



# HCPC In Focus

Newsletter of the Harbour City Photography Club

June, 2021

## Farewell from the President

by Bill Saffin

This is my final newsletter article as president of the Harbour City Photography Club. It has been quite a couple of years, and the past 18 months or so have been especially exciting. We have had to adapt to virtual meetings, individual outings (or ch-outings as they have been called,) and a really different way of doing everything.

The entire executive worked hard to make the transition to the new way of doing things as painless as possible. Rooney and Sue were largely responsible for the success of our meetings, and the high calibre of presenters we have been fortunate to have at our meetings. The Freeman Patterson presentation was especially well-received, and proved a real bonus to the club.

I have to say congratulations also to the members who worked to bring you the newsletter: Sue, Rooney, Judy, Don, and Trish. It was a great innovation, and I have heard only positive feedback about it. Thanks.

We have had great success also with SIGs (special interest groups.) We have had two critiquing SIGs and a macro SIG this year. Judy Hancock Holland is now planning an introduction to PhotoShop session, and there has been a great response to that.

Speaking of SIGs, anyone can start one. You don't necessarily need an expert to get going. Just find a group of members who share an interest, and make a go of it. Since we still can't meet in person, use one of the

group communication facilities such as Zoom or Skype Meet Now. We have been using Zoom for all of our meetings, and I have used Skype Meet Now for one of our critiquing SIGs. The difference is that Zoom costs, and Skype Meet Now is free. You don't even need Skype installed on your computer to use it.

A new slate of directors has been put in place, and planning has already begun for the fall. There are still some vacancies, and I urge you all to think of what and how you might be able to contribute to the club. It can't always be the same small group of people doing the work - we need more of our members to step up and help.

I know people will be photographing through the summer, and there might be opportunities to gather in small groups.

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Whatever you do, wherever you go, enjoy yourselves, and keep safe. Hope to see you all healthy and happy in the fall.

In the meantime, keep shooting and sharing.

**Your HCPC in Focus newsletter team:**

Don Clark  
Rooney Dumler  
Trish Hanna  
Judy Hancock Holland  
Sue Nurmi  
Kate Rutherford

Volunteers are needed to write articles and contribute in other ways. Please contact [newsletter@hcpclub.ca](mailto:newsletter@hcpclub.ca) if you can help or to submit suggestions.

## Missed a Club Meeting?

Did you know most of our club meetings are recorded? So if you missed a meeting or just want to review something you heard in that meeting you can request a copy by emailing Sue at [sue\\_nurmi@me.com](mailto:sue_nurmi@me.com). Recordings are saved for one month after the meeting date and will be shared with our members upon request.

Meetings are recorded with the permission of the presenters and on the rare occasion that permission is not granted it will be noted on our website.

Our presenters have approved the recording of their presentations with the understanding that they are to be shared with our club members only and not published.

## External Competitions, 2021

Members are encourage to submit their best images for all external competitions we enter as a club. Themes and deadlines for submissions to HCPC for the 2021 - 2022 season are:

*September 24, 2021 - CAPA Pacific Zone Competition (Open)*  
*October 8, 2021 - CAPA Nature - Wildlife*  
*November 12, 2021 - CAPA Fall Open Theme*  
*November 23, 2021 - CAPA Smart Phone*  
*January 8, 2022 - CAPA Curves and Lines*  
*January 23, 2022 - CAPA Artistic*  
*February 8, 2022 - CAPA Series of Four Photos*  
*February 22, 2022 - CAPA Monochrome*  
*March 8, 2022 - CAPA Audio Visual Presentation*  
*April 8, 2022 - CAPA Canada: My Country*

Winning images from past CAPA competitions are posted on the [CAPA Website](#), click on Winners in the Competitions drop down.

Full details for all challenges and competitions will be on [our club website](#) calendar.

There are two additional external competitions that the club participates in, which are the Lions Gate Camera Club - Celebration of Nature in the fall and the North Shore Photographic Challenge in the spring, more details on these will be forwarded as they are received.

