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SPARK
PHOTO FESTIVAL
2015
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Trent Visual Arts Network (TVAN) *Trent University*  
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Thomas A. Stewart S.S. Film Photography Students  

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“While there is perhaps a province in which the photograph can tell us nothing more than what we see with our own eyes, there is another in which it proves to us how little our eyes permit us to see.”

Dorothea Lange
SPARK PHOTO FESTIVAL 2015

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Showcase Exhibit
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Andy Christopher Ralph Colley
Bill Lockington Jennie Versteeg

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Photo Booth Project
Deana Huntsbarger
Phillip Chee
Vicky Paradisis

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Richard Bell, MPA, HLM, APPO, Cr. Photog. Judge
Andy Christopher Exhibit Prints
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fireklix imaging & design Draw Prize
Allen Rothwell Theme Creation/Exhibit Curator
Paul Van Damme Judge
Charles Van den Ouden Judge

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Roula Partheniou, Dopplekopf (detail), 2013, acrylic on wood, altered found objects, double-sided mirror, vitrines. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid
Dreams of Beans

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Carnegie Library, Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images
The SPARK Photo Festival is celebrating its third season. For mathematicians, three is a special number. In religion, sport, and in matters of the heart, where three is supposed to be the charm, the number is loaded with meaning. Did you know three non collinear points determine both a plane and a circle? Three is the number of dimensions a human can perceive. People count to three when they want to act in synchronicity. Three is the number of strikes before a batter is out, the inning is over, and counts a hat-trick in hockey. A pin in wrestling is determined by the count of three seconds. The Om written in Devanagari includes the symbol dirgha, meaning three times as long. The devil tempted Jesus three times. Corn, beans and squash planted together are known as the three sisters by Six Nations indigenous peoples.

In photography, three is also a powerful number. The rule of thirds is a classic compositional device particularly useful with standard photographic image formats. There are three legs on a tripod creating a steady platform when a long exposure is necessary to make a photograph. There are three inter-related conditions that control exposure: aperture, shutter speed, and sensitivity.

The three pillars around which SPARK festival activity is based include SPARK sponsored and curated exhibits, open-call exhibits, and workshops and lectures, all solidly held in place by the building of partnerships between photographers, community venues, and sponsors, most of whom are small businesses, community organizations, or public facilities. Each year our board and volunteers fine-tune each activity in order to create a strong foundation for future festivals. 2015 can be understood in three separate contexts, in the context of foundation, tradition, and transition.

For our third Showcase exhibit of heritage photography, it was suggested we feature a female photographer. Motivated less by a sense of inclusiveness and more by irresistible curiosity about heritage female photographers, serendipity played a role in the final choice. As we were packing up the 2014 Showcase exhibit and discussing what might be in the cards for 2015, Alan Brunger, a retired Trent professor of geography whose cartography knowledge was essential in improving the design of our venue map last year, asked the question “Did you know that Lucy Maud Montgomery was a photographer?” And the wheels started turning.

It didn’t take the Showcase Committee long to discover that Montgomery’s photographs resided in the special collections of the University of Guelph library. With the exception of the display of photos in some of her scrapbooks, inclusion in the odd academic study, and in museum displays, the photographs had never been exhibited in print, in public, in a comprehensive manner as a body of work. Although internationally known for her writing, Lucy’s enthusiasm for photography was little known or appreciated. As current SPARK participants demonstrate, enthusiasts photographers are often the driving force behind photographic trends and technological improvements. It seemed appropriate that the heritage exhibit of a female photographer should feature the work of an enthusiast photographer of the past.

Several fascinating sub-themes inform these photographs. Lucy Maud Montgomery was representative of a “modern” woman of the time, well educated, independent, in the work force, and an early adopter of this relatively new technology, photography. She used a portion of her first paycheck as school teacher to purchase a camera in the early 1890s. This was around the same time Kodak started marketing the Brownie camera. These cameras were designed to be mass produced and easy to use by the public. Kodak realized the importance of the female demographic as influencers, especially as keepers of both the family budget and of its history. Clearly visible in a photograph of Montgomery’s bedroom is a clipping of a “Kodak Girl” advertisement. Comparing early photographs of Lucy to the “Kodak Girl” posters of the time, it is astonishing how much “alike” they look.

The SPARK Emerging Artist exhibit also got a makeover by pairing the exhibit with an Emerging Curator. These two individuals are compensated in aid of developing their careers as professional artists and curators. SPARK is fortunate to find a former PCVS graduate as our first emerging curator. Alyssa Lagana is currently completing a BFA in Criticism and Curatorial Practice at OCAD. It is gratifying for SPARK to be able to assist a student who came from our community with the development of her career by putting her to work on an actual curatorial project. It is not without self-interest, however. The development of curatorial experience and interest in photographic exhibit will be essential to growing future exhibit quality and scope.

In the future, SPARK envisions a time when we can extend curatorial assistance and expertise to all open-call exhibitors.

The open-call exhibits are proving stronger each year with the subject matter becoming more diverse as well as challenging. SPARK is attracting attention from outside the region as evidenced by Photo Life’s interest, the sponsorship of the juried exhibits prizes by Digitec, a national photographic distributor, as well by the full page advertising commitment by Toronto’s Downtown Camera.

The Giants of Canadian Photography series of talks was fortunate to bring two legendary Canadian photographers to Peterborough in 2014, Edward Burtynsky and Larry Towell, thanks to the generosity of HP. Both photographers are internationally recognized and widely collected by galleries around the world. Both presentations proved to be inspirational and for SPARK, are another way to celebrate the power of photography as a medium for communication.

Not everything SPARK does is attended by throngs of people, nor is it meant to be. The Focus on Nature children’s photography day-long workshop in partnership with the Art School of Peterborough is being held once again in April due to the enthusiastic thumbs-up by the children who attended the first time. Adult educational workshops now take place throughout the calendar year. SPARK considers workshops and presentations just as important an indicator of success as the larger gatherings at exhibits and openings.

The majority of our volunteers, board, sponsors, advertisers, and community partners have been with us since 2012. Three years is a long time to give to anything. Because of this passion, SPARK finds itself on solid footing, a tripod if you like of our own making, with the resulting image of the future looking sharp, detailed, and crisp.

Robert Boudreau
SPARK Photo Festival Director 02/2015
Almost everyone is somewhat familiar with iconic Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery (LMM). However, few know that in addition to her prolific literary output she also produced several thousand photographic images, many of which were acquired from her estate by the University of Guelph. From these we have compiled an exhibit that is arranged as a loose chronology of LMM’s life (1874-1942), with images that give visitors a chance to follow her development as well as an opportunity to reflect on the more general evolution of amateur photography.

This Showcase Exhibit consists of four segments, corresponding to periods in LMM’s life. For each, we present enlarged and enhanced images of LMM herself, and of the people and places that she considered important and which influenced her. LMM did some photographic work for others and may also have intended to use some pictures to enhance her short stories. However, most of her images were snapshots intended as personal mementos and found a place in scrapbooks, in the journals she kept throughout her life and in family albums. Though many images suffer from the limited technology available to amateurs in this period, they capture a sense of the times and provide a feel for LMM’s vision of the world.

