MEMBER'S HANDBOOK

Website: NiagaraPhoto.org
Facebook: facebook.com/groups/nfccFB/
Instagram: @napa_photoclub

2026/27 Edition

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WELCOME

Since 1954, the Niagara Association of Photographic Art (NAPA), formerly Niagara Falls Camera Club, has been meeting with the goal of exploring the many facets of photography through:

- program presentations and workshops led by expert photographers and other professionals
- competition and judging of your work by trained judges and receiving awards for your achievements
- and opportunities to network with like-minded enthusiasts

These are our goals and our commitment to you. NAPA's purpose is to improve the members' photographic knowledge and skills through the sharing of ideas and experiences and reflects the growing interest in photography as an art form. Members range from beginners to widely experienced photographers-all are welcome.

What you can offer to our organization:

- participation is the key to your success-attending as many presentation, workshops and competitions as possible
- bring your friends to introduce them to photography and our club
- volunteer for club committees such as competitions, setup, or outings. Active participation is an excellent way to connect with fellow members and integrate into the club.
- You are one of a special group of photographic artists-we want you to be proud of your membership and your club

Your Executive, named at the back of the Handbook, want to hear from you if you have suggestions to make or want to better understand the club's policies. This Handbook is your resource as are your fellow members and the Executive.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

NAPA will embrace diversity and find value in each other's unique experiences, perspectives and characteristics. We will celebrate our authentic selves and foster an environment where everyone feels included and appreciated. A reminder that we will refrain from phrases and questions that maintain a stereotypical imagery and that are culturally insensitive. Discriminatory remarks will not be tolerated, and it is important to maintain an accepting environment and avoid generalizing about groups based on gender, sexuality, religion, political affiliation or race.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Your membership entitles you to:

- attend all regular NAPA meetings and workshops conducted throughout the season;
- participate in monthly print and digitally projected image competitions where trained judges evaluate your submissions, suggestions made for improvement are given and awards made;
- participate in members only outings to various locations and types of photographic opportunities throughout the region and beyond.

Annual Membership Fee

- Single - $60.00
- Family (Two adult members considered spouses) $100.00

Meetings and programs start at 6:30 pm for social time followed by the formal part of the evening beginning at 7:00 pm. Located at the Stamford Centre Volunteer Fireman's Association on Dorchester Road at Fireman's Park. Meetings are generally held from September through April on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. Please refer to the website for the current schedule as changes may occur based on facility availability. (https://niagaraphoto.org/program/).

Monthly program presentations are held on the first Monday of the month. Our Program Chair books interesting and informative speakers to assist in our artistic pursuits and expand our knowledge of the art form.

Our monthly competitions are generally on the second meeting of the month and are open to all paid members. This activity is a special learning opportunity whether you submit images for evaluation or just observe.

Other exciting events include the Image of the Year Competition held end of season and the annual Rainbow Competition between the Niagara Association of Photographic Art and the Twin Cities Camera Club from Tonawanda, NY which is typically held at the end of season with the two clubs taking turns as host.

Attending meetings regularly is the best way to stay engaged, connect with friends, and shape your own club experience

PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

Every month NAPA features live presentations by a variety of guest speakers across multiple genres of photography that are both inspirational and educational, as well as in-house workshops where members are invited to practice their photographic skills. In addition, NAPA offers its members a yearly online Speaker Series via Zoom with opportunities to learn from the expertise of photographers from far and wide.

FALL SEMINAR

Our Annual Photography Conference brings together photography enthusiasts of all skill levels for a day of learning, inspiration, and connection. Featuring engaging speaker(s), educational workshops, and opportunities to share ideas, the conference celebrates the art and craft of photography while fostering a vibrant community of photographers. **Please note that conference registration is offered at an additional cost and is not included with club membership.**

INSPIRATIONAL CHALLENGE

Every year NAPA has an 'Inspirational Challenge' designed to encourage members and non-members alike to participate in a photography project and to get out and shoot throughout the season. Six themes are developed and photographers then interpret and photograph those themes with one photo from each category. Cell phone images are welcome!

