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IN FOCUS

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Cover Photo by: Paula Cheese

President's Message - Scott Simons

Well, I can't believe we are at this point in the year again. Summer is winding down and Fall is around the corner. In case you didn't notice, it's been a touch warm this summer. Personally, I'm looking forward to the cooler days of September and October. I'm also looking forward to starting our 71st season.



The Executive has been hard at work since the banquet, planning and organizing the upcoming season. I may be biased, but I think we are in for our best year ever. Karen has put a lot of effort into creating a great list of speakers with topics that are sure to please everyone. Linette and Dave have outings planned all the way into next spring. All of this info can be found on our NAPA website with lots of details. Of course, there were many great outings over the summer and it was nice to get out and see some of our members outside the regular NAPA meetings. I was at both motorcycle outings and just loved them. In fact I shot so much, I had to upgrade the hard drive in my computer to handle all of the files.

Our 3rd annual Fall Seminar is on the horizon, set for November 1st at our hall. This is our greatest source of income for the year and it allows us many advantages. We are able to keep our equipment up to date, for example the laptop and projector, as well as next level speakers. So we would like you to spread the word far and wide as best you can. The more people who come out, the greater the organization benefits. It also goes without saying that we will be looking for a small army of volunteers to help out with the setup and tear down, as well as on the day of the Seminar.

It will be great getting back into the regular NAPA meeting and catching up with fellow photographers I haven't seen over the summer as well as the possibility of making new friends with new members. I hope to see you all back again on September 8th at the Firehall.

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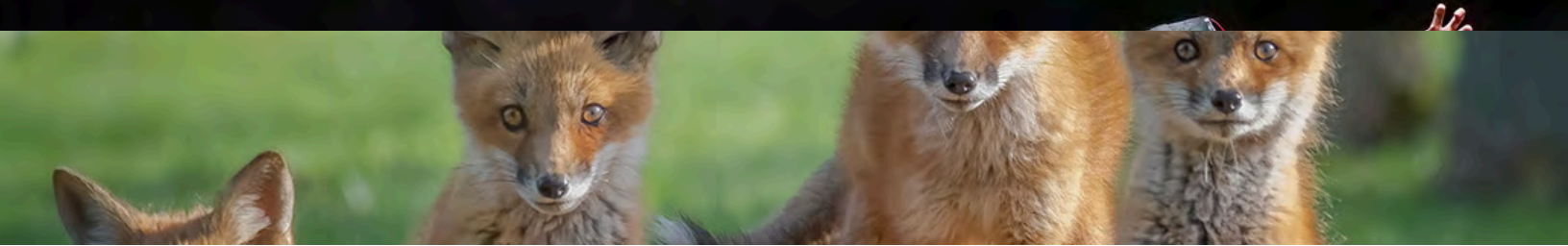
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Annual Program

Monday, September 8, 2025 - Gail MacLellan - [“Creativity and Your Photography”](#)

Monday, September 15, 2025 - **Competition #1**

Tuesday, October 6, 2025 - Terry McDonald- [“Creating Compelling Landscapes”](#)

Monday, October 20, 2025 - **Competition #2**

Saturday, November 1, 2025 - [Fall Seminar Featuring Alyce Bender](#)

Thursday, November 6, 2025 - Zoltan Levay (by Zoom) - “Deep Space Photography with Hubble and Webb Telescopes”

Monday, November 10, 2025 - Ted Murrison - [“Architectural Photography”](#)

Monday, November 17, 2025 - **Competition #3**

Thursday, November 20, 2025 - David Long (by Zoom) – “Night Landscapes”

Monday, December 1, 2025 - Kerry-Anne Lecky Hepworth - [“Capturing the Night Sky, Near and Far”](#)

Thursday, December 11, 2025- Jennifer King (by Zoom) – “Using Principles of Design to create More Dramatic images”

Monday, December 15, 2025 - **Potluck and Competition #4 – Early start**

Monday, January 5, 2026 - Matt Huras - “Capturing Compelling Wildlife Images”

