



Latow in Focus

Burlington, Ontario

DECEMBER 2013

The Prez sez...

Keith Marshall

I would like to congratulate **Frank Myers**, the editor of our *In Focus* newsletter, for receiving a certificate from the Photographic Society of America for the "Most Motivational Newsletter".

This competition was open to all clubs around the world who are members of the PSA. *In Focus* also scored highly in many of the other judged categories, so a big thank you to Frank and all of you who have contributed to our newsletter.

In the latest issue of *Canada Camera*, which is the publication of CAPA, our own **Bob Walling** has an article entitled *Ontario Winter Scenes* with one of his images on the front cover. We have several copies in the finishing room so please go and read one.

You should know that Latow is a member of the following organisations: PSA (Photographic Society of America) www.psa-photo.org/, CAPA (Canadian Association for Photographic Art) www.capacanada.ca/ and GTCCC (Greater Toronto Council of Camera Clubs) www.gtccc.ca/. Both PSA and CAPA accept individual memberships which give you more privileges than our basic club membership. I encourage you to visit all three websites (a good activity for the holiday season) to learn more about these organisations and the benefits of individual membership.

Whilst I am mentioning these organisations, we need someone to look after the club submissions to the CAPA competitions. This could be handled by more than one person. If anyone is interested, please contact me at president@latow.com.



This creative composite image, *Mellow Sound* by **Leonie Holmes**, tied for top score in Latow's first Evaluation for the 2013/14 season.

Don't forget that our Guild has events in December so give yourself a break from Christmas shopping & spend some quality time with your friends at Latow. Wishing you all a happy & photographically rewarding holiday season.

RBG outing—January 5

Mark your calendars: the next Latow outing will be at the Royal Botanical Gardens on Sunday, January 5. We will have private access to the public indoor gardens from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

The timing is perfect for those wishing to enter images in the 4th Evaluation - Macro Theme. The flowers and other plants make excellent subjects for macro/close-up work. If we can get 15 members to attend, the fee will be \$11.50 adult and \$9.50 senior. If not, regular entrance fees will apply.

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This Month . . .

One Day in the Life of Burlington Awards Show—Dec. 4

Paul Sparrow

This year we had 141 photographers participate in the One Day in the Life of Burlington photography challenge, which was held on October 6. The weather created great opportunities for some wonderful misty pictures and there were many different shots done under the challenging conditions.

If you would like to see the images that were entered into the challenge that were all shot on that one day and see who got the winning images this year please join us at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4 at the BAC for the awards ceremony and opening to the exhibition. We look forward to seeing you there.

Photo Art Group—December 10

Joh. Friedrich, Photo Art Coordinator

Art in the Gallery

The purpose of our annual art gallery visit is to familiarize ourselves with art media other than photography. Sometimes we even get surprised and find photography in the Burlington Art Centre main gallery.

If photography is to be a fine art medium, then we should be interacting with other art media to see what inspires painters, sculptors, constructionists, musicians, poets and any other visual and non-visual artists to do the strange things they do. We should be learning from each other. Our creative thought processes need development so we can start thinking like **artists**, not just like photographers.

On December 10 we will visit the main gallery and study whatever is exhibited there. Then we will derive an assignment from the exhibit, no matter how weird and wonderful it is. See you all there.

“Look and think before opening the shutter. The heart and mind are the true lens of the camera.

Yousuf Karsh

December at a Glance

Tuesday, Dec. 3	General Meeting: Christmas Potluck Dinner
Tuesday, Dec. 10	Photo Art Group: art in the gallery
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Black and White Group: reticulation

Other Events

Wednesday, Dec. 4	One Day in the Life of Burlington Awards Ceremony
Thursday, Dec. 19	Board Meeting
Dec. 20 to Jan. 2	BAC Closed
Fireside Room and Community Wall through December: <i>One Day in the Life of Burlington.</i>	



Hayley Pankhurst's beautiful *Wolf* was one of the top-scoring images from Evaluation #1.

Worth seeing

At the **National Gallery of Canada** until Jan. 5, [Michael Cameau: Icons of Obsolescence](#) presents the disappearing world of analogue photography, prompting reflection on the industry's deep cultural significance and repercussions of its loss.

