



New Westminster Photography Club

# Shutter Release

January 2007



Photo © Shona LaFortune.

## From the Editor

Hello again from Shona, VP and part-time Editor. Peter was in Toronto doing the family New Year thing, so I am playing the Editor role for this issue. Lots of events coming up, so keep your calendars handy.

The photo on the left was taken in a New Westminster cemetery during the late November snow, with a simple little camera of unknown vintage called "Rocket Camera". It's a small tin box that uses 120 (roll) film. The shutter is controlled manually so precision is impossible. The viewfinder is a little metal cube on top of the camera, with cut-outs, so precise composition is likewise impossible although there appears to be ample depth of field. Thanks to the latitude of the Fuji 400 print film, both day and night shots turned out, some with more bizarre vignetting and flare effects than this (no multi-coating either). I scanned a colour neg and converted to monochrome in Photoshop.

## Upcoming Program

**NOTE** that the previously scheduled **January 2 meeting has been moved to January 9**. (The school is closed Jan. 2).

### January 9

Equipment Night – we will rotate in groups through 3 tables: "Storage devices" (for digital and film), "Tripods and supports", and "Lenses and filters". The table "hosts" will demonstrate the equipment and/or show examples of it in use. You will have about 20 minutes/table. *5 minute presentation: Kelvin Leong.*

### January 16

Selection of images for the North Shore Challenge. Bring up to 4 slides. **Digital images must be submitted in advance (see specs this issue)**. Please e-mail to Kelvin ([kelvin@nwphoto.org](mailto:kelvin@nwphoto.org)) **no later** than the Saturday prior to the meeting (January 13). *5 minute presentation: David Love.*

### January 30

"Creating the Abstract" - hands-on workshop with Jim Britton. Bring camera, tripod, cable release and close-up equipment. *5 minute presentation: Tatiana Robinson.*

### February 6

Select **prints** for BC Print Challenge. Print rules in this issue. *5 minute presentation: Derek Carlin*

## **February 20**

Guest speaker Archie Miller, New Westminster historian and archivist, will speak more on the importance of old photos and show examples - more old views to "look into" including some close-ups of portions of the very early Royal City and some amazingly detailed aerial views.

## **Outings**

*Justin Ball, Outings Coordinator*

### **Jan 20<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** **"Russian Soldiers"**

In the early months of the First World War, the Russian army was large, but very poorly equipped. Soldiers were formed into groups of three, with one rifle and 5 cartridges. When the first soldier fell, the remaining 2 would take up the rifle and continue, until the next fell...Participants will be put in pairs, issued with one camera, and a list of "targets" to shoot. Work together to spot and shoot, and don't waste your shots! This is a full day outing, starting at the New West Skytrain station at 10am, and ending with dinner at Lougheed Mall 5pm where processed prints will be judged and compared. Bring your usual gear, and money. Shoot your own photos with your own camera, but only those from the supplied equipment will be judged. We will collect a small fee from the participants at the January 16 meeting to cover equipment and processing costs.

### **Feb 10<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 10am** **"Almost Famous- Part 2"**



In the works...might be Front Street, Irving House, or another location. Find your partners and props now to create a person, place, thing or event that happened or may have happened....Check for updates. (Have a look also at these [iconic pics.](#))

### **March 31<sup>st</sup> - Saturday** **"Flowers"**

A morning outing to try our skills and info gleaned from Leona Isaac's programme of March 27<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Burnaby Art Gallery parking lot at 10am, where we will continue to the Century Garden. Parking is free, the walk short, and there is also the lake and the gallery to visit. Bring snack, money, usual gear. There is nowhere nearby for coffee or snacks- there is coffee and such at the "On the Run" on Canada Way, and a Subway a few doors up.

## **May**

Pinhole camera outing. In the works. Kelvin will be teaching us to make pinhole cameras. We will use them on an outing, and create prints.

## Prior Outings

No one has come forward with a report on the Remembrance Day outing to the Vancouver cenotaph and Chinatown, but I heard that six people participated; there was sun in the morning, and great food in Chinatown. There are some photos on the club's website (go to "outings" then "prior outings".)

The pre-Christmas outing at Fort Langley (December 16) was attended by five members, and for those of you who would like to hold Christmas in your hearts just a little while longer, Grace gives us the following report:

'Twas the weekend before Xmas  
When five photographers merry  
Met in Fort Langley  
Just down from the ferry.

