



**(Grand River Imaging and Photographic Society)**

**Members' Handbook**

**Revision 1.0**



## **Grand River Image and Photographic Society (GRIPS)**

Grand River Imaging & Photographic Society, known as “GRIPS”, is a club for photographers of all levels and interests. During our meetings we welcome knowledgeable and experienced guest speakers, share ideas, and hold competitions.

GRIPS is proud to be a learning club. Topics of our meetings and workshops cover a broad range from basic to advanced photographic techniques, creative photography, photo editing, photo enhancements and presentation of works.

GRIPS offers workshops and outings, indoor and outdoor photo opportunities, in-club and inter-club competitions, all with lots of fun and fellowship.

The club is affiliated with the CAPA (Canadian Association for Photographic Art) and the OCCC (Ontario Council of Camera Clubs) also known as O3C.

### **Goals**

- to foster and promote image making through the art of photography
- to provide opportunities for the sharing of ideas, the improvement of individuals photographic skills and to enjoy fellowship through photography as both a learning and social activity. We do this at social events, meetings and through our website and other networks and social media.
- to encourage membership participation in the many different kinds of club activities such as workshops and outings
- to promote and foster friendly relationships with other photographic clubs and like organizations, both locally, regionally and nationally

- to promote our members' photography to the best of our abilities through competitions and gallery showings

## **Privacy policy**

The Grand River Image and Photographic Society is committed to ensuring and protecting the privacy and confidentiality of its members' personal information. Depending on the nature of the club activities in which you participate, additional personal information may be collected as necessary.

## **Meetings**

Meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of the month from September through June. There are no meetings on holiday Mondays except for Thanksgiving Monday. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and usually end around 9:30 p.m. Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. and members are encouraged to come early to help set up. We also encourage members to help us tear down the room after the meeting. Club meetings are held at Kitchener East Presbyterian Church at 10 Zeller Drive, Kitchener, ON. There is plenty of free parking and the building is wheelchair accessible. Visitors are welcome to attend a meeting to learn more. There is a \$5 fee for each meeting attended with a limit of 2 meetings per visitor per membership year (September to June). Any guest fees collected from a visitor will be credited toward the current membership fee, should they choose to join.

## **Membership**

Membership in GRIPS is restricted to people 16 years of age and older. A typical member has an interest in photography at some level, whether that interest is in the art of photography or in the craft of making images. The current membership utilizes a wide spectrum of tools, from 40-year old twin-lens reflex cameras, to more recent 35mm film SLRs, to the latest in DSLR and mirrorless technologies. The easiest way to become a GRIPS member is to complete the online registration and pay your membership fee by e-transfer or PayPal. (Paper application forms and payment by cash or cheque are also accepted.) GRIPS' membership has a maximum capacity of 150 members. Due to this restriction, we accept a maximum number of only 20 members from outside the Region of Waterloo.

GRIPS is strictly a not-for-profit organization. However, the club does incur a variety of expenses during the year that are paid for with the dues of each member. Examples of these costs may include: the judging of in-club and some inter-club competitions, weekly rental fees for the meeting hall, expenses incurred by banking, running the website and domain ownership. Payments for honoraria and sometimes expenses for guest speakers as well as prizes and awards for competitions are also required. There are also expenses for software and equipment acquisition and maintenance. The club owns a variety of projection equipment, photographic and audio equipment and software programs. Refreshments for specific club events or competitions are sometimes supplied and there are ongoing fees for miscellaneous expenses. There are also annual fees for CAPA (Canadian Association for Photographic Art ) and OCCC (Ontario Council of Camera Clubs) memberships.

#### *Membership fees\**

Check [www.gripskw.ca](http://www.gripskw.ca) for current membership fees. Workshop and Outing fees are not included in membership dues.

#### **Board of Directors**

This is a group of volunteers who oversee the overall organization of club operations. Refer to the Bylaws document on the GRIPS website for further details or contact a current board member for precise role information.

The GRIPS Board of Directors is comprised of an Executive group consisting of a President, Secretary and Treasurer. There is also a Vice President and a group of Directors including Program, Competitions, Workshops, Outings and Membership. At a minimum, the GRIPS board must have a President, Secretary and Treasury (The Executive). The other board positions are optional, but it's highly desirable to have these positions filled.

Meetings of the Board of Directors are held monthly throughout the year, including during the summer months when much of the work for establishing the following year's program is completed.

GRIPS would not exist if it were not for the many volunteers. Members are encouraged to join the board, assist on a committee, offer to help in the kitchen or with equipment set up. Running the club becomes an easy task when more people get involved.