Part 1 of the exhibit covers the period from LMM’s birth in 1874 until 1891, by which time she was a published (albeit unpaid) author poised to enter the adult world. Here you will see some of the people who influenced her as well as some of the landscape features of Prince Edward Island that feature in her later fictional works. Obviously LMM wasn’t born with a camera in her hand and some of the photos in this exhibit section are ones she took later, primarily in the 1890s, inserted here to highlight places of...
SPARK Showcase Exhibit

Lucy Maud Montgomery: A Life in Pictures

importance during her formative years. You will see that some of these places are more significant than others, with photographs of “Lover's Lane”, for example, appearing in several places throughout the exhibit. Professional portraits included in this period may have been done by commercial photographers in Charlottetown or by itinerant photographers who travelled far and wide in the 1870s and 1880s.

The years 1891-1910 form Part 2 of the exhibit and include LMM’s brief career as a teacher and the years when her literary career took off. More importantly for the Showcase Exhibit, this is when LMM purchased her first camera, which used glass photographic plates, some of which LMM herself apparently developed. Then as roll-film technology evolved, the box cameras we are more familiar with became available and affordable. In this period, the advertising of the growing Eastman Kodak Company specifically targeted young women with disposable income by marketing cameras as a fun fashion accessory. Both the glamorous images in women’s magazines and poster ads, and the actual creative enjoyment of photography no doubt appealed to LMM. Indeed, the magazine image of a “Kodak Girl” is visible on the wall in a picture LMM took of her own bedroom, while a snapshot of her friend Nora with a camera echoes the pose in a camera ad. This period concludes with the enormous commercial success of Anne of Green Gables in 1908 and LMM’s emergence as an international literary celebrity.

Part 3 (1910-1926) picks up the LMM story as she became engaged to be married and was about to leave her beloved Prince Edward Island to start life in southern Ontario, where her husband, Presbyterian minister Ewan Macdonald, had accepted a post in Leaskdale (present-day Uxbridge). The new camera purchased for her honeymoon served her well as she observed a new environment and recorded her children’s development and life in Leaskdale. Again we see that LMM nicely illustrates the state of amateur photography, which through the Kodak marketing efforts had evolved from a fun pastime to a do-it-yourself means for middle-class families to preserve memories and document family history. While colour photographic reproduction for magazines had come into use by about 1915, for amateurs like LMM black-and-white photography was still the reality. However, you will see how this was eventually enhanced by the hand colourization of photographs, which became both technically feasible and fashionable in the 1920s. This period ends as the Reverend Macdonald accepts a transfer to a new community.

The final chapters of LMM’s life unfold in Part 4 of the exhibit (1926-1942) as the family moves to Norval (present-day Halton Hills, Ontario) and then, at about the time she is awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1935, to an upscale Toronto suburb. Until her very final years, you will see that LMM continued to observe her environment and take photographs that eventually included grandchildren. Throughout, LMM not only undertook extensive correspondence with
Lucy Maud Montgomery: A Life in Pictures

All photos on these pages are drawn from the Archival and Special Collections of the University of Guelph Library.

1898, Macneill’s Kitchen, Cavendish

1899, L.M. Montgomery, Age 25

1890s, Nora Lefurgy taking photos on the Cavendish Shore
significant pen-friends, but also continued to visit Prince Edward Island and maintain contact with its people and places, concluding with her return to PEI soil for burial in 1942.

We are grateful to the Heirs of Lucy Maud Montgomery Inc. for permitting us to mount this exhibit and appreciate the cooperation of the University of Guelph Special Collections staff. Many alternative images could have been drawn from the University of Guelph holdings, but we believe that our exhibit provides visual variety and an intelligible flow to the unfolding of events in LMM’s life, without burdening the viewer with a detailed chronology, too bewildering an array of relatives and other persons, or with unnecessary interpretations and critiques. If this exhibit whets your appetite for more, many biographical and other works on LMM are readily available and The University of Guelph LMM photograph collection has been digitized and is available online.
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Thank you all for making the 2015 ReFrame Film Festival a great success. Look forward to seeing you next year.
In the 1966 Michelangelo Antonioni film Blow-Up, a photographer by chance discovers a murder captured in one of his photographs. After continuously enlarging certain areas in the background, the photographer goes through a process that is at the same time a trial of self-discovery as it is an inspection of the image. What he finds borders between evidence and opinion, objective and subjective – blown-up to near-abstractions, the truth is impossible to pick out, and the final product is both real and illusory. But how can we tell a fact from the illusion? “Nothing like a little disaster for sorting things out,” the photographer says.

The Great Gig in the Sky takes Blow-Up as a point of departure, examining the existential nature of difficulty as interpreted through photography. The series can trace its influence to Warhol’s Death and Disaster paintings, which the art critic David Bourdon suggests focus on the “discrete image filled with grisly details” that through repetition encourage “indifference to the accidental and tragic loss of life”. Made from blurring and cropping widely available photographs of airplane crashes, The Great Gig in the Sky is instead concerned with grisly images filled with discrete details. Using photo-manipulation to play between the surface and depth of the image, this series begs viewers to see the work from more than one distance, encouraging an experience of looking that moves from a visual engagement into a spatial awareness.

Artist Bio
Blair Swann is a Toronto-based artist whose work explores the conflict of interpretation within photo-based imagery. His recent practice involves translating archival material into abstraction through photo-manipulation. Often using violence as a motif, he creates visuals that sit on the edge of representation, exploring the experience, perception and qualification of difficult subject matter – religious ecstasy, extreme isolation, distortions of reality and the Freudian death drive have all been examined in his work. Swann is currently pursuing a BA in Visual Studies at the University of Toronto.

Curator Bio
Alyssa Lagana graduated from PCVS in Peterborough. Alyssa is a Toronto-based artist and writer currently pursuing a BFA in Criticism and Curatorial Practice at OCAD University.
SPACE[S]
curated by Liz Fennel
sponsored by TPG Digital Art Services

As defined by the dictionary, first, “space” is a continuous extension, viewed with or without reference to the existence of objects within it, or; second, the interval between points or objects, having one, two or three dimensions.

If you had to photograph space[s], what would you photograph?

Honourable Mention: George Dimitroff: Long Alone
Honourable Mention: Astrid Manske: Light & Mist Infused
Honourable Mention: George Dimitroff: Long Road

Tammy Simon was the Winner of the 2014 Entry Draw Prize: The Iconic Photographs by Steve McCurry

The 2015 Themed Juried Exhibit “Parallels” will be shown at the Art School of Peterborough, 178A Charlotte St.
The 2015 Juried Photography Awards are sponsored by Digitec Trading Inc.
“Look and think before opening the shutter. The heart and mind are the true lens of the camera.” - Yousuf Karsh

Congratulations to the organizers and participants of the third annual SPARK Photo Festival! Special thanks to all of the participating galleries, restaurants, bistros, coffee shops and other local venues for helping to showcase and nurture this remarkable collective SPARK of creativity!

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The boreal forest of the Abitibi region in northwestern Quebec has always been an influence on my photography. Rich and varied, and always enjoyed, this northern wilderness is represented in a collection of images that evoke its beauty, strength and fragility.

To better reveal the region’s character, the images were made with a 4 x 5 inch view camera and enlarged to 30 x 40 inches, inviting the viewer to visually enter the landscape and share in the experience of the moment.
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For mankind to survive, the journey was essential to find food but the campfire became our first nest and that nest would change everything.