There are many benefits to having photography projects such as the Inspirational Challenge. They provide creative focus, self-expression, skill development and allows the sharing of your work, especially if you don't compete. All submissions are compiled into a short video and shown at our season end meeting; the images are not judged, only enjoyed. You can submit all or only some of the themes, either way, it is fun and a great way to create unique images.

Details will be provided on themes and submission requirements in the new season. See previous Inspirational Challenges on our website.

OUTINGS

NAPA outings provide an opportunity for members to learn, practice and hone new and/or existing skills. And it's a great way to have fun with fellow members on an informal basis while visiting places that you might not ordinarily see. Experienced members can share their knowledge with newcomers on the various techniques to create visually stunning art.

Outings may include interesting events in the local area, architectural photography, night photography, and more. The outings committee offer a variety of local and out of town activities, frequently incorporating an opportunity for social interaction during lunch or dinner.

Participating in outings is a great way to get to know other members and expand your portfolio of images.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ART COMPETITIONS

Monthly competitions offer members the opportunity to learn from the displaying and critiquing of their photographic work by experienced judges. Images entered will be shown at the NAPA meetings with titles and scores given. When an image receives an award, the maker's name will be announced as well. Constructive comments will also be given as time permits.

Whether you submit work into competition or attend the meetings to view the competition, this form of learning is invaluable.

COMPETITIONS

Member work is displayed in both prints and projected digital images and submitted in any one or all the four Competitions:

Print	- Colour
Print	- Monochrome
Projected Digital	- Colour
Projected Digital	-Monochrome

Participating in our monthly competitions is an excellent way to learn and develop your photographic skills. Members work will be assessed and scored on the monthly competition night by experienced professional and semi-professional photographic judges who will give constructive commentary as time permits. Members receiving Honorable Mention or and an Honour Award will be recognized with announcement of their name at the time of judging.

CATEGORIES

Entry and judging requirements are as follows:

Action	Must imply motion; for example, racing events, equestrian events, sports.
Creative	An image that deviates from a literal, true-to-life representation. It requires the photographer to display imagination and originality through visible alterations to color, shape, form, or content, often achieved via digital post-processing, image compositing, or in-camera effects. Departure from reality: montages, tabletops, manipulations, multiple exposures. This category provides the photographer with the opportunity and challenge to display the broadest expression of imagination and creative thought. Examples include abstracts, impressionism and symbolism. Techniques include but are not limited to computer manipulation, diffractions, distortions, multiple exposure, solarization, posterization, and multiple images. Also: motion blur, patterns, selective focus, zoomed exposures, and layered images designed to yield non-objective or abstract images. The original image must be an original composition from a slide, negative or digital camera. All elements of the composition must be the work of the maker.

Nature	The heavens, the earth, the sea or any part thereof or any wildlife in its natural state; must show no evidence of man such as animals in a cage or flowers in a garden. **Definition**: Images which feature animals (fauna) can be: 1. Non-captive animals in their native habitat. However, images in which a man-made object has become part of the creature's natural habitat, such as a stork in a roof nest or a barn swallow in its nest in a barn. Wild animals and birds with scientific bands, tags or radio collars, are permitted. 2. Captive animals that are living in a natural environment. These images must have been skilfully taken to avoid showing signs of the captivity, eg., fencing, cages, tethers or harnesses. Game farms and zoos may sometimes provide such images. No domestic or feral animals/birds are permitted in this category. Domestic and feral animals include, but are not limited to camels, cats, chickens, dogs, donkeys, goats, horses, rabbits, pigs, rock doves, sheep, starlings, and water buffalo. Wild plants photographed in their natural environment are permitted in this category such as flowers, shrubs, bushes, trees, fungi and algae. Human created hybrid plants or "**cultivated plants**" are not permitted. **Cultivated plants** are ones that are planted and maintained by humans as opposed to emerging naturally in the environment. Wildflowers or plants grown in a botanical garden are accepted in this category. Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. **"Hand-of-man"** elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are an integral part of the nature story, and should not exceed 10% of the image space. **Definition - Hand-of-Man**– Any objects or parts of the image that have been produced, altered or obviously manipulated by humans. The following examples provide instances that align with the hand-of-man definition: 1. **Human**– no human body or any portion thereof should be visible in the image. 2. **Sky**– no human-made elements such as cables, aircraft, light pollution, artificial lights, etc. 3. **Land**– any man-made structures, paths, buildings, concrete, man-made stone, telephone poles, fence posts, sidewalks, domesticated or cultivated plants/food, cut grass, or organized and systematic layouts of planted trees should be absent from the image.

