

**Mississauga Camera Club
Handbook for the Print Competitions
2015-2016**



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1.0 INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITIONS

Competitions within the Mississauga Camera Club are the best way to improve your photography and take it to the next level. The Mississauga Camera Club offers various avenues for you share your photography and compete with your fellow members in a friendly atmosphere. You are encouraged to enter every competition and many members are willing to assist you with any aspect of competitions if required.

The Club offers two main presentation mediums which count towards advancement within the club: **Digital Image and Print**. Other competitions are also available (described later in this document) but are optional and do not count towards advancement. You are encouraged to enter them as well.

Since last year we have transitioned to an on-line competition system for the Digital Competitions. However, our method of running the Print Competitions will be unchanged from last year. Therefore, this year there will be two competition handbooks, one for the Digital Competitions and one for the Print Competitions. This handbook is the one dedicated to the print competitions.

There is a great deal of information on competitions to be communicated and documented. Every effort has been made to make this document as clear as possible; however, if you feel you have a suggestion on how to improve any aspect of the document or its content, please feel free to contact the 2015-16 Print Competition Team Leader, Monish Ghosh (printchair@mississaugacameraclub.ca) with your suggestions.

Notable recent changes are as follows:

1. There will be no Small Print Competition: Last year the idea of having a competition with a reduced (8 x 10 inch) size was tried but participation was too low for this type of competition to be retained.
2. There will be no theme print competitions this year. Because of the time and effort required to create a print, feedback from the membership is they don't want to create prints in themes that are not of interest...and our members have quite diverse interests.
3. All new members will be considered as expertise level L1 for prints. New members who have previous experience in prints or print competitions are requested to talk to the Team Leader of the Print Competition with regards to the possibility of being immediately considered for the L2 level.
4. In general there will not be a penalty for members placing their images in the wrong competition category. See Section 4.4.

This document is divided into the following general sections:

- General information pertaining to all competitions
- Information specific to Print Competitions
- Optional Flower Competitions for Print
- Photo Essay Competition
- Awards and Advancement
- The Competition Schedule for the current club season is summarized in Section 5.0.

Changes to this document are inevitable. Note the version number of this manual on the title page beneath the date and see the update summary on the last page of this document. Please report any errors or omissions to printchair@mississaugacameraclub.ca.

2.0 COMPETITION IMAGE CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

2.1 Creative

Images in this category will display a departure from realism consisting of experimental and imaginatively creative images that tend toward the abstract in the interpretation of a subject. Further, these images are not normally seen by the naked eye and may engage the viewer in finding the meaning of the photograph. They will have been manipulated either in the camera via conventional means (multiple exposure, special effect filters etc) or by using more intensive digital editing or application of the following types of techniques:

- Composites
- Digital Filters
- Colour Toning
- Orton Effect etc.
- Motion blur
- Texture
- Masking
- Montage
- Combination of BW and colour
- Solarization
- Brush strokes
- Photograms
- Negative Images
- Distortion
- HDR
- Multiple images
- Collage.
- Posterization

There is a persistent misunderstanding about the definition of a “*creative image*”. This was discussed in some detail in an article in *Klik* in November 2012. There is sometimes disagreement over the meaning of “departure from reality”. Therefore, a new procedure for dealing with images that the judges consider “misclassified” will be applied (see Section 4.4).

2.2 Nature

***** The Nature Category is a separate category for DIGITAL competitions only *****

***** For PRINT competitions, Nature subjects are submitted as pictorial images. Therefore, the more relaxed rules describing pictorial apply to prints. *****

2.3 Pictorial

Any image that the viewer would see as reality inclusive of Black & White images. Images in this category typically will include but are not limited to landscapes, people, and everyday life scenes. Also included is architectural, still life, tabletop, seascapes, people at work or play, portraiture, flowers etc.

Note that photographs containing images of other peoples’ art, paintings, sculpture, stained glass windows, body art, etc. will not be considered competition material and will be removed from competition (without notice) by the Print Competition Team Leader. Possible exceptions are cases where such elements are an integral part of another overall composition of the type considered “art photography”. If you believe that your image is such an exception, you must obtain approval of the Print Competition Team Leader previous to submitting the image.

