CCO...to study and promote photography in all its branches... since 1894

Shutter Release

Journal of the Camera Club of Ottawa

September 2024

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Camera Club of Ottawa is a Member of CAPA, the Canadian Association for Photographic Arts.

Find CCO On-line
www.cameraclubottawa.com

Editor
Diane Holmes

Next edition submission deadline
November 25, 2024

Membership

Benefits: Speakers, workshops, regular meetings, competitions, outings, special interest groups, friends, social activity, club membership in CAPA, ample opportunity for learning and mentoring, and...the joy of being around photographers.

Joining is easy: Go to www.cameraclubottawa.com and choose the Membership Information tab. Scroll down for instructions, read the Code of Conduct, complete the Membership Application, create a User Account. You'll get a welcome letter with more information and helpful links.

About the Club

Popular photography was still in its infancy when a group of enthusiasts formed the Camera Club of Ottawa in 1894. The organizers set as their objective "...to study and promote the art of photography in all its branches". Although it was a primitive art form at the time, club members soon gained competence and recognition in international salon competition.

Today, we maintain that objective. We strive to offer a variety of programs from regular meetings, competitions, workshops, field-trips and informal outings, to satisfy as many interests in photography as possible.

CCO Contact Information

President, Catherine Gardner
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Treasurer & Membership Secretary, Niels Rasmussen
treasurer@cameraclubottawa.ca

Upcoming Events

September 24th - TBD

October 1st - Birding with Christopher Dodds

October 8th - Print Competition (Blue Hour, Circles and Round Things)

October 15th - A Discovery of Alaska with Tom Bol and Cree Allison Bol

October 22nd - Creating A/V shows Workshop

October 29th - Slide Competition (Shadows/Open)

November 5th - Challenges/Outings
- Retrospective with Cari Hauraney

November 12th - New Members Presentations

November 19th - Print Competition (Industrial, Forest Floor)

November 26th - Slide Competition (Architecture/ Open)

December 3rd - Interclub A/V Show

December 10th - Christmas Party

January 7th - Introduction to PhotoPills with Raphael

January 14th - Slide Competition (Negative Space/ Open)

January 21st - Covering the Kansas City Chiefs with Reed Hoffman

Diane Holmes

Douglas Harvey - Charleston Lake Provincial Park

Message from the President

Catherine Gardner

Welcome Back!

It was great to see everyone on Tuesday and to see the excellent member presentations. The feedback from the six potential new members was very positive. Make sure to check out the CCO Calendar for the list of meetings, workshops and outings that are coming up.

Just a friendly reminder that membership renewals are due on or before September 30th.

Equipment Donation

In August, the CCO received a very generous donation of photography equipment including a Nikon D7000 with ++ lenses, filters, flash, diffusers, camera bags etc. Other equipment included a studio background stand, backdrops Paper and Material, reflectors, reflector stand, umbrella with stand, and more). While a lot of the equipment will be used in our workshops, some items may be used as a fundraiser for the club as was agreed by the Donor.

Print Competitions 2024-2025

If you have any questions about the topics or Print Competitions, please reach out to prints@cameraclubottawa.ca

Each competition also includes an 'Open' category for images that do not fit the topic.

Note that for the Prints #4 Portrait competition, images submitted to the Open category must include people.

Prints #1

B/W Topic: Blue Hour

Colour Topic: Circles, Round things

Digital Submissions Deadline: Friday Sept 27 11:59 PM

Prints Dropoff: Tuesday October 1 at the regular CCO Club meeting at the HCC

Results: October 8 at the regular CCO Club meeting at the HCC

Prints #2

B/W Topic: Industrial scenes/machines

Colour Topic: The Forest Floor

Digital Submissions Deadline: Friday November 8 11:59 PM

Prints Dropoff: Tuesday November 12 at the regular CCO Meeting

Results: Tuesday November 19 at the regular CCO Club meeting at the HCC

Prints #3

B/W and Colour Topic: Landscape

Landscape images present us with views of our world…large, small and even macro. Images can include people or animals although the primary subject should remain the environment (either built or natural). Images may include people but these should be 'incidental' rather than the main subject matter.

