



# New Westminster Photography Club

# Shutter Release

We're

60!

*February 2009*

## Words From Our President (Dave Emery)

It is great to be at the helm of our club again. After a road bump at the beginning of the year, I am excited to let you know that your officers have a great program for you to enjoy for the rest of the year. As with any hobby activity, we come to the Club to learn, to see our friends and enjoy our shared interest - photography. The entire Executive Committee is committed to these objectives. I know we can count on our friends and colleagues in the Club to provide us feedback to make sure that we keep delivering on these objectives. Our mantra should be "Enjoy Photography, Enjoy our Club!"

## We're 60!

Welcome, to 2009, everyone! This year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of our club. We are one of the oldest photography clubs in the lower mainland, and we have no plans to start drawing a pension. At a recent executive meeting, we formed a committee to find ways to celebrate this milestone, in harmony with the City's 150th anniversary. Since the year will be almost gone before we start our new season, we'd like to come up with something that we could have ready for presentation in the early fall (such as a slide show or exhibition) or an event that could take place in late spring or through the summer (maybe a photo hunt to invite the community to). If you have any ideas, or would like to be on the committee or help in any way, please speak to one of the Executive. The committee will be bringing its ideas back to the club for feedback soon.

In **1949**, NATO was formed, a cease fire was called in Palestine (not much change in that news in 60 years...), you could buy a house for \$14,500 (but your average annual wage was only \$3,600), *Dragnet* ("The story you are about to hear is true...") started on radio, *The Lone Ranger* (Who was that masked man?) started on TV, and *Death of a Salesman* won a Pulitzer Prize.



*1949 May Day Parade on Columbia Street. View is looking west near Lorne Street. Trapp Block is in the foreground and the Army and Navy Store is next to it. May Day Suite is seated aboard a boat mounted on a parade float. New Westminster sea cadets are now serving as the honour guard.*

*The Stride Studios, 657 Columbia Street, New Westminster. Photo courtesy New Westminster Public Library archives.*

## Executive Changes

We have had some shuffling of our Executive as a result of our February 3 by-elections. Meet the new Executive:

**Dave Emery** is **President** for the remainder of the season. Dave is a past President, as many of you know, and a very popular one at that. We thank Dave for agreeing to take this on. And here he thought he would have a quiet year just doing a few newsletter updates.



Desmond Chen

We have a new **webmaster, Desmond Chen**. Desmond is a relatively new member to our club, so for those of us who don't know him, he says on his member profile that he doesn't really remember when his interest in photography started, "maybe at age 5 when I saw my father develop his own B&W print for 120 negative in bathroom". He says his interest has never stopped growing and he likes any type of photography but especially portrait, travel and landscape, "perhaps in that order."

Desmond also works in that amazing world of computer software, so he and Derek spoke some language that the rest of us at a recent "website" meeting didn't recognize, to effect the transition.

You all know now that our wonderful website is up and running again. Please take it easy on Desmond while he's still feeling out all the corners of Derek's design.

**Lou Misshula** is our new **Outings Director** and already has a great sounding outing planned for March 7 (see elsewhere in this issue for some details). Lou has been a member for several years, and has enjoyed photography since he was a kid, although he says his big breakthrough was getting his first automatic exposure camera for better slide film exposures. Now that he's gone digital, he says he has "so many new ways to screw up and make a mess" that he never dreamed of before so appreciates the members' assistance to help him select from the many images he takes. Lou's photographs have been great to look at, and we thank Lou for taking on Outings for us and giving us some new photo possibilities.

**Shona LaFortune**, in addition to carrying on as the online Theme Coordinator, will be helping with the **Newsletter** position that Dave Emery was handling, to give Dave more time for his Presidency and associated duties.

The other Executive positions are unchanged: **Keith Griffiths** is back in his role of **Vice-President** after handling the Acting President position for a while. Thanks for your help in getting us through the transitional period, Keith. In addition to the normal VP duties, all announcements for the members or website will go through Keith. Also: Peter Ellis: Program; Tatiana Robinson: Treasurer; Lisa Divers: Refreshments and Agnia Love: Special Events.