Regarding nudity in images, it will be the responsibility of the Print Competition Team Leader to decide on the admissibility of images on a case-by-case basis with the objective of distinguishing nudity from pornography. If the creator of an image objects to the decision of the Team Leader than an appeal can be made, first to a committee composed of both Print and Digital Team Leaders together with the Director, Competitions. If that appeal result is not satisfactory then appeal can be made to the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board will be final.

3.0 COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

Every club member is eligible to submit entries in each of the Print categories. We are an honor based club and have no desire to police your submissions. We assume your reason for choosing to participate in club competitions is purely for the enjoyment of fair competition with your club peers. The following guidelines apply to all competition entries.

- An image may be entered in one competition only in any year. An image is considered the same as another if it was produced from the same original image or one substantially the same, notwithstanding that its overall appearance may be substantially different.
- All entries must have been exposed by the entrant, i.e. all negatives, transparencies or digital camera files used in the making of images. Prints however, may be made commercially. Entrant's images (digital files or prints) that incorporate digital imaging or electronic enhancement are acceptable and may be entered in any appropriate category, unless noted otherwise, provided that the original photographic image and any imaging enhancement is the work of the entrant. Digital Art in which there is no original photographic image, and images or enhancements involving images (whole or in part) taken from commercial libraries, are not eligible.
- Any images or source material used to create your image (particularly in creative) MUST be your own. If found in violation of this rule, you may be asked to leave the club.
- It is desirable that entries reflect recent work. Entries must be new work not entered into any previous MCC Competition.
- All entries to the club's competitions must be family oriented and in good taste. Images may be disqualified at the discretion of the Competition Team Leaders.
- The club may use winning entries in club competitions, for promotional purposes. The member will retain copyright to these images and the photographer will be acknowledged. Typically this could be the posting of winning images on the club's web site or the cover of the club newsletter.
- All possible care will be taken to safeguard entries; however, the club assumes no liability for loss or damage of submitted prints.

4.0 HOW IMAGES ARE JUDGED AND SCORED

Three Judges will each independently award up to ten points per entry up to a maximum of 30 points for each entry. In judging, both technical and artistic factors are taken into account and the final score will not be altered by the club. Awards in each category are on the basis of the points awarded by the judges. (*First, Second, Third, and Honourable Mention*). The Judges will resolve ties for the ranking of award winners; however, they may award ties at their discretion if they are unable to come to a consensus.

Entries receiving 18 points or less are generally not considered for awards unless the situation requires them to. The number of Honourable Mention awards in a single competition will generally not exceed 10% of the total entries in the category being judged unless the judges insist on recognizing the competitor with a HM. The maximum number of awards made will not exceed half the number of entries in that category.

If there are less than four images entered in any category, the relevant competition team leader will, if possible, assign the entries to the Pictorial Category, otherwise the entries will be judged and scored, but awards may not be given. This will be at the discretion of the respective competition team leader.

A record will be kept of the points earned in all competitions for each entrant. At the end of each year, Club Achievement Award Certificates will be given to those members whose accumulated scores exceed a pre-set level. Seals will be used to differentiate this level. The current schedule of awards is listed in Appendix I at the end of this document.

4.1 Pictorial (Including Nature) Scoring

In **Pictorial**, the prime consideration for judging is the artistic and technical merit of the image. An image that is technically well done, (correctly exposed and focused) that has little or no compositional attributes should score 15-18 out of 30. Points beyond this relate to the artistic attributes of the image, impact, composition, simplicity, quality of lighting, textures, crop, colour harmony, storytelling etc. There are severe penalties for technical imperfections that are under the maker's control such as tilted horizons, insufficient depth of field, the image cutting the frame, incorrect exposure, poor borders etc. Hence an image that has strong artistic merit but is technically flawed will not likely score more than 18 points.

In Print judging, the primary factor is the quality of the print. The overall presentation, including choice of mounts and matting may also be taken into account. The choice of matt or not, is up to the maker according to his/her judgment.

