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IN FOCUS

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Upcoming Programs

Monday, February 2, 2026 - You Be the Judge

Thursday, February 5, 2026- Phil Penman (by Zoom) – [“The Man Who Shoots Anything and Everything” \(street photography\)](#)

Saturday, February 7, 2026 - McLean Auto Wreckers Outing (See Page 7 below)

Saturday, February 14, 2026 - **Happy Valentines Day - Give Someone a Hug**

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

Thursday, February 26, 2026- Paul Nguyen (by Zoom) – [“Using a Flash for Outdoor Photography”](#)

Thursday, March 6, 2026 - Bloomland in Oz Outing (See Page 8 below)

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

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

Monday, February 2, 2026 - You Be the Judge

“This will be an opportunity to learn what goes into judging a photo competition. We will assemble in small groups to discuss the merits and techniques of about a dozen images. You’ll be the Judge!”

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Digital Competition

Bronze	Entries	Honour	Score
Janice White	10	10	131
Shirley Cove	10	10	129
Linda Hardaker	10	10	125
Wendy Jenkinson	10	9	122
Alex Vandenburg	10	10	119
Brenda Burger	10	9	117
Esther Wong	10	8	115
Lori Lyons	8	8	105
Stephen Hopkins	6	6	77

Silver	Entries	Honour	Score
Desmond Edwards	10	9	126
Jacques Dion	10	10	120
Bruce Horsburgh	8	5	93

Gold	Entries	Honour	Score
Kelly Herbert	10	7	122
Doug Reilly	10	8	118
Lorraine Pichette	10	3	116
Bob Jones	6	3	69
Linda Casement	4	2	47
Joni Carpenter	2	2	25



Digital Competition - Continued

Diamond	Entries	Honour	Score
Terry Rotella	10	9	140
Linette Mori	10	7	136
Ron Planche	10	9	135
Paula Cheese	10	7	135
Nora Mathison	10	6	134
Karen Fulham	10	7	133
Ruth Wanless	10	7	133
Dave Merrow	10	7	132
Virginia Macdonald	10	6	132
Larry Mathewson	10	5	131
Susan Dayboll	10	6	130
Michelle Stranges	10	4	129
Paula Chiasson	10	6	128
Derek Bottomley	10	5	126
Stephen Hops	10	3	123
Molly Clarkson	10	3	123
Ron Wing	10	3	122
Chris Lofquist	8	4	101
Charles Vandersluys	6	3	75
Henry Wojnarowski	6	0	70
Pearl Basco	4	3	52
Bruno Campagiomi	4	1	48

Platinum	Entries	Honour	Score
Kathy Heykoop	10	6	141
Scott Simons	10	6	139
Chris Empey	10	6	138
Dave Bauer	10	4	138
Ela Masse	10	3	136
Ian Mather	10	1	127



Print Competition

Black & White/Mono

Bronze	Entries	Honour	Score
Ted Kretz	2	2	23
Lori Lyons	1	1	14
Bruce Horsburgh	1	1	12
Janice White	1	1	12

Gold	Entries	Honour	Score
Susan Dayboll	10	8	128
Doug Reilly	10	7	122
Derek Bottomley	6	5	76

Diamond	Entries	Honour	Score
Ron Planche	10	9	142
Dave Merrow	10	6	129
Ian Mather	4	2	49
Ruth Wanless	2	0	24

Colour

Bronze	Entries	Honour	Score
Bruce Horsburgh	10	10	121
Jacques Dion	10	10	118
Ted Kretz	8	8	95
Janice White	3	3	39
Lori Lyons	2	2	26
Linda Hardaker	1	1	12

Gold	Entries	Honour	Score
Derek Bottomley	10	8	136
Susan Dayboll	10	6	129
Doug Reilly	10	5	126

Diamond	Entries	Honour	Score
Ian Mather	10	6	132
Dave Merrow	10	5	128

Platinum	Entries	Honour	Score
Ron Planche	10	7	135



“This image was created as a digital composite, blending multiple elements into a whimsical, surreal scene. I started with a soft sky background to set a light, dreamy mood. Individual elements—such as the heart-shaped balloons, the oversized cup, the seated figure, and the paper airplane—were photographed separately and then carefully cut out and layered together.

I focused on scale and balance to give the illusion of floating, adjusting proportions so the cup becomes a playful vessel drifting through the sky. Shadows, highlights, and colour tones were subtly refined to keep the lighting consistent across all elements. The trail of hearts was added to create motion and guide the viewer’s eye through the image, reinforcing the theme of connection and imagination.

The final touches included soft colour grading and gentle contrast adjustments to unify the scene and enhance its dreamy, storybook quality.”

Editor's Note: Any entered this image in competition last season, and I thought it was the perfect one for February and Valentines Day.

Judge's Pick from the January Competition

Sweet Dreams by Linette Mori



Linette explains:

This lion was photographed somewhere in the vast Serengeti while on a fabulous 11-day African Safari with club members Larry and Nora Mattewson in November of 2025.

Larry organized the trip through African Big Cats Safari in Tanzania, and it was an exceptional experience. Every day was a unique adventure where we saw so much and learned even more.

I have seen lions resting before, but never have I seen one look so peaceful.

