



# Latow in Focus

SEPTEMBER 2011

## The Prez sez...

*Tom Stephens*

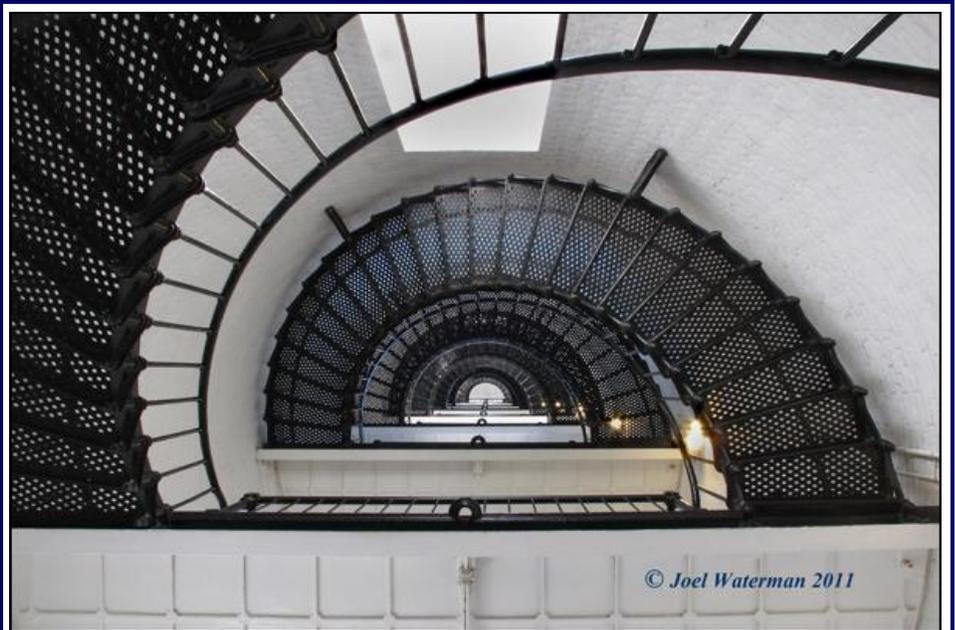
1971 was a very good year: Latow joined Starbucks, Mountain Equipment Coop, TVO, Greenpeace, the Junos, Lucasfilm, and Ontario Place as a successful start-up. So now we are 40, a middle-aged camera club, but working hard to stay living and appealing.

I think it shows in this year's program -- lots of new features, six guest speakers from outside the Guild, an added evaluation, and many other opportunities for learning and socializing. Planning of the program was helped by the results of the member survey in June, with 79 completed questionnaires and lots of constructive observations and suggestions. (More on the survey results elsewhere.)

True, none of this comes for free: Latow dues have increased \$5 this year, the first hike in several years. This increase covers only one quarter of the new annual assessment by the Burlington Art Centre as the BAC works to reduce its deficit. We have a unique home in the BAC, and it's in the interest of all of us to strengthen it.

Latow is an active Guild and it's sometimes hard to keep track of everything going on. But there are many resources to help members: the monthly newsletter, which is widely read and appreciated, according to the Member Survey; the website, which is frequently consulted, again according to the survey, and which is being continually enhanced; the Members' Handbook, which has been updated and is available online; and e-bulletins that will be in your email about once a week.

Both the newsletter and the website are the place to look for program details and hot links, and if there is some repetition between the two sources, it's



*Stairway by Joel Waterman: Image of the Year, first place.*

deliberate. We want you to know what's going on in your Guild! For the full-year picture, consult the program for 2011-12, which is now on the website. While you're there, look for the head shots of the Board and group leaders. If you have questions about Latow activities and you're not sure to ask, this should help.

We start our new season on September 6, when we will have a lively overview of our 41<sup>st</sup> year. But that's not all: members are invited to bring some images to share your "Big Fat Summer Vacation." Whether it was Upper Volta or Upper Middle Road, Niagara Falls or Iguazu Falls, we want to see where you went. Bring up to 5 minutes' worth of images in a folder with your name on it, on a CD or memory stick, sized to 1280x1024 pixels for projection, in sRGB color space. If you have prints, we'll browse them at the break.

It's going to be a good year. See you soon.

*Tom Stephens*



## 2011 Annual Awards

*Virginia Stranaghan*

The Latow Annual Awards Competition 2011 had 20 Monochrome Prints entries, 38 Colour Print entries and 180 Digital projected entries.

Three judges, Sandy Bell, Vincent Sheridan and Alan McCord, evaluated the many excellent entries. The results of this judging were presented to the Latow Guild members at the General meeting June 2011.

