



Latow in Focus

Burlington, Ontario

MARCH 2014

The Prez sez...

Keith Marshall

Now that the Olympics are over it's time to get out the camera and fire up the computer. This is the start of a busy time at Latow so make the most of the many opportunities the Guild has to offer.

The Annual Photo Weekend – Seminar is fast approaching and I would urge all members to attend and also help with volunteering. This is our major fundraising event of the year and the one that helps to buy all the goodies we enjoy. Make sure to encourage any photographer friends, colleagues or family to sign up online to attend this event. More information about the event and ways in which you can help are in other sections of the newsletter and on the [website](#).

We still have openings in 2015 for month-long shows in the Fireside Lounge. To allocate time slots, the Board will draw names from those who apply by the 15th of March and meet the criteria (see "Fireside Exhibitions" on the [Downloads page](#) of the Latow website). To apply and/or if you have questions, contact me.

Although we still have lots of snow and the temperatures are again going to plummet, we need to start to look at our programmes for the next year. If you have any suggestions for changes or additions please contact either me or one of the Board members. We also like to hear about things that you think we do well.



Rolly Astrom has been creating some striking images by posing ballerinas in community and natural settings. This image *Haylie on the Rail* scored 24 points in Latow's second Evaluation for 2014.

Photography Weekend News

Tom Stephens

Online ticket sales for Latow's Weekend have been picking up nicely since starting a few weeks ago, particularly for the Sunday morning [mini-seminar by Varina Patel](#) on Perception and Composition. If you are interested in this session, don't wait or **you may find it sold out**.

Testimonials continue to come in for the teaching of Varina & Jay Patel. Check out the [News page](#) of the Weekend website for endorsements by some

(Continued on page 2)

In this edition:

This month	2	Members News	5
Looking for Some Action? GTCCC News	3	Travelogue: Islay	6
Profile: Jim Hamilton	4	CAPA Competitions	7
		Recommended	8

Latow members who have seen Varina and Jay at work. This couple is a dynamite pair for photography instruction! While you are on the News page, have a look at the Landscape Photography Course by Jay & Varina. This, and the newly added description of the [Saturday Seminar](#), will show you why you should not miss this session on Adding Impact to Your Images.

Many purchasers are opting to select Varina's half-day seminar as part of the Weekend Combo package, and they save \$20 in the process.

But **Latow members will do even better with your 15% member discount.** To take advantage of this, [use the online order page](#), select the individual

events of interest and use your email as the "discount coupon" when checking out. Too complicated? Mark Emmerson will be taking ticket orders (on paper!) at our meetings on March 4 (General Meeting) and March 11 (New Exposures).

Don't forget to talk up the Weekend among non-member buddies and co-workers. The more seats we fill, the more money we raise for Guild activities. And of course, the AV Festival remains a great evening for anyone who likes a visual treat, whether or not they are a photographer.

Questions about tickets? Contact [Mark Emmerson](#). Any other concerns or suggestions? Contact [Tom Stephens](#).

This Month . . .

Outing for March: March 2

Wayne Elliott, Outings Coordinator

Orchid Society Annual Show

The March Outing will return to the Royal Botanical Gardens, indoors, to see the beauty and diversity of orchids.

This is a judged show. There will be displays by societies and growers from across Canada and the USA. There will also be exhibits of flower arrangements, painting, photographs and plant sales for those interested.

Sunday, March 2 from 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. has been set aside for photographers only. Latow will not have sole access to this time slot but will be shared by all interested photographers.

General admission tickets will be available at the RBG. There are no discounts this time.

Digital Group March 18:

Paul Sparrow, Digital Group Coordinator

This month we'll be holding the judging of the **International Digital Competition** with the Helsinki Camera Club of Finland. This will be a "live" judging by a panel of three judges where you'll get to experience their comments "as they happen".

The club from Finland will be doing their judging on or about the same date and we won't know who had the winning image or who was the top scoring club until the results from the two sessions are compiled.

Even if you didn't enter an image in the competition this is always an exciting evening and a chance to see how a major competition is judged.

New Exposures: March 11

Don Munro, New Exposures Coordinator

March 11 is quickly approaching and a *New Exposure* evening is just around the corner. Please join us for this fun and informative evening.