At the **Art Gallery of Ontario**, also until Jan. 5, the four finalists for the [Aimia/AGO Photography Prize](#) honouring excellence in contemporary photography. This year's \$50,000 winner, chosen by popular vote, was Canadian Erin Shirreff.

Members' News

Bob Walling has an article and images on winter in Ontario in the winter edition of [Canadian Camera](#), the CAPA magazine. One of his images is also featured on the magazine cover. Bob has given permission to reprint the article in the next edition of *In Focus*. It is full of inspiration to get out and photograph the beauty of winter in Canada.

Rolly Astrom had a photo published in the *Globe and Mail*, accompanying an article by Burlington's Lorraine Sommerfeld on November 21.

Atchuta Alapati, Leonie Homes, Dennis Martin, John Pingree, NJ Pradzynski and Tom Stephens have work in the 13th exhibition at McMaster Innovation Park, opening on December 5.

Paul Sparrow is accepting registrations for upcoming courses of the Burlington Photo Workshops. These in depth eight-week courses held at the Burlington Public Library take you through the basics, and if you wish, let you explore the more advanced levels.

For additional details and registration information go to: <http://burlingtonphotoworkshops.com/>, email : registration@burlingtonphotoworkshops.com or call Paul at [\(905\) 523-5665](tel:(905)523-5665).

Soup Bowl and Christmas Sale

The Annual Soup Bowl and Christmas Sale (November 14 to 17) saw strong support from Latow members. Below, Tim Storey and Dennis Martin chat with visitors about the work on display.



40

What a year it has been for me in honours from you, my fellow photographers! The Latow Darkroom being given my name by fellow members; an exhibition in the Community Gallery celebrated my 40 years as an active photographer and member of Latow; and now a special memorial book celebrating those same 40 years.

As I peruse the 75 images provide by the 57 participating photographers, I try to analyze their thoughts as they submitted the images, so beautifully printed in this table-top book. Each photograph, I believe, has a special significance or memory from the participating photographer to me.

Over the next few months and years the book will reside on my living room coffee table for all to savour in its significance and beauty.

Again "Thank You" for this wonderful and unique book.

Yours for Better Photography,

W.R. (Bill) Warren

P.S. A special Thank You to the Latow executive and to Wayne Elliott for compiling, designing and publishing the book.



President Keith Marshall presents Bill Warren with the book commemorating 40 years of membership and service to Latow.

"Be yourself. I much prefer seeing something, even it is clumsy, that doesn't look like somebody else's work."

William Klein

Member Profile: Bob Walling

Marguerite Botting

For Bob, there is not a conflict between 'left brain' and 'right brain!' As a computer science teacher he understands linear relationships; but he nurtures his artistic side through his photography – a whole new world unfolding through electronic sliders.



One would think that Bob would relish detail, realism, and record shots. Not at all! He wants to emphasize lines, shapes, colour to suggest the essence of his image, always looking for the message or emotion contained therein. One evaluation judge said that Bob's sunflower image of colourful blobs and lines appeared to be the elements of a child's drawing - one dimensional thinking happening with this judge! Not concerned, Bob coined the term 'photo-graphic' to describe a methodology where he creates images that marry photography and the digital imaging process. Bob is quick to state that he loves creating dynamic imagery in his "digital darkroom."

Once upon a time Bob was a wedding photographer, generally working with his wife and having a simple protocol that was well considered, for example using his tripod to stake out a point-of-view. But the evolution of Bob's photography through the following years finds him liking hand-held as he now thinks tripods get in the way.

Audio-visual has become an important part of Bob's work where he chooses such diverse topics as: James Street North, architectural reflections, etc. Also working as a writer, Bob has an article, "Winter Photography in Southern Ontario," in the current issue of CAPA's Camera Canada magazine.

Bob generously contributes to CAPA through his work as facilitator of the digital circuit (evaluation) group, seen when an image is posted and messages form the feedback. Within a different format, Bob is supporting Latow's Evaluations, always with the intention to give helpful comments to promote learning for our members.