The following are the awards received by members:

### Image of the Year:

1st Place - *Stairway* by **Joel Waterman**

2nd Place - *Door* by **Tom Stephens**

3rd Place - *Yellow Lady's Slipper* by **Don Corby**

### Monochrome Prints:

1st place - *Mystic* by **Bill Warren**

2nd place - *Mennonite Women* by **Shirley Dennis**

3rd place - *Fort Steel Store Front* by **Bob Walling**

### Colour Prints:

1st place - (tie) *Stairway* by **Joel Waterman** and *Doors* by **Tom Stephens**

3rd place - *White Fronted Bee Eater* by **Shirley Dennis**

### Digital Projected Images:

1st place - *Yellow Lady's Slipper* by **Don Corby**

2nd place - *Monarch on Black Eyed Susan* by **Don Corby**

3rd place - *Cadillac Rocket* by **Wayne Elliott**

Congratulations to all the winners!

## Is Photography Art? - Sept. 27

*Joh. Friedrich, Photo Art coordinator*

That question will be addressed at our first Photo Art session for the season on September 27th. We will try to define just what ART is, trace the evolution of art over the millennia and discuss a creative mental process we can use in our work as artists, no matter what the medium.

The presentation is a good starting point for our newer members. It will put the Photo Art program into perspective for them. So I hope to see all of you there.

## Latow is . . .

. . . starting its 41st year in good shape. An organization like ours, with extensive facilities and multi-faceted programs, does not run on tradition alone. There are lots of members who have worked over the summer to help ensure things go well, starting on September 6.

**Joh Friedrich, Arthur Goeldner, Don Mallory, and Paul Sparrow** have developed new content for the groups they coordinate --Photo Art, Studio, Black & White, and Digital, respectively. **Bob Walling** has created a new set of outings and **Toni Browning** has organized the upcoming excursion to Muskoka. **Bill Browning** and **Arthur Goeldner** have repaired one of the backdrop mechanisms in the Studio. **Paul MacDiarmid** and **Don Mallory** have cleaned out abandoned lockers in the darkroom. **Keith Marshall** organized Latow's participation in June's Fine Art & Craft Festival. **Sandi Yacobucci** has prepared membership cards for the new season. **Paul Sparrow** has updated the website and **Frank Myers** has created another newsletter, complete with some attractive new features. Thanks to you all!

This is the first of a series that will recognize people and their contributions. Please let me know if you think someone deserves a bouquet.

*Tom Stephens*



*Yellow Lady's Slipper* by **Don Corby**:  
Image of the Year, 3rd place

## On the Web

Did you know every one of Latow's 131 members has an email address? That's a pretty good indication that we're also a pretty web-savvy group. As such, many members are aware of the great resources available to photographers on the web.

This month we are launching a regular feature that invites members to recommend websites they believe will be useful or of interest to other photographers. Possibilities include photo-sharing, instructional resources, exhibition sites etc., anything photo-related that our readers may find useful or interesting.

Each month we will present up to 6 suggestions, one per customer. Please provide the link and a brief note about why the site is interesting.

*From Wayne Elliott:*

Check out [Photosig](#), a community where you can upload your images and have them critiqued by the members and you can also critique other photographers' work.

*From Toni Browning:*

[Adobe TV](#) is a great website. There are 11 free videos all about getting started with Lightroom 3. The length is from 11 minutes to 33 minutes.

*From Ort Baldauf:*

I look at a number of photo-related sites online.... however one site that I go to a few times a week is [Tip Squirrel](#). It's a good site for Photoshop, Lightroom and general photography related tips.

*From Tom Stephens:*

A site that has good images and is instructive is the [Globe and Mail Camera Club](#). However, anyone considering submitting images should read the fine print about the rights they are giving up.

*From Frank Myers:*

For its just plain "gee whiz" factor and for anyone interested in time-lapse photography, check out this item on the [Picturecorrect](#) site. An innovative photographer named Colin Rich dedicated about 6 months to create this photographic masterpiece entitled *LA Light*. [Picturecorrect](#) is also a great site for photo tips and tutorials.

***There are no rules for good photographs,  
there are only good photographs.***

**Ansel Adams**



*Doors by Tom Stephens: Image of the Year, second place.*

## Digital Group, Sept. 13

*Paul Sparrow*

**Colour Calibration** (or why your images don't look the same at home).

Our first meeting will look at the very complex problem that explain why images can look different when digitally projected vs. on your own monitor at home.