All you have to do is bring an image in its unmodified state for viewing. We will invite those in attendance to offer their views on what they like about your photo and also ideas on how it might be tweaked to make it even better.

If you are bringing a print, please have it mounted and no smaller than 8x10 in size. If you are bringing a digital image please have the resolution set at 1400 wide by 1050 in height.

Do come regardless of whether you have a photo to share. You will come away with new learning guaranteed.

Studio Group: March 25

Andrzej Pradzynski and Dave Fernandes

On March 25 our studio group will be hosting guest speaker Miguel Jacob. Miguel is a well established portrait photographer in the Toronto area, shooting for major fashion magazines and fashion sites. He teaches at colleges and fine art schools in the GTA.

Miguel will share his views and his work collected when working with the best fashion customers in the area. A good preview of his portrait shooting style can be found on his [website](#). The evening is open to all guild members.

Looking for some action?

John Larsen

Have you had enough of winter? Frustrated that we may not be able to get out and take photos until June?

Well, given the amount of snow that we have had, the conditions should be ideal for the Canadian Snowcross Racing Association's (CSRA) annual visit to Chicopee Ski Hill in Kitchener! Once again I will be attending the CSRA annual event that will be on Sunday, March 23/14. Last year we had a number of Latow members come out and experience this snowmobile event on a motocross-style track.

Racers range from young kids to the best pro-level competitors. I believe the cost was \$18 last year, however the entrance fees have not been updated as of yet.

We will meet at 10:00 am in the (warm) lounge upstairs in the chalet. Let me know if you are interested by sending me an [email](#). Make sure that you bundle up!



GTCCC News

Tom Stephens

The submissions are in for the annual [Interclub Competition](#) held by GTCCC. There were 1400 images submitted by 15 of the 19 member clubs, including 365 prints. Seven Latow members entered 33 images including 8 prints. Judging takes place in early March and the awards ceremony and show will be held on April 26 in Toronto.

On May 3, GTCCC will hold their annual Education Day, with a variety of presentations and speakers, including Paul Sparrow, who will deliver the morning keynote on creating photo essays. Registration for this one-day event is \$85 and more details are [available online](#). The location is Centennial College in East York.

March at a Glance

Tuesday, March 4	General Meeting: Evaluation #3 results
Tuesday, March 11	New Exposures
Tuesday, March 18	Digital Group: International Digital Competition Judging
Tuesday, March 25	Studio Group: Guest speaker fashion/ editorial photographer Muguel Jacob

Other Events

Sunday, March 2	Outing: Orchid Society Annual Show at RBG
Thursday, March 27	Board Meeting
Saturday, March 29	Juried Show intake

Latow Photographers Guild
ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY WEEKEND
featuring
JAY & VARINA PATEL
April 5 & 6, 2014

Saturday:
all-day seminar
Adding Impact to your Images

Sunday:
3 mini-seminars

Saturday evening:
Annual LATOW AV FESTIVAL

Annual Latow Juried Exhibition

Details & tickets at
latowseminar.com

* Can you help distribute flyers like this to promote our Photography Weekend? We have both electronic and hard copy. Please contact [Tom Stephens](#) if you can help spread the word.

Member Profile: Jim Hamilton

Marguerite Botting

When reading the profile of a Latow member, it is possible for the reader to learn something that can then be added to his or her own photography toolbox. Jim Hamilton has 40 years of experience and brings a tremendous wealth of knowledge. For many years Jim gifted Latow when he judged some of our evaluations.



Despite the precision required in Jim's engineering career, Jim Hamilton believes in "serendipity". Jim sets up his camera system and then waits for that serendipitous moment when someone wanders into the view of his lens! This approach is so contrary to our persistent literal capture of the scene before us. But then again, Jim says that the 'setting up early' technique works well as people soon ignore you – ergo more natural subjects!

Many years ago Jim was the victim of a house break-in when all his camera equipment was stolen. Pulling a positive from such a horrific experience, Jim re-visited his decisions about cameras, lenses, their future, etc. Moving forward Jim was grounded about how he wanted to photograph.

