitats in local ravines. Gary also founded the Bayview Village division of Turtle Protectors, focusing on the protection of endangered and atrisk turtles through public education and volunteer patrols.

Gary's passion for nature extends to his volunteer work with Parks Canada, where he serves as a nature photographer and guided walk leader, and participates in citizen science projects like frog and turtle monitoring and bumblebee identification. He also contributes to the Rosetta McClain Taggers project, assessing and tagging monarch butterflies to monitor their migration.

In addition to his environmental work, Gary supports local community events through the Bayview Village Association and has helped a Syrian refugee family settle in Canada. His dedication to serving his fellow Canadians is unwavering, and he considers any recognition for his volunteer work a great honour.

CREATED BY MERBER OF PARS

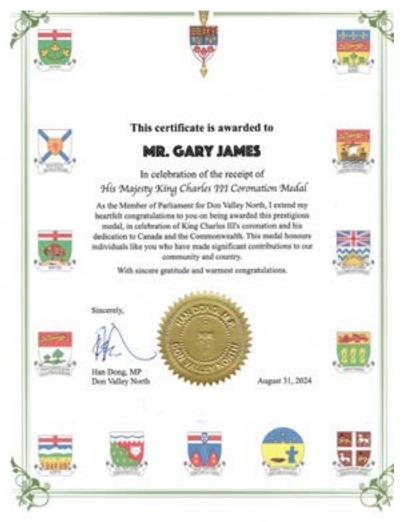
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King Charles III Coronation Medal

The Coronation Medal was created to mark the Coronation of his Majesty King Charles III, which took place on May 6, 2023. It is the first Canadian Commemorative medal to mark a coronation.

The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General is responsible for administering the King Charles III Coronation Medal program. The medal will be awarded to 30,000 deserving individuals.

Congratulations Gary James.





Gary James

NATURE ETHICS CORNER

Curated by Theresa Moore



Used with Permission: Toronto Field Naturalists By keeping our distance and not causing a change in behavior, we avoid adding to the pressures on wildlife.

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

We're looking for a Program Chair

If you are excited about our 2024-2025 Program, why not volunteer and learn all about the mechanics of organizing and bringing a program like this one to life.

Training will be provided throughout the 2024–2025 club season.

If you are interested or have any questions related to the role of the Program Chair, please email — Max Wynter. president@tdpc.ca



INTERESTING EVENTS

ROM AT HOME

Our Changing Port Lands - Documenting Toronto's Journey to Climate Resiliency

Chronicling the momentous changes from the ongoing revitalization of Toronto's Port Lands, artists Vid Ingelevics and Ryan Walker have spent years creating a photographic record of the changes in this corner of the city.

View this documentary *here*.



Credit: ROM Website

ROM EXHIBIT

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2024 December 21, 2024 Royal Ontario Museum

Annually, photographers spanning ages and abilities submit tens of thousands of images to the international Wildlife Photographer of the Year contest. This winter, ROM is thrilled to once again host the renowned exhibition. Organized by London's prestigious Natural History Museum, UK, this fan-favourite showcases the very best in nature photography from around the globe.



Credit: ROM Website

Visit the ROM.

IMAGE CENTRE EXHIBIT

Lee Miller a Photographer at Work (1932–1945) September 11–December 7, 2024

Image Centre

Curator: Gaëlle Morel Visit the Image Centre

Timely Exhibition at The Image Centre Spotlights Lee Miller, Coinciding with Major Film Release

The Image Centre (IMC) is pleased to announce the opening of Lee Miller: A Photographer at Work (1932–1945), running from September 11 to December 7, 2024. Curated by IMC Exhibitions Curator Gaëlle Morel, this exhibition opened just ahead of the much-anticipated theatrical release of Lee, starring Kate Winslet, on September 27.

More info: Inage Centre Press Release

Lee Miller (1907 – 1977) entered the photography world in New York as a model to the great photographers of the day such as STEICHEN, HOYNINGEN-HUENE and GENTHE. In 1929 she went to Paris and worked with Man RAY quickly succeeding in establishing her own studio. Returning to New York in 1932, she set up her own studio for 2 years that was highly successful. In 1937 she met Roland PENROSE and in December 1942 she became a correspondent accredited to the US Army. She followed the US troops overseas and was probably the only woman combat photo-journalist to cover the front line war in Europe. Among her many exploits she witnessed the siege of St Malo, Liberation of Paris, fighting in Alsace and the liberation of Buchenwald and Dachau but it is mainly for the witty Surrealist images which permeate all her work that she is best remembered.