We'll look at colour spaces, monitor vs. projector calibrations and how images that are optimized for printing may not give you the desired results on a projection screen.

Looking forward to seeing all of you again for the new season.

Paul

## Studio Group, Sept. 27

*Arthur Goeldner*

For returning members who need to renew their studio access, attend the studio equipment orientation session on September 27th to learn all about strobes, softboxes, remotes, etc. At the end of the session your Latow membership card will be signed, thereby giving you access to the studio

If you are a returning Latow member who had their Latow membership card signed last year, you can skip having to attend the equipment orientation session on September 27th. Just bring last year's membership card to the September 6th general meeting where it will be automatically renewed. Naturally if you want a refresher, you can always come by on the 27th.

## Photo tour of Halton County Radial Railway, Sept. 25

*Bob Walling*

The Halton County Radial Railway and the Ontario Electric Railway Historical Association were formed in 1953 by a group of men who wanted to save Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) streetcar 1326 from being sent to the scrap yard.

After the donation of this streetcar, the dream grew. Land that used to be a part of the Toronto Suburban Railway in Nassagaweya Township was acquired and subsequently, a number of other street and radial cars were eventually rescued. The museum's grand opening to the public took place in 1972.

Since the beginning, the vision of the HCRR was to inform, educate and inspire the public about the electric railway history of Ontario and Canada.

### New membership chair

*Sandi Yacobucci*

I would like to introduce myself as the new Membership Chair for 2011-2012 year. I am sure this year will be another great adventure and learning experience for all of you and I look forward to another fun filled year at Latow.

Please remember if any member has changed their email address or contact information, I will require the details in order to update the membership list. You can contact me at: [SYacobucci@gmail.com](mailto:SYacobucci@gmail.com)

I hope you have enjoyed your summer. I'll see you soon!



*Open Trolley by Bob Walling*

Today, the museum displays and operates a variety of historic streetcars, radial cars and work cars, and maintains a collection of photographs, memorabilia and [archival materials](#). The oldest rail car in the [collection](#) dates from the late 1800s.

A photo tour of the Halton county Radial Railway is planned for Sunday September 25. The premises opens at 10:00 am. This is an excellent chance to get some different

transportation photos.

It is located at 13629 Guelph Line, north of the 401. Admission is \$11.50

### It's not too late for the Cranberry Cruise!

*Toni Browning*

There are still some spaces left for the Cranberry Cruise on Saturday September 24th. Cost is \$55.

Please contact me at 905-319-7914 or [tonnie@cogeco.ca](mailto:tonnie@cogeco.ca) if you are interested.

Here are the details.

- The Segwun departs from the Muskoka Wharf in Gravenhurst at 11.30am. Please be there no later than 11.00 am.
- Our lunch is in the 2nd seating and we get back to the dock by 2 pm.
- At 3 pm we have the Bog to Bottle Tour of Johnston's Cranberry Marsh and Winery in Bala.
- How far is Gravenhurst? As per Google Maps it is 216 km measuring from BAC and how soon you will get there depends on the traffic.
- We have paid our deposit but MUST confirm the final numbers at least 48 hours prior to arrival.
- For more info, go to [www.realmuskoka.com](http://www.realmuskoka.com) and <http://www.cranberry.ca/Farm/home.html>.

### For Sale

**Manfrotto #190 compact tripod with # 056 head.** This is a small, sturdy tripod with 3-way adjustable head. Suitable for someone not too tall (It extends to about 5 ft). Quick release plate included. \$50.

Contact Frank Myers 905-635-8259 or [fmyers4@gmail.com](mailto:fmyers4@gmail.com)

## Who are we and what do we value? Results of the Member Survey, June 2011.

Tom Stephens

The Member Survey was completed by 75 members, or 63% of our membership. It's fair to assume that those completing the survey are the more involved and interested members: only one person said they will not return next year, yet we know from experience that there is an annual turnover of about 30%.

