

## **President's Message** **September 2016**

As I start my second and final year as president, it seems to me to be a good time to reflect on the six years I have spent with the club.

When I joined, I had just missed the conversion from film to digital, which was all but complete at the time; but I was in the middle of the explosion in popularity of photography in general and popularity of this club in particular. Over the past six years, the club has almost doubled in size and we have been forced to put a membership cap in place. This increase in membership has resulted in many changes in the club, some obvious and some more subtle, and has forced a bit of an adjustment for some.

Typically, we have a changeover of 10% to 15% of the membership each year through normal attrition. New members bring new ideas and new perspectives, while older members give us years of experience and add an historical perspective. The increase in size of the club has added excitement and given us an opportunity to do things that we could not, as a smaller club, do. At the same time it has presented challenges in welcoming and accommodating newcomers.

That this club is not parochial, and is welcoming of new members and new ideas, is demonstrated by the makeup of the Club Board of Directors. Of the 13 members on the Board, more than half have been members of the club for three years or less.

Nevertheless we must continue to make a concerted effort to be welcoming to new members. With 150 members in the club, it is easy for a new member to get lost in the shuffle. To this end, this year for the first time, we will be adding a red dot sticker to new members' nametags so that they can identify each other and so that older members can recognize them as new members. We encourage old members to seek out the new members at meetings and make sure they are not ignored.

At the same time, we will be adding information to Board members' and interest group leaders' name tags setting out their positions to make it easier for new members to identify whom to speak to about various concerns.

We encourage members, both old and new, to volunteer for executive and committee positions in the club. As the club has increased in size, we need more people to share the workload. As a board, we often don't know the talents and expertise of our members and that makes it difficult to identify people to fill various positions. At the moment, we need help in the Clinic Committee (which requires some expertise in computers and MS Excel together with ability to deal with detail and to make a certain time commitment) and the Hospitality Committee (which requires a certain time commitment as well). If you have any interest in either of those committees, please speak to David Evans (Clinics) and Caroline Bennett (Hospitality).

As always, we have a really great program for the coming year (see our web page) put together by our Program Chair, Toni Browning and the members of her very hard working committee, and a number of very interesting special interest groups. I would like to thank the interest group leaders, and all the members of all our committees for their hard work and dedication without which the success of this club would not be possible.

I hope that you all took lots of images over the summer and are looking forward to the coming year as much as I am.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our first meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Strung', with a large loop at the end.

John Strung, President, Trillium Photographic Club  
Sept. 7, 2016