	4. **Elements**– no cut trees, stems, branches, tree stumps, posts, man-made food, objects, or any man-made background should be included. 5. **Sea**– no boats, ships piers, docks, posts in the water, or any human-made elements should be visible in the image. No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Colour images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome. Infrared and UV images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed. **Frames, Borders, Pin-lines, and Mats**: Photograph must not contain any decorative elements like frames, borders, pin-lines, or mats. This includes the edges and markings of scanned film. When the frame is integral to the captured image, for instance a window frame or door frame that has been captured by the camera, these elements are permitted.
Photo-journalism	**PHOTO-JOURNALISM**: Human interest, storytelling pictures as seen in the news media; humorous situations; sports happenings and events. "Photojournalism entries shall consist of pictures with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, documentary and spot news. The journalistic value of the photograph shall be considered over pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, photographs which misrepresent the truth, such as manipulation to alter the subject matter, or situations which are set up for the purpose of photography, are unacceptable in Photojournalism competition." No element may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined. No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene. No special effects filters can be applied. Any sharpening must appear natural.
Pictorial	That which does not fit into any of the above categories: land/seascapes which include the hand of man, architecture, domesticated birds and animals in zoos, cultivated plants, people at work, Street photography, etc. The use of photography as an art form. Emphasis is on interest value, composition, technical excellence and visual impact. Subjects are broad and include scenic, close-ups, buildings, and still life.
Portrait	**PORTRAITS**: Formal or informal (i.e. studio or location shots). Poses of adults or children in which an attempt is made to portray character, personality and individuality of the subject.

GROUPINGS AND ADVANCEMENT

All new members start competing in the Bronze category and move up after earning the required number of Honour Awards in a single year. If you have previous competition experience with NAPA or another camera club, our Competition Chairs will place you at a level that most closely matches your previous accomplishments. Advancement occurs at the end of each year once the required number of Honour Awards has been achieved in that club year.

DIVISION	ADVANCEMENT TO NEXT LEVEL	HONOUR AWARDS REQUIRED
Bronze	Silver	7 ribbons of at least 10 points each
Silver	Gold	8 ribbons of at least 11 points each
Gold	Diamond	9 ribbons of at least 12 points each
Diamond	Platinum	10 ribbons of at least 13 points each

QUALIFICATION TO RECEIVE COMPETITION AWARDS

Honour Awards are awarded when the following scores are achieved. Members will receive Honour Awards for their own division or above.

Bronze Group (Entry level)	10 points
Silver Group (Some experience)	11 points
Gold Group (Advanced)	12 points
Diamond Group (Highly Proficient)	13 points
Platinum Group (Expert)	14 points

SCORING

In competition, the judge assigns a score between 9 points to a maximum of 15 points.

The list below provides both judges and competitors guidance as to what an image may score:

SCORE	ASSESSMENT
9	Below Average. 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 excellent rating.
13	Excellent. Demonstrates photography mastery; a memorable picture.
14	Outstanding; dramatic; beautiful; technically superb; very strong impact.
15	Unique; outstanding; stunning; flawless.

