



New Westminster Photography Club

Shutter Release

March 2007



Crocus © Shona LaFortune

From the Editor

It has been said that we all have a third eye, that we may use more than we realize. It tells us what we like and what we don't like. It looks three ways – backwards to our memories, inwards to the way we feel about ourselves - as well as outward, looking directly to what our two eyes see.

The pictures we make are influenced by the “third eye”, choosing the subjects to take and the way those subjects are presented. Psychiatrists say we have a “third ear”, hearing what is not actually said, but ‘heard’ subliminally. In a similar way our ‘mind’s eye’ sees what is not actually (physically) seen, layering our own subjective images on the subject matter before our eyes.

The ‘mind’s eye’ needs our attention. It is really the first step to consider when we pick up the camera.

When we look at the subject we want to photograph, perhaps we should ask “Is this going to be simply a record of what is actually there – correctly exposed, well-composed, and sharp – or am I seeing only what pleases me, mentally editing-out its possible faults? Am I trying to see beyond the accurate image to the emotion it generates in me?”

There may be as many answers to these questions as there are photographers to ask, but they are questions worth considering when we show our work to other people, who may have a totally different set of images in their ‘mind’s eye’. It’s something to think about when our work is commented-on by judges with “third eyes” of their own. - *Peter*

Upcoming Program

March 6

“**Power**”, in any or all of the meanings of the word, is the theme for the Fraser Valley Invitational Challenge, which will be held on May 12, by the Langley Photo Club.

We are allowed to enter 10 digital images, so you are asked to bring in up to 3 slides to illustrate your interpretation of the topic. Digital images for selection should have been sent to Jason by the time you read this. At the meeting we will hold a popular-choice selection of the club’s entry.

Our 5-minute presenter will be Fred Greaves – the topic is to be revealed at the meeting. Don’t you love mysteries?

March 27

With spring already well on its way, crocuses and daffodils appearing in sheltered flower beds, it’s the right time for **Leona Isaac** to present her talk on Close-up Flower Photography. Leona has made this a specialty subject, presenting courses and speaking at seminars, so it will be a must-see talk. A club visit to the Burnaby Heritage Village gardens, in a few days (see details in the Outings section) will be a great chance to put Leona’s advice into practice.

The 5-minute presentation (another TBA subject) will be by Justin Ball.

April 3

We haven't yet received the entry date but it's Crescent Beach Black and White Print Challenge time again. The rules of entry, from last year's information, are in the Competition Section – at this meeting we will be selecting the prints we shall be sending in this year. Watch for the final date but, in the meantime, shoot and print, or pull out of your archives a couple of your best B&W prints. We've done quite well in the past – let's try to do even better this time!

Outings

Justin Ball, Outings Coordinator

March 31st - Saturday

A morning outing to try our skills and info gleaned from Leona Isaac's program of March 27th. 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 museum to visit. Bring snack, money, and the 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.

Prior Outings

Almost Famous – Part 2(a)

Report by Shona LaFortune



Photo © Justin Ball



Photo © Keith Griffiths



Photo © Shona LaFortune

Three of us arrived at the little café meeting place early and I, hardly ever the optimist, immediately expressed concern about the turnout. But familiar faces started drifting in, and by the time our Outings Director arrived, we had ten of us, some in 1940's dress, plus Andrea who had agreed to model/act for us. We made our way to the Windsor Hotel (where the management requested we not photograph the hotel) and set up our first scenario (Justin's description below). Despite the contrasty lighting, our members got some good results.

A few blocks further along Front Street, we found another location for the "time travel" scenarios. By then, some of our members were running out of parking time and drifted back to their vehicles, so only a few people remained to give a little business to the hotel.

Thank you to the photographers who produced prints for Andrea in appreciation of her participation. But thanks are also due to Peter, Don, Derek, Tasha, Keith and Tony who were also models (with extra thanks to those who dressed for the occasion).

Be sure to check out the Vancouver Art Gallery exhibit on until May 21 "Acting the Part – Photography as Theatre". Maybe it will inspire Almost Famous Part 3?

Almost Famous – Part 2(b)

Justin Ball



Here's the pic that set it off.

