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

Shutter Release

Journal of the Camera Club of Ottawa

March 2026

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Tony DeLuca

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Cover Image: Midnight Train, Kevin Reynolds, Award of Excellence, Slides #3

Back Cover Image: Night Photography, René Bastien, Honourable Mention, Prints #2

Editor

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Association Membership

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

Find CCO On-line

www.cameraclubottawa.com

Douglas Harvey

Janice Street

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, Ellen Chassé
president@cameraclubottawa.ca

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

Upcoming Events

March 3, 2026 - Print Competition #3 - Nature

March 10, 2026 - Member Presentations

March 17, 2026 - Workshop #3: Digitizing Film

March 24, 2026 - Speaker Night - Veronique Duplain

March 31, 2026 - Side Competition #4 - Minimalism

April 7, 2026 - Speaker Night - Rob Stimpson

April 14, 2026 - Interclub Competition - RA Centre

April 21, 2026 - 12 x 12 Competition

April 28, 2026 - Slide Competition #5 - Nature

May 5, 2026 - Challenges and Outings

May 12, 2026 - Print Competition #4 - Portraits

May 19. 2026 - AGM

May 26, 2026 - Potluck and Awards Night

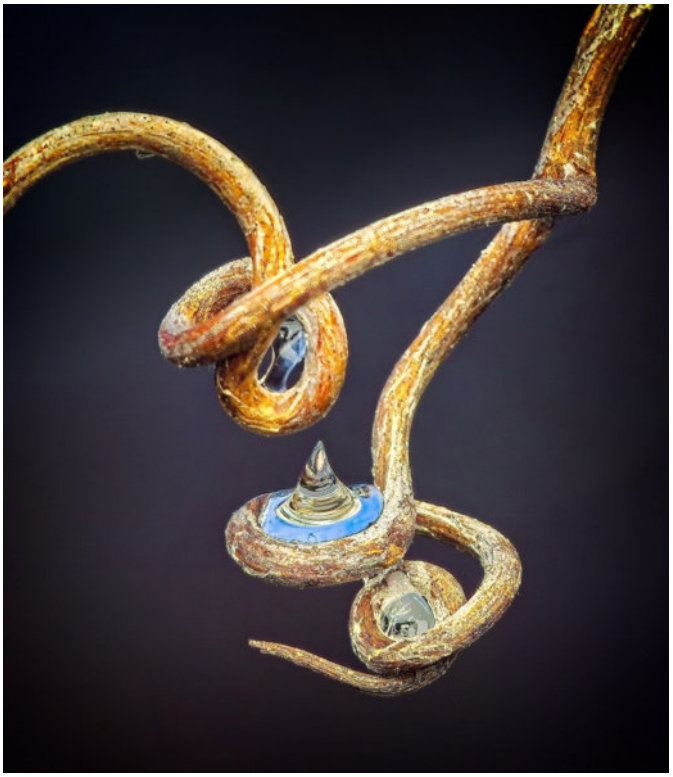
Membership

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.

Gary Thayer

Claire Lepage



John Dolson

Spring Bird Migration in Southern Ontario

Stephen Stephen

Introduction

Each year the spring bird migration is long anticipated by Canadian bird lovers and bird photographers alike. Point Pelee National Park, near Leamington, Ontario is considered one of the top 15 locations worldwide for birding, because of the spring migration. The park's geographical location, as the most southern point of Canada's mainland, makes it an ideal place for exhausted birds arriving in Canada after a long, tiring flight across Lake Erie.

Thousands of birders and bird photographers flock to Point Pelee daily in May particularly during the “Festival Of Birds”. The Festival is held annually running for about 20 days in May of each year. Over the course of that time thousands of birds, from hundreds of species, pass through the park and surrounding areas as they migrate north. Over 390 species of birds, including over 30 species of warblers, have been recorded in the park.