There is an ephemeral quality about some of Jim's landscape photos – a grace that he has captured. Other photos reflect Jim's travels: Italy, much of Canada, upcoming Holland and Mexico this October for 'Day of the Dead.' Knowing Jim's philosophy that an image must evoke emotional feelings, it will be a treat to see the photos that Jim will capture from his Mexican trip.

Where do you live? How long have you lived there?

"I live in Hamilton. I have been here for 43 years since accepting a job at Dofasco after graduating as an Engineer from the University of Toronto and growing up in Ottawa. I also have a summer cottage north of Kingston."

How long have you been a member of Latow?

This is my 40th year being a member of the Latow Club - since before the BAC.

What attracted you to Latow in the first place? What keeps you coming back?

I first met Bill Warren at a meeting of Camera Club Presidents in Hamilton – Bill was there from the Westinghouse Club and I from the Dofasco Club. He told me about an energetic new club that was starting

up in Burlington, so I decided to try them out. They were a fun, young and crazy group back then but I stayed. I think it is the diversity of the group activities and the skill and personality of the members that have kept me coming back.

What kind of cameras do you shoot with?

I started with a Pentax system and then went to a Canon system when I lost everything in a house break-in years ago. I have accumulated a number of lenses over the years. I also have Fuji fixed-lens cameras and an Olympus MFT system.

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

This image, *Just Walking By*, was made in the Rome train station. I was on a photo tour of Tuscany, Umbria and Rome with four



other people. We were returning our rental car and decided to do some photography while at the station. I was setting up on the poster wall and this fellow in his national dress rushed by in front of me. I just quickly snapped. I had no time to really think about it but it is a case of practice making it possible to recognize a good shot when it presents itself through serendipity. It is a technique I often use of setting the stage and letting the subject walk onto it. I really like the bright contrasting colours and the fact that the figure is on the edge walking out of the frame (this was intentional). The unusual composition makes the viewer stop and think and emphasizes the feeling of 'just walking by'.

Camera: Canon 60D, lens: Tamron 18-270mm

Focal length: 33 mm, ISO: 800

Exposure: f5.6, 1/320 sec., -0.7 stop compensation

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

Although technical excellence is important to our craft that alone is not enough. Photography is definitely an art form and it is a visual communication tool. An image must speak to the viewer to be successful; it must evoke emotional feelings. It is the same as in other forms of art - would we evaluate a

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

piece of literature only by the word content and the punctuation used?

Post processing is important and is an integral part of the image presented. It can add a lot to the camera image and I believe anything goes in this computer age. However, just pushing computer buttons is not photography. While only doing digital photography now, I still have a lot to learn in post processing – something I consider as a major retirement project.

What are your favourite subjects to photograph?

I do not have a specialty but I find myself drawn to trying to capture the patterns, textures, perspective and mood mainly in landscape photography and also the personality of people in street photography. I also enjoy dabbling in nature and wildlife photography on occasion.

Have you had your photographs published?

Very limited. Years ago I had some images used in a swimming pool brochure and on the cover of a cookbook.

Have you had your photographs exhibited?

Only through local camera clubs, the BAC and the GTCCC. I am also a member of the Trillium Photographic Club. I have not really promoted myself much in this regard. This is something I am considering more as I am now retired.

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

Photography is strictly a hobby for my own enjoyment.

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

I try to remember to pack a cotton face cloth in my camera bag especially when I am travelling (or I “borrow” one from the hotel bathroom). They are compact and have many uses from extra padding to keep stacked items from rubbing together to making a good wipe to brush dust or condensation from a lens or a towel for wet or dirty hands. But the most useful time is if caught in the rain. It is amazing how protective and what a good rain coat a face cloth can be when draped over your camera unless you encounter a real downpour and then you will probably seek cover yourself.

Where can we see more of your work?

Latow and BAC exhibitions. Latow Facebook site. Trillium Flickr sites, Personal Facebook and Flickr (hamfromham) site.



Many Latow members supported the BAC's Annual Art Auction as volunteers. Here are **Ed Franko** and **Ort Baldauf** hanging work prior to the event.

Members News

Latow members **Tom Stephens, Leonie Holmes, John Pingree, Dave Lawson, Toni Browning, Frank Myers, Ort Baldauf** and **Bill Warren** had work chosen for sale in the Burlington Art Centre's very successful Art Auction held February 7.