We thank our Executive members for their contributions to our club. We also remind you that the club elections are coming up in a few months, and all of you are welcome to stand for any position. If you have some interest or would be willing to help us out, please feel free to talk to the current executive members about what the jobs entail. There will also be opportunities to assist with any 60th Anniversary events we may plan. We'd love to have you!

## **Website – it's all back, yippee!! ([www.nwphoto.org](http://www.nwphoto.org))**

Because of the dedication, skill and seemingly endless hours contributed by our previous webmaster, Derek, we have one of the most fun websites around. It's up and running again, thanks to Desmond and Derek. For new members, and as a reminder to all of you, here are a few special things about our website:

- Every paid-up member can access the "member only" areas. Those include some great articles, as well as the opportunity to upload your photos to your own or the outing galleries, enter the theme competitions and comment on other members' photographs. Click on "login" to create a password and get started.
- Your member profile helps other members get to know you. If you haven't yet completed your profile, please tell us a little about yourself and your photographic interests. You can also browse the other members' profiles and find members with the same interests as you. If you are shy about uploading a photo, that's OK; it's not a requirement, but it helps the rest of us put a face to your name!

- There are some handy "help" buttons throughout the site. Please read those before e-mailing the webmaster for assistance, but by all means, if you are frustrated and stuck, email [webmaster@nwphoto.org](mailto:webmaster@nwphoto.org).



## **Focus Groups**

What's a "focus group"? Simply, it's a group of members who get together to concentrate or "focus" on a specific area of interest. We appreciate that in any one year program, you may only get one evening and one or two outings in your "favourite" field of interest. Focus groups allow you to concentrate a little more on an area you may be expert (or comfortable) in or be interested in learning more about. Ideally, each group will have some who can teach and some who want to learn, but even if all of you love the topic and have been doing it for years, your group will give you more opportunity to share your interest with friends.

We have a group going now on creating "slide" show presentations and a group working on macro photography.

So that each group has a "focus" (what a versatile word), its members are asked to create a goal to achieve within a set time period. It might be an instructional presentation to the club at a meeting or on the website (or both), or an exhibition of images, or publishing a book.... The sky is the limit! Recently, we signed up 4 members for Night Photography, 8 members for Photojournalism/Street photography, 4 members for Architecture, 4 for Photo Software and 5 for Nature. Shona has offered to coordinate the groups by distributing the names to each other. It's up to the groups themselves whether they want to appoint a "leader", whether they want to meet or just go on outings, and what they ultimately want to produce as their "goal". If you are interested in joining one of the existing groups or suggesting another one, contact [shona@nwphoto.org](mailto:shona@nwphoto.org) or 604-970-3850.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

**March 3:** We will select our entries for the Pacific Zone Print Challenge. Each member may bring in 2 prints, B&W or colour, any subject. See "competitions" in this issue for a little more information, or full rules at [www.capapac.org](http://www.capapac.org). Minimum size is 80 square inches, maximum 16X20. To save cost, you don't have to matt them unless they are selected, but please mount them on something firm for selection night, so they can be leaned against the wall and easel.

**Bonus:** Desmond, our webmaster, will give us a little introduction (for new members) or refresher on using the website and its features.

**March 17: NO MEETING** as the school is closed for Spring Break.

**March 31:** Our own long-time member, Peter Ellis, is well known in BC clubs for his passion and eye for architectural photography. Peter has some advice on how to approach these sometimes challenging subjects, and will show examples from his travels of his own unique interpretations. Whether you think photographing buildings is interesting or boring, you will find this program informative and inspiring.

**April 7:** Selection night for Fraser Valley Invitational (digital images to be submitted to Keith in advance) and Crescent Beach Black and White competition (see "competitions" in this issue).