Thursday, January 8, 2026 - Lisa Cuchara (by Zoom)- Focusing on the Details: Closeup and Macro Photography”

Monday, January 19, 2026 - **Competition #5**

Thursday, January 29, 2026 - Phil Penman (by Zoom) - “The Man Who Shoots Everything”

Monday, February 2, 2026 - **TBD**

Monday, February 23, 2026 - **Competition #6**

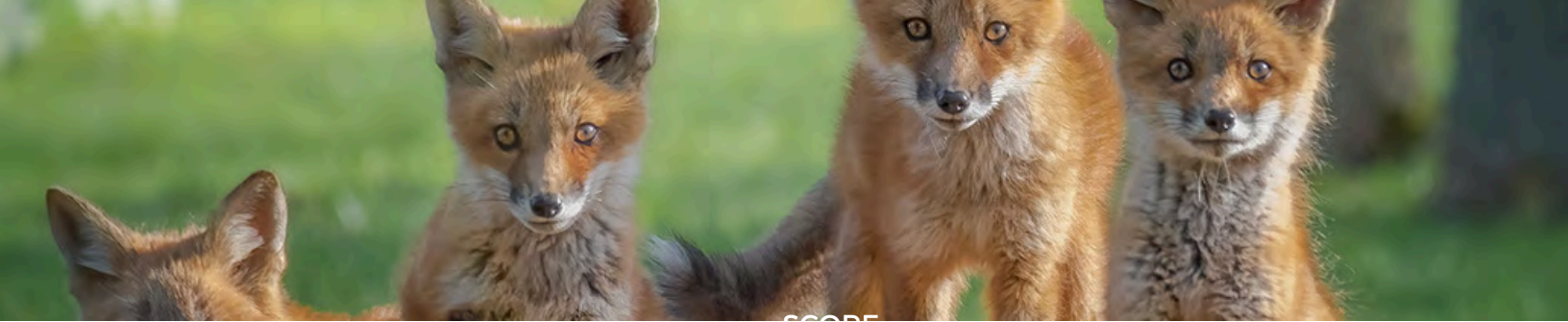
Thursday, February 26, 2026 - Paul Nguyen (by Zoom) – Using a Flash for Outdoor Photography

Monday, March 9, 2026 - Mitchell Brown - “Smoke is Showing. Capturing Courage and Sacrifice”

Monday, March 23, 2026 - **Image of the Year Competition**

Tuesday, April 6, 2026 - **Rainbow Competition hosted nt NAPA**

Many thanks to Karen Fulham for another outstanding roster of presentations this year.



Competition Rule Changes

To recap, last year, the Executive adopted the recommendations made by a review committee to make changes to the scoring and advancement. All the rules of our competition were looked at regarding divisions, scoring and advancement. The changes made are listed below as a refresher and are also included in our handbook.

Scoring change:

There is no longer be a 3-point bonus for Honour Awards.

The 1-point bonus for a 2nd category entered will remain to encourage more varied entries

Advancement changes:

Currently, you require an Honour Award (HA) in 5 out of 12 entries in a single season to advance from Bronze to Silver and Silver to Gold. That is a less than 50 % requirement to advance. It should at least be 50 % and then some. The new advancement requirements are as follows.

Bronze to Silver requires 7 HA's to progress

Silver to Gold requires 8 HA's

Gold to Diamond progression was limited to the person with the top score. it is now attainable with 9 HA's.

Diamond to Platinum requires 10 HAs to progress

This year, sticking with the precious metal theme at the lower levels, the Executive has instituted a new Platinum level. This was done to relieve pressure in the Diamond group caused by the advancement changes last year.

The requirement for getting from Diamond to the Platinum level is at least 10 Honour Awards to advance. It is retroactive for one year. Earning an Honour Award at the Platinum level will require a score of at least 14.

We feel the changes will better reflect the outcomes of the competitions, encourage advancement in photographic skills, as more HA's will be needed to advance to the next levels.