Harvested from a month long camping and photo safari in the summer of 2014, the photographs in this exhibit contrast random image-making encounters with the more formalized study of rock formations found along the route. Because the end of the earth has always seemed a worthwhile destination, I chose L’Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland. In four weeks, it is almost impossible to get under the skin of a country, even if it’s your own country. As a photographer I am aware that photographs taken while travelling are a combination of personal pre-conceptions, the powerful manipulation of image consciousness by both travel industry and historical narratives, and the reality I might encounter if I kept my eyes open and nurtured a willingness to listen to the stories being told.

Like most tourists, I photographed all the iconic suspects I had been fed a steady diet of since a child. However it was the zen-like quietness of rocks that refreshed my eyes to challenge the iconic by seeking out the unexpected presentation of both event and subject matter, those accidental encounters with light and shadow, people and place. When editing for the exhibit I searched for those accidental photographs that encapsulated both the individual and collective experience of both the journey and the nest, and of how we currently relate to both.
iPhoneography

I’m not sure who coined the phrase “the best camera is the one that’s with you,” but there’s a lot of truth behind that statement. And for most people, the go-to camera is the one they carry in their pocket or purse, be it an iPhone or some other variation of a smartphone.

It’s hard to beat a modern day camera phone when it comes to convenience, portability, flexibility, on the spot editing and instant sharing capability. Camera phone images now outnumber conventional photographs on Flickr, one of the world’s most popular online photo sharing platforms.

Personally speaking 90% of the images I take these days are taken with my iPhone 5s. Rarely a day goes by without my adding at least a few new images to the camera roll. Many of them are deleted just as quickly as I take them, but just as many end up being saved, edited and shared with family, friends and social media circles. And isn’t that what photography is all about?
I am an educator who has taught film and digital photography for over twenty years. I purchased my first serious camera in 1980 and began a journey which continues to combine the mind’s eye of a curious observer with a passion for the natural world. Photographers who have influenced me along the way are equal parts artist and skilled technician.

My images often include natural elements such as landforms, water, woodlands and pastures, and I am inspired by changing light, fog, gloam, storms, big skies and vistas.

Regardless as to how I capture an image - whether by film or digitally, it is the photographic process as much as the final image which I seek.

A sense of satisfaction is achieved through the sheer enjoyment of the adventures and challenges of accessing a location and entering as the observer. Photography has given this “escape artist” my private sanctuary.

Many of the collected photographs in this my third SPARK exhibit deal with the idea that an image is indeed a fleeting glimpse or frame of our memory. In revisiting images, the “record” often differs from the “experience”. Our emotional response has changed. With this collection of images – some older some quite recent, I attempt to imagine each for the first time.
“Hidden in wonder and snow, or sudden with summer, this arctic land stares at the sun in a huge silence, endlessly repeating something we cannot hear. Inarticulate, arctic, not written on by history, empty as paper, it leans away from the world with songs in its lakes older than love, and lost in the miles.” Francis Reginald Scott

Growing up north of the 54th parallel I’ve always been fascinated with the north. On the surface so barren yet under cover of wind and snow alive with the most amazing life on the planet, each uniquely equipped with the ability to survive the most inhospitable of climates. Polar Bears lounge on the shores of Hudson Bay waiting for the ice to take them out to sea while Arctic Fox and Arctic Hare forage undaunted by mounting winds and falling snow. Ptarmigan stride in their winter whites, confident in their camouflage. Nowhere on earth are the seasons more distinct and the transitions more beautiful.

In the dead of winter’s night Aurora Borealis dance overhead, the miracle of light hanging like shimmering curtains in the sky.

Join me at Frameland Frame It For U as I share the beauty of the subarctic with it’s frozen twilight capturing a point in time that will never again be the same with the power to illuminate, the power to educate.
Artist Statement
My SPARK exhibit takes the viewer on a journey to Cathcart Island, Georgian Bay. It explores not only the expansive landscapes where you can see changing weather systems from many miles away but also the interesting details of flora and fauna, only noticeable with quiet observation.

Camping on Cathcart Island has become a valued summer tradition in my family. We enjoy immersing ourselves in this unique ecosystem brimming with life. I hope you enjoy this short tour of a very special place.
Travel and photography have always been two of my favourite pastimes. Beyond satisfying my sense of adventure, travelling has opened my eyes to both the beauty and the cruelty of the world; it has enabled me to explore new landscapes, to examine new perspectives and to appreciate the many ways in which we are all connected.

Travelling has also given me the opportunity to develop my skills as an amateur photographer. The images in Yatri are gathered from my time spent in Asia and reflect my interests in ethnicity, history and gender.
For almost his whole life, Mark L. Craighead has had a camera in his hand.

From the time he was given his first Kodak 126 cartridge point & shoot by his mom at age 9, to absconding with his Dad’s Pentax K1000 for a high school photography class, to opening a studio in his late 20’s, it was obvious that his heart beat at 1/125th of a second and developer ran in his veins.

This love has taken him from the coldest parts of Canada to the hottest parts of the tropics, from the tiniest old world tailor shop to huge, ultra-modern factories. He’s equally at home shooting idyllic landscapes drenched in golden sunlight or deafening rock concerts with piercing electric light shows.

Three years ago, a little sideline, the photographic equivalent of doodling, exploded into an all-consuming obsession for Mark. Experimenting with action figures, he played with perspective and tried to create portraits that made tiny action figures look like real people. He added backgrounds on a whim, and from that, a collection of hundreds of images, including shots for every holiday, was spawned.

This new series in Mark’s Guys Action Figure Portraits line is inspired by the most iconic images from the movies. Again using action figures to interpret, Mark pays homage to his other favourite media, the world of the cinema, selecting films that are close to his heart, and hopefully close to yours as well.

He sincerely hopes you enjoy what you see.
Artistic Statement

My name is Peter Curley, a proud Canadian hanging my hat in Peterborough, Ontario. I picked up my first camera, a Kodak Brownie Hawkeye, at the learned age of 5. It was one of those days with a drizzling rain outside and inside, the house was begging to be explored. My parents’ room always held great interest to me with all the knick knacks in the drawers but on this day I discovered my dad’s camera. I had seen him use it many times, and it looked like even I could do it, so up on the bed I hopped with my new found passion and proceeded to jump up and down and take pictures. Not of anything in particular, at least I didn’t think so, but several weeks went by and the memories of that afternoon were a distant memory. Then one day as we were sitting down to dinner, my dad asks me if I had been using the camera to which I gave careful consideration to the answer and just how plausible it would be. But before I could answer he brought out a package of photos and proceeded showing them one by one for all to see. Well, a big sigh of relief I felt as those pictures were not mine and I started feeling pretty comfortable. Then he got to the last picture and got a perplexed look on his face as he tried to figure out what the picture was and asked everyone for their thoughts. I was the last one he showed and my heart came to a dead stop, I’m sure. There I was, in living black and white, not once or twice but five or six times, jumping on mom and dad’s bed, camera in hand pointed straight into the mirror taking my first multiple exposure selfy. Thankfully, everyone had a good laugh and I lived to tell the tale. I don’t know where that photo got to, but I remember it was nicely composed and exposed with just enough motion blur to make it a work of art. My fascination with a camera and capturing life continues to this day.
For SPARK 2015, I envisioned a project to integrate my background in psychology with my interest in human portraiture. The result is a collection of 12 prints, called Portraits of Health, which showcases attributes of healthy living.

The project took 4 months and involved selecting 12 attributes of physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual health, finding a suitable subject, organizing location photo shoots, meeting property owners for permission and releases, coordinating artificial with ambient light and experimenting with poses and props, trying to highlight each attribute.