Digital Submissions Deadline: February 14 11:59 PM

Prints Dropoff: Tuesday February 18 at the Regular CCO Meeting

Results: February 25 at the regular CCO Club meeting at the HCC

Prints #4

B/W and Colour Topic: Portrait

Please see the CCO Operations Manual, Section 5.12 for "Portrait" requirements.

Please take special note of the slightly different definitions for "Open" for this Portrait Competition

The "Open" category for this competition shall be limited to people photography. Any style of photo that includes people as the subject is permitted. Images in this open category are not eligible for Best Portrait (any medium).

Slide Competitions 2024-2025

Each competition also includes an 'Open' category for images that do not fit the topic.

Slides #1: Tuesday October 29 , 2024: Shadows
An image where the shadow is the important subject.

Submission deadline: 11:59 PM Tuesday October 15, 2024

Slides #2: Tuesday November 26, 2024: Architecture
Submission deadline: 11:59 PM Tuesday November 12, 2024

Slides #3: Tuesday January 14, 2025: Negative Space
Submission deadline: 11:59 PM Tuesday December 31, 2024

Slides #4: Tuesday February 11, 2025: Repetition
Submission deadline: 11:59 PM Tuesday January 28, 2025

Annual Interclub Competition:
Up close and personal - Tuesday April 1, 2025

Images should be taken with the camera up close to a subject. Subjects can vary widely from a macro shot of an insect or flower, to a still life or a component of a larger subject. It's about getting up close to your subject and showing details you might not otherwise notice.

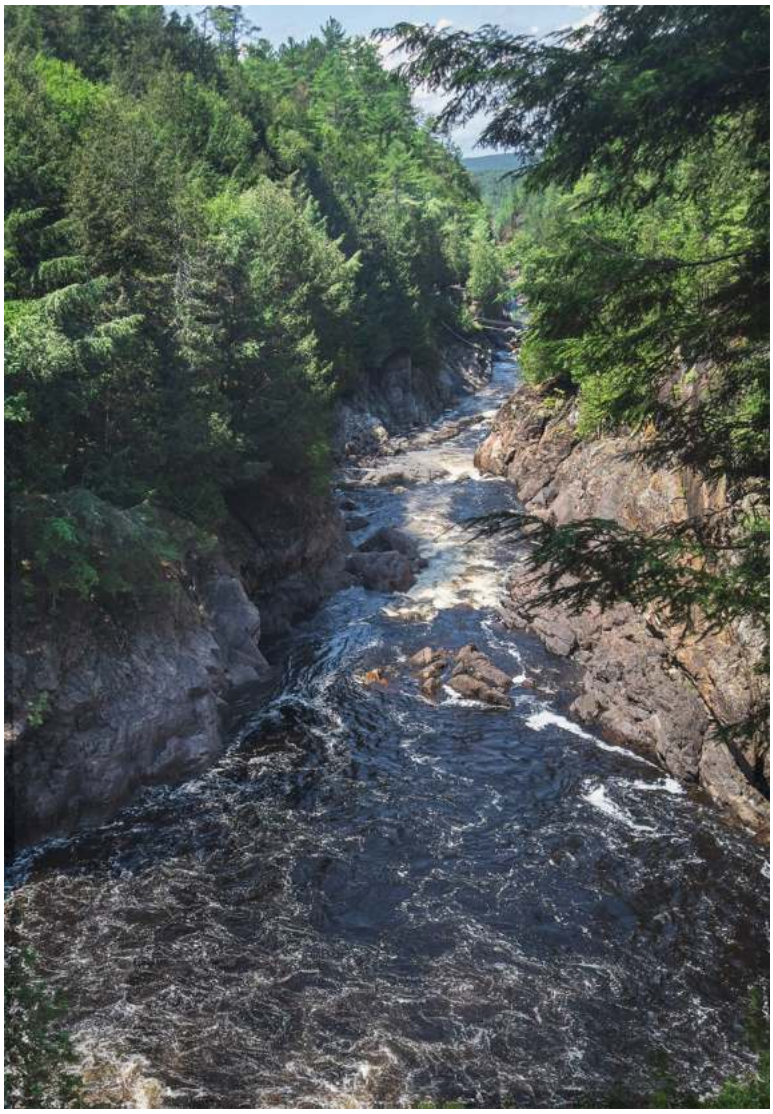
Slides #5: Tuesday April 22, 2025: Nature
Annual Event: see definition below.
Submission deadline: 11:59 PM Tuesday April 8, 2025