Scoring Guidelines for Judges and Competitors

These are the scoring guidelines that provide judges with a little guidance to try and help keep them more consistent from month to month, while at the same time giving our members an idea of why an image may have scored what it did. The guidelines show a scoring range of 9 to 15 and explain why the image receives the score

- 9 - Below Average. The image shows significant faults in composition and technique
- 10 - Average, undistinguished; unmemorable. Shows minor faults. Lots of room for improvement in composition, interpretation, etc.
- 11 - Good. Competent: technically satisfactory, but lacking in impact, interest, strength of composition, etc.
- 12 - Very good but falls short of an excellent rating.
- 13 - Excellent. Demonstrates photography mastery, a memorable picture.
- 14 - Outstanding; dramatic; beautiful; technically superb; very strong impact
- 15 - Unique; outstanding; stunning; flawless

September Presentation

Monday, September 8, 2025

Gail MacLellan- “Creativity and Your Photography”

In this presentation, we will look into what creativity is and how we can utilize it to grow as photographers. Gail will provide some skills and exercises to help the photographer grow. Bring a notepad and a pen, as this will be a very informative session with lots of tips!

The NAPA Constiution Review

Our Constitution has not been revised since 1996. For example, it has no reference to digital images, e-Transfer or even our new name, so it is indeed time. Dave Merrow has taken on the task of bringing it up to the 21st century; part of that entailed interviewing the entire executive. There will be a number of changes coming. If members have any suggestions or comments concerning the constitution. please contact any members of the executive.



NAPA

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Explore More

Learn More

Do More

Focus More

Time to Renew!

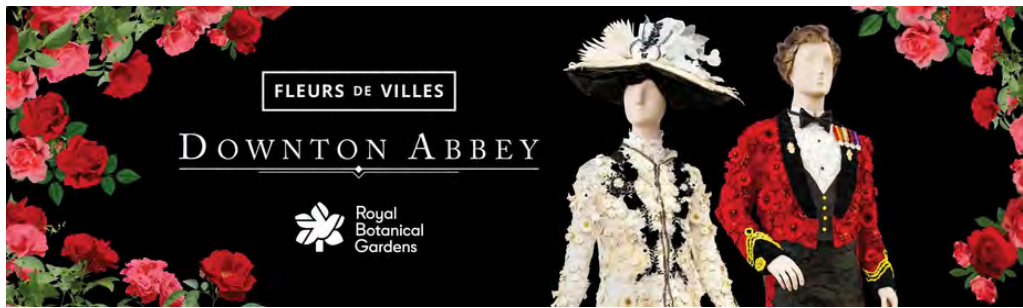
RENEW TODAY

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A place to learn



or Scan



ROYAL BONTANICAL GARDENS -680 PLAINS ROAD, BURLINGTON, ON

Friday, September 12, 2025 - 10:00 to 14:00

Step into the world of Downton Abbey. Marvel at a collection of 'Fleurs de Villes' signature fresh floral mannequins inspired by the series' unforgettable characters and iconic period fashion.



WARPLANE HERITEGE MUSEUM -9280 AIRPORT ROAD, MOUNT HOPE, ON

Sunday, September 21, 2025 - 09:30 to 14:00

See hundreds of vintage vehicles along with a famous vintage aircraft collection

The Gatineau Hot Air Balloon Festival Outing in August



All of the Outings for the year are detailed on the website calendar. This makes it easy to plan your photo opportunities.

[Click here to go to the Calendar](#)



It is easy to see why this beautiful image was awarded a Gold Medal in the CAPA Ontario Zone Nature Competition.

In Paula's words:

This is one of my favourite images. A friend of a friend knows this lady who was lucky to have a den in her backyard. She was kind enough to let me sit and wait in her backyard to watch them. Foxes are one of my favourite animals to photograph.

I would go early in the morning, like around 7 am, hide myself and just wait and watch till they came out. I was very lucky to get a few on the deck and then have them all look at me for their photo.

Shot with a Nikon D750 and a 200 to 500mm Nikon lens, F8, 1/2000sec @ 500 mm.