Bob's gallery on various websites emphasizes that he cannot be pigeonholed! Bob sees photography as an art form, so his unique photos range from monochromes, a line drawing effect of Dundurn Castle, multiple reflections, looking up the height of a building, a 17 mm view inside Toronto City Hall, a panorama of tulips, Moraine Lake. In fact, Bob considered an alternative to this article's chosen image of winter, a very different type of photo titled

Quiet Porch that invites the viewer to sit in the sunshine. Realism of a winter scene? Digital effects for a summer scene? For Bob, his photography is broad ranging and it all works together – no choices needed.

Where do you live? What brought you to the area?

"I reside in Grimsby. I've lived there since 1958. I worked in Hamilton, my wife, Joanne, in St. Catharines, hence Grimsby."

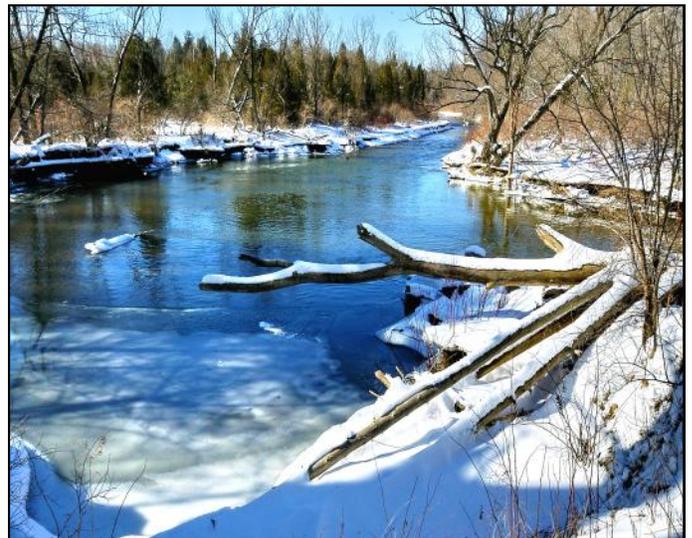
How long have you been a member of Latow?

"At least eight years."

What attracted you to Latow in the first place?

What keeps you coming back?

"I like to make prints and I joined Latow because of the opportunity to display prints. The BAC is part of the reason to keep me coming back."



Tell us about the photograph you've chosen to include in this profile.

"This image was taken in January of 2007. The location is on Whiteman's creek in the Apps Mills Conservation area near Brantford (one of my favorite spots for fall and winter photographs.) I was captivated by the beautiful lighting and the serenity of the location. I have returned to this spot many times since, but I've never been able to capture it like it was at that time. It was taken with my Pentax K10, 18 to 200 Tamron zoom at 20mm (equivalent 28mm approximately), f22, 1/120 sec., ISO 200. Post processing was minor exposure and contrast adjustments."

What kind of camera(s) do you shoot with?

"My DSLR is a Pentax K10 with lenses ranging from a wide-angle zoom (10 to 20 mm), a 100 mm macro,

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

a 300mm and an 18 to 200 mm zoom (my favourite lens). I also use a Canon GiX and a Lumix fz200. I find them quite versatile and easy to carry.”

How would you describe your philosophy regarding (a) photography? and (b) post-processing?

“I view photography as an art form dominated by composition and light. As a result this leads me to photograph architecture, landscapes and floral subjects. I don’t miss the days of film. Post processing is as much a part of my photography as is the actual capture of the image. Post processing has added an entirely new dimension to photography as an art form.”

What are your favourite subjects to photograph?

“As I stated above I like to photograph architecture (it brings out the engineer in me) as well as landscapes and floral subjects. To a lesser extent I like to do outdoor portraiture (a remnant of my past days as a wedding photographer.) I also enjoy making AV shows from my work. I just can’t resist requests to show them.”

Have you had your photographs published?

“Yes occasionally. I will have an article in an upcoming edition of Canadian Camera (CAPA’s publication.)”

Have you had your photographs exhibited?

“Yes at the BAC.”

Has your photography become a career or is it a hobby?

“It’s now only a hobby. I used to be a part time wedding photographer.”

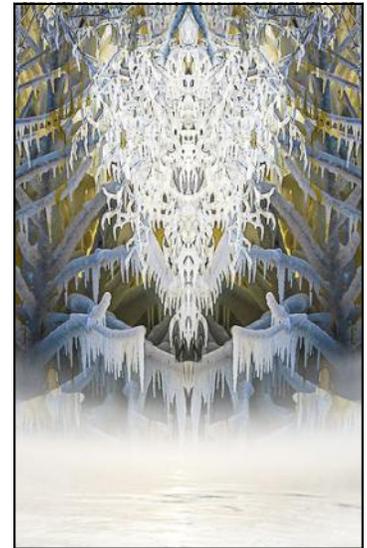
Name one thing in your camera bag that is not technically equipment. What is its purpose?