I was fortunate to meet and collaborate with Theresa Longo, an experienced Model and Actress from Peterborough, who currently lives in Toronto and works internationally. Theresa embraces the chosen attributes in her own lifestyle choices. This fueled our passion to complete the project through multiple sessions and locations around Peterborough and Toronto.

The YMCA of Central East Ontario has the motto “Building Healthy Communities” and this is a perfect fit. The Balsillie Family Branch in Peterborough is bright and spacious with large windows that provide an excellent backdrop for the portraits. It’s my hope this collection will inspire people of all ages to embrace healthy lifestyle choices.

I use Nikon gear and Lightroom software. My images appeared in PhotoLife magazine, GreenUP’s book, Beneath the Canopy, SPARK’s homepage and won 2 awards at SPARK’s Juried Exhibit. I belong to Peterborough Photographic Society and collaborate with local models, actors and musicians. With a career in psychology, I am thrilled to present a collection that encourages healthy living!
Majolica hunter’s moon

are you lost...she asked herself
regenerate the forest  wolves howl
the loon dives
black skin fading
in this lake bones are brittle

what lies behind the locked door?
Frost on her lips
curiosity becoming vengeance

fire spilling like water
she has drown
a child looking for agate in the sand
the loon dives

a swan with a broken neck

windblown invocation my whore of blistered abalone
sandcastle taken by tide
remember her keep her bones
sparrow trapped in her ribs

unenslaved by earthly indifference
shells slitting open the skin of sacredness
“Cuba is a train wreck!” So our host in Havana described her country. There is a rampant decaying infrastructure evident wherever you look.

Wandering the streets of Havana camera in hand, I was privileged to see many strands of the fabric of everyday life in Cuba. Street photography in this colourful city is a joy, resulting in images easily filling the memory cards in the camera.

The lack of many basics that we in Canada take for granted doesn’t seem to alter the mood of the people that we encountered.

Havana’s decaying Spanish Colonial and Art Deco buildings also made for sharp contrasts, although only between older and newer broken buildings!

The working fifty’s cars, some still in excellent condition and some not so much, are an everyday part of life and add to the uniqueness of this vibrant city.

Perhaps the recent thaw in relationships between Cuba and the United States will lead to changes in Cuba. Some will be good no doubt benefitting the people of Cuba, however an opening of Cuba will lead to changes possibly negating much of the uniqueness that is Havana.

Hopefully some of the images captured here will help to keep these memories alive.
Bill Hornbostel, a photographer of landscapes, nature, and architecture based in Port Hope, Ontario, arrived at photography through a roundabout route. His initial study of art began with oil painting, with the camera as only an ancillary tool. It was not until much later that he shifted to photography as his visual art medium. The study of Romantic-era painters still guides his choice of landscape subjects, and he continues to explore the photographic equivalent of the Impressionist movement, long exposure photography. He has since become a member of the Colborne Art Gallery, and has exhibited in a number of events such as The Artist Project Toronto, the CONTACT Festival in Toronto, and the SPARK Festival in Peterborough.
WHERE PHOTOGRAPHY LIVES
Jerm IX is a pseudonymous street artist, emcee, poet, urban explorer and photographer.

This exhibit focuses on urban exploration and is a collection of photographs taken in abandoned buildings across Ontario, documenting the inevitable process of decay and the emptiness left behind since humans have deserted these once bustling and bustling institutions.

On a factory floor, where a strong work force once produced automotive parts, I basked in the vastness of the emptiness, standing alone on the muddy floor of the foundry, wearing an employee’s uniform and hard hat that I found in a locker. A flooded and frozen floor in a high school hallway lined with empty lockers provided a private playground; we ran and slid and played like children. The unparalleled feeling of closing the door and lying down on the cold steel bed frame in a solitary confinement cell in an abandoned prison. Standing at the altar in an abandoned church pondering philosophical questions and basking in the solitude draped in quiet stillness with a congregation of zero before me. These are but a few examples of experiences that continue to inspire me to explore and document these forgotten locations that pepper the Ontario landscape.

Read more: myabandonmentissues.blogspot.ca
I am a communicator and storyteller. My photos are an expression of gratitude for the city/world in which I live.

“Always keep your head up, because if it’s down you won’t be able to see the blessings that have been placed in your life.”

Carol Lawless
Bill Lockington, a co-founder of SPARK, has been a life-long photographer who teaches, exhibits and is a frequent contributor to periodicals and publications. His work is exhibited in the traditional forms of framed prints and large canvases in a number of private and corporate collections and in self-published photography books. He has participated in numerous workshops with, among others, noted Canadian photographers Freeman Patterson, Andre Gallant, Lyle McIntyre and Dennis Minty. Today Bill teaches digital photography and image editing as a serious hobby, through the Art School of Peterborough and Fleming College’s Haliburton School of Fine Art. Travel is a large part of the subject matter of his photography. He enjoys macro work and the pure creative side of the photographic medium. Favourite thoughts on photography are “there are always pictures in the pictures” and “your best pictures are those right around you”.

Bill Lockington
Peterborough
705 742.1674 x219
wlockington@llf.ca
wslphoto.com

Ashburnham Ale House
128 Hunter St E
Peterborough
705 874.0333
www.facebook/ashburnhamalehouse

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Bill Lockington
Peterborough
705 742.1674 x219
wlockington@llf.ca
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Chemical World is a show of colourful and monochromatic, topographical looking images. They were created using a painterly approach, different lenses and lighting techniques. Hints about subject matter used to create the pieces are given through the title of the show and the titles of individual works. When contemplating the substances used, combined with the venue housing the show: the original Roy Studio and Darkroom, Canada’s longest continuously running darkroom, all of a sudden the show slowly starts to change in tone. Discussions or debates about art or the environment begin.

Holly McClellan is a photographer trained in both analog and digital photographic processes. Sometimes she works in other art mediums such as installation. Her artwork is influenced by a number of issues, primarily consumerism, suburban living and their relationship to the environment.

She has work in private collections and the Québec archives. She has been recognized 3 times in the international black and white Spider Awards and has done work for commercial purposes. Holly teaches part time at Durham College in the Photo/Video and Fine Art departments. She spends her time between the GTA, the Kawarthas and the Charlevoix region of Québec.
Anna McShane is a wildlife and landscape photographer from Lindsay, Ontario. Her goal is to capture incredible moments of Mother Earth’s natural beauty. In her unique way, she surrounds herself in the warmth and in the shadows of her subjects and captures that which only can be caught in that moment of time. Ultimately, Anna uses her creative snapshots to help people to feel empowered, to open their heart, and to let love in.

Anna invites you to view her collection hosted at Celtic Connection in Lakefield, Ontario.
The theme of my SPARK photo exhibition focuses on trees. Around most of the world trees are ubiquitous, performing many roles: as a source of food, fuel, climate moderation, carbon dioxide and erosion reduction, shade and shelter, timber for construction and habitat.

They appear in many of my photos, sometimes almost intrusively, but more often by choice as I see them influencing the Impact, through their shape, form, colour and texture and provision of framing or context for a scene.

Often their almost human characteristics attract me: sheer endurance in extreme conditions and adaptation to the terrain in which they have been thrust, their snow or leaf covered heads, their sentinel-like nature and their twisted limbs reaching up and out.
BIO Geoffrey Smith, born in Ottawa in 1955, has been a professional artist since the age of 10, selling wire sculptures to several art galleries across Canada.