OVERALL COMPETITION RULES

1. The photographer must be a paid-up member of the Niagara Association of Photographic Art.
2. Each member may enter a total of two images each month in any or all of the four competitions (Digital Colour, Digital Monochrome, Print Colour, Print Monochrome) and in any one or more of the six categories. One extra point will be awarded if the member enters two different categories in the month.
3. An image may be re-entered if sufficiently different from the original (e.g. Colour to Monochrome and vice versa but not Colour Print to Colour Digital.
4. Digital Projected images and Prints must be based on original photographic images***. No clipart, AI elements or purchased images are allowed.***
5. Images made at workshops may not be submitted for monthly competition. A workshop is defined as a formal instructional situation in which the setting and/or subject is prearranged by someone other than the photographer.
6. To be eligible for the Top of Division awards at the end of the year, 100% participation is required in the judged competitions during that competition year, i.e. 12 entries are required for full participation.

   A participating member with less than 12 entries in a Division will not be eligible for the Top of Division award.
7. If a tie exists in the score of the top Bronze, Silver, Gold, Diamond or Platinum group, it will be broken in the following manner:

   First - the person with the most honour awards will be declared the winner;
   Second - if a tie still exists, the scores will be checked and the person with the most 15's will be declared the winner. If each person has the same amount of 15's, then the 14's, 13's etc. will be checked in the same manner until the tie is broken.
   OFFICIAL TIE-If a tie still exists after checking down to the 6's, the persons will be declared tied.

Any image entered in monthly competitions may be used at the discretion of the Executive to represent the Niagara Association of Photographic Arts in other external competitions such as CAPA, Four Nation and O3C .

Whether you submit work into competition or attend the meetings to view the competition, this form of learning is invaluable.

PROJECTED IMAGE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

(Colour & Monochrome)

1. Monochrome digital and Colour digital will be judged separately. A monochrome image is an image in black and white or in shades of only one colour. A colour image is an image that is not monochrome.

2. Competition will be limited to Digital Images. The maximum size of each image is 1920 pixels wide (horizontal) and 1080 pixels high (vertical). Images should be submitted as JPEG files.

3. Color space should be sRGB.

4. Resolution: There is no need to change the resolution.

5. Entries must be emailed to the Digital Chair two weeks prior to the competition to allow for organizing and submitting to the Competition Judge one week before the Competition.

6. Each member may enter a total of two images per month in any one or more of the six categories. One extra point will be awarded for images entered in more than one category.

PROJECTED IMAGE COMPETITION: FILE NAMING RULES

Digital files are to be named using the following five fields:
Competition_Category_Level_Entry Number_Member's Name _Image Name
The fields are separated by the Underscore symbol (_).

Competition	
Colour	C
Monochrome	M

Entry Category	
Action	**A**
Creative	**C**
Nature	**N**
Photojournalism	**J**
Pictorial	**P**
Portrait	**T**

Division	
Bronze	**B**
Silver	**S**
Gold	**G**
Diamond	**D**
Platinum	**P**

Month	**September**	**October**	**November**
Entry #	01, 02	03, 04	05, 06
Month	**December**	**January**	**February**
Entry #	07, 08	09,10	11,12

For example:

1. Mary Smith (Bronze Competitor) is a member entering her first competition. She titles her first **Colour** entry which is a pictorial image as follows: **C_P_B_01_Mary Smith_Lighthouse at Dusk.jpg**
2. Mary Smith (Bronze Competitor) is a member entering her first competition. She titles her first **Monochrome** entry which is a pictorial image as follows: **M_P_B_01_Mary Smith_Lighthouse at Dusk.jpg** As the submissions are sent to the judges one week before the competition. Digital files are to be submitted to the Digital Image Chair two weeks before competition at **digital@NiagaraPhoto.org**

Late submissions cannot be accepted.