Yellow-breasted Chat and Willow Ptarmigan

Black-throated Blue and Protonotary Warblers

I have attended the festival 3 times: in 2014, 2018 and in 2023. Each trip was exciting and unique. If you have never attended this event you really owe it to yourself to go at least once to experience it.

Everyone at Point Pelee is very friendly and helpful, sharing information about bird sightings and helping others less knowledgeable with identification. Above all they are passionate about birds! Who else rises while its still dark to the songs of the "Dawn Chorus" and arrives at the park's most southernly point before, or just as, the sun rises? What other people have licences plates with names like: 'BIRDMOBL', 'MOT MOT' or 'WHIMBREL'? I have met wonderful people who proudly stated that they were back again for the 35th, 36th and even 37th spring!

There were a number of photographers there but by far the largest number of people were birders. Some mornings there were hundreds of people on the beach near the very tip of the point. Some places are reserved for the tired birds and some trails are only seasonal but there are still plenty of opportunities to see birds. Everyone was very respectful of the exclusion zones that were outlined for the protection of the birds. Migrating birds may also be sighted in other southern Ontario locations such as: Wheatley Provincial Park, Rondeau Provincial Park, Blenheim Sewage Lagoons and Hillman Marsh to name a few.

Birders at "The Tip" in the morning looking for new arrivals.

Volunteers

I would be remiss if I did not also talk a bit about a wonderful group of volunteers help make the annual 'Festival of Birds' possible. In particular the "Friends of Point Pelee" deserve a lot of credit. The members of this group wake up each morning, at the crack of dawn, to provide daily food service for the birders and photographers that visit the park. They offer a "Birders Breakfast and Lunch" each day. They also drive the free shuttle (departing every 12-15 minutes) that takes people from the park Visitor's Centre almost to the tip of the point nearly 2 Kilometres away. Hot coffee, tea or chocolate, topped off with a giant, delicious "Bird Seed" cookie is welcome after a cool first few hours at the point tip! All sales proceeds support the Friends of Point Pelee and Point Pelee National Park.

Suggestions

If you decide to visit to Point Pelee, during spring migration, I would suggest going for at least one week or more if at all possible. It is a long trip from Ottawa and the variety of species migrating can vary considerably day to day and week to week. Accommodations are in huge demand so plan to book rooms early in the year. If you are camping it is less expensive, you can prepare your own meals and you often have a better base to operate from.

Trying to photograph birds in such a busy and crowded location offers some interesting challenges. Birders are often satisfied with a good look at a bird through binoculars or a spotting scope. Sometimes only clearly hearing a song or call that they recognise could be sufficient. A bird photographer on the other hand is always hoping for a “clear shot” and a stationary or at least slower moving target (not an easy thing when dealing with insect-eating birds like warblers). Many eyes helped spot arriving birds but crowded trails made finding a good camera position an adventure at the same time. Often a bird would have moved on before I could get a shot out in the open. Better opportunities often occured later in the day as the crowds had thinned out and more birds had arrived.

Female Yellow Warbler nest building and White-eyed Verio

After my first trip, I decided to approach my photography differently. I elected to not “chase” individual species unless it was something particularly unique. Rather, I decided to move less and spend more time taking better photos of birds that were already 'in front of my lens'. I found this less stressful and I also came away with a better collection of images.

Each day brought new adventures and new species. While news of rare bird sightings seemed to pass from birder to birder almost by telepathy, the advent of cell phones has helped them exchange information even faster. You can often see people rushing off in their vehicles in hopes of seeing another rare species.

Bay-breasted Warbler and Scarlet Tanager

In addition to visiting Point Pelee we spent time at nearby Wheatley (where I camp) and Rondeau Provincial Parks.

While birds were my prime targets I have also photographed such varied things as spring wildflowers and singing American Toads. All in each visit is a very memorable trip and I would love to return in a couple of years to try my luck again. Armed with my new-found knowledge I'm sure that I will be even better prepared for the photographic challenges next time.