More info: https://theimagecentre.ca

WIDE HORIZON PHOTO TOURS: SPECIAL OFFER TO TDPC MEMBERS



CHECK OUT OUR PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS HERE:

https://widehorizonphototours.com/

TDPC NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Members of the TDPC receive the newsletter every month. We publish eight issuess during the membership season (Sept-May). Look for an email notification close to the publication date. Please share the newsletter with those who might be interested and encourage them to <u>subscribe</u>.

If you have news story (travel report, review, tip, exhibit, interesting events) that you would like to share, reach out and submit your copy and images to newsletter@tdpc.ca.

Content Submission and Publication Dates

DECEMBER

Content Submission closes: Thursday, Nov. 21 Publication Date: Thursday, Nov. 28

JANUARY

Content Submission closes: Thursday, Dec. 19 Publication Date: Monday, Dec. 23

FEBRUARY

Content Submission closes: Thursday, Jan. 23 Publication Date: Thursday, Jan. 30

MARCH

Content Submission closes: Thursday, Feb. 20

Publication Date: Thursday, Feb. 27

APRIL

Content Submission closes: Thursday, Mar. 20 Publication Date: Thursday, Mar. 27

MAY

Content Submission closes: Thursday, Apr. 24 Publication Date: Thursday, Apr. 30

SEPTEMBER

Content Submission closes: Thursday, Aug. 21 Publication Date: Tuesday, Aug. 28



TORONTO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB.



ABOUT US

The Toronto Digital Photography Club (formerly the Toronto Guild for Photographic Art) was originally established in 1947 as the Toronto Guild for Colour Photography. It is one of Canada's premier camera clubs with a rich history and one of the oldest camera clubs in Toronto.

The club is home to many talented and successful photographers, both amateur and professional. Regardless of your skill level, membership in our club offers many opportunities to improve your photography, meet people with a common interest in various genres of photography, share ideas and participate in fun and friendly photography outings.

Guests are always welcome. So if you are thinking of joining the club, check out the calendar on our website for an upcoming event of interest and contact us.

We would be happy to have you join us. You will be glad you did.

WEBSITE: tdpc.ca

FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/mytdpc

INSTAGRAM: @tdpc_pics

A proud member of the Canadian Association for

<u>Photographic Art</u> (CAPA) and the <u>Ontario Council</u> of <u>Camera Clubs</u> (OCCC).





JOIN US.

If you know someone who may be interested in joining a camera club, please pass on this newsletter and encourage them to join us.

TDPC offers the following membership options:

- New Individual Membership (\$95.00/year)
- New Joint Membership with spouse, son/daughter, etc. (\$170.00/year)
- New Associate Membership (must live outside the GTA and subject to Board approval annually).
 Join as an Individual member, then apply to president@tdpc.ca for Associate status, and if approved, a refund of \$25.00 will be issued.

To join our club, <u>click here</u>. You may use PayPal or a Credit Card (Visa/Mastercard) to process your payment and complete your registration online to gain immediate access to the website and all the resources we have available.

MEMBER TESTIMONIAL



EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS!

In 2010 I attended my first meeting of the Toronto Digital Photography Club. To my

pleasant surprise, I was made to feel very welcome right from that evening.

The exposure to like-minded folks with an interest in photography continues to be a source of inspiration. So many people, with different interests, willing to share their knowledge, combined with the resident and guest speakers, have allowed me to continue to grow as a photographer in ways I might never have imagined.

One of the greatest features of the club is the evaluation groups. In these informal settings, a mentor, and a small group of one's peers discuss how we might improve our photographic images. The members often share their images in competitive or non-competitive events.

A club like ours is volunteer run. My eight years on the board of directors in a variety of roles, including President and later Competition Director, have been rewarding. I am currently the club's representative to the Ontario Council of Camera Clubs where I also serve as the Judge Chair.

"

JOHN ALLMAN — MEMBER FOR 14 YEARS