



MISSISSAUGA
Camera Club



Registered
Community Group

Fellowship Through Photography – Established 1954

S N A P S H O T

Fall 2023

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Eros Fiacconi

Dear Members,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and fulfilled following what I hope was a rewarding summer.

At this time, it gives me great pleasure to formally welcome you all to a brand-new year at our Photography Club. Whether you are returning members or new faces, your passion for photography has brought you to a community that shares your enthusiasm and creative vision – much as it did 70 years ago when the Club was founded. So much has changed since then, yet we remain connected to those individuals with the one constant – a love of photography.

We have entered the month of October with two general meetings already under our belt, the first of which was held in-person, just like the good ole days. I am looking forward to several more of these in-person encounters as the year progresses.

In reviewing this year's program and calendar, I'm excited to see what we have in store in the way of presentations, outings, competitions, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The Club is committed to providing its members with an enriching experience that will hopefully elevate your photographic skills and expand your vision, but for it to succeed, we need our members to participate in all that is being offered and that, of course, includes volunteering.

One of our primary goals is to foster a sense of camaraderie and learning that goes beyond the boundaries of our individual skill levels or photographic interests. With the reinstatement of several in-person meetings in combination with the various features of the Zoom platform with which we are getting better acquainted (for example, breakout rooms), we are confident that this goal will be easily achieved.

If you've had an opportunity to review our Club program or check out our on-line calendar, you will quickly see what a wonderful list of accomplished presenters, both local and international, that we have lined up for this year as well as the many other events we have scheduled. We hope that what you gain from listening to these individuals and taking part in these other events will be inspirational and informative and will help expand your photographic knowledge.

In addition, the many and varied Special Interest Groups offered by the Club provide the opportunity for you to connect with like-minded individuals, exchange ideas, and learn from one another's experiences.

Our Club outings are not only a chance to explore new shooting locations, but also a venue to develop friendships and share valuable feedback. These outings serve as the perfect platform for our members to benefit from each others' skills and experiences in real time and on location.

Our Photo Competitions have been set up to encompass a broad range of photographic subject matter that we hope will challenge your creativity and push your boundaries. Competitions are about growth and improvement as photographers and if your image happens to garner some form of recognition, so much the better. I encourage each of you to seriously consider submitting images to the competitions this year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Continued

We are quickly approaching this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be held via Zoom on **October 19th at 7:00 PM**. It is important that you attend if you are around and able to do so. This is the time when we consider the Club's financial health, the annual budget, organizational structure, and leadership for the upcoming year. You will find the information you'll need to make an informed decision at the meeting in the members' portal on the Club website.

Director positions are typically for two-year terms. Many of the current slate of Directors have already exceeded their terms in office. And, while some have offered to stay on for another term, it is important that we have Club members step forward to assist these individuals with the intention of ultimately taking over these positions. If you are interested in any of the Director positions (including President), please let us know and offer your services as Co-director for this coming year. In addition, we have a more pressing need for an individual to fill the position of Program Director since Garry Weiler, our current Director, who has held that position for 7 years, has expressed his intention to vacate the position effective at this year's AGM. As of this writing, there are no nominees or volunteers for this position to consider at the AGM.

This year's AGM will be followed by a presentation by Club member, Omar Sheikh, titled "Let's Talk about Calibration". Another good reason for attending. For all other Club events and activities, please consult the on-line Calendar on our website.

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all the members who were involved in making sure that our first in-person meeting was a success. These include our member presenters; our member volunteers getting all the equipment out of storage, making sure it worked and operating it during the meeting; preparing and attending at the welcome table, arranging for name tags, keeping track of attendees; preparing the refreshments tables, cleaning coffee equipment, purchasing new equipment, purchasing and serving the goodies and cleaning up; taking photos at the meeting for our records; cleaning up following the meeting and putting all equipment back in storage; collecting all outstanding trophies from prior winners and arranging for them to be updated. And thank you to all who attended to make the evening an enjoyable event.

Ours is a Club which encourages its members to offer fair, yet critical insights and suggestions to help it continue to meet and exceed the expectations of our members, so please feel free to contact any member of the Executive, if you have any ideas that you would like to explore. This is particularly relevant in today's context given the speed and extent to which generative AI is changing the landscape of photography and art, in general.