My Granny was here in '05. She brought with her a woman's magazine (94 year old Barbie!). I flicked through- the photography is generally top notch, and if you inspect the photographs, they will give you ideas about studio and natural lighting, posing models, allegorical picture-stories, depth of field, lens choice, subject position and such. I tore this one out 'cause I liked the lens choice, model position and expressions, and the legs.

I've been interested in old architecture, social history and trouble causers. I've visited the Greensboro (sit in) NC cafe. Rosa Parks, famous for not going to the back of the bus, died last year.

The Windsor is likely to come down soon. It has some (now unlit) period signs that state that unescorted women did not go to drinking establishments.

It clicked: What if I merge the idea of a defiant Rosa Parks, 1950's social values with New Westminster, and have a young woman defiantly doing something culturally taboo, with the astonished, repulsed or secretly applauding men in the background? And that's how a pic in a Vogue magazine became my idea for Almost Famous part 2.

I just wish I was up to snuff as a photographer like other members...

Note, from the Ed... I got into a short e-mail discussion on the subject with Justin – he has suggested (as a matter of interest) that I add the following comments I made:-

”Allow me a small historical correction. In the "ladies and escorts" era, women could drink (alone or with friends) in the "l-and-e" sections. Men on their own drank in the "men's", but could enter the "l-and-e" bar if they were in the company of a female. Technically, by the standards of the day, the women were being 'escorted' - but, in practice, it was the reverse. I don't suppose anyone else is going to be that concerned with historical accuracy, or is old enough to remember.”

Competitions

Crescent Beach B/W Print Challenge

Inter-club photo challenges vary in style and atmosphere. Some are really serious and all efficiency; with some the mood is one of easy friendship. The Crescent Beach Black and White Print Challenge, in May, is certainly in the 'easy and relaxed' category. They take their judging seriously, but like to make it a fun evening.

To date, we haven't received the rules of entry, but the usual requirements are:-

5 prints from each club. B/W prints only, no tinting or toning. Subject choice open.

Minimum print size 64 square inches; all prints to be mounted on a 16x20(no larger) backing.

A four-ply mat backing with a single white mat is preferred. No foam core, please.

Further details, and any changes will be announced in the April newsletter.

Fraser Valley Invitational

This was an item in last month's Program section, but here's an extra 'heads-up' that the judging will be held in Fort Langley, May 12th. Advance tickets are \$7.50, and Peter Ellis will take orders for a block of tickets, at the March 27th meeting (cash with order, please).

North Shore Challenge

The Challenge was presented and judged on March 3rd, with several of our members there to see how our entry would stack up. The North Shore Photographic Society had some problems with their

computer so were not able to advise of the club scores. If we don't have them for the next meeting, they will be in the April newsletter.

For those of you who didn't make it to the show, here are our scores (subject to final verification against the "official" results). Scores out of 27. (Judging was consistently low).

St.Patrick's – Dave Emery	15	Life and Death – Shona LaFortune	14
Cathedral Reflections - Kelvin Leong	10	Rebellion – Sherlyn Cordero	14
Street Rainbow – Justin Ball	15	Fading Sun, Fading Beliefs – Derek Carlin	13
Spiders Handiwork – Matti Lagerboom	15	Riverside Cameo – Peter Ellis	10
Brownstone – Tony Van Straubenzee	15	On Guard – Fred Greaves	12

Knowing your Tools

Shona LaFortune

I have lots of "hobbies" (things I do that I don't get paid for) and the skill sets that go with them, and in all of them, the tools I use range from simple (one sewing needle) to complex (computerized sewing machine with hundreds of built-in stitches and functions). Each can produce work that ranges from simple to complex, and there isn't necessarily a correlation between the tool and the project. I select a tool based on its ability to perform a task with maximum efficiency (yes I'm a little obsessive about efficiency). Yet the end result depends not on the tool but on my ability to use it, and to use it... well, efficiently. Thus I know all my tools well - from menus to maintenance - so that my mind and hands can concentrate on the task.