“The only thing that I have is a plastic garbage bag for kneeling on damp ground.”

Where can we see more of your work?

“My website is <http://www.gallerydir.com/robertwalling>. I also have pages on both the Latow and Trillium websites.”

How I did it, and why . . .



Photographer: Wayne Elliott

Image Title: Nature’s Chandelier

Lens: 80-200mm, f2.8, equivalent focal length 150mm

Subject Matter: A bush on the shore of Lake Ontario, covered in ice from a storm the night before.

My Intention: The colour and delicacy of the ice in the sunlight was what caught my eye. That then had to be the centre of interest in this manipulation.

Post Processing: A reverse mirror image was placed on top of the original layer and blended using ‘darker colour.’ The centre of the resulting image reminded me of a chandelier but the image was darker than I wanted, so I lightened the image with a Curves adjustment and masked the area around the ‘chandelier’ to emphasize the light of the chandelier. The last addition was the golden water that was captured on the lake in direct sunlight. I placed it in the bottom of the image, the message being that the chandelier would eventually return to this state and its beauty was transitory. A minimal Saturation Adjustment completed the image.



Another high-scoring image from Evaluation #1: *Canada Geese* by **Gunter Haibach**.

Connecting the dots on pricing unframed, un-matted prints

Mark Emmerson

Blogs, member forums and the like on photography sites reveal widespread uncertainty regarding retail pricing. We seem condemned to a lifelong quest for answers and most sources are so vague that the conclusion seems to be no more definitive than "it depends." Rights Managed uses have a better grip but the problem is endemic with prints, matted prints and framed pieces. So my attention was piqued upon finding a series of articles published by *PhotoShelter* discussing this topic. Their primary business is archiving images and hosting web pages and while they do not facilitate sales of matted or framed products they do handle print sales.

Buried in one of these articles, almost as a "by the way" comment, *PhotoShelter* provided a table of some popular print sizes and the average price *PhotoShelter* members were asking for them. Of course this is fraught with difficulties as many of the sellers are guessing themselves and some are not successfully selling at these prices. However, the data might offer some sort of baseline for print pricing despite its imperfections.

So, I took the size and price table and dusted off my Excel program (and memory of using trend lines). For the uninitiated, and those who used to know, trend lines (regression lines) seek to fit a straight line through a scatter of observed values plotted on a graph. The process involves many trial and error iterations (mercifully done by the program) until a line is identified which has the best fit with the observed data. From *PhotoShelter's* data the result was a line described as: $y=0.2264X + 2.5558$ (For you enthusiasts, the R squared fit was 99.51% which is not bad).

So what the hell does that mean? Well, Y is the price for a print. X is the size of the print in square inches. If your print is a 9 by 16 inch size it has 144 square inches (one square foot). You plug that in as the X value, multiply it by 0.2264 and add 2.5558 to get a price of \$35.16.

This is the average asking price. If you reckon your product is a cut above, you might ask more. In another *PhotoShelter* article dealing with the same pricing discussion, the official photographer for Notre Dame University reported selling his prints, to something of a captive audience, for \$40 per square foot or, around 14% more.

You can create your own table of prices based on this formula but keep in mind it is still approximate and still carries the caveat that "it depends."

Mini-Seminars set for Annual Photography Weekend

Tom Stephens, Annual Photography Weekend Coordinator

With guidance from the recent survey about Latow's Annual Photography Weekend, the Seminar Committee has developed plans for the mini-seminar portion of the weekend.

For the first time, there will be three different sessions offered: in the morning, [Varina Patel](#) will deal with Composition and Perception and [Jay Patel](#) will focus on Blending with Masks and Layers. In the afternoon, Jay and Varina will co-lead a session on Creative Shooting. These are the topics that collected the most votes in our survey, answered by 88 members and previous attendees. The mini-seminars will take place on Sunday, April 6, the day after our annual Seminar and AV Festival.