5.11.1 General

Should one of the Club Slide Competitions be a Nature Competition, the competition rules and topic definition shall be as is outlined below. All other rules of the competition shall apply except that, in addition to any Awards of Excellence or Honourable Mention awards, one award shall be made for the best entry. This last award shall be kept confidential, to be announced at the Annual Awards Ceremony with the presentation of the Best Nature Slide trophy.

5.11.2 Nature Topic Definition

Entries may include any naturally occurring substance or substances, for example land, sea, air, plant, mineral, animal, but may not include human beings nor the evidence of human beings as in a house, fence, wire or domesticated animals (tagged wild animals are, however, allowable). The unobtrusive evidence of human beings will only be allowed where if associated with a species' normal habitat; for example a barn swallow at its nest in a farm building.



Alex Roussakis
The Gorge at Chutes du Coulange

Diffraction and Macro Photography

Ed Luinstra

Diffraction softening is an optical phenomenon that happens in image making. The image sharpness is reduced due to the wave nature of light. The narrower the aperture, the more softening occurs. The effects of diffraction are rarely noticed in ordinary photography but can become important in macro photography.

Diffraction is governed by the laws of optics and is not affected by the brand or quality of your gear.

A point of light focused in the image plane does not actually form a point but instead creates a circular figure called an interference pattern. Magnified, it looks like a blurry central spot with faint concentric lines around it. The diffraction blur is too tiny to worry about at most common apertures and can be considered a point. However, it can become noticeable at narrower apertures. When the blur becomes bigger than a pixel, it reduces the overall resolution of the system at the focal plane.

In macro photography, we often shoot at narrow apertures and high magnifications, and often crop too. When we do that, diffraction softening can noticeably affect the image quality. It is possible to calculate the size of the diffraction blur. When it is the same size as a pixel in a particular sensor or bigger, the system is said to be diffraction "limited". The word *limited* is an unfortunate misnomer. The diffraction limit doesn't limit us at all. We are talking about things going on at the pixel level. At the diffraction limit, the effect is hardly visible even if you pixel-peep.

A crop-format camera with a high pixel density is very suitable for doing macro photography. For a sensor with 32 megapixels, a diffraction limit of f/5.2 can be calculated. That means the diffraction blur is about the same size as a pixel when the aperture number of an aberration-free (optically-perfect) lens is 5.2. But that doesn't mean we hit a wall at f/5.2. For one thing, diffraction is very feeble at that aperture and may not be perceptible at your viewing conditions. For another, stopping down improves sharpness away from the focal plane by increasing the depth of field. Using narrower apertures usually benefits image quality a lot in macro photography.

But sometimes we do run into limitations. I recently shot a photo of a small fruit fly (next page). The bug is only about 3 mm long. I shot it at f/13 with the 100mm macro lens set at about 1.0x. At that magnification, the effective (actual) aperture number was f/25 (due to lens extension and other effects). That is more than 4 stops narrower than the so-called diffraction limit. Furthermore, the photo required severe cropping, to about a third of the width of the image. Cropping like that tends to show all the image flaws. The image is not really sharp. There can be many contributing factors to this, and one of those is diffraction softening.