I began creating wood relief paintings - Modern Primitive Wood Paintings (acrylic on routered plywood with balsa wood strips) in 1983.

I changed my name from Geoffrey to Bronson (a family name) June 2, 1994, as part of my personal growth. “Bunny” was added in 2014.

My work has been honoured with First Prize - Folk Art at the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition; Best of Show at the Beth Tikvah Art Show; Honourable Mention and Best 3-D/Mixed Media at the Warkworth Festival Art Show and People’s Choice Award at The Lindsay Gallery.

For a listing of private & corporate Collections, Exhibitions, Commissions, Galleries, please visit my website.

In 2014 I returned to my love of photography and the photographic image with my work on “Labels”. The last photographic series I had done was on “The Abandoned Outports of Newfoundland” in 1987. I am currently compiling a collection of my photographs of the heritage buildings torn down for the 407 ETR Toll Highway expansion.

Artist Statement The labels we put on ourselves as well as the ones that society puts on us can limit our personal sense of well-being and self-worth, and creative potential.

The project is primarily made up of “selfies” using my Mac computer’s app Photo booth. Enjoy.
Artist Statement/Bio:
Matt Stetson is a freelance photographer who got his start shooting photos of his friends skateboarding and snowboarding. Completely self taught he learned how to compose and light scenes while having fun riding skateboards, snowboards and bikes all over Ontario. Matt has since shot with some of the top professional athletes and brands in the action sports industry. Most notably Matt shot the cover of Snowboard Canada.

His work can be found throughout the pages of SBC Skateboard and Snowboard Canada magazine, Canadian Cycling Magazine, King snow magazine, to name a few.

Matt enjoys the process of photography and what it takes to produce quality images. After many years focusing on action sports photography he began shooting more portraits. His portraits can often be seen alongside his action photos in the pages of many publications. Matt didn't stop there. With a thirst for knowledge and a drive to create original photography he also shoots many different products and helps brands to produce unique and engaging marketing material and imagery.

Matt is rarely without his camera, and has a large interest in street photography. Although he finds people as his most interesting and engaging subjects, there is something about the visual appeal and symmetry offered by architectural photography that Matt is drawn to. Although most traditional architectural photography focuses on buildings as a whole in their environment, he enjoys finding the unique features and textures within, and putting focus on them. That is why Matt has titled his exhibit “Urban Jungle”. With so many different surfaces, textures and lines all within a single frame it really shows that we have created our own urban jungle.
As a child, growing up besides the North Sea, I spent much of my free time messing about in boats or roaming the pastoral countryside. My early fascination with the constant surface change of the sea was matched by the surrounding rolling farmland. At times I was seen to have my arms outstretched like a sailing ship’s crosstrees supporting billowing sails. I would run in zigzags, to and fro, tacking my way up and over the swells of grassy hummocks. Boyhood fantasies are relived in the Northumberland Hills. The lands surrounding my studio are dramatically powerful. Farmer’s fields surge like rolling waves. Open skyscapes are ever shifting from unblemished deep blue to dramatic cloud patterns. Colours change along with the seasons and as different crops are sown and harvested. One’s imagination is constantly nourished.

A Nikon D80 SLR camera with an 18 – 200 zoom lens is what I use. Most of the scenes in my landscape images are very familiar to me, within minutes of my studio. The art is in getting out there just when the colour combination of sky settings, natural light and surface texture (determined by the growing season) are just right. The thrill of catching that special moment will often be just one day in the year.

My approach to image making is strongly influenced by the prominent British artist, David Hockney, who’s studio was just up the road from where I once lived. I’m fascinated by his research and writings, regarding the impact of the camera/optical aids that, from the 15th century onward, spawned the single vanishing point approach that dominates western art. Celebrated painters like Matisse, Picasso and Hockney break away from this fixed perspective conviction.

My photographic work, therefore, attempts to appear closer to the way we actually see things… providing multiple perspectives, while approaching a truer photo realism. The resulting photograph is glicee printed on archival canvas, stretched and mounted in a shadow frame. It’s at that stage when I set to work with paints in my studio. Each landscape is bought to life with soaring crows. These pranksters are always there, but try to include them in a photograph! For me it is most enthralling to imagine how they’d interact with the landscape in my compositions. They’re so playful. Positioning them takes time. Finally I only get one chance as there’s no way of making corrections to painted birds on the already expensive photographic surface.

Finished works are in a horizontal format allowing the viewer to gaze, in a natural manner from side to side, over the image. They range from 32 inches to 96 inches wide.
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Steve Brittain
Toronto
sbritt@rogers.com

Ralph Colley
Selwyn
ralph.colley@sympatico.ca

Jennie Versteeg
Peterborough
versteegjen@bell.net

Garry Barker
After years of an on-again off-again relationship with taking photos, a chance conversation changed everything and I became immersed in photography—reading, taking courses, and experimenting with equipment. Since that time, photography has become a large part of my life.

For this exhibit, my focus is on cityscapes and still-life shots and many of the photos were taken locally.

Steve Brittain
My photographic interests are diverse, include both colour and black and white, and are stimulated by my travels. I graduated from Humber College for Photography and have worked as a stills photographer in the television and catalogue industries, have been an AV technician in news and entertainment programming, and have produced a photo-documentary of the “Beaches” of Toronto.

Ralph Colley
I have been involved with photography for many years and have exhibited images throughout Peterborough and Lakefield. Most recent exhibits have been a 2014 show at Peterborough’s Singing Horse Gallery and the Bridgenorth Library shows during SPARK 2014 and 2013. I have had images published with The United Church of Canada as well as with The Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

Jennie Versteeg
Most recently, I have been looking at what happens toward the end of a tree’s life cycle as it begins returning to the forest floor. There is transient beauty in decay... and new life. I previously participated in the 2013 and 2014 SPARK Photo Festivals, in group shows of the Kawartha Photographers Guild, and in museum and other shows in the Rideau Lakes region.
We have been travelling to Central America for 15 years on a regular basis. Originally we were invited to design and build racing canoes for an emerging Belizian sports event called La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge. This gruelling four-day, 140 mile canoe race follows the ancient canoe route of the Maya beginning near the Guatemala border and finishing in Belize City, on the coast.

Soon we discovered other projects which could benefit from some outside skills and enthusiasm. Getting involved was a way to do what we love, experience daily life in a small community and make some very special friends.

Teaching canoe building led to other wood and boat related projects including producing video documentaries which took us to most parts of the country, from the reef to the rainforest. There is a reason why eco-tourism is the major industry in Belize. In a day you can drive from the old capital coastal city built by pirates in a mangrove swamp, across flat savanna and up into the rainforest. It is a smorgasbord of visual images.

The digital camera has made a difference in how we record what we do. In the beginning, bags of film were processed at the end of the trip. Now instead of sorting through hundreds of slides, we have several thousand digital images to sort. We re-experience each trip in slow motion - the smiles of the children, the richness of sharing hot tortillas at the Tuc farm, eating melon with the Choco kids, harvesting sorrel for tea, shopping at the market.

We may have left some useful skills behind but our lives are enriched by learning that happiness has nothing to do with material wealth. Life doesn’t get much better than shelter from the elements, good food for happy kids and taking pride in doing what ever it is you are doing.