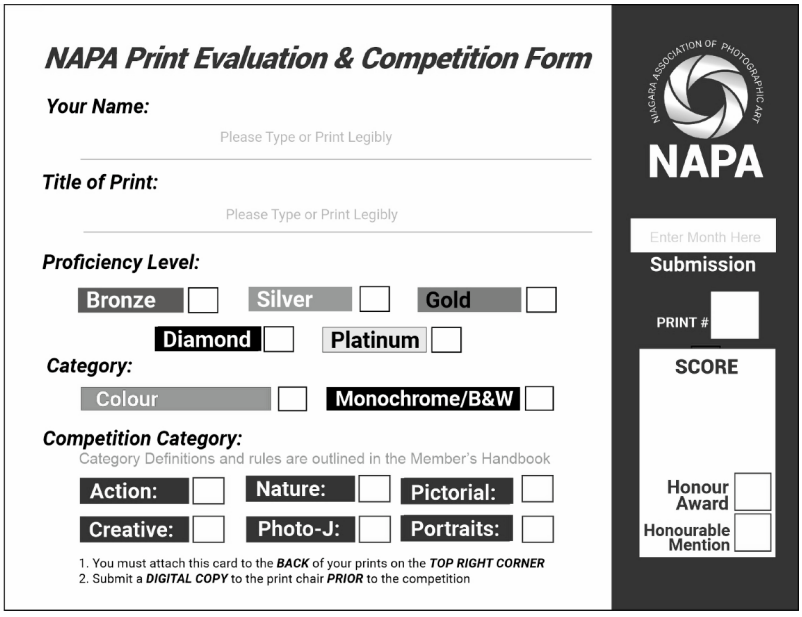
PRINT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES-(COLOUR AND MONOCHROME)

1. Prints entered in competition may be produced by the photographer in his/her own darkroom, printed by a commercial photo lab or printed on their home printer.
2. Print competitions are generally held at one of two nights in November and February, dates to be announced at the beginning of NAPA's season.
3. Each member may enter up to six(6) prints per competition in the monochrome division and/or six (6) prints per competition in the colour division.
4. Entries must be submitted on the night of the competition. All prints must be mounted on heavy cardboard, or foam core board. No frames or glass are allowed.
5. The maximum size for prints i**ncluding** mat, shall not to exceed 320 square inches (16"x20") and no more than 30 inches in length or 24 inches in height. The minimum size for prints shall be 80 square inches (8"x10"), **not including** mat.
6. Each print must have a completed entry card attached to the back of the print in the top right-hand corner, see below. Blank entry forms are available from the Print Chair of the club.

Month	September	October	November	December	January	February
Entry	01,02	03,04	05,06	07,08	09,10	11,12

7. All prints entered competition need to have a digital image submitted electronically to the print chair at sdayboll@niagaraphoto.org prior to the competition. The maximum size of each copy image is 1920 pixels wide (horizontal) and 1080 pixels high (vertical). Images should be submitted as JPEG files in Adobe sRGB colour space.
8. Monochrome prints and Colour prints will be judged separately. A monochrome image is an image in black and white or in shades of only one Colour. A Colour image is an image that is not monochrome.

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY FORM



NAPA Print Evaluation & Competition Form

Your Name:

Please Type or Print Legibly

Title of Print:

Please Type or Print Legibly

Proficiency Level:

Bronze ☐ Silver ☐ Gold ☐

Diamond ☐ Platinum ☐

Category:

Colour ☐ Monochrome/B&W ☐

Competition Category:

Category Definitions and rules are outlined in the Member's Handbook

Action: ☐ Nature: ☐ Pictorial: ☐

Creative: ☐ Photo-J: ☐ Portraits: ☐

1. You must attach this card to the ***BACK*** of your prints on the ***TOP RIGHT CORNER***
2. Submit a ***DIGITAL COPY*** to the print chair ***PRIOR*** to the competition

NIAGARA ASSOCIATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ART

NAPA

Enter Month Here

Submission

PRINT # ☐

SCORE

Honour Award ☐

Honourable Mention ☐

NAPA YEARLY AWARDS

Division Awards:

To be eligible for the top Division awards in their group, the competitors must have entered the full number of entries for the season. The highest score meeting this requirement receives a “Top of Division” Certificate at the year-end Annual banquet.

End of Year Competition Awards:

Any image entered in the regular monthly competitions is eligible for the EOY competition in its original form, no alterations are allowed from the original submission. This is an open competition with no categories, divisions or point scores. A panel of three judges will evaluate the submissions, selecting winners through an in or out elimination process. Members may enter up to 4 images per EOY competition. In each competition, judges will award 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 3 Honourable Mentions.