In closing, I want to reiterate my warmest welcome to both new and returning members. Your experience at our Club is what you make of it so please feel free to join in, in whatever capacity you feel comfortable. Our Club is a place where you can not only nurture your creativity, but also inspire others with your unique perspective.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events and meetings.

Eros Fiacconi, President MCC - president@mississaugacameraclub.ca

PROGRAM REPORT - Garry Weiler

Program Director Position

On October 19, 2023 I will have completed 7 seasons being on the MCC Board of Directors. It's time for another member to contribute to this club and hopefully bring new ideas to the Board.

I will be stepping down as Director of Program starting October 19 and the position will be VACANT until another member fills the position. I will help the new Director of Program until they are comfortable handling the duties on their own. I've planned and organized the program for our 2023-24 season and Mike Laezza has filled all the appropriate dates with presenters, so we're in good shape looking ahead.

A description of the duties of the Director of Program position can be found on our club website. Go to Club Info link, scroll down to Volunteer Positions Job Description, then scroll down to Director of Program. If you're interested in becoming our club's next Director of Program, please email myself or our club President.

I'll still be volunteering to help the club. I can continue as the organizer and host for the two Member's Show & Tell meetings and at in-person meetings I can assist with meeting room lighting and equipment when needed. I can continue to produce the program brochure for future seasons and can help the club with other short term tasks when I'm available.

It's been great working with several directors over seven years. I've learned a lot about the club operations and how many kind, talented and knowledgeable members we have in our club.

Garry Weiler, Director of Program - garryweiler@rogers.com

Program Group Members

Thanks to **Michael Laezza** for his assistance with Program Development that included researching, contacting and scheduling presenters for our entire season's program, much appreciated. If a member has a suggestion for a potential presenter please send the photographer's name and website info to Michael Laezza for consideration.

Now that we're having some in-person meetings the equipment setup duties are very important once again.

Thanks to **Mike Monge** for volunteering for the Meeting Room Setup position, much appreciated.

Thanks to **Andrew Forber** and **Michael Lemiski** for volunteering for the Meeting Room Setup Assistant position, much appreciated.

PROGRAM REPORT - Garry Weiler- Continued

Thanks to **Lori Metcalfe** for volunteering for the Meeting Room Lighting position, much appreciated. I will also be helping with that position when Lori is not available.

Thanks to **Judy Stuart** for continuing as the Annual Awards Manager and thanks to **Jim Evans** for continuing as our club's AV and Slide Show Leader, much appreciated.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 5, 2023 - In-person meeting starting at 7:30 pm

Title of Presentation: **Influences and Inspiration in Portraiture**

Presenter: **David Anthony Williams**

David has a history of over 35 years in state, national and international experience in Australia, New Zealand, the UK, Canada and the USA. He has judged competitions; has lectured to professionals worldwide; has presented keynote addresses and masterclasses to WPPI, DWF and the Allxui conference in Beijing; and , has excelled in competitions with over sixty awards in wedding and portrait photography. David has worked with Kodak, Sigma, Hasselblad, Epson, Fujifilm and is currently a Fuji 'X' photographer in Canada. How are we influenced and inspired? The greatest challenge to us is to remain creative. David started making self-commissioned images in homage to the Old Masters as a means of maintaining and enhancing his creativity and keeping him in touch with the glorious pictures that inspired, and continue to inspire him. David will share and discuss the what and why of his portrait images and how he takes the grain of an idea and develops it, researches it, designs it, props it and then achieves the end result.



PROGRAM REPORT - Garry Weiler- Continued

October 19, 2023 - Zoom meeting starting at 7:00 pm

Title of Presentation: **Annual General Meeting and Presentation**

Presenter: **Omar Sheikh**

The Annual General Meeting to discuss Club business, including the annual budget and to confirm director positions, will occupy the first portion of the meeting and will be followed by Omar's presentation. Omar Sheikh has been a member of the Mississauga Camera Club since 2006 and served as Chair of the Digital Competitions team from 2007-2012. Over the years he has shared his knowledge and experience in workshops on printing and colour management. He also provides services for archival prints for several local photographers including MCC members.