Barrett and Moores help people build their own canoes and kayaks. Moores is the author (and photographer) of three books on canoe and kayak construction published by Firefly Books and Woodenboat.
Linda Cardona / Denise Denley

Flowers & Nature

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lindacardona@sympatico.ca

Denise Denley
Peterborough
705 743.3130
denisedenley23@gmail.com

Artist Statement - Linda Cardona
From early spring to the end of fall, our garden is a paradise of ever changing beauty. The flowers look different in the morning, midday, and evening as the light changes from an early morning glow to harsh overhead hard light, to the warm tones of the calm golden hour before sunset. The flowers provide a series of contrasts. We have delicate and bold, intricate and simple, repetitive and unique, vivid and pastel. There are a vast array of patterns, designs and shapes. Some flowers hide under their leaves while others leap to the sky. We conservatively have over 100 different flowers in our garden. As a photographer, our garden provides opportunity, challenge and always, a learning experience.

I have been working on this exhibit for a year. I started in the spring of 2014 earnestly taking pictures of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths – working my way through the summer and fall towards a collection of thousands of images. Along the way, I studied books, magazines, other people’s photographs and even took a course on flower photography.

I have learned that it is important to observe the light as it completely changes the colours, texture and tones of the flowers in the images. It becomes essential to take the time to study the flowers and capture all possible angles in the photos – from the top, side and even underneath. It is often surprising to see which shots are the best.

I dedicate my flower exhibit to my husband, Chris, whose time, energy and creativity result in the bounty and splendour of our garden. He is my inspiration for these images, and he tells me that I am the inspiration for the garden. To see more visit: www.facebook.com/LindaCardonaPhotography

Artist Statement - Denise Denley
Having experimented with various art classes my intention when I discovered photography was to take pictures that I could paint in the future, upon retirement, or when I could find the time. A love of photography then took over and I found myself working to perfect my compositions and convey emotion.

My preferred subjects to photograph are nature, close ups, and travel. The time of day that inspires and draws me is the early morning. My dogs love to accompany me at that hour of day but I have discovered that the challenge there is to keep the skunks away from my dogs or should I say, to keep the dogs away from the skunks!

The theme that I have selected to present in my display is Nature. Mother Nature paints from an incredible palette and my personal challenge is to duplicate the peace and beauty that she inspires!
Group Exhibits

**Stephanie Cann / Rob Hailman**

*Electric City*

Peterborough has long been known as “the Electric City”, since the first electric streetlights were installed here in 1884. The nickname also speaks to the character of the people and places in Peterborough, and the dynamism of the city’s arts and culture communities. In this exhibit, Stephanie Cann and Rob Hailman examine what it means to be a part of the Electric City, through new work printed in the historic Roy Studio darkroom at the Peterborough Darkroom Project.

Stephanie Cann is a multi-disciplined artist and a founding member of The Darkroom Project. She has been working in photography since 2005 with some training from the School of Photographic Arts Ottawa. Her main focus has been on power lines and portrait photography.

Rob Hailman has been working as a photographer since 2012, in addition to his career as a musician, songwriter and recording artist. A founding member of the Peterborough Darkroom Project, his work focuses primarily on interpreting Peterborough’s cultural and urban environment.
Kina Awiiya Nindinawemaaganag: All My Relations

Boozhoo! Georgie Horton-Baptiste ndizhnikaaz. Saulteaux Anishinaabe Ikwe ndaaw, Atik ndoodem. My Nation is Saulteaux Ojibwe and I am from the Caribou Clan. Pictures and far away places have fascinated me for most of my life. My first camera was a Kodak 110 Pocket Instamatic and I’ve been trigger happy ever since. Many of my photographs are taken during my travels and at Anishinaabe cultural events throughout Turtle Island.
Kina Awiiya Nindinawemaaganag: All My Relations is an acknowledgment that all Creation is interconnected. The Two-legged ones, the Four-legged ones, the Winged ones, the Crawlers, the Swimmers, Rocks, Trees, Plants and every blade of grass... We are all Related. Gchi-Miigwech (Thank You) for your interest.

Georgie Horton–Baptiste, *Mikwamiikaa. There is much ice. Ice storm, April, 2013*
Georgie Horton-Baptiste / George Campana: Exhibit Two

Integral & Intrinsic: Mazinaakizigewin - The Art of Photography

My name is George Campana. Photography and travel are lifelong passions. However, the most encompassing part of my life has been receiving and participating in First Nations Teachings and Ceremonies for the past 18 years. Since then, I have combined these elements of my life and photographed countless people, places and events throughout Turtle Island. With my camera lens, I seek to honour and capture the beauty of Native Women, Children, Elders, Spiritual Leaders, Men, Artists and the Creator. My hope is that each viewer will come away with a greater understanding and awareness of the First Peoples of Turtle Island. Thank you for allowing me this privilege.
Andy Christopher / Gary Mulcahey

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Gary Mulcahey
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gary@mulcahey.com
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While the other children took their first jobs delivering newspapers, Gary was at the local baseball diamonds and rinks taking and selling team photos. At age 22, Gary attended the Photography Program at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario. By age 25, he was working as a full-time freelance photographer producing images for magazines, advertising, the performing arts, and private and corporate clients. He has lived and worked in Toronto, Dublin and Madrid. Gary’s work has been published in television and print media including a variety of magazines such as National Post: Business, MD Canada, Canadian Diamonds, Up Here, and Watershed. Recent books include Private Gardens of Northumberland Hills (2011), an exclusive showing of Gary’s garden photography, and Comayagua (2012), a collection of portraits and landscapes from impoverished rural mountain communities in Honduras. Most recently Gary has started publishing the quarterly art magazine NuWork.

Andy Christopher has participated in various group and one-man shows since the early 70s. He has been the recipient of both Ontario and Canada Council for the Arts grants. His work is held by various private collectors in North America and has several images in the archives of the National Gallery of Canada. He has owned and operated The Singing Horse, Peterborough’s first photographic arts gallery at 191 Hunter Street West since 2005.
Andrea Dicks grew up in a family where an appreciation of art was always fostered by her father - a local teacher and artist. This appreciation developed into a love for photography, which continues today as she spends time capturing her world and the lives of friends and family from behind the camera lens.

Duane Hansford picked up his first DSLR camera in 2008, looking for an excuse to get outside. Inspired by his surroundings in Thunder Bay, Duane’s passion for photography was ignited. With the arrival of his beautiful daughters, Duane’s lens now focuses on capturing the laughter and precious moments of his family and friends.

While living in the mountains of South America, Tara Sayer’s interest in photography blossomed. Taking in the impressive landscapes of her travels and now capturing the new experiences with her two small children, Tara continues to develop her photographic style.
Impressions

Javier Fonruge / Julie Gagne

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Peterborough
705 977-2807
javier@fonrugephoto.com
www.fonrugephoto.com

Photography by Julie Gagne
Peterborough
705 750-4567
gagnephoto@live.com
www.gagnephoto.com

Javier Fonruge
Originally from Madrid, Spain, I fell in love with Photography at an early age; a special connection that grew stronger in the following years while traveling the world. As fate had it, I found a home in Canada—a place that keeps inspiring me.

This series uses water reflections to create an impressionistic take on the subject. Water serves as an element of distortion while creating a calming effect. It gives the viewer their own personal connection and triggers a variety of familiar emotions. These pictures wish to escape from what we normally perceive as the hard tangible reality, to show us a window into our imagination and dreams, a parallel world hidden in the water.

Julie Gagne
Trained at Fanshawe College in London, I have been a professional photographer for more than fifteen years, turning my camera on architecture, food, festivals, weddings and always, every day, on the surprising world around me.