4.2 Creative Scoring

Judges will look for clear signs of image manipulation in this category. Generally the more 'obviously' manipulated an image has been, the higher it will score. These images are scored more often on their own merits.

In Print judging, the primary factor is the quality of the print. The overall presentation, including choice of mounts and matting may also be taken into account. The choice of matt or not, is up to the maker according to his/her judgment.

4.3 Notes on Category Placement

It is the responsibility of competitors to make sure that their entries are in the correct category. If you find the description of each category within this document to be insufficient, please let us know how to improve upon it. Team Leaders may notice images that appear obviously out-of-category and contact the creator with a suggestion about a more suitable category. However, they are not obliged to do so.

If an image is considered to be out-of-category by the judges then they will score and comment on it accordingly. That is, it will likely have a lower score than if it was in the correct category. In that case the following re-submission procedure applies for the first, second and third competitions of the year. For the fourth competition of the year it is not practical to offer any opportunity for re-submission.

Re-Submission Procedure for the First, Second and Third Competitions of the Year

At the judging session the Team Leader will note which images are so out-of-category and will so inform the creator by e-mail. The subject line of the e-mail will be "Out-of-Category Image". Upon receipt of the e-mail from the Team Leader, the creator of the image than has two options.

Option 1: Do nothing. The score as recorded will stand.

Option 2: Resubmit the image in any category for any subsequent competition that year that includes that category. It does not need to be resubmitted in the category that the judges considered more appropriate; after all, a new set of judges may agree with the original classification. However, note that only one re-submission is permitted for a specific image. If the judges again penalize the image for being in the wrong category, then the creator should realize that the image is really not suitable for MCC competitions.

For Option 2 the following rules apply:

- i. If desired, the name of the re-submitted image may be changed for the re-submission. However, no other changes to the image are permitted.
- ii. The re-submitted image should be submitted in the usual way except (for the digital image accompanying the print) it must be attached alone to an e-mail and that e-mail must have the subject line "Re-submitted Out-of-Category Image". In the body of the e-mail the text should say: "This image is being re-submitted because it was considered out of category in Competition Number [fill in the number]." This same note should appear written on the label affixed to the reverse side of the print.
- iii. If the image is re-submitted it does not count towards the maximum number of images permitted to be submitted (e.g.: a member may submit three digital images in addition to the re-submitted image to the digital competition or two print images in addition to the resubmitted image to the print competition).
- iv. To avoid giving an advantage to those who re-submit images, if an image is re-submitted then the score obtained on the re-submission will always replace the score received on the first submission even if the new score is lower than the previous score.
- v. Re-submission of images places added strain on the processing of images for competitions. So, failure to follow the above procedure exactly will result in no-resubmission of your image and no second chance for the image at a future competition.

5.0 SCHEDULE FOR PRINT COMPETITIONS IN 2015-2016

As in the case of the Digital Projected Competitions, there are a total of 4 Print Competitions in each club year which count towards club advancement and one optional flower competition which does not.

For prints, the schedule is different than for the Digital Image Competition.

1st Competition: Pictorial and Creative

- Submission Date: October 15, 2015
- Up to two prints can be submitted. For example: two Pictorial; two Creative or one Pictorial and one Creative.

2nd Competition: Pictorial and Creative

- Submission Date: December 17, 2015
- Up to two prints can be submitted. For example: two Pictorial; two Creative or one Pictorial and one Creative

3rd Competition: Pictorial and Creative

- Submission Date: January 21, 2016
- Up to two prints can be submitted. For example: two Pictorial; two Creative or one Pictorial and one Creative

4th Competition: Pictorial and Creative + Jim Cranston (Flower Prints) Competition

- Submission Date: April 7, 2016
- Up to two prints can be submitted. For example: two Pictorial; two Creative or one Pictorial and one Creative
- In Addition: one additional print may be submitted for the Jim Cranston (Flower Prints) Competition.
- So, in total, a maximum of three prints may be submitted for the 4th Competition.

- The Jim Cranston Award is sponsored by Mrs. Marjorie Malloy in memory of Jim Cranston, who was a long-standing and enthusiastic member of the Mississauga Camera Club.