With tripods and cameras  
They wandered the town  
Taking pictures of scenes  
That might gain them renown.

They saw many scenes  
Xmas colour abounded.  
There was no Santa in sight  
With tummy so rounded.

They set up their tripods  
Amid shoppers and a wedding  
Hoping for snow  
And kids all a'sledding.

The lighting was poor  
But photos were taken  
Of trees in store windows  
Artificial snow having been shaken

As we climbed in our cars  
Was that a bell we heard ringing?  
And off in the distance  
A choir loudly singing?

As we drove out of sight  
(None in a DeSoto),  
We heard "Merry Christmas to all  
And to all a good photo".

## Get Tickets!

### January 27

Burnaby Photographic Society 11th Annual Showcase. This is a program of audio-visual presentations on various themes. Like the recently held Pacific Digital Showtime, this is **not** your father's slide show! Music, digital effects and excellent photography move these programs along. At the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, 6450 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby. This year tickets can be purchased from the Shadbolt Centre box office at 604-205-3000. The tickets should go on sale soon.

### March 3

North Shore Challenge, at the Kay Meek Centre for the Performing Arts (1700 Mathers Ave., West Vancouver), 7:00 pm. Tickets \$15. Live adjudication of images from more than 30 clubs; awards; door prizes; free refreshments. Tickets: email [cyates@paralynx.com](mailto:cyates@paralynx.com) or call Cheryl: 604-986-2159. Since we will have an entry, come out and support the club!

## Reminders (looking ahead)

On **March 6** we will be selecting for the Fraser Valley Invitational digital competition. The topic is "**POWER**". If you have forgotten about this topic, announced last year (yes, who can remember that far back?), time is running out to shoot your interpretation. Digital images only (although the club can **possibly** arrange to have your slide or print scanned.)

**April 15:** Camera **Swap Meet** at the Cameron Recreation Center, 9523 Cameron Street, Burnaby (near Lougheed Mall). 1000's of digital, modern, collectible and antique cameras. Lenses, filters, tripods, flashes, film, batteries, memory, bags and projectors. Anything to do with cameras may be available. 10:00-4:00 admission \$5. Early-birds can pay \$15 to get in at 9:00.

Is anyone interested in working together on a table (at the April 15 swap meet) for the club? Part/all profits to the club; volunteers to man the table? This could be a chance to get rid of some of your film camera gear or?? and share the \$40 table cost. For discussion at our next meeting.

**April 22** – BC Print Challenge at the Cultural Centre in Richmond. Our club will have an entry. Nominal admission charge. Details TBA.

## **Results: Delta Print Challenge**

We came in **third**. THIRD! Woohoo! Our best showing ever in this competition. Three of our members made it out on the snowy Sunday (November 26) to watch the judging. Here are the results for the clubs and our members:

Langley (1st with 220 pts), Richmond (2nd: 201), **New Westminster (3rd: 199 pts)**, Delta (198), Crescent Beach (192).

<i>Toronto Geometry</i> , Peter E.	23	<i>On the Fraser River</i> , Fred G.	20
<i>Out in the Field</i> , Keith G	22	<i>Autumn Rock</i> , Alex C.	18
<i>Boxcar</i> , Dave E	22	<i>Weathered</i> , Agnia L.	18
<i>The Wall</i> , Tony V.	21	<i>Toast</i> , Justin B.	17
<i>Urchins de Montreal</i> , David L.	21	<i>Maple Seeds</i> , Joan G.	17

## **BC Print Challenge**

The event is being held on April 22. The club should receive its invitation by mid-January. However, since we are **selecting** our entries on **February 6**, some of you may wish to get going on the prints. This competition is open to all BC clubs, and usually about 16 participate. We can enter **10 prints**. The following are rules from the prior year. We are assuming they will be the same, but will **confirm** as soon as we can.

Prints may be B/W or colour. Subjects are the choice of the photographer. Nude photography will be accepted and judged but due to Arts Center policy there is a small possibility that an image may not be displayed following the judging.

**Minimum** print size: 80 square inches. **Maximum** 16" x 20".

**Outside dimensions of the mat and backing must be 16" x 20"**. Anything larger will not be accepted. **No foam core mounting**, please, as it will not fit our frames if required.

All prints should be **matted** and the matting firmly attached to the back mounting in order to survive frequent handling. **Only single, white window mats will be accepted**. Prints must not be framed.