The presentation deals with the fact that with so many different devices used by ourselves and endless options to print images, screen calibration is a critical step on the journey to faithfully represent the photographic vision. Omar will address the various ways to calibrate monitors and how to manage the variables that can affect the on-screen colour and negatively impact the printed output. He will also review some camera and software settings that are often overlooked and misunderstood with regards to colour.



COMPETITIONS - Sandro Del Re

Competition changes for 2023 - 2024 Season

The Competition Team is glad to announce a few changes for the upcoming competition season.

Themes

- ◆ Competition #1 - Monochrome
- ◆ Competition #2 - Silhouette
- ◆ Competition #3 - Urban/Street Photography (permanent theme)
- ◆ Competition #4 - Flowers (permanent theme)

Note: The number of submissions per competition will remain at 3 per competition except for Competition 3 and 4 which will have 5 submissions.

Monochrome

Submissions to this competition are images consisting of different shades of a single colour. This includes black and white images (i.e. where the "colour" is gray and shades run from black to white), sepia images or any other single colour images. Subjects suitable for any of the competition categories (including the imaginary subjects of Creative Vision) are acceptable. Judging will be based upon impact, composition and technical quality as is usual, with some consideration of how well the image subject fits a monochrome format.

Silhouette

A silhouette is a very dark image of a subject against a brighter background. For this theme, subjects suitable for any of the competition categories (including the imaginary subjects of Creative Vision) are acceptable. Judging will be based upon impact, composition, and technical quality as is usual. Impact is expected to be particularly significant for this type of image.

Competition #1 Timelines

- ◆ Competition Number 1 open for submissions **September 23**
- ◆ Competition Number 1 submission deadline **October 8 @noon**
Theme is Monochrome
- ◆ Competition Number 1 results night in-person **November 2 @7:30pm**

COMPETITIONS - Sandro Del Re - Continued

The Use of A.I.

The Competition Team has provided new guidelines for the use of A.I. in post-processing of images submitted to our competitions. They are detailed in **Section 2.1 of the Digital Competition Handbook**.

A.I. for post processing is in a state of rapid development. We welcome all suggestions with regards to suitably modifying these guidelines over time to maintain the fairness and enjoyment of our competitions.

Please direct any suggestions to:

director_comp@mississaugacameraclub.ca

O3C (ONTARIO COUNCIL OF CAMERA CLUB) - Vince Filteau

The Ontario Council of Camera Clubs publishes a newsletter **THE IMAGE MAKER**. In reviewing this version, the following may be of interest to our members:

- Newsletter: The Image Maker is the communications arm of the Ontario Council of Camera Clubs who provides support and resources to the leadership of YOUR local photography club in order to facilitate the advancement of photographic arts to individual members.
- The End of an Era (O3C direction of expanded organization - Leif Petersen)
- Enhanced speaker endorsement
- Photo Tours (Harvey Rogers)

Website: O3C.ca

Newsletter: <https://www.smores.com/0ts3v-the-image-maker?ref=email>

Vince Filteau - o3c@mississaugacameraclub.ca

Outings - Larry Jewett

Saturday 7 October 2023, 12 noon until about 2 PM

The Riverwood Conservancy

Burnhamthorpe Rd West at The Credit Woodlands

Saturday October 28 @ 10 AM



Heritage Village 1049 Kirkwall Rd Rockton

Halloween Pumpkin Party

Grounds open at 10 AM until 4PM
Reservations will be required for this event.
More details to come!
<https://westfieldheritage.ca/events>



Saturday November 4 2023 12 Noon

Canadian National Exhibition - Royal Winter Fair
Coca-Cola Coliseum

TICKETS ON-LINE



Contact: larryjewett@cogeco.ca - 905-467-6746

Outings - Larry Jewett - Continued

Saturday November 18 2023, 10 am

Hamilton Airport

9280 Airport Road in Mount Hope



CANADIAN
WARPLANE
HERITAGE
MUSEUM

Saturday November 25 2023, 10 am

Centennial Park Conservatory

151 Elmcrest Road, Etobicoke



Contact: larryjewett@cogeco.ca - 905-467-6746

Thanks to Cecil for these images from our first camera club meeting September 7.



MISSISSAUGA CAMERA CLUB HISTORICAL RECORDS - Audrey Cherevaty

Always be on the look out. Always have your camera ready.



When in doubt, don't throw it out or delete. Without you there would be no archives.