6.0 EXPERTISE DIVISIONS FOR PRINT COMPETITIONS

Print competitions are divided into two levels, L1 and L2, to allow members to compete with their peers of similar skills and experience. Please see Appendix I for details regarding points required for progression from L1 to L2. Beginners are automatically considered level L1. Beginners with print related experience are requested to talk with the Print Competition Team Leader regarding the possibility of being immediately assigned to the L2 level.

7.0 SUBMITTING PRINTS FOR COMPETITION

The Print competitions that have been run in the Club for many years are designed to stimulate new work. Every Club Member is eligible to submit mounted but unframed entries up to the announced competition entry maximum, in any combination, in the Creative and Pictorial categories defined above.

Mounting Requirements for Images Submitted to the Print Competition

- Minimum mounted 7.5" x 9.5"
- Maximum mounted 16" x 20"
- Recommended maximum mounted thickness: 3/16" or 5mm, plus the print

The image must be exposed by entrant and all digital manipulation must be done by the entrant, but printing and mounting may be done either by entrant or commercially.

A digital copy for slideshow purposes must accompany all print entries. (See below)

Each print is to be mounted on a flat photographic board (e.g. matt board or 1/8" or 3/16" foam core). Glass mounting is unacceptable. Note that the use of a matt over the print is optional. Prints mounted with no front matt have won firsts and other awards

Place a label on the back (upper left preferably) giving the following information:

1. Year and Competition Number
2. Name of entrant
3. Image Title
4. File name of corresponding digital image (e.g. *L1_PP_JXS_Weathered Barn.jpg*)
5. Class: Level 1 or Level 2
6. Category: *Pictorial (PP)*, *Creative (PC)* or *Jim Cranston (PJ)*
7. Judges' Comments Requested: Y/N
8. Use an arrow to indicate the top of the image.

Judges' Comments

- Judges Comments will be limited to one of the two images submitted in each category. Write "Y" for Judges' Comments and "N" for no comments.
- The Competition Chair will ask for judges' comments when the scores have a 2 point gap between the highest and lowest scoring judge (e.g. 6 and 8).

8.0 SUBMITTING DIGITAL FILES OF PRINT ENTRIES

- Competitors in prints are also required to submit a digital copy of their image, which will only be used for slideshow on presentation night and the winning images which will be posted to the club web site
- Those who do not send in digital copies will have their images represented by a black screen during the presentation slideshow. Judges' comments will still be heard.
- Prints will be judged using the actual print.
- Prints are returned at the Club on the Competition Results night. If you do not pick up your print on the Results night, you must make arrangements with the Print Committee Chair to pick up your prints. The Digital Image will be retained by the Competition Committee.

8.1 Naming Your Digital File (Including Jim Cranston Entries):

- Assign file names to your images as follows:

Class_Category_Competitor's Initials_Y_Image Title.jpg

Y or N to denote whether Comments from judges are requested or not (should be same as the printed label on the back of the print)

E.g., A submission by John Somerset could have the following name:

L1_PP_JXS_Y_Weathered Barn.jpg (do not use '&')

- Must use underscore character to separate fields, not spaces or dashes

Class

- o L1 – Level 1
- o L2 – Level 2

Category

- o PP – Pictorial
- o PC – Creative (Competitions #1 and #4 only.)
- o PJ – Jim Cranston (Competition #4 only.)

8.2 Sizing Your Digital Images Accompanying Your Prints

To ensure that the complete image can be displayed on the screen, images may be no bigger than the following dimensions.

- **Horizontal Dimension:** No greater than 1400 pixels across.
- **Vertical Dimension:** No greater than 1050 pixels tall.
- **Screen Resolution: 72ppi** (greater values are permitted but serve no purpose when projecting and will unnecessarily increase your file size)

- *If you have a landscape image, tell your application to size it 1400pixels wide and to “maintain proportions”. The vertical dimension will be set automatically. If your vertical dimension ends up being greater than 1050, then set your vertical dimension to 1050 and let the horizontal dimension calculate automatically.*
- *