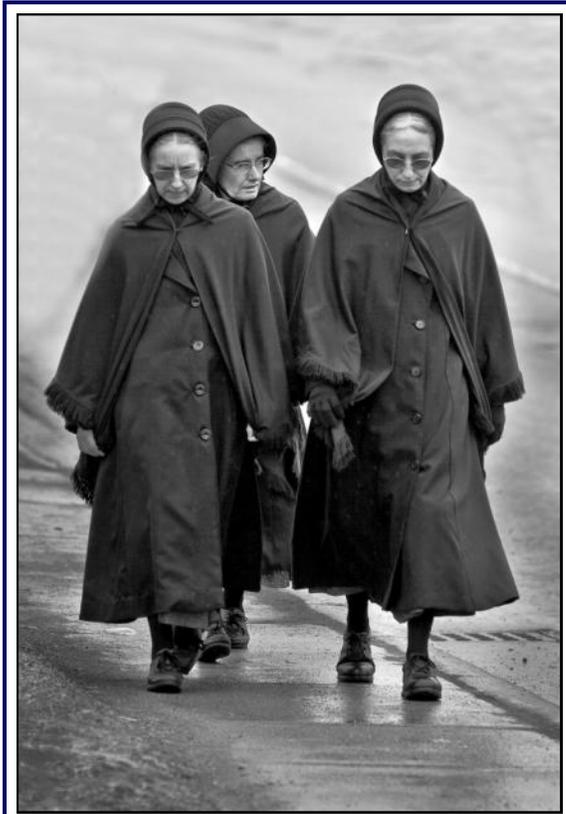
The largest proportion of respondents (37%) have been members for 2-3 years; 19% have been members for more than 10 years. The balance are evenly spread among new members, 4-5 years and 6-10 years. About equal proportions of respondents rated themselves as intermediate (44%) or advanced (41%) photographers. The remainder were equally divided between beginners and expert (7% each). Twenty percent of respondents are members of another local camera club, while 14% are members of CAPA and only 6% are members of PSA.

So how did these involved people answer the question about motivations: "How important is each of the following to you as a Latow member?" Below are the percentage of respondents who rated each item as "very important."

- Developing digital skills: 77%
- Participating in critiques and evaluations: 57%
- Friendships, social aspects of membership: 50%
- Developing appreciation of photo art: 48%
- Use of the studio: 28%
- Developing studio/portraiture skills: 26%
- Use of the darkroom/finishing room: 18%
- Developing darkroom skills: 16%
- Various others, all different, total: 10%

*Photography records the gamut of feelings written on the human face, the beauty of the earth and skies that man has inherited, and the wealth and confusion man has created. It is a major force in explaining man to man.*

**Edward Steichen**



*Mennonite Women* by **Shirley Dennis**:  
Second place, monochrome prints.

## Canadian Camera College 2011

Virginia Stranaghan

CAPA's Canadian Camera College 2011 was held in late June in London, Ontario, and hosted by the London Camera Club at the Fanshawe College Campus.

The London Camera Club did an excellent job arranging the schedule, guest speakers and field trips. Registered guests were provided with rooms in the college residence. These rooms were very comfortable, clean and reasonably priced.

A number of speakers provided valuable information on many photographic techniques. Topics included: Creative Photography, Extreme Close-Ups, Landscapes and Portraits, as well as Photoshop, Pro Show & Producer AV software.

In addition to these classroom instruction sessions there were three guest speakers in the evenings.

Instructional sessions, guest speakers and meals were included in the registration fee. Considering the wealth of information provided, the excellent meals and the field trips, it would be difficult to find a better value for your dollar. Personally I would not hesitate to register in the future for a CCC conference.

## A word or two from the editor:

Is it just me, or did summer go by in a flash? September is upon us and with it another great Latow season. Look to your monthly newsletter to provide up-to-date information about upcoming guild activities as the year unfolds.

We have added a couple of new monthly features that need your input: **On the Web** is your opportunity to let members know about websites you have found to be informative or entertaining. And by the way, if anyone can come up with a better name for this item, suggestions are welcome. *On the Web* was the best I could come up with.

The second new feature, **Latow is . . .** provides an opportunity to recognize members whose contributions help make Latow the great organization we all enjoy. Your recommendations should be forwarded to our President, Tom Stephens.

As always, *In Focus* welcomes your contributions and feedback. In particular this season, I'd like to celebrate our members' achievements: exhibitions, awards, images accepted into juried shows etc., so let us know what's up with you and other members. Contact the editor [Frank Myers](#).



## September at a Glance

Thursday, Sept. 1	Board Meeting.
Tuesday, Sept. 6	General Meeting: Program Preview, Studio cards signed, Shows by members on "My Summer"
<b>Group Meetings:</b>	
Tuesday, Sept. 13	Digital Group: colour calibration
Tuesday, Sept. 20	Studio Group: Equipment refresher for returning members
Tuesday, Sept. 27	Photo Art Group: Is photography art?
<b>Other Events:</b>	
Thursday, Sept. 8	BAC Volunteer BBQ
Sunday, Sept. 25	Field Trip: Halton County Radial Railway
To September 27	Dave Lawson exhibition in the Fireside Lounge