The Committee also reviewed prices for the Weekend's events. A hefty majority of survey respondents found ticket prices to be "good value" or "about right." Latow members will continue to enjoy a 15% discount on all advance-purchase tickets. Tickets will go on sale early in the new year; look for the date in the January edition of *Latow In Focus*, or check the updated Seminar website, latowseminar.com.



Jay Patel

Free eBooks

Craft & Vision has three great eBooks, all completely free. You can download them here:

- [Craft & Vision I - 11 Ways to Improve Your Photography](#)
- [Craft & Vision II - More Great Ways to Make Stronger Photographs](#)
- [TEN - Ten Ways to Improve Your Craft Without Buying Gear](#)

Danube River Cruise

Ort Baldauf

Betty and I experienced, along with regular travellers, that a European River cruise will not disappoint. It is an interesting way to survey the major cities of central Europe. The real benefit of a riverboat cruise is having your place of residence transport you to different city centres. Our adventure started in Budapest, a photographer's paradise with a beautiful historical vista.

Continuing on our journey up the Danube we cruised to Bratislava, Vienna, Durnstein, Melk, Linz, Passau, and Regensburg. We ended our river voyage in Nuremberg, with our final stay in Prague.



Along the way, we visited magnificent abbeys, cathedrals, palaces and castles. We explored the stunningly beautiful Wachau Valley, and traversed Europe's Continental

Divide via the Main-Danube Canal. The canal was initially conceptualized by Charlemagne in 793 AD as an effective way of moving people and goods from the North to the South of Europe. The construction of the canal in its final form wasn't completed until 1992. It is now primarily used for the movement of riverboats and vacationers.



The city centre of Budapest consisted of two halves. We stayed on the Pest side which is connected to Buda via the Chain Bridge. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has listed the view of the Danube embankments and the Buda Castle District as one of the most beautiful and romantic parts of the city of Budapest. We walked to Matthias Church and to the Fishermen's Bastion from where we enjoyed the beautiful panorama including the the impressive neo-gothic House of Parliament, the largest in Europe.

In Vienna, as in Budapest and Prague, you re-live the romance of a long-lost empire. Vienna is a dreamscape consisting of architectural wonders such as the Ringstrasse and St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Opera House, the Albertina (the Art Gallery housing the works of masters), the magnificent statues and much more. Architecture dating from Imperial times has left an indelible mark on the city. Visiting a

Viennese Coffee House is also a must. Cafe Sacher or Cafe Mozart near the Albertina, close to the museums in the Imperial Palace and the Spanish Riding School are two popular locations.

Crusing along Austria's portion of the Danube we stop in several beautiful historic villages. The castle walls of Durnstein held Richard The Lionheart captive after the Crusades. Durnstein is also the home of a strikingly beautiful blue

church. Melk, a renowned spiritual heritage site, is the location of the spectacular Benedictine Abbey.



The riverboat continued its voyage up the Danube moving into Germany. Passau has been a city at the junction of three rivers and a key trading location for 2000 years. Regensburg is one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It includes the Porta Praetoria, an ancient Roman fort built in 179 A.D. It is also renowned for its stone bridge which spans the Danube built in the 12th century.

We leave the riverboat in Nuremberg taking to the road and making our way to beautiful Karlsbad. The hot springs of Karlsbad attract tourists year round. Old town Prague was our final destination. It is truly a city laden with history and beauty.



Old Town Prague is another UNESCO World Heritage Site, which includes Prague castle region, Charles Bridge and the Old Town Hall (with its functioning Astrological Clock...the oldest in the world). It is a wonderful mixture of both modern and historic venues.

Betty and I enjoyed a reasonably priced, and delicious meal, in the Black Elephant. It is a restaurant in the hotel which was built in 1330. It is also one of the many UNESCO sites within the Old Town region.



A Danube riverboat cruise is a trip that will be filled with truly wonderful memories.

Welcome new members!

Colin McKinnon

I have dabbled and enjoyed photography for quite a long time but never took the time to delve deeper into the craft. I joined Latow this year because I have been attending with Marguerite, once in a while, for a couple of years. Like others, I'm pretty busy and didn't want to short change the club effort.