To try to get a satisfactory photo, I edited it in Topaz Sharpen AI. It sharpened up easily with mild blur removal settings. The illustration shows the before and after photos, displayed at 100%, *before* on the left, *after* Topaz on the right.

The ultimate way to deal with diffraction is to open up the aperture and use focus stacking to get the depth of field we need. Focus stacking works best with stationary subjects and is not very suitable for hand-held photography.

Diffraction is real, but isn't a significant factor unless we are shooting at narrow apertures at high magnifications. We are lucky that today we have neat techniques that can help to mitigate the effects.

Ed Luinstra—Diffraction

Douglas Harvey

Les Grands Feux du Casino Lac-Leamy

Tony DeLuca

ICELAND – The Land of Fire and Ice

Dennis W. Cartwright

Continental Split
Europe and North America

Iceland is a small country with a large tourist industry. My son has travelled to Iceland numerous times to use it as a backdrop for his work as a video producer and director. We had spoken often of the photographic opportunities. Last Christmas he gave me a book on Iceland inscribed with "Let's go this year!" and he included a trip for the two of us.

On August 5th we left on a 14-day photo trip around Iceland. I flew to Toronto and my son joined me on IcelandAir for an overnight flight to Keflavik. It is the main airport for Iceland, about 40 minutes southwest of the capital, Reykjavik. We rented a car with a plan to circle Iceland in a clockwise direction. Our first stop was a depression/quarry my son has filmed before.

My first impression of Iceland was that the hills/mountains jumped out immediately after we left the airport and I was surprised by the various shades of green in the landscape.
You quickly see the volcanic origin of the island. It does not matter where you point your camera, because there is always something worth photographing.

We drove through Reykjavik heading northeast of the city. Most of the island is treeless but there are areas they are trying to re-forest. The land is very "rocky" with volcanic lava outflows and boulders covering extensive areas. There are small farms everywhere with some cleared fields primarily for hay.

The main roads are 2-lane blacktop. Secondary roads may not be paved, but are usually in good condition. The tertiary roads are very rough and designed for 4-wheel drive vehicles. You have to pay attention even on the N-1, the main circle road of Iceland because sheep have roamed freely since 874AD and there are few fences to keep them off the roads. Where there are fences to separate farms, there are cattle grates to keep the sheep from moving from farm to farm. Most bridges are one-lane so you have to be prepared to yield to on-coming traffic.

One of the regular spectacles in Iceland is the waterfalls. They are everywhere. We found that we were stopping regularly to photograph the next one. The landscape seems to go up in steps to a plateau level, often hidden in the clouds, so no water sources were visible. There are four smaller glaciers and one larger one, that are mostly in the interior and south.

Volcano

Arctic Henge

The northwest of Iceland is known for its fiords. Here we found Iceland's oldest steel ship, beached just above the high tide at the end of one of the fiords. There are beautiful white sand beaches that would have been a major tourist attraction, but the North Sea is extremely cold. On a remote road, we found a freezer with a sign saying "Help yourself". It was full of Icelandic sweaters and preserves with a note to take what you wanted and leave the cash. Very interesting for these expensive items.

Extinct volcanos abound with some easily accessible. There were no active volcanos during our visit, but there was a major eruption in the southwest that could be seen from the airport in Keflavik the week after we left.

We were warned to avoid areas where tour ships came in. During our visit, we saw four tour ships. Two were very large in the 2500-passenger size and two in the smaller couple of hundred size, one of which was a National Geographic Explorer cruise. These were generally in areas where there were many identified local attractions.

The Arctic Circle just touches two points of northern Iceland. We tried to reach one of them in the northeast near a place known as the Arctic Henge. This is a tourist attraction of numerous towering rock triangles and a pyramid that was located at 66.2º north. We drove out to some other sites and managed to get to about 66.35º north. The Arctic Circle is at 66.6º north.

On the way to eastern Iceland, we drove through an area well known from the movie "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" where Ben Stiller was filmed long-boarding down one of the long, steep and winding roads. Not something I would want to do, even if I could.