American Toad and Marsh Marigold

Links that may be of interest

Parks Canada – Point Pelee Visitors Information

http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/on/pelee/visit.aspx

Friends of Point Pelee

https://www.friendsofpointpelee.com/

2014 Festival of Birds

https://www.festivalofbirds.ca/

Wheatley Provincial Park

http://www.ontarioparks.com/park/wheatley

Rondeau Provincial Park

http://www.ontarioparks.com/park/rondeau

Friends of Rondeau Provincial Park

http://www.rondeauprovincialpark.ca/

Blenheim Sewage Lagoons Permit

https://birdinghotspots.org/hotspot/L418231

Hillman Marsh

https://ontarioconservationareas.ca/conservation-areas/hillman-marsh/

Vistek Gallery Exhibition

Come and enjoy the varied styles of sixteen local photographers from the
Camera Club of Ottawa

Vernissage

Saturday
February 21
1 pm to 4 pm

Gallery Open
February 2 to March 28
Weekdays
9 am to 4 pm
Saturdays
10 am to 5 pm
Where
VISTEK Ottawa
499 Bank Street
(Bank & Argyle)

Venez voir les nombreux styles de photographes locaux du
Club de caméra d'Ottawa

Vernissage

samedi
21 février
13h à 16h

Galerie ouverte
2 février au 28 mars
les jours de semaine
9h à 16h
samedi
10h à 17h
où
VISTEK Ottawa
499 rue Bank
(coin Argyle)