I have been very impressed with the amazing skills of so many members and their generosity in sharing their knowledge with the new, and much less skilled guys. I/we have enjoyed our experiences at the club and have felt very welcome from the outset.

My first goal is to have fun with it and of course I hope to improve my photo skills over time. It's a pleasure to be part of the organization. I look forward to continued good times as a part of it.

Jason Bartlett

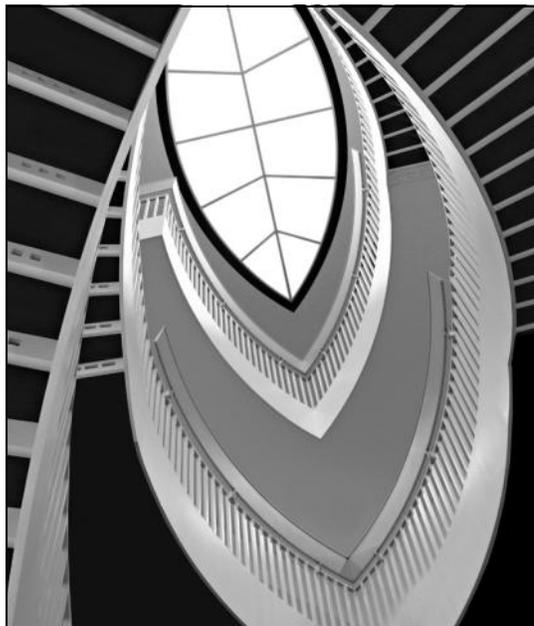
I joined Latow as a way of continuing my life-long passion for photography as a hobby and means of creative expression. When I moved to Burlington ten years ago I'd taken a darkroom course with Joe Gaudet and was quite impressed with the darkroom facilities available at Latow. Due to a recent move I no longer have a home darkroom. My first instinct was to join Latow for access to the darkroom; as I learned more about what membership offers I knew I made the right choice. I joined and took the studio certification on the same day and am looking forward to using the studio, darkroom and meeting new people.



A word or two from the editor:

Thanks to all who contributed to another information-packed edition! As always, your comments or suggestions about this newsletter are always welcome. Contact the editor [Frank Myers](#).

Best wishes for the holiday season and much enjoyment in the pursuit of great photographs in 2014!

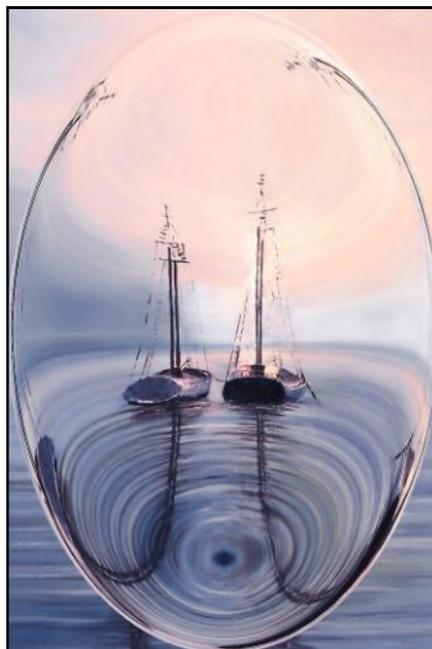


Topic: Architectural Design 101

Glen Jones

This is a unique staircase with countless layers leading up to the skylight at the top. The contrast between the dark and light colours while keeping the overall tonality and sharpness was a challenge.

Overriding the exposure settings on automatic and putting it on manual using the spot meter while bracketing gave me the desired look I wanted. I highly recommend doing this in light-challenging situations.



Another top-scoring image from Latow' Evaluation #1 was **Claudette Mancini's My Manipulated Art**.

About Latow Photographers Guild

We meet every Tuesday night at 7:30pm from September to June at the [Burlington Art Centre](#). General meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month and the group meetings on the following Tuesdays each month.

Board meetings are held monthly and any Latow member in good standing is welcome to attend.

For more information about Latow, visit our [website](#).

Latow Board

President	Keith Marshall president@latow.com
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AV Festival	Paul Sparrow	psparrow@cogeco.ca
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Fine Art & Craft Festival	Mark Emmerson	markemerson@wellfoundphotography.com
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Juried Show	Glen Jones	gjones76@cogeco.ca
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