Images taken 2006
by Hilarie McNeil Smith.

Please contact me at history@mississaugacameraclub.ca

SPECIAL FEATURE - Kevin White

Artificial Intelligence Art Generators in Photography / Survey of "Free" Competitors for Adobe PS

This is a summary of a Powerpoint presentation that I gave to the Creative SIG on September 11th. Stephen Balke and I teamed up to give an overview of the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on creative photography. Steve presented on the AI tools in Adobe Photoshop and I provided a survey of free (or free to try) AI Text to Art Generators.

AI text to art generators create art images from text prompts. In most of the products I sampled, you cannot add your own art, instead you manipulate the words and descriptions in your text input to get the type of image you are looking for. The image generators I sampled included:

- Photoshop Firefly Beta
- DreamStudio
- Microsoft Bing Image Creator
- Craiyon AI
- Stable Diffusion
- Canva AI

To try the AI Art Generators I used the following tests:

- a) What image do you get when you type a simple phrase "Rhinoceros on a Jetski on a blue ocean with a cloudy sky" (remember – this is for the **Creative** SIG!)
- b) What image do you get when you try the phrase "Rhinoceros driving car downtown with 50% texture overlay". (I love Rhinoceroses.)
- c) Can you provide both positive (what you want to see) and negative (what not to include in the image) inputs?
- d) Can you provide your own photo and get the software to provide a creative fill?
- e) Can you edit the image in the software after it is generated?

Please note:

- In the interests of time, I kept the survey to a short number of frequently mentioned free or free to try websites and software in AI image forums. The front runner AI Image generation software (e.g. DALL-E 2, Midjourney) are pay to use sites and not included in this survey.
- This survey represents a snapshot in time and the software is regularly improving with new features/capabilities and intelligence as they gather more image inputs.
- I had no previous experience in AI art generation prior to running these tests, so I recommend you try the websites/packages yourself to get a better feel for the capabilities.

SPECIAL FEATURE - Continued

Conclusions:

- The text inputs that you use are important. My original phrase *"Jetski piloted by a Rhinoceros on a blue ocean with a cloudy sky"* got rejected with no results found and had to be replaced by *"Rhinoceros on a Jetski on a blue ocean with a cloudy sky."*
- Currently the best overall free product is Adobe Firefly, for image quality and editing feature set. (Note – beta version currently free to try, but in the long run will require an Adobe cloud subscription.)
- Most of the images created were artistic as opposed to photorealistic, regardless of whether a photorealistic option was selected.
- There are many more free AI art generators.... See this website post for a potential list <https://www.makeuseof.com/ai-text-to-art-generators/>
- Most products are good for creating textures.
- Except for Adobe Firefly, there is no masking or real editing.
- Firefly provides both text to image AND Generative Fill.
- Watch for unwanted artifacts (extra legs, eyes).

Here's a chart summarizing what I found:

Product	Text Prompt	Neg Prompt	Photo Inputs	Editing
DreamStudio (Stable Diffusion)	√	√	√	Very Limited
Adobe Firefly	√	√	√	√
Bing Image Creator	√	N/A	N/A	N/A
Craiyon AI	√	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stable Diffusion	√	√	N/A	N/A
Canva AI	√	N/A	N/A	N/A

Here are some sample results:

DreamStudio (<https://beta.dreamstudio.ai/generate>)

Test Phrase: Rhinoceros on a Jetski on a blue ocean with a cloudy sky.