I am drawn to images that evoke an immediate but equivocal response, places that seem to be suspended between nostalgia and novelty, objects stamped with personal and collective memory. They’re all part of a vivid world I am trying to reconstruct, a world at once instantly and reassuringly familiar and oddly out of reach.

Like all of my personal work, this series of photographs is about the complex play of presence and nostalgia. What is it about some images—their particular arrangement of light and shadow, their specific hue, their disposition within a certain frame—that makes them function as icons, as touchstones? How is it that some images of things you’ve never seen before seem to bear the impression of familiarity, as if they’ve been pressed against you all your life?
Dianne Lister and Michael Harris have selected winter photographs to explore the theme of “Laid Bare.” By turns austere and illuminating, these images make manifest underlying and unadorned patterns.

“Laid Bare” also means to bring something to light. While the landscape is stripped down, the winter solstice sun creates glittering dragonflies of frost; colours a sky orange and ebony as the backdrop for tree bones.
Mission Statement

To provide photographers, new and experienced, from Peterborough and the Kawartha area, a venue to learn basic and advanced skills required to create more compelling photographic artwork with a balance of a technical and hands on approach in a fun and social atmosphere.

Our Goals

• Community Involvement
• Photographic Education
• Forums for members to present their photos
• Promote a fun and social environment.

The Kawartha Camera Club meets regularly on Thursday evenings throughout the year.

• During the summer months, each Thursday is spent at a location that offers a variety of photographic challenges.
• During the winter months we continue to meet at an indoor location in Peterborough between 7:00-9:00 pm to discuss all aspects of photography. (for the location please refer to our web site)
• The last Thursday of each month is reserved for our month end photo review where we display photos taken throughout the month.

These events allow members the opportunity to socialize with other members of the club and discuss photography techniques.

All levels of photographers are welcome to participate.
The Peterborough Photographic Society celebrates its 33rd anniversary this year. The club was formed to encourage and develop the photographic skills of its members with an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship and support of people with similar interests. These objectives continue to guide the club. This is a great club for both beginner and experienced photographers. We hold our meetings on the first Tuesday of each month from September through June at the Lions Centre. The first part of each meeting is reserved for presentations on photographic subjects by either outside speakers or club members. Following a break for refreshments, the second part of our meeting is used to display members’ images within various categories and during this time members are free to ask questions and make suggestions regarding the images. We also go on outings each month to interesting photographic venues giving members a chance to capture and compare images from different perspectives, as well as an opportunity to exchange artistic and technical photographic information. We have a monthly newsletter, The Viewfinder, which keeps us abreast of club activities. The current and recent issues are available on our website. We are always happy to welcome new members. More detailed club information can be found on our website or send an email to: info@PeterboroughPhotographicSociety.com.

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123 Aylmer St S
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705 748-9642 x258
Kelly_wilson@ymca.ca
www.ymcaofceo.ca

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Sat & Sun 7 am to 7:30 pm
Holidays 7 am to 4:30 pm

Peterborough Photographic Society
Peterborough
info@peterboroughphotographicsociety.com
www.peterboroughphotographicsociety.com
www.facebook.com/peterboroughphotographicsocietycanada
We are an eclectic group of photographers who first found common ground at our workplace. It is our passion for photography which has brought us together.
Proud to sponsor the 3rd SPARK Photo Festival

We are looking for volunteer photographers in Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes

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Brain Injury Association Peterborough Region (B.I.A.P.R) is the registered business name operating under the registered charity of Four Counties Brain Injury Association. Since its formation in 1988 as the Peterborough and District Head Injury Association, consisting of support groups in each county for caregivers, much has changed.

As the first community-based brain injury Association in Peterborough, we then became known as Four Counties Brain Injury Association, covering Peterborough, Victoria (now Kawartha Lakes), Haliburton and Northumberland counties. The Association has evolved into a dynamic agency that provides a range of supports to a clientele with diverse and complex needs. B.I.A.P.R. services are designed to form the basis of a comprehensive model of community support service delivery.

The ABI Adult Day Services offered in Peterborough and the City of Kawartha Lakes (Lindsay) are geared to adults with brain injuries with varied needs and capabilities. B.I.A.P.R is able to provide productive and meaningful activities for all participants.

Being able to participate in the SPARK Photo Festival is exciting for the members, staff, and volunteers. The members of B.I.A.P.R regularly use photography to enhance their daily lives. Members’ lived experiences allow them to draw ‘parallels’ in many ways in their photos; sometimes not in ways that people expect.
2015 marks the 35th Anniversary of Jamaican Self-Help (JSH), an international development organization founded in Peterborough by two local teachers and others in the community. We are Canadians working in solidarity and partnership with Jamaicans to foster the development of dynamic Jamaican communities and promote an understanding of global interconnection and social justice.

To celebrate JSH’s anniversary, members of our Board of Directors have chosen photos that represent Visions of Jamaica. Taken by JSH volunteers, we hope to give you a glimpse of the Jamaica – the people and the places - that we have come to know. The photos will both challenge you and encourage you to see many facets of Jamaican life, particularly for the young and those who live in poverty: the struggle and uncertainty, and also the resilience and joy. Above all, we hope that Visions of Jamaica will inspire you with the determination and success of people who rise daily above their challenges.

Jamaican Self-Help programs in Jamaica address needs identified by our Jamaican partners in the areas of education, youth, and community development. JSH supports these organizations and schools to carry out programs that empower people and build community. In Canada, JSH addresses these themes through education and outreach activities in the Peterborough and Ottawa regions.

The support and active participation of Canadian donors and volunteers, and the dedication of the Jamaican organizations with which we work, ensure that together we can continue to take action to break the cycle of poverty, build resilient communities and a better world.
Randall Therrien Artist Statement

I have always enjoyed the time I’ve spent in the great outdoors. Whether it’s a couple of hours in the fields and forests around my home or a week spent far up north with my family. Coupled with my love of nature and a way to capture it has led me to have taken so many photos over the years. Having the opportunity to let others enjoy my work truly brings me happiness. I hope in my photos you will find something that moves you or captivates you because you can be sure that it did the same to me when I was there taking them.

Jeff Keller Artist Statement

Taking pictures is more than a hobby to me. It really has become my passion. It's a rare day when I can't be found with my camera in hand stopping to capture a memorable or enjoyable moment on film. Being my second year involved with the SPARK Photo Festival, it's my hope that the moments that touched my world over the past year will also have a positive affect on yours.
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Student Exhibits Individual

Maddy Cockburn-Adams
Adam Scott Intermediate Grade 7

Around the Garden
My name is Maddy Cockburn-Adams. I am 12 years old and I go to Adam Scott Intermediate School. This is my first year entering SPARK.

I have loved photography since I was eight or nine years old and find every kind of photography entertaining but the style that I enjoy most is macro. I LOVE macro! I especially love taking up-close pictures of flowers.

Flowers are my favourite subject as you will very well see throughout my exhibit.