All entries must indicate on the **right top corner** on the back of the print the title, photographer's name and address, club name and club address. **Photographer's name must not appear on the front of the print**.

## North Shore Challenge Submissions

**Slides:** If you are submitting **slides**, bring in **up to 4** for the meeting on Jan. 16th. Please have them marked with a **thumbspot** (if you don't know what that is, ask one of our executive members), and labelled with a **title\*** and your name. All slides will be scanned so note the comment below regarding vertical images.

**Digital:** If you are submitting digital images, please email **up to 4** to Kelvin ([kelvin@nwphoto.org](mailto:kelvin@nwphoto.org)) **no later** than January 13. They must be high resolution JPEG (.jpg) files. The NSC wants them sized to a maximum of 1024 pixels horizontally and 768 vertically. Verticals will, therefore, be smaller on the screen as they will be a maximum of 768 on the longest side. (We can resize them for you but for ease of emailing to Kelvin, keep them to a max. of 1280 pixels on the long edge.) Horizontal images may likely have more impact as they will get the most screen coverage – consider this when selecting. Set your working space to the Adobe sRGB standard. **Name** each file with your name, a dash, and the title\* - eg: *Richard Weiner-Beauty and the Beast.jpg*. (Once we have the selection made, we will add the necessary club and order codes to the front of the file names.) Thank you to Kelvin for handling this administrative task for us.

**\*Titles:** The titles are read as the images are projected and they might influence the judges. Try to avoid the often-used mood words such as "tranquility" or "serenity", the blatantly obvious ("Red Canoe on Beach") or anything that might trigger the gag reflex ("Cutie-pie"). OK I'm just speaking for myself on that last part... Ed.

## Judging and Observing

*Justin Ball*

I'm a little choked I suppose, but mostly, greatly disappointed.

I entered a print in an interclub photo competition recently. I was pretty proud that our members had put my print forward as one of several to represent our club. It was my first success outside the club.

My print was up against all sorts of other genres of photography- studio portraits, landscapes, flora and fauna, urban architecture, photojournalism and more.

I had created an image in a 19thC studio fashion: natural light, coarse backdrop cloth, and simple chosen props. It was a simple still life that, in the Victorian manner, told a little story or moral message to those who looked at the arranged items, in this case, a toaster with two books inserted in the slots. The style and method suited my purpose exactly- to make a very strong statement. (You can view Toast in the creative gallery at [www.redcoatphoto.com](http://www.redcoatphoto.com))

I should have had noted a previous warning. I'd shown the image to a number of people- in some cases those who were directly affected by the message. I'd asked one, "What does this say to you?" The reply, "It's about, umm, books, umm, words in books, like, ahh dictionaries. Yeah." It was obvious he hadn't read the titles of the two books in the photograph.

It was painful. The whole reason for the image, its message, its creation, its raison d'être, was captured in the two titles, and he didn't have the time, or courtesy, to read what was in front of him. And there's no excuse, there's nothing else of note in the image. Instead, he waffled, and grasped for something to say, rather than just read two book titles.

At the interclub competition though, I thought, I'd be up against some real good photographers. And I was. But I also hoped I'd be judged by judges who would be observant, experienced, and know a variety of photographic types, themes and methods. I felt switched on, ready for some enlightenment, amongst good photographers and experienced critiquing judges.

I was sorely disappointed. It was obvious the judge didn't bother to read the two titles. Less than a dozen words. Seconds to read. The reason for the entire image and work put in. And he couldn't be bothered. It wasn't painful: it was insulting. You can lead a person to a picture but can't make them look

is good enough for the general public, but the whole point of judging, is that they will look, and look carefully. It was his job to.

Most of all, though, I expected the judges, who were there to be judges, and to judge, to judge based on what they saw. And that meant they had to be observant. What is the use of a judge who is not observant? What do they base their judgment on, if not the information before them?

## **CAPA Competition Host Request**

We have had a request from the volunteer Chair of the CAPA Nature Division who is seeking host clubs for an individual or club digital/slide nature competition during the 2007-2008 competition season. It involves receiving and judging the entries, and clerical work recording the scores and the aggregate scores for the year before packaging and returning the entries to the competitors. The first "round" has an entry deadline of October 2007, so any commitment by our club would be binding on next season's members. Therefore we would be seeking a clear majority in favour.

## **Club Key Contacts**

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