

SENIOR SCAPE: Photography Tips

By **Sylvia Dickens**

Have you ever returned from a trip or an event only to discover that the photos you took are no good?

Thank goodness for digital cameras. They allow you to view each image and retake those that didn't turn out quite as you had hoped. Digitals are a major step forward from the old film cameras. Remember those? I still have three, but since getting my digital, they sit idle. What a waste of money they were. You could blindly shoot off an entire roll of bad shots, spend close to \$20 to get them developed, and immediately throw them in the trash when you see the disastrous results. If that wasn't bad enough, you would have lost all opportunity to take those pictures again.

It took a bit of trial and error for me to get accustomed to using my first digital camera.

In fact, I frequently reverted to my 35mm camera out of frustration. At least I knew how to use it and what would be the results, and more important, how to adjust it in certain situations. There's a lot to be said for familiarity, isn't there?

When digitals first came out, the images were of low resolution, which meant they did not print to any significant size. The newer ones are quite an improvement. The photos can be blown up quite large without resolution loss. You can turn them into posters if you want. It all depends on how you set the camera. And that's all part of learning this new technology.

Eventually, I did learn the basics of digital cameras, but fortunately understanding pixels only matters when you actually buy the camera. The picture quality is no longer reliant on the size of film you choose. It is determined by the camera itself, ergo, the camera's pixels. The results, therefore, depend entirely on the quality of the camera.

The next important step to getting great photos is learning how to compose the image. You've probably seen photos of people with no feet, or standing in front of a background that inadvertently shows as some weird hairdo. Or perhaps it was a mean joke by the photographer.

That's what is meant by composition. You want to really "see" your subject and how it displays in the camera and, ultimately, on the final print.

The majority of photographers don't take time to be creative. They line up their subjects in a way that the location is evident, and shoot. Did you know that posing your subject closer to the camera can give your photo more depth? You can use the camera's depth of field setting to maximize that concept.

If you would like to be more creative, the Computer Club is offering some hands-on training. It won't take place in the classroom. It will be done in the peace and serenity of the Arboretum where you can use any number of subjects from nature.

Photography tips

On May 27 at 10 a.m., Tom Yates, the Centre's resident photography expert, will take you on a guided tour and offer tips on how to get excellent photos. Later in June, he will offer constructive critiques on some of the photos you take, if you submit samples to him. For details, contact bobhed65@gmail.com.

Memories of Aurora

Do you have memories that you'd like to share? Stop by the Centre, Aurora Town Hall or the Aurora Public Library and sign the town's Memory Book which will contain people's memories and stories. The books will be placed in a time capsule at the end of Aurora's 150th Birthday Celebrations.

"Death Comes to Pemberley"

This is the book the Book Club members are reading. Written by famous crime writer P.D. James, it is a follow up to Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice. See all the those favorite characters come back to life. Adjectives used to describe this book include powerful, thrilling and suspenseful. The Book Club's next meets on May 27 at 1.30 p.m. in the library. They always welcome new members.

Calling All Golfers

If you love a good golf challenge, the Ontario Seniors Games Association is holding its First Annual Two-Person Golf Tournament Invitational on July 17 starting at 11 a.m. It will be hosted by District #32- Windsor-Essex & District #33A- Chatham-Kent. The tournament will be held at the Country View Golf Course (between Chatham & Wallaceburg)

You have to register by June 23 to qualify. Contact Peter Hensel at 519-627-2347, Tony Meriano at 519-944-2325 or for

registration forms or further information please visit: ontarioseniorgames.ca/golfinvitational
Only people over 55 years of age and registered with the OSGA 55+ District is eligible. Teams can be two women, two men or mixed. Cost: is \$90.00/person which includes golf, cart, prizes, lunch, and dinner buffet.

For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer, drop by 90 John West Way, visit the web site www.auroraseniors.ca, email auroraseniors@rogers.com or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.