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Fleming College

Artist Statement: Nature’s Pure Beauty

My theme is Nature’s Pure Beauty for one simple reason: it’s the most literal yet honest name to reflect my environment. Beauty is all around me in some way shape or form almost every day. Nearly every time I grab my camera and head out the door I can see examples immediately present, be they birds, bugs, flowers or otherwise. Even in winter, a season I personally have no use for, the world around me can seemingly transform in beautiful ways. Everything you will see here was taken at my home, a place truly in the country where nature can thrive and shine. Were it not for that environment I wouldn’t even have these pictures. So while this is a direct ode to nature it’s also an ode to the world directly around me. In each shot I did my best to do justice to that beauty. In each picture’s name I highlighted the positive traits I could see, both for the subject itself, and as a reflection of nature’s contribution. Those contributions ranged from adapting a creature to survive all the way to how two can care for one another in an unforgiving world. Though nature isn’t limited to just those contributions these examples are my way of appreciating them in the purest form: unaltered RAW photography. You read right, everything you’re seeing is real, no Photoshop, no filters, no fakery, just pure beauty captured straight from nature itself and displayed for your viewing pleasure. I don’t edit my work because I value honesty, integrity, and reality, all of which one can see in nature every day. I feel it’s a disservice to any subject to make it appear as it isn’t simply because everything is beautiful already you just have to open your eyes and let yourself see it. I love photography because it gives me the opportunity to show that beauty beyond just empty words and I love spending as much time as I can behind the camera attempting to capture it. I hope you’ll enjoy my work as much as I enjoy making it.
Some of you may know me as the young kid who exhibited last year with my photos at the Chocolate Rabbit, in Lakefield. But, for those who don’t know me, my name is Mackenzie Vaughan-Graham. I am 13 years old, and I love photography which is why I am in SPARK again this year. I am hoping to become a pro photographer when I’m older.

I love taking pictures especially at my cottage. There is such great scenery there and I love all of the great colors that the sunsets give off, especially after a storm. I mainly focus on landscape photography and nature, but sometimes I get artsy and take macro pictures of bugs and things and pictures of animals mostly butterflies and birds.

I have a photography website called pikpics.com where most of my better photographs are available for sale. I invite you to take a look when you have time.

For SPARK, this year you will see photography from our family trip to Australia over this past Christmas and New Years.

I hope you like what you see.
Love your home!

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tax 705-743-0184
ronlawes@hotmail.com
www.rjlrealty.com

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The day school students at PACE have chosen Animal Rescue and Adoption as the topic for this year’s SPARK Exhibition. Working with the local animal shelters, we were moved by the number of animals that need a forever home. We hope to open people’s eyes to the plight of homeless pets with huge and beautiful photos displayed on the outside of PCVS and Peterborough Cold Storage.

If you are wanting a gentle friend who has been waiting in a cage for far too long, or a pair of kittens you are ready to grow old with, the best place to find a loving, caring companion is your local animal shelter. An adopted pet can enrich your life in ways both big and small. The unconditional love and loyalty of a dog or cat can lift depression, ease loneliness, lower blood pressure, and give you a reason to get up in the morning. A kitty asleep in your lap feels warm and comforting. A dog that loves to walk or run outdoors can be just the incentive you need to start exercising regularly. Shelter pets can teach a child about compassion and responsibility. There are countless benefits to pet ownership, and when you know you saved your furry companion from an unpleasant fate, it makes the bond you share that much more meaningful. If you adopt, you’ll save a life.

Alternative and Continuing Education at Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational School currently has 8 different programs running: our day school serving students from 16-70 years of age earning Ontario Curriculum credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diplomas (O.S.S.D.), School For Young Moms, Literacy Basic Skills (LBS), Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR), Correspondence (Independent Learning), Suspension/Expulsion Program, International Languages (Mandarin, Korean and Ojibwe) and Personal Services Worker (PSW). We have grown consistently since opening on September 10th 2012 and we now number over 600 students in our day school. For information on any of these programs contact our office at 705 745-9833.
Prince of Wales Public School

Film Based Photography

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1211 Monaghan Road
705 743.8595
School Contact: Chantal Bailey
chantal_bailey@kprdsb.ca
http://princeofwales.kprdsb.ca/
Instructor: Wayne Eardley
wayne@wayneardley.com
www.wayneeardley.com

Prince of Wales school runs a unique program called “Arts in Action” and has done so for several successful years. Local artists volunteer their time and students learn various hands on tactile forms of Art and Craft.

In the spirit of Peterborough’s rich photographic past, students at POW learn film based photography working with a finite number of frames then taking the care and understanding while processing and printing their images in a traditional darkroom. Instructor and professional photographer Wayne Eardley also was fortunate to be introduced by such an Arts program when he was in Grade 6.

There is a real benefit to slowing things down in the world of seeing. So often we hold a phone up and hit the shutter without really studying what it is we’re looking at. The “I’ll just delete it, or fix it later” attitude often leaves people without any thoughtful or meaningful contemplation of what it is their viewing.

To see the students faces light up as the image magically appears on paper is a rare moment of pure pleasure. It is for these reasons Analogue photography has made a strong comeback in the past few years. The craft of manual controlled film based film photography lives well alongside the democratic and ubiquitous phone as camera.

This year Prince of Wales was fortunate to also have John Marris teach film based macro photography, a wonderful way to explore the natural world and all its hidden beauty. Prince of Wales students participating in the exhibition at The Gallery in the Attic are: Emily Pare, Shervin Khosravi, Lema Yasini, Francis Brooks, Donovan McKnight and Maeve Hartnett.
Student Exhibits Group

Trent Visual Arts Network TVAN

Trent University

Sadleir House
751 George St N
H. Hobbs Memorial Library
Peterborough
apaxton@prcsa.ca
info@prcsa.ca
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F 9 am to 6 pm
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Trent Visual Arts Network
Peterborough
trentvisualartsnetwork@gmail.com
Facebook Group: Trent Visual Arts Network

Faces & Places

Participants:
Ryan Lamoureux
Katelyn Wardlaw
Cassy Mueller
Robbie Luxford
Berfin Aksoy
Sam Leakey
Ciaran Tragheim
Daniel Manson
Charlena Manzer
Mimi Palmer

See SPARK group webpage for individual artist bios.
CAPTURE the MOMENT

Photography is about capturing a moment or telling a story. It’s a way to express yourself or provoke emotions in others. In the Grade 11 Digital Photography program at Thomas A. Stewart, the students learn the technical aspects of taking photographs, then combine their skills with the elements of design to create a variety of interesting and appealing images.
**SEEING it THROUGH**

Students embark upon an exploration of traditional photography and darkroom techniques, as they explore the world through the camera lens. This exhibit embodies the spirit of the beginning and end of a five-month relationship - their first experience of a pinhole camera - and culminates with what they consider their best work.

Students first work with a cardboard box, making a pinhole image (oddly, not being able to see through the lens at all!). What emerges is a surprise, an initial realization of their search for interesting subjects full of contrast and natural design.

Subsequently, upon experiencing reality through the viewfinder of a 35mm camera, they navigate their way through a world of image and sensation, gaining greater autonomy and more fully informed control over the final photographic product.

SEEING it THROUGH suggests working through a process - coming out the other side with newly discovered vision, experience and confidence.

Ultimately, students emerge from the film photography class having observed, absorbed and processed the potential beauty of a street corner, an abandoned yard or a secluded figure with a newfound understanding of the form, content and significance of the everyday.
Lucy Maud Montgomery, Campbell Homestead, 1890s
Archival and Special Collections of the University of Guelph Library.
“For me the noise of Time is not sad: I love bells, clocks, watches — and I recall that at first, photographic implements were related to techniques of cabinetmaking and the machinery of precision: cameras, in short, were clocks for seeing, and perhaps in me someone very old still hears in the photographic mechanism the living sound of the wood.”

Roland Barthes, Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography
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