Audrey Mottershead Rookie of the Year award.

The Audrey Mottershead Rookie of the Year award may be presented to the First-Year member based on the spirit and enthusiasm demonstrated over the year. Audrey was known for making new members feel welcome and at ease. She was a natural at it and when she passed away, her husband Harry donated a trophy in her name to be used to recognize a “Rookie of the Year”.

The George S. Butt Trophy

The George S. Butt Trophy may be presented at the Annual banquet to a member who has made an outstanding contribution to NAPA. George was our founding member in 1954. He ran a studio in Niagara Falls under his own name that was later purchased by Wayne Farrar. George was hired by Kodak Rochester as head of their Multimedia Department. He is remembered for his wonderful multimedia presentations in the Region.

Definitions:

Group: *As defined above Division is either Bronze, Silver, Gold, Diamond or Platinum.*

Division: *A Competition is either Colour Digital, Monochrome Digital, Colour Print or Monochrome Print. Membership entitles you to enter in any of Competitions you want. A member is considered a separate competing member in each Competition.*

The Awards presented to the winners at the end of the season are based on the whole year NAPA season.

NAPA EXECUTIVE 2026-2027

President	Dave Merrow	dmerrow@NiagaraPhoto.org
Past President	Scott Simons	scott@scottsimons.ca
Vice President	Amy Haskin-Sit	ahaskin@NiagaraPhoto.org
Secretary	Pearl Basco	peadotty@gmail.com
Treasurer	Michelle Stranges	mstranges@NiagaraPhoto.org
Digital Chair	Katie Heykoop	capa@NiagaraPhoto.org
Print Chair	Susan Dayboll	sdayboll@gmail.com
Program Chair	Karen Fulham	karenvfulham@gmail.com
House Chair	Bruce Horsburgh	bruce2199@gmail.com
Communication Chair	Doug Rilley	dreilly@NiagaraPhoto.org
Director of Technology	Chris Empey	cempey@NiagaraPhoto.org
Outings	Lynette Mori Dave Bauer	lmori@NiagaraPhoto.org dbauer@NiagaraPhoto.org
Fall Seminar Chair	Amy Haskin-Sit	ahaskin@NiagaraPhoto.org
CAPA Representative	Katie Heykoop	capa@NiagaraPhoto.org

NIAGARA ASSOCIATON OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS
--PAST PRESIDENTS--

1954 - 1955	Bea Peterson
1955 - 1956	George S. Butt
1956 - 1959	Dr. Don Johnstone
1959 - 1960	George S. Butt
1960 - 1962	Don Bainton
1962 - 1963	George S. Butt
1963 - 1964	Gary Bernier
1964 - 1966	Lloyd Snider
1966 - 1967	Rene Gauthier
1967 - 1969	Cora Barwell
1969 - 1970	Robert Barron
1970 - 1971	Lloyd Snider
1971 - 1972	Bess Barron
1972 - 1973	Len Chorley
1973 - 1974	Shirley Forth
1974 - 1976	Peter McKenna
1976 - 1978	Elsie Messer
1978 - 1980	William Bolton
1980 - 1982	Ted Ball
1982 - 1984	Gerald Mangan
1984 - 1986	Tom Howe
1986 - 1988	Frank Goulding
1988 - 1990	Michael Aceti
1990 - 1992	Tom Howe
1992 - 1993	Jack Saddler
1993 - 1994	Michael Aceti
1994 - 1996	Joy Robinson
1996 - 1998	Scott Simons
1998 - 2000	Miriam Gersho
2000 - 2001	Harry Mottershead
2001 - 2003	Len Mather
2003 - 2006	Terry Demray
2006 – 2009	Chris Empey
2009 – 2012	Terry Babij
2012 – 2013	Chris Empey
2013 – 2015	Eric Baloga
2015 – 2020	Karen Fulham
2020 – 2025	Scott Simons