As we were driving, we started to see large white birds in some of the upland ponds but could not tell if they were swans or snow geese. Along the eastern coast, we started to see more of these birds and discovered they were swans. We passed what we estimated were thousands of swans in the ocean - a fantastic sight! We also visited several impressive puffin colonies.

Along the southeast coast, the largest glacier in Iceland comes right down to a bay that connects directly with the ocean. The bay is full of small bergs with a tourist boat and kayaks travelling out among them. Not far from the outlet is a black sand beach where many of the icebergs break up into small clear bits of ice. This is known as Crystal Beach, from the sun shining on the ice crystals on a black sand.

A little further along the southern coast, there is a very long black sand beach that is known for how rough the surf can get. The wind was very strong and cold. This area is well known for its large cave of 100-foot-high black basalt columns.

We finished our circumnavigation of Iceland on the northwest tip of the southwest peninsula where we visited the tallest lighthouse in Iceland. Here we had the best sunset of the entire trip.

We spent our last two days in Reykjavik where my daughter-in-law and my grandson joined us. We visited our second hot spring for a relaxing soak and I swam in a small lake where the water was 8 to 10ºC. We walked around Reykjavik and had a great opportunity to photograph the main church and the town from the observation levels.

When my son and family left to go to Denmark, I headed back to Canada.

Iceland is known as the "land of fire and ice". However, I would call Iceland the "land of clouds and 10,000 steps". It was cloudy throughout the trip and most sites required long uphill/downhill hiking to get to the actual "site". Make sure to wear good hiking boots because I walked between 8,000 and 15,000 steps each day.

Iceland is a photographic destination well worth the time.

Uplands

Puffin Colony

Summer in Ottawa

Claire Lepage

Cycling in and around Ottawa is one of my favorite activities. I'm always struck by the beauty of our city and the nature that surrounds it.

Dows Lake

Bronson Bridge

Arboretum

Brewer Park

Cummings Bridge

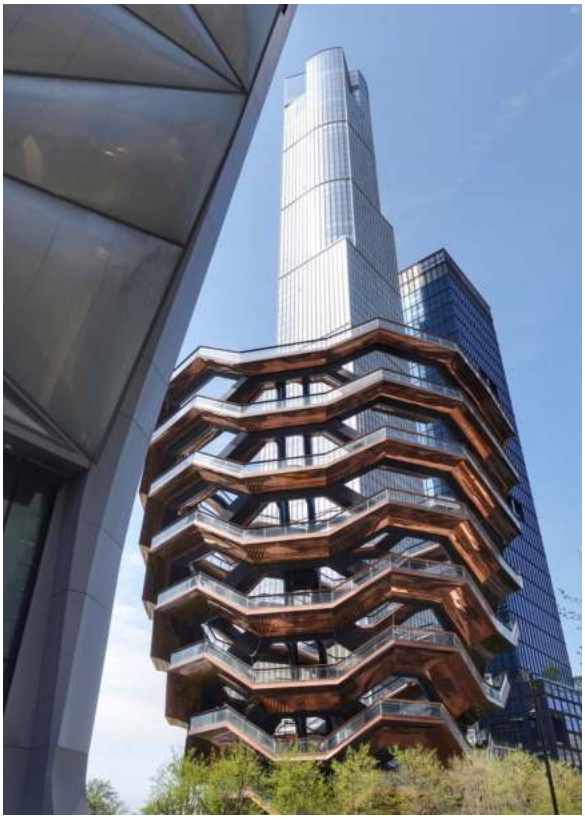
Summer Images

Alan Bent

Drone Image, Lac Mercier, QC

Upper Kingsburg, NS

Upper Kingsburg, NS



New York City

New York City

An Afternoon on Elgin Street

Diane Holmes

Street photography shot mostly from the window of the El Camino restaurant on Elgin Street.

A Photo Enhancement with Topaz AI

Amy Kagerer

Before

After

Soap Box Derby

Tony DeLuca