Test Phrase: Rhinoceros driving car downtown with 50% texture overlay

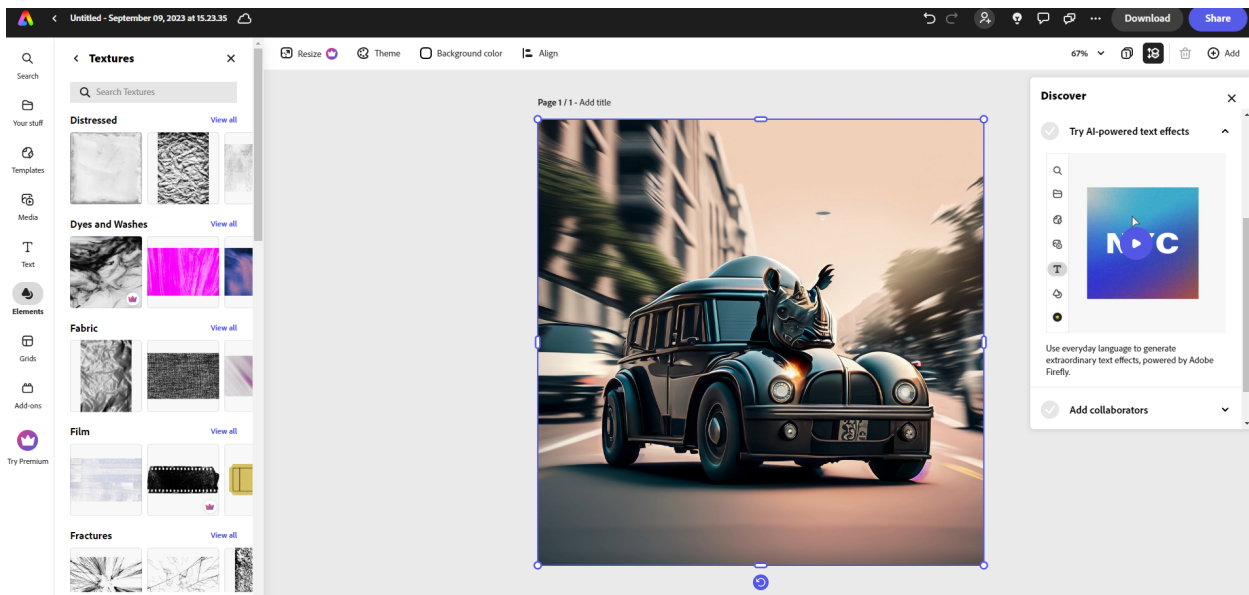


Adobe Firefly Beta

Test Phrase: Rhinoceros on a Jetski on a blue ocean with a cloudy sky.



Test Phrase: Rhinoceros driving car downtown with 50% texture overlay (note post creation editing features).



Bing Image Creator

Test Phrase: Rhinoceros on a Jetski on a blue ocean with a cloudy sky.



Test Phrase: Rhinoceros driving car downtown with 50% texture overlay



Craiyon AI

Test Phrase: Rhinoceros on a Jetski on a blue ocean with a cloudy sky.



Test Phrase: Rhinoceros driving car downtown with 50% texture overlay



Stable Diffusion

Test Phrase: Rhinoceros on a Jetski on a blue ocean with a cloudy sky.



Test Phrase: Rhinoceros driving car downtown with 50% texture overlay



Canva AI

Test Phrase: Rhinoceros on a Jetski on a blue ocean with a cloudy sky.



Test Phrase: Rhinoceros driving car downtown with 50% texture overlay



FOR SALE: With the recent passing of fellow club member, Sue Adorjan, she asked that her camera equipment be made available for sale to club members, with proceeds going to the club. Suggested prices, but offers will be considered.

Contact: hilarie1@sympatico.ca

D-90, CAMERA, AND CHARGER



D90 Camera & Accessories- \$259



18-105 LENS

Nikkor 18-105 lens - \$348



NIKKOR MICRO LENS 85MM

Nikkor 85mm lens - \$315



D7100 Camera Kit - \$449



Remotes (2) - \$20 each



GITZO TRIPOD

attachments for reflectors

Gitzo G2220 - Heavyweight Tripod plus attachments - \$300



Camera Sling Bag - \$35



CAMERA BAG

Bag - \$40



Accessory Bag - Best Offer



SB-900 FLASH

Speedlight SB900 - \$259



various filters

Filters (5) Mostly 52mm- \$10-15 each



Bushnell camera/binocular straps

Bushnell Binocular/camera straps- \$20



COTTON CARRIER SYSTEM

Opteka Carrier for 2 cameras- \$30



ladies size medium

Camouflage Shirt, Ladies Small-Medium — \$25



long lens rain sleeve

Long Lens Rain Sleeve - Best Offer



head lamp

Headlamp - Best Offer



ear muffs

Ear Muffs - Best Offer



cleaning tools

Cleaning Tools - Best Offer



card holder

Card Holder - Best Offer



cell phone stick?

Cell Phone Stick?- Best Offer



Best Offer

Best Offer