## **Let's Get Out! – Club Outings (Lou: [outings@nwphoto.org](mailto:outings@nwphoto.org))**

Lou has lined up a great outing for Saturday, March 7. (yes, the same day as the North Shore Challenge). It's a street walk in one of our unique multicultural areas, followed by a chance to photograph a commercial kitchen and to eat fantastic pasta. Don't be deterred if it rains! Think of

reflections, umbrellas, splashing traffic... And there are inside shots too, and places for coffee and snacks. Here are the details:

**Logistics:** Meet at 1:30 in the lobby or front courtyard of Eileen Daily Leisure Pool & Fitness Centre, 240 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, 604.298.SWIM (7946)

**Details:** Spend about two hours walking up and down Hastings Street and see some of the very interesting sites. There are many places to eat or nosh and peruse the offerings on the street. Be sure to stop at Coggs Vintage Antiques, 4353 E. Hastings Street where we have been invited inside to photograph many treasures. A great half way point is the Dolce 67 Coffee Shop, 3790 E. Hasting Street, one block east of Boundary Road. If you have a sweet tooth, (like Lou), try their delicious gelato. When you have completed your photographic journey, we will meet around 4:00 pm at Vita Bella Ristorante, 4544 Hastings Street (one-half block east of Willingdon Avenue) where Valarie and Leo Moschetti will allow us to photograph their restaurant and their preparation of the delicious food. For those who care to stay for an early dinner or snack, they will prepare one or more of their pasta dishes (the exact choices to be determined). May I suggest the Linguine Chef Leonardo with roasted chicken breast, oven roasted tomatoes, kalamata olives, goat cheese and extra virgin olive oil. Other choices on their menu can be found at:

<http://www.vitabellaristorante.ca/dinner> . Then, a quick drive over to West Vancouver for the North Shore Challenge will complete the day!

In the planning stages for April/May, sports photography (baseball or lacrosse) and architecture, perhaps at SFU. Details will be announced at the club, posted on the website and published in the newsletter as they become available. Remember, after an outing, you can upload your images to the club website to share with the other members.



Photos © Keith Griffiths

## **Past Outing – Chinese New Year Parade (report by Keith)**

Sunday, February 1. Quite a day it was. Our hardy group of 5 met at the New Westminster Sky Train Station at 9:30, in the snow. There was Tony, Matti, Blues, Dave Emery, and myself. An enthusiastic start it was too. The snow although slippery was kinda pretty, the trip up over Metrotown was nice. We disembarked down town at the Stadium Station and walked over to Chinatown to discover we were a bit early for the gathering paraders, so we had a coffee at McDonalds and tried to stay out of the rain for a bit. There were a few colourful shots to be had indoors in the mall what with the decorations everywhere, but the anticipation for the best stuff was outside.

The assembling paraders did not disappoint, there was lots of colour. Too bad you cannot photograph the noise; the drums, cymbals and firecrackers are fantastic. One thing of note is that Lions and Dragons don't look good dressed in clear plastic bags.

As the parade watchers gathered it became difficult to keep track of everyone in the group amongst all of the umbrellas so we split up and went our ways. Matti and I got a few more photos but nothing to write home about. Short wide shots have a lot of rain in them and somehow the

telephoto shots have even more rain in them. Fancy that eh? After fogging up my lens, Matti and I headed for the train home somewhere around noon. We left the rain behind and yep it was still snowing at Metrotown as we crossed over the hill and I was met with a lot of slush when I got off the train in Sapperton.

*(Happy Year of the Ox – Ed.)*

## Our Competitions

Sometimes even our long-time members lose track of what competitions our club is selecting for, and when. Here is a reminder of some of our upcoming competitions and a little about them.