Top price for photography went to **Dave Lawson** for *Witness*, a black and white image of a 24-ton church bell hanging in the Cologne, Germany Cathedral at a price of \$ 550.00. Congratulations to all.

Paul Sparrow is presenting three Burlington Photo Workshops 8-week Spring Workshops:

- D101 (Controlling your camera to go beyond “point and shoot” photography)
- D102 (Techniques to get the best images from the most common styles of photography)
- Photoshop Elements

Additional details and registration information can be found [here](#).

For your Latow discount contact: Paul Sparrow at [\(905\) 523-5665](tel:9055235665) or by [email](#):

“Twelve significant photographs in any one year is a good crop.”

Ansel Adams

The Isle of Islay, Scotland

Wayne Elliott

Islay (pronounced 'eye-lah') is the southernmost island of the Inner Hebrides of Scotland and is known as "The Queen of the Hebrides". The island capital and largest settlement is Bowmore where the unique round Kilarrow Parish Church is located. The church was built round so that there were no corners for the Devil to hide in.



Islay is home to eight distilleries: *Ardbeg*, *Bowmore*, *Bruichladdich*, *Bunnahabhain*, *Caol Ila*, *Kilchoman*, *Lagavulin* (the 16 year old is my favourite) and *Laphroaig*, all making the distinctive peaty/smoky Islay single malt whisky.



As an island in the Atlantic Ocean, many of Islay's settlements are on water, the largest being Port Ellen, used primarily for fishing, goods transport and tourism. The port village of Portnahaven is situated on the south coast.



The history of Islay is abundant and reaches as far back as prehistoric times. More recently, in 1598, a

deadly battle between the MacDonalds of Islay and the MacLeans of Mull occurred at Kilnave. In the aftermath of the battle, the surviving MacLeans who had taken refuge in Kilnave Chapel, were locked in by the MacDonalds and burned.



The land of Islay is rugged and a challenge for agriculture, but it is excellent for sheep farming and there are thousands of the critters all over the island. This Scottish Black Face ram is warming himself on the reflected heat from a mound of waste road macadam.



Finlaggan was the seat of the Lords of the Isles and Clan Donald until 1493 when John MacDonald II forfeited his estates and titles to King James IV of Scotland. These remnants on Loch Finlaggan are all that remain of the once illustrious seat of power.



Sometimes you visit a place and like it, sometimes you are indifferent but find it mildly interesting and sometimes you fall in love with a place and for reasons I can't explain Islay and I clicked; I fell in love with the place. Would I like to return to this gem of an island? Och aye!

"Quit trying to find beautiful objects to photograph. Find the ordinary objects so you can transform it by photographing it."

Morley Baer

Marketplace

For Sale:

Nikon D3 Body, \$1750.00

In very good condition

Actuation 70k

The price can be negotiable.

Contact info.: Justyna jskawinska@gmail.com

CAPA Club Competitions - March

Thank you to those who submitted to the Humorous CAPA competition. We have two CAPA club competitions coming up in March:

- Digital Open Competition
- Digital Nature Competition

Submissions are due **March 15th** to allow time for judging and selection of the club submissions before the final CAPA due date. All submissions will be judged by senior club members and the top six sent to CAPA. Please send your submission by [email](#) - one per photographer for each competition.

The guidelines for photos that qualify for the Nature and Open categories have been loaded on our web site. Please go to the [Downloads page](#) in the members' area for the CAPA Competition Guide 2013-2014. The guidelines for Open and Nature are found on Page 6 and 7 of this PDF. As you will see, the guidelines for Nature are fairly restrictive.

As before, photos must be taken within 24 months of the entry date and the images must not have been submitted to any other CAPA competition. Image size is no more than 1024 pixels on the long side for horizontal images and no more than 768 pixels on the long side for vertical images and should be high quality JPEG's in sRGB colour space. Naming of the photograph should be your name and title e.g. JohnSmith-Sunset.jpg

If you have any questions please contact **Wayne Elliott** or **Jim Lait** at the above e-mail address.

[Can-Am Photo Expo March 7 to 9, Amherst, NY](#)

"This is the largest and most educational photo convention in the region, featuring 14 top instructors including Deke McClelland (Photoshop™ Guru), Clay Blackmore (Wedding Photography), Mike Moats (Macro), Robert O'Toole (Wildlife) and many more to help your members become better.