There doesn't appear to be swarms of bugs pestering him, and he clearly must have been exhausted from protecting his territory or from exercising his mating rights.

This image was taken with my Canon EOS R6 (f/7.1, 1/1250 sec., ISO 500 at 248 mm) and, as far as I can recall, did not require much post processing.



Saturday, February 7, 2026 -

McLean Auto Wreckers is a very large vintage auto yard which has a wide variety of unique vehicles spanning several decades. They've been on the property so long that the trees have grown around and through the vehicle skeletons.

The trip will take most of the day so bring lunch and liquids. Parking is at a premium, so carpooling is necessary. No parking is allowed on the roadside. For those members in the NF area, meet at Fireman's Park at 8:30, in order to arrive at our destination around 11:00. Other car pooling locations will be determined according to where members reside.

We will be collecting \$10 per person at the location before entering as an honorarium to the owners. All members will be required to sign a liability waiver before entering the property. Winter-type clothing and rubber/waterproof boots should be worn due to the weather and ground conditions. For those who like to make composites with their images, this is an incredible source of textures to add to your texture library!

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Please RSVP to Linette at Imori@niagaraphoto.org.



**BLOOMLAND IN OZ
ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS
680 PLAINS RD., BURLINGTON, ON**

Thursday, March 6, 2026 @ 10:00

Bloomland in Oz, where imagination blossoms into a spectacular adventure, at RBG. It is inspired by the pages of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum.

The land of Oz awaits, featuring captivating botanical displays, delightful artistic creations, and thousands of real blooms. Every path is filled with magic in this indoor experience, where the journey is just as extraordinary as the destination.

This is a time-ticketed exhibition. Space is limited. Please book a 10:00 ticket in advance to avoid disappointment. Popular timeslots sell quickly, and at-the-door tickets are not available once capacity is reached.

Event details and tickets are available here: rbg.ca/oz

As part of the 2026 floral showcase Bloomland in Oz, RBG presents the “Of Wonders Wild and New” exhibit, located in the Auditorium at RBG Centre. This visual arts exhibition draws on themes from the world of Oz through the lens of contemporary woodworking. Featuring six artists from across Canada, Six Nations, Italy and Spain.

Following our full morning of photography, we will enjoy some social time over lunch at a local restaurant.

Please RSVP to Linette at Imori@niagaraphoto.org.

New Members



ALEX VANDENBURG

"I got into photography in 2023 during the first holiday of my working career. In a world of constant rushing, it helped me to slow down and capture the moment. I like that it helps me to see the world from a different perspective. So far, I've taken my camera with me to Japan and Canmore, and I look forward to seeing what adventures I take it on next.

Landscape and architecture are what I usually shoot, but I'm also interested in trying astro and wildlife photography.

I joined NAPA to meet other photographers and to learn from their experiences. Research on the internet can only get you so far, and the club has been a great source of firsthand knowledge for helping me develop this hobby."

New Members

While I've always been interested in photography, my more serious photography journey started in 2020 during COVID. I was working from home and needed an outlet to get outside and do something, so when I walked every day, I began to use my cell phone camera to take images. My wife admired some of my images and suggested I take up photography.

I felt that this was something I'd like to pursue, so I enrolled in the Digital Photography certificate program at Sheridan College and participated online. I continued with the program, transitioning to include face to face instruction, and have one course left to complete in May 2026

Over the past couple of years, I have volunteered at different events to practice, gain confidence and expand my photographic skills. As a volunteer, I have taken images in a variety of sporting events, my church, my work and charity events. My wife (Shawna) and son (Caleb) have been great supporters in this photography journey, as well as great models to assist me in learning about portraiture work.

I also participate in 2 brass bands (percussion section), one of which travels extensively nationally and internationally. I love to golf, and am a huge (English) football fan, who hopefully will be a volunteer in the 2026 World Cup in Toronto. My family and I travel (based on images, Monday evening, we clearly need to up our game in this area), and enjoy taking walks. I still work full-time as an Information & Cyber Security expert for a major financial institution in Toronto.

My reason for joining this photography club is so I can continue learning through discussion, participation and viewing the beautiful images that the members create. I believe NAPA has one of the finest online galleries, and that enticed me to join this skilled group of club members.

I look forward to participating in the different sessions and programs, and will happily help out where needed.

Thank you for being welcoming and friendly, it confirms that I made the correct decision to join this club.



STEPHEN HOPKINS

STEPHEN HOPKINS

Member Profile - Kelly Herbert

I always had an interest in photography. My job as an Ontario Provincial Police Officer involved photographing life's tragedies at crime scenes and serious motor vehicle collisions, using whatever techniques were necessary to get the job done.

Upon retirement, I found myself happiest in nature. I enjoy photographing the beautiful things around me. The time I spend with my camera is meditative. I like losing myself in the moment of that special shot.

I don't really follow one path. My newfound fun is studio lighting and learning how to create dark, moody images with light.

So much to learn, and NAPA is the perfect place to do that. Everyone is so welcoming. The presenters share their tips and tricks, which is a wonderful help in learning. Chatting with other members makes for a nice evening. It's always a pleasure.

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2026 filled with creative vibes.