Photographic Exhibition Exposition Photographique

Amy Kagerer

Julie Rollinson

René Bastien

Vistek Gallery Exhibition

John Dolson

Richard Quesnel

John Law

Mitch Gosselin

Vistek Gallery Exhibition

Dan Jones

Kate Grierson

Cherie Fish

Ellen Chassé

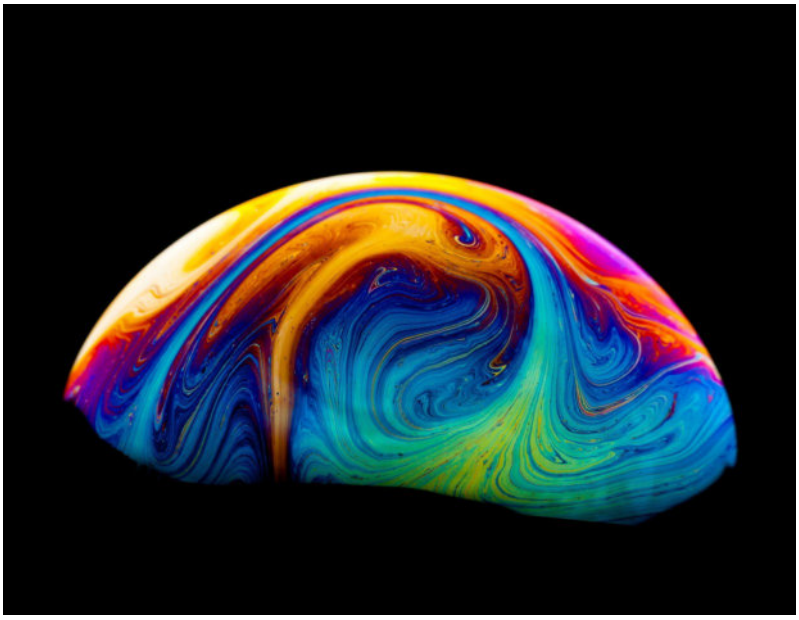
Vistek Gallery Exhibition

Simon Gardner

Alex Roussakis

Roy Sletcher

Kevin Reynolds



Satvinder Singh

Print Competition #2

Topic - Night Photography

Award of Excellence: Simon Gardner , Kevin Reynolds, Marinka Ryan, René Bastien

Kevin Reynolds

Simon Gardner

Marinka Ryan

Print Competition #2

Topic - Open

Award of Excellence René Bastien (included in Vistek Exhibition), Kate Grierson,

Kate Grierson

Alex Roussakis

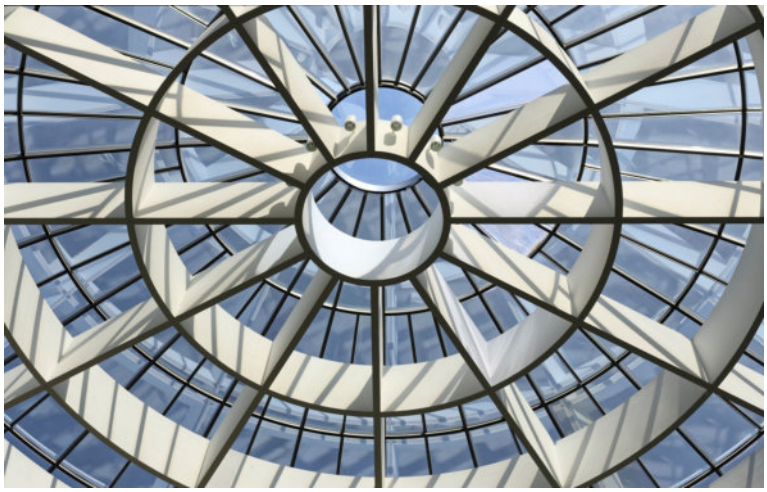
Kate Grierson

Slides Competition #3

Topic - Architecture

Award of Excellence: Michele Baddoo, René Bastien, Peter Frank, Kate Grierson, Dan Jones, Craig Maskell

Michele Baddoo

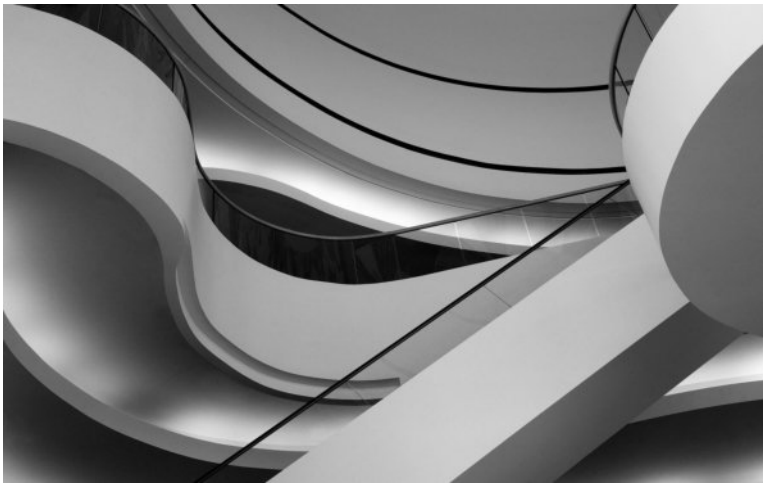


Craig Maskell

Peter Frank

Kate Grierson

René Bastien



Dan Jones

Slides Competition #3

Topic - Open

Award of Excellence Ian Doris, Simon Gardner, Dan Jones, Darrell Larose, Kevin Reynolds (front cover), Janice Street

Ian Doris

Darrell Larose

Simon Gardner

Janice Street

Dan Jones

SPAO Passage Gallery, Traces of Attention Exhibition

Diane Holmes

I am very happy to be participating in my first group Exhibition at SPAO's Passage Gallery. The exhibition features the work of 10 students of the school's Print to Exhibition Program.

The two images I chose to contribute were from a recent series.

The *Echoes* series examines personal objects as quiet witnesses to a life lived, long after the body has disappeared. Through morphological studies of my mother's belongings, I treat these items as both sculptural forms and carriers of memory. Once tools of travel and domestic labor, they now function as enduring archives of presence, holding the marks of use, care, and time. These works reflect on inheritance and impermanence: how ordinary possessions outlast their owner, preserving fragments of identity while shifting from usefulness to remembrance.

Diane Holmes