Inspirational Challenge

THE INSPIRATIONAL CHALLENGE IS BACK TO INSPIRE YOU TO TRY SOMETHING YOU HAVEN'T DONE BEFORE AND HAVE A LITTLE FUN.
[Click here for the Challenge.](#)



Editor's Note: When it comes to photographing birds, Nora and Larry Mathewson are renowned for their images. I asked Larry if he could share some insights on how it's done.

HOW-TO SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL BIRDS IN-FLIGHT IMAGES

When photographing birds in flight, capturing their movement and behaviour while ensuring sharpness and clarity can be challenging but rewarding. Below is a guide to both the content and appropriate camera settings that will help you get the best results while out taking images of birds in flight:

1. Content Ideas for Bird Photography in Flight:

- **Action Shots:** Capture birds in mid-air with wings spread wide. A common shot includes birds catching prey or taking off.
- **Birds in Formation:** Look for birds flying in V-shaped or other patterns, often seen in migrating flocks.
- **Birds in Natural Habitat:** Take shots that show birds flying over scenic landscapes, bodies of water, or other environmental features.
- **Birds Interacting:** Capture birds in flight interacting with each other, such as during courtship or territorial disputes.
- **Birds Perched After Flight:** A bird coming in for a landing can create dramatic action and give context to the movement.

Birds in Flight Con't

2. Camera Settings for Birds in Flight:

To get better shots, try these camera settings.

1. Shutter Speed:

- Fast Shutter Speed is key to freezing fast motion. A shutter speed between 1/1000s to 1/4000s works well, depending on the bird's speed.
- For larger birds or slower-moving birds, you can get away with a slightly slower shutter speed, but still aim to stay above 1/1000s.

2. Aperture (f-stop):

- Use a wide aperture (small f-number) like f/5.6 to f/8 for good background blur and isolation of the bird.
- A larger aperture (smaller number) lets in more light, which is useful when shooting fast-moving subjects in bright daylight.
- For more depth of field and to get more of the bird in focus, you can close the aperture to f/8 or f/11, but be careful, as this might decrease the shutter speed unless the light is bright enough.

3. ISO:

- Use the lowest ISO possible that still gives you the proper exposure. For bright daylight, an ISO of 400-800 works well. Newer Mirrorless cameras will often allow for higher iso up to 12800 with some post-processing to reduce noise.
- If you are shooting in lower light conditions, increase ISO to 1600-3200 depending on your camera's low-light performance.



Birds in Flight Con't

4. Focus Mode:

- Set your camera to Continuous Autofocus (AI Servo for Canon or AF-C for Nikon) mode. This allows your camera to track the bird as it moves.
- Use Single-point AF or Dynamic Area AF for more precise control over which part of the bird (usually the head or eyes) remains in focus.

5. Drive Mode:

- Set your camera to Burst/Continuous Shooting Mode (high-speed continuous) to capture a series of images. This ensures you get the perfect shot as the bird moves.
- Aim for at least 10 frames per second in manual mode or as high as 30 fps in electronic mode.

6. White Balance:

- Set your White Balance to Daylight or leave it on Auto White Balance (AWB) if the lighting is consistent.

7. Metering Mode:

- Use Evaluative/Matrix Metering mode for overall exposure.
- If you're shooting against the sky or in high-contrast environments, spot metering can help to avoid underexposure of the bird's details.



Birds in Flight Con't

3. Additional Tips:

- **Panning:** Practice panning your camera along with the bird's flight path to create a sharp subject and a motion-blurred background.
- **Focus on the Eyes:** Ensure the bird's eyes are in focus for a sharp, compelling shot. This might be set as auto eye tracking focus for newer cameras
- **Frame Composition:** Always give birds “space to fly” in the direction they are moving. This creates more dynamic and natural-looking shots.
- **Be Patient and Observe:** Study bird behaviour and flight patterns to anticipate their next move, giving you the best chance to capture that perfect shot.

By adjusting these settings and practicing your skills, you'll be able to take stunning images of birds in flight with sharpness and clarity!

Above all else, first research your intended location and watch for normal bird behaviours to accomplish pleasing results.