My camera collection is the same. Ranging from simple, fully manual to complex electronic, I use them all and again, I select the tool based on its ability to perform with maximum efficiency. Immediately one might think that the multi-function, multi-selection, multi-talented electronic camera would suit every purpose. But just like fine stitching requires handwork, certain photography functions work better for me with a simple tool that doesn't require numerous decisions and then try to second-guess me. (Don't get me wrong; I love my electronic and digital cameras ... too). The trick is to know each tool intimately so that no mistakes are made and (of lesser importance to most of you unless you do street or sports photography) no time is wasted.

I try to use my cameras frequently enough so that I can select the appropriate feature(s) quickly. I don't always manage but every time I change tools it's a voyage of rediscovery, often ending with a new "favourite" for a while.

If you own **one** camera, you have an easier job of it, but you will be much happier with your results if you get to know its features. Can you adjust the fill-flash strength? Does it auto-bracket? Does it have time-saving selection modes? Can you program in your favourite settings? Why would you select shutter priority rather than "Program"? Do you know what all the symbols represent? Have you tested the accuracy of the full program mode against manual "zone system" metering? Can it receive long distance calls? (Just kidding!.. sort of) If you have a manual camera, lucky you, do you know how to adjust your flash manually for fill? Can you do multiple exposures? Do you always set the aperture first? (That's a trick question).

If you shoot digital, you can play all you want ("free film"). But otherwise, the film cost is still worth it for practice, because when you know your tools, your photography will get a lot easier.

Heads-up section (in case you missed it, the first time around)

Two photography-oriented exhibits at the Vancouver Art Gallery that are worth your attention:- **Fred Hertzog's** streetscape pictures, from the past 50 years; and a collection of 'staged' photos – **“Acting the Part: Photography As Theatre”**.

Also, don't forget the **Camera Swap Meet**, April 15th. Bring or buy, but be there, to browse...

For details on these events, see the **February Shutter Release**.



In Memoriam

Those members who knew Betty McVea will be sorry to learn that she died, on February 7th, after a year in a care facility

Born in Greenwood BC, Betty later trained as a Registered Nurse, going on to work at the Vancouver Cancer Clinic for many years, retiring in the 1980's.

Retirement didn't slow her down, however, but gave her the freedom to enjoy photography, one of the major interests in her life. She was keen to travel, visiting Russia, Norway, Australia and the Galapagos Islands. While enjoying all aspects of photography, she was an ardent and talented nature image-maker, which was where her special interests lay.

A staunch member of the New Westminster Photography Club for over 50 years, Betty was always ready to help less-experienced members. She twice served as club president, as well as in several other executive positions.

For many years Betty has been firmly established in the BC photographic scene, as a well-qualified club-competition and salon judge, and she will be remembered as an instructor and slide-essay worker. Her passing is a loss to our picture-making community; our sympathy and condolences go out to her husband, Morrison.

Our website (<http://www.nwphoto.org>)

It's encouraging to see new images appearing on the website – mainly pictures taken on recent successful outings. Keep them coming...they look great.

Reminders regarding the site:

- Each member can have a **gallery** page. If you don't yet have a page, or would like to do some updating, submit your images to Kelvin Leong digitally, via e-mail or CD. If you have questions about resolution or scanning your prints or slides, please contact Kelvin at kelvin@nwphoto.org
- We have an **announcements** page. Please keep an eye on this for items pertaining to the club and if you have seen any item of interest to members, send it along to Kelvin.

Please bookmark and visit our site **often!** Any updated information regarding **outings** or **programs** will be posted there first. As well, you can view a pdf version of each **newsletter** (or print it for your records). Let the executive know if there is anything else you would like to see on the site. If you have any questions about where to find information, contact Kelvin.

Club Key Contacts

You can reach Dave Emery (President) at dave@nwphoto.org, or 604-517-6654, Shona LaFortune (Vice-Pres) at shona@nwphoto.org or 604-970-3850, Grace Darney (Program) at program@nwphoto.org, Peter Ellis (Editor) at peter@nwphoto.org, or 604-463-7363; Justin Ball (outings) at outings@nwphoto.org and Tasha Robinson (Treasurer) at Treasurer@nwphoto.org. Any of us will be happy to provide you contact information for the person you are looking for, if we can.