This entire weekend is education based with hands on shooting workshops as well as lectures. Six Tracks of education, and three skill levels maximize your experience.

A Convention pass is \$179; Saturday only, with banquet, is \$139. GTCCC members receive a discount of \$10.00 using the code GTCCC14."

CAPA 4 Nations Annual Competition—Call for Entries March 15

This is a friendly competition between the members of four International Photographic Societies. South Africa is this year's host in association with the Photographic Societies of Australia, New Zealand and the Canadian Association for Photographic Art.

Each Society will enter 80 images in total, selected from their membership. **Only one image per individual member is allowed** in a nation's final selection of 80 images, but members may send 3 images to their country representative to be pooled for final selection.

- 35 – Open category
- 15 - Monochrome
- 15 – Nature category
- 15 – Our Country

Image size: 1600 pixels max horizontal x 1200 pixels max vertical @ 180 dpi resolution or higher

File naming: Image_Name-Photographers_Name.jpg (eg: Great_Red_Egret-George_Brown.jpg)

Submit to: competitions@capacanada.ca

For more details and entry forms please go to [this link](#).

CAPA appreciates the time and energy our Canadian Photographers take to help Canada in this International Competition. Thank you



At 24 points, *Flower #9* by **Gunter Haibach** was a top-scoring image in our second 2014 Evaluation.



Two more top-scoring images from Latow's second Evaluation of the 2014 season: *Apple Baby* by **Lise Bennett** and *Frog Resting in the Hyacinths* by **Ort Baldauf**.

Latow Photographers Guild
ANNUAL
PHOTOGRAPHY
WEEKEND
featuring
JAY & VARINA PATEL
April 5 & 6, 2014

Saturday:
all-day seminar
Adding Impact
to your Images

Sunday:
3 mini-seminars

Saturday evening:
Annual LATOW
AV FESTIVAL

Details
& tickets at
latowseminar.com

Recommended . . .

From **Paul Gerroir**:

I came across a [NY Times article](#), Jan. 12, 2014 that I thought might interest some members of Latow. The news item details the finding of a book by Jacob Riis, a photographer who documented the abject poverty of tenement living in the late 1800's in New York city.

From **Wayne Elliott**:

Here's a short [2 minute video clip](#) by NPR's Ira Glass titled "The Gap: An Inspirational Video About How All Artists Struggle in the Beginning."

A word or two from the editor:

Thanks once again to all those members who contributed to this edition of In Focus.

There are three more newsletters to come this season. It would be great for each of these editions to have a *How I did it and Why*, a travelogue and a feature article. Please get in touch with me if you have an idea for one of these features.

As always, we also need your continued contributions to members news. Let's be certain to share the news about your exhibitions, awards, images published or accepted in juried shows etc.

As always, your comments, suggestions and contributions are welcome and essential. Contact the editor [Frank Myers](#).

"If you are out there shooting, things will happen for you. If you're not out there, you'll only hear about it."

Jay Maisel

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
Vice-President	Jim Hamilton jhamilton@sympatico.ca
Secretary	Jim Lait laitjames@gmail.com
Treasurer	Debbie Forbes debbiesforbes@sympatico.ca
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Group and Activity Coordinators

Annual Photography Week-end	Tom Stephens	tom@tomstephens.ca
Arts Burlington	Dave Lawson, Glen Jones	info@lawsonphoto.ca gjones76@cogeco.ca
AV Festival	Paul Sparrow	psparrow@cogeco.ca
B & W Group	Don Mallory	imaginemallory@gmail.com
BAC Communications	Ort Baldauf	omnion@hotmail.com
CAPA	Wayne Elliott, Jim Lait	wayne.elliott48@gmail.com kjlait@gmail.com
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Christmas Sale	Rolly Astrom, Glen Jones	astroms@cogeco.ca gjones76@cogeco.ca
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Digital Group	Paul Sparrow	psparrow@cogeco.ca
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Fine Art & Craft Festival	Mark Emmerson	markemerson@wellfoundphotography.com
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Kaleidoscope	Rolly Astrom	astroms@cogeco.ca
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New Exposures	Don Munro	dcmunro@cogeco.ca
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