### **History of the Grand River Image and Photographic Society**

In the fall of 2004 Joyce Brant, Wayne Waddington, Jeanne McElroy, Brant Danard and Ross McClelland, all photography enthusiasts, formed a committee with a goal of creating a new camera club in the Kitchener area. The club was named GRIPS (Grand River Imaging and Photographic Society), and it was decided that the mandate for this club would be to educate members in the art of photography.

Prior to forming GRIPS, the founders were involved with other organizations such as NAPA (National Association of Photographic Art), CAPA (Canadian Association of Photographic Art), PSA (Photographic Society of America), and GTCCC (Greater Toronto Council of Camera Clubs), as well as other area camera clubs, such as Galt Camera Club, Highland Glen Camera Club and Mississauga Camera Club.

Between January of 2005 and September of 2005, the founders met once a week to study and glean information from the constitutions of other successful clubs, especially in the GTCCC, Greater Toronto area. They also gathered information from other clubs on how to organize competitions and how to design an effective, educational program.

In September of 2005, GRIPS had its first meeting and then met twice a month in a donated facility, New Dawn Public School, Waterloo. The equipment used for these meetings belonged to the founders until enough funds were collected to purchase a second-hand laptop and a slide projector. The club began with 19 members and membership numbers have grown over the years.

In February 2009 the club moved to Kitchener East Presbyterian Church.

GRIPS members have been very active serving our community.

- In April 2009, GRIPS members shared Digital Shows at the “Imagine Photo Performance” held for public viewing at the Coldwell Banker Peter Benninger Reality Theatre. The “Imagine” show’s focus was on increasing awareness of breast cancer. The proceeds from this show were donated to the Breast Cancer Screening unit at Kitchener Waterloo Hospital. In addition, the “Imagine” presentation was taken to a number of nursing and retirement homes as a community gesture of good will.
- Members made presentations on photography to the students of New Dawn School in Waterloo.
- Members presented “How to Photograph Flowers” to the Waterloo Horticultural Society on three occasions.
- GRIPS provided judges each year for the Waterloo Horticultural Society’s flower and vegetable photography competition.
- Presentations on “Learning to See and How to Photograph” were presented to Optimist Clubs at the regional level as well as at the local level.
- Members made presentations on “How to Take Good Photographs” to other camera clubs including Stratford Camera Club, Brant Camera Club and Maitland Camera Club.
- “How to Take Good Photographs” was also presented to the local Mac users’ group (WATRMUG).
- GRIPS members submitted and were honored by having their photographs included in the “Your Neighborhood Credit Union” 2009 calendar.
- GRIPS members who were accredited judges with the GTCCC judged photo competitions on a regular basis for clubs such as Brant Camera Club, Hamilton Camera Club, Trillium Camera Club (Burlington), Latow Camera Club (Burlington), Highland Glen Camera Club (Waterloo), and Halton Hills Camera Club.
- GRIPS initially joined GTCCC in 2006 and CAPA in 2009.
- In April 2009, 11 people from GRIPS attended a CAPA course in Brantford. This course was designed to teach the components of a good photograph. Some members were there to enhance their personal knowledge. Some

were there to understand the basics of judging and to then apply to CAPA to work toward acceptance as a certified CAPA judge.

- Many GRIPS members became involved in the Grand Valley Image Battle (GVIB). This photo competition involves photographers from eight other Camera Clubs.
- GRIPS became involved with the yearly Eggbert competition with Brant Camera Club.
- For several years GRIPS participated in the Help Portrait initiative. Our club organized and conducted a full day of portrait photography for several groups from our community. The portraits were edited, printed and framed on site and were presented to all those photographed.
- Sept. 2018 – InfoShare@7 was initiated, a 30-minute presentation by a Board or club member(s) to share information with those interested, before the regular meetings begin at 7:30
- Nov. 2019 – GRIPS officially joined OCCC (Ontario Council of Camera Clubs)

### **Historical Listing of Executive Board Members:**

2005 – 2006: President – Wayne Waddington  
Vice-President – Ross McLennan  
Secretary – Jeanne McElroy  
Treasurer – Joyce Brant  
Program Director – Brant Danard  
Competition Chair – Joyce Brant  
Outings – Joyce Brant  
Workshops – Joyce Brant  
Web – Wayne Waddington

2006 – 2007: President – Wayne Waddington  
Vice-President – Ross McLennan  
Secretary – Jeanne McElroy  
Treasurer – Joyce Brant  
Program Director – Brant Danard  
Competition Chair – Joyce Brant  
Outings Chair – Karen VonKnobloch  
Workshops – Joyce Brant