## Fan Ho, 1931-2016

by Trish Hanna

Henri Cartier-Bresson once said,  
*“Photographers deal in things which are continually vanishing, and when they have vanished there is no contrivance on earth which can make them come back again.”*

If you have taken a David DuChemin course, you have likely heard the name Fan Ho, dubbed the “Cartier-Bresson of the East,” in DuChemin’s list of photographers of influence.

Fan Ho is a photographer who documented something vanishing; it was the city of Hong Kong as it transitioned to a modern metropolis through the mid-20th C.

Born in Shanghai in 1931, Fan Ho spent most of his life in Hong Kong, his family having emigrated there post WWII, in 1949. His father had given him a Brownie box camera when he was 14; he upgraded to a Rolliflex twin lens K4A around the time he arrived in the city. This was his camera of choice throughout his lifetime, although he did, late in life, experiment with digital cameras and post processing technologies.

The young Fan Ho loved roaming the streets, lanes and markets of the city. He photographed the “ordinary” citizens, young and old, often poor, carrying on their daily tasks in that crowded urban setting. Largely self-taught, he developed an instinctive, distinctive understanding of light and shadow, creating highly dramatic images and nearly always working in black and white, preferring either high contrast or high key results.

Much of Ho’s career was spent in the film industry. Starting in the 1960s, he worked as an actor, then assistant director, then as a director. Three of his 20 films were selected

for film festivals in Cannes, Berlin and San Francisco. His still photography, like his film work, was narrative, always seeking to tell a story. Unlike many street photographers, he was willing to direct his subjects to create the composition and the story he wanted to tell. He was also willing to crop his photos, something purists of the genre were, and are, unwilling to do.

Fan Ho’s wife and children had moved to San Francisco in 1979 while he remained working in Hong Kong. In 1996, having retired, he joined them in California. Moving from the intense bustle of urban life and work to the quiet life of San Jose, CA, was reportedly difficult for him. Photography still held his interest, however, and he began sorting through his archive of photos from Hong Kong in 1940s, 50s and 60s.

From that collection he held a solo exhibition in 1999, his first since the 1960s, and eventually came to the attention of the North American audience. Books of his work were published and he was collected by major galleries.

Fan Ho died in 2016 at the age of 84 in San Jose, CA.

For a more comprehensive look at this artist please go to [The Art of Photography channel on YouTube](#). Its creator, Ted Forbes, also has a [Pinterest collection](#) of images. The main source of information, however, is the [website run by his estate](#), which holds the copyright for his images. Unfortunately, we were unable to obtain a release to provide examples in time for this publication.

# Why I Enjoy Still Life Photography

article and images by Wally Roth

What is still life photography? I found an [article](#) online that explains still life photography quite well. To quote: "Traditionally, a still life is a collection of inanimate objects arranged as the subject of a composition. Nowadays, a still life can be anything from your latest Instagram latte art to a vase of tulips styled like a Dutch Golden Age painting." Because I can choose what to place in the photo, still life photography allows me to use my imagination, creative skills and my desire to be playful all at the same time. As this is a brief article, I will share just a few of my ideas and photos.

A while back I made a still life photo of some old bottles that I'd found. I arranged them on a white surface and backlit them with direct sunlight.



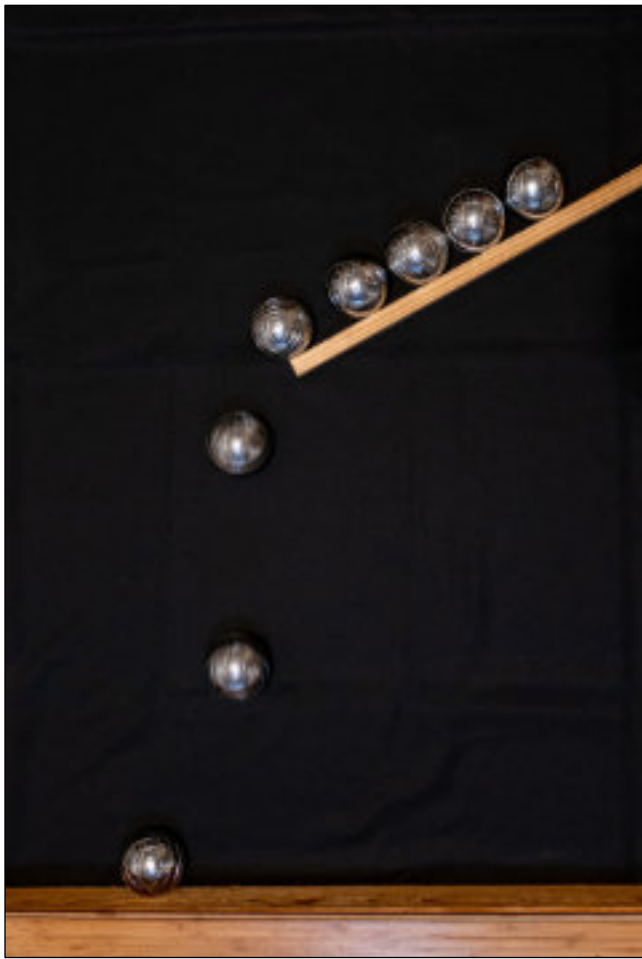
Another popular still life photo is that of flowers in a vase. I've done that many times and in many different ways. Again, it's good practice. This time I waited for the flowers to wilt in the vase before I took some photos.



One doesn't always have to envision something before setting up a still life. For instance, one day I was in the kitchen and noticed how the light was being reflected in the aluminum mixing bowls. I guessed that if I placed something with colour inside, it might add some interest. Notice how I positioned the bowls.



Still life photos can also give the impression of movement.



I also enjoy using toys and model cars to make still life scenarios. It doesn't always have to be done indoors.

These have been just a few examples of where my imagination has taken me. I encourage you to let your imagination run wild. Enjoy!



## Resource Tips

If you are a member of the [Vancouver Island Regional Library](#) (VIRL) system, you have free access to a variety of photography related resources using your library card number and password.

[Kanopy](#): A streaming service with documentaries on photographers as well as courses on different aspects of photography, such as night, human portrait, wildlife, live event and many others. Its library of general movies and courses is also extensive.

[Knowledge Network](#): Our publicly funded educational TV network, which regularly runs programs on photographers.

[LinkedIn Learning](#) (formerly lynda.com): A wide variety of courses on photography, mobile photography, file management and much more.

And, of course, books on every aspect of the art.

Remember: Shaw TV is showcasing our members' images province-wide every month.

Get your 6 images in to  
[imagesforbarrytucker@shaw.ca](mailto:imagesforbarrytucker@shaw.ca)  
promptly.

Watch for Barry's emails in your inbox!

"A photograph can communicate a couple things — and sometimes only one thing — very well. The more you try to say with your photograph, the greater the chance that you will say nothing at all."

— [David duChemin, \*Within the Frame: The Journey of Photographic Vision\*](#)

## Member Profile: Don Clark

by Rooney Dumler

Don Clark's relationship with photography is as eclectic as his experience and interests. He has enjoyed both a varied career as a military photographer and as a keen hobbyist.

When he was thirteen or fourteen years old and on a family trip to eastern Ontario, Don received his first camera; a Kodak Brownie Fiesta. It would become the first in a collection of more than a hundred cameras that now, happily, live with his son.

He recalls his first picture as being his dad in a brown coat on the hill at Fort Henry in Kingston, Ontario. Another early favourite was a split rail fence near his home.



Don's career began in 1967 in the Royal Canadian Navy, but unlike many civilian photographers, he started as a technician rather than a student of the arts. When asked how this influenced his photography, he said "Technical stuff is important to me; focus, exposure, clarity, and an 8x10 format. I have to really work at abstract, both in seeing it and editing it. I guess I am a realist in my images, one of the many things I am working on."

After basic recruit training, Don followed up with a thirteen-week basic photographic training course in Camp Borden, Ontario.



Over the course of his career, he would receive ongoing courses and training because as Don explained, "The military loves to train". Over the years, he also extended his skills outside the military including studio photography, team photos, and weddings.

The responsibilities of a career photographer in the military are varied. Over his thirty-three years he has been employed on army, navy and air force bases. Don's duties would include the service and maintenance of photographic equipment and the need to

process and print film. As part of equipment repair and maintenance, the air force requires a photographic record of damages and repairs and hence, the need for photographers. He would also take images of combat arms training exercises and on occasion, support to intelligence briefings. Duties would grow to include recording and editing video training films. Don worked as a supervisor for Maritime Fleet Imaging Services on both east and west coasts and as an instructor for reconnaissance camera systems. Of special interest was his involvement in the anti-submarine program with both the Argus and Aurora aircraft.



These two photos of a cinetheodolite camera were taken at the Primrose Lake Evaluation Range in Alberta. These cameras, perhaps up to ten in number, would be stationed around the lake and were designed to track the aircraft and the bombs. The data would be sent in and assessed for performance and stability, to see if the bomb did what a bomb is supposed to do.

Don says that few “passions” direct his photography. He doesn’t have any specific subjects and for that reason, he has few, if any, ‘favourite’ photos or ‘the one that got away’. He doesn’t view himself as having any one “style”. Saying that, George Hurrell, a Hollywood B&W photographer from the 1930s & 1940s is one of his favourites and he appreciates Rembrandt for his ability to control light in his portraits. He is, also, in awe of some of the great photo journalism images in any time period.

These days, photography offers Don an opportunity to go out into nature and the woods with his camera in hand and enjoy the complete experience. Some of his favourite spots to walk and shoot include the Buttertubs Marsh, Bowen Park, Neck Point, Jack Point, Rath Trevor Beach and Milner Gardens.

When Don first started as a navy photographer in 1967, his equipment was the same

as that used in WW2. Consequently, his only choice was black & white which, in retrospect, trained his eye in a way that colour photography cannot. The onset of colour photography and more modern equipment was dazzling and exciting and of course, exceedingly popular. However, Don suggests that the current interest and expertise in b&w can be used for drama and impact. In short, both colour and black & white photography have beauty and merit.

The main reason, initially, for joining the Harbour City Photography Club was to learn more about photo editing. Don resists subscription and paid programs and prefers Darktable, a free alternative to Lightroom, and GIMP, which he uses instead of Photoshop. But he has also come to enjoy the social connections in the club. Questions, especially from members just starting the journey into photography, help him look back, break down, improve his own practice.

Don has also fully enjoyed our critiquing special interest group. He says that he enjoys criticism and feedback on his images. In his words, "It is just having a second set of eyes to see something that I missed. So please tell me what you think."

A career as a military photographer cannot

be complete without some unique and unorthodox experiences. On one occasion as a rookie serviceman, Don was assigned the task of photographing a nuclear weapon upload onto a Voodoo, a supersonic jet fighter which served in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). The plane was cordoned off with a rope and guarded by the Military Police – armed with far more than a Hasselblad camera. Of course, the "perfect" composition required Don to take that one step over the rope. Response was instantaneous. Don was advised to "stop", "freeze", "stand alone". To do otherwise would be contrary to having any career. He had to remain, unmoving, astride the rope until his commanding officer came and countermanded the orders. In short, military regulations supersede the Rule of Thirds.

"Leading lines" also lead Don astray when trying to photograph the Minister of Defence and a demonstration of the 105mm artillery howitzer. Don did not realize that in fact, the gun would be fired. In that flash of "reality", that moment when the photographer looks up and discovers where they really are in relation to their subject, and then, a fast one-step ahead, changed the potential ending to this story – which is now just a lost shot rather than a last shot.

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## Lightroom Tips

by Sue Nurmi

In this article I am going to share some tips I have discovered in Lightroom that may help you with your workflow and make things a little easier. It will be broken down to two sections, navigation/view and editing.

### Navigation or Viewing Shortcuts

1) You can change the look of your Lightroom interface such as background colour, font size, etc by accessing the Lightroom

preferences and clicking on the Interface tab.

2) On each edge of the Lightroom screens there is a little triangle or arrow; clicking on these will hide the corresponding panel, giving you a larger view of our image.

3) The 't' will hide or reveal the tool bar at the bottom of the screen.

4) You can personalize the selections in the top menu bar by right clicking on the right



side of the screen and checking or unchecking the options you see.

### Editing Tips

1) Removing spots - After you access the spot removal tool (the circle with the arrow), in the tool bar below the image is a “Visualize Spots” box. This will give you an outline version of the image and highlight spots.

2) Double clicking on any slider will reset the adjustment to the default.

3) Double clicking on a section heading (eg: Tone or Presence) will reset all adjustments in that section.

4) Holding the command/control button

down while using the paint brush tool will turn on auto-masking to prevent the adjustment from spilling over past an edge.

5) Command/Control O will show you a tinted overlay of the areas effect by the edit in the linear, radial, and brush tools.

6) Holding the option/alt button when clicking on the target spot of a linear, radial or brush adjustment and moving your cursor right or left will change all the adjustments in that brush, etc., in tandem.

If you are finding the challenge of setting up your Lightroom file system a little overwhelming, I recommend Judy Hancock Holland’s YouTube video, [File Management in Lightroom](#).

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## Year End Awards

On June 15th we had our final meeting for the year and as part of that meeting we had our year end awards. These awards are for specific categories of photography and honour past members who have had a significant impact on our club.



Congratulations to this year’s winners.

The Jan Blackbourn Award - Abstract - *High Voltage* by Geri Reamer (left)

The Nigel Fletcher Award - Humour in Photography - *Hatched* by Maggie Tilley



The Roy Quesnel Award - Black & White Portraits - *Before the Wedding* by Dave Tyler (next page)



You can view all the images submitted for these awards in the [Club Galleries](#) of our website, [www.hcpclub.ca](http://www.hcpclub.ca).

## Did you know...

Did you know you can view most of the year's showcase and competition images on our website? They can be found at [www.hcpclub.ca](http://www.hcpclub.ca) - Galleries - [Club Galleries](#).

## Outings

*by Don Clark*

Things are looking good... As of the latest news from the BC government it looks like we are at the beginning of the long slow climb out of the COVID-19 pandemic. By the time you read this we will hopefully be able to get together in group outings and maybe even without masks so we can smile at each other in person again.

Even with the COVID protocols, we have managed to have quite a few Ch-outings as Rooney said. We have tried to make it as varied and interesting as possible. There were many interesting and imaginative Facebook postings. It was a great turnout!

Movie Title - 15 Jan 2021  
Street Photography - 29 Jan 2021  
Song Title - 12 Feb 2021  
Bare Branches - 26 Feb 2021  
Cranes at Duke Point - 09 Mar 2021  
Break the Rule of Thirds - 23 Mar 2021  
Symmetry vs Asymmetry - 13 Apr 2021  
Rhododendrons - 27 Apr 2021  
May Flowers - 11 May 2021  
Frame It - 25 May 2021  
Graffiti - 8 Jun 2021  
Dichotomy - 22 Jun 2021

Plans for summer outings... Unlike last year where we kept Zooming right through the summer, this year we will be taking a break from regular meetings for July and August. However, that does not mean you cannot get out with your camera and shoot, shoot, shoot! With that in mind, our plans for this summer are an outdoor workshop on portraiture using reflectors and a trip to Butterfly World at Coombs for July. For August we are planning a RUST event, possibly at Maxey Road and a trip to Superior Farms to photograph mini farm animals. There will be more information coming on all of these outings.

Future outings for the fall...

We are looking for your ideas for future outings starting again in September. Allan Webner has suggested a hike to the Abyss and we hope Brad Powell will do another painting with light outing. But we really do need your input on what kinds of outings or activities you would like to have. If you have an idea, location or subject you think our members might enjoy photographing PLEASE let anyone on the executive know.