### BC Print Challenge

This is a print competition open to BC clubs. There is no assigned topic (ie the subject is whatever you like) and prints may be colour or monochrome. For selection night, please make sure your images are at least 8X10 and preferably the size you would enter into the competition. The final entries must be a minimum of 80 square inches and not to exceed 16"X20".. Full edge to edge prints are accepted, but otherwise all prints must be matted with a single paper matt. White or black matts are permitted this year. Full rules are available at the CAPA Pacific Zone website, ([www.capapac.org](http://www.capapac.org)). We are **selecting** for this competition on **March 3**. If you don't want the expense of mounting or matting your image before you know it is selected, you can get done for the March 31 meeting. Club members may bring 2 images to the selection meeting, and we will select a final club entry of 10 prints. The judging is **held** starting at 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 25, and there is a small (\$5) admission fee to cover the venue.

### Fraser Valley Invitational

This is a digital competition (entry rules are similar to those of the North Shore Challenge, ie jpg images maximum height 768 pixels, maximum width 1024 pixels) but it has a **theme**. This year's theme is "**Beautiful British Columbia**". That sounds easy, since almost all of us have beautiful photographs we took in the province, but think of how you can make your image rise above all the similar water and mountain scenics you are likely to compete against. Selection for this competition is April 7 and, as for all our digital competitions, please send your images in ahead of time. Keith will be receiving the images from members this year; please get your entries to him as early as possible before the meeting.

### Crescent Beach Black and White Invitational

We are just assuming we will be invited to participate in this one again. It is strictly a **black and white** print competition (no tinting). Images may be any subject, matting may be black or white. We are **selecting** for this competition in our **April 7** meeting. The event is usually held in May, and the club encourages everyone attending to support the spirit of black and white by dressing in black and/or white (colour is accepted, really), and partaking of the B&W food items. Great fun. We have an article on our club website about converting your images to B&W, and of course we had the great program and inspiring photographs by the Kwans in our last January meeting. So start thinking in black and white!

## Themes

The on line/website theme "**On the move**" is open for entries until March 21. From trains to luggage to tail light streaks, show us your interpretation of the theme, comment on the photos we

enter and maybe win the coveted "home page" location with your winning photograph! Another new theme topic will open March 1. Watch for it. Questions: email [themes@nwphoto.org](mailto:themes@nwphoto.org).

## **Two Questions**

***"I love how photography records special moments in life. It expresses emotion... art... and is ever-changing."***

***"...the more you do it the more you will be amazed how many beautiful things you didn't see."***

***"Capturing an artistic, unusual viewpoint."***

***"The challenge of seeing images in a new way."***

These are only a few of the comments from our members, when asked at a recent meeting what photography meant to them. It's not a surprise that they chose words like "creative", "discovery" and "art", as these aspects are so prevalent in the photographs they share at the club and on our website.

When asked what the New Westminster Photography Club meant to them, words like "learning", "family", "friendly", "laughs", "passionate", "welcoming" and "sharing" popped up.

Our responses to the two questions describe so well why we get together through the photography club. Expressing our creativity and interpreting the world around us through photography is important to all of us, but the sharing of images, learning about new techniques and socializing with others who share our interests and passions really enhances our knowledge and experience.

***"The program and the people!"***

***"Meeting new friends"***

***"Beginners welcome".***

***"Learning photography with people I enjoy"***

## **Open Membership, Visitors Welcome**

The Club is open to all interested people, regardless of photographic skill level.

**Visitors are always welcome!** Feel free to drop in to any of our meetings. We have members from beginner to advanced levels. You don't have to live in New Westminster! We have members coming from all over the lower mainland. Explore our site ([www.nwphoto.org](http://www.nwphoto.org)). If you have any questions you can email us. General Inquiries: [info@nwphoto.org](mailto:info@nwphoto.org), or contact the officer for a particular area. We hope to see you at our next meeting!

## **Club Key Contacts**

You can reach Dave Emery at [president@nwphoto.org](mailto:president@nwphoto.org) or 604-517-6654 Peter (Program) at [program@nwphoto.org](mailto:program@nwphoto.org), Lou (Outings) at [outings@nwphoto.org](mailto:outings@nwphoto.org) and Shona (Themes or Newsletter) at [shona@nwphoto.org](mailto:shona@nwphoto.org). Any of us will be happy to provide you contact information for the person you are looking for, if we can.