Web – Wayne Waddington

2007 – 2008: President – Karen VonKnobloch  
Vice-President – Jean Weller  
Secretary – Jeanne McElroy  
Treasurer – Tom Jeary  
Program Director – Joyce Brant  
Competition Chair – Joyce Brant  
Outings Chair – James Woo  
Workshops – Joyce Brant  
Web – Jeanne McElroy

2008 – 2009: President – Karen VonKnobloch  
Vice-President – Jean Weller  
Secretary – Jeanne McElroy  
Treasurer – Tom Jeary  
Program Director – Joyce Brant  
Competition Chair – Carol Rawlings  
Outings Chair – James Woo  
Workshops – Joyce Brant  
Member at Large – Neil Snyder

2009 – 2010: President – Karen VonKnobloch  
Vice-President – Charles Lehman  
Secretary – Barb Dickie  
Treasurer – Cheryl Chamberlain  
Program Director – Andrzej Godlewski  
Competition Chair – Carol Rawlings  
Outings Chair – Andre Secours  
Workshops – Joyce Bran  
Member at Large – Scott Hunsburger

2010 – 2011: President – Karen VonKnobloch  
Vice-President – Charles Lehman  
Secretary – Barb Dickie  
Treasurer – Angela House  
Program Director – Andrzej Godlewski  
Competition Chair – Gail Newland  
Outings Chair – Kevin Pepper

Workshops Chair – Wes Reimer  
Membership Co-ordinator – Lynn Fulton

2011– 2012: President – Kevin A.  
Vice-President – Lynn Fulton  
Secretary – Angela House  
Treasurer – Kirk White  
Program Director – Gary Stortz  
Competition Chair – Carol Rawlings  
Outings Chair – Kim Kurtz  
Workshops Chair – Wes Reimer  
Membership Co-ordinator – Lindsay Calcerano

2012 – 2013: President – Lynn Fulton  
Secretary – Angela House  
Treasurer – Kirk White  
Program Director – Gary Stortz  
Competition Chair – Bea Binka-Schlosser (replaced by  
Thelma Kessel, Oct.)  
Outings Chair – Mike Osborne  
Workshop Chair – Arthika Kathalor  
Membership Co-ordinator – Jen St. Louis  
Member at Large – Dave Vandermeulen

2013 – 2014: President – Lynn Fulton  
Vice-President – Thom Bree  
Secretary – Mary Lynn Muir  
Treasurer – Joel Compagna  
Program Director – Len Moderman  
Competition Chair – Thelma Kessel  
Outings Chair – Mike Osborne  
Workshops Chair – Arthika Kathalor  
Membership Co-ordinator – Jen St. Louis

2014 – 2015: President – Lynn Fulton  
Vice-President – Thom Bree  
Secretary – Mary Lynn Muir  
Treasurer – Joel Campagna  
Program Director – Len Moderman

Competition Chair – Thelma Kessel  
Outings Chair – Sajib Paul  
Workshops Chair – Wes Reimer  
Membership Co-ordinator – Laurie Wilkinson

2015 – 2016: President – Thom Bree, replaced by Thelma Kessel (Jan.)

Vice-President – Michael Beattie  
Secretary – John Glass  
Treasurer – Jeff Dawkins  
Program Director – Meghan Bree  
Competition Chair – Caroline Lajoie  
Outings Chair – Sajib Paul  
Workshops Chair – Ted Dixon  
Membership Co-ordinator – Julie Seiler

2016 – 2017: President – Thelma Kessel

Vice-President – Michael Beattie  
Secretary – John Glass  
Treasurer - Jeff Dawkins  
Program Director – Rick Hutfloetz  
Competition Chair – Adam Lauzon  
Outing Chair – Sajib Paul, (Joyce Brant, Sandra Roemer  
(Apr. – June))  
Workshops Chair – Ted Dixon  
Membership Co-ordinator – Julie Seiler, replaced by  
Martina Schneider

2017 – 2018: President – Caroline Lajoie

Vice-President – Lynn Fulton  
Secretary – John Glass  
Treasurer – David Murray  
Program Director – Rick Hutfloetz/Anne Blanchard  
Competition Chair – Adam Lauzon  
Outings Chair – Gail Newland  
Workshops Chair – Sandra Roemer

Membership Co-ordinator – Martina Schneider  
Web Master – Adam Lauzon  
2018 – 2019: President – Caroline Lajoie  
Vice-President – Adam Lauzon  
Secretary – John Glass  
Treasurer – David Murray  
Program Director – Anne Blanchard  
Competition Chair – Jonathan Sau  
Outings Chair – Donna Bird / Geoff Obergan  
Workshops Chair – Sandra Roemer  
Membership Co-ordinator – Martina Schneider  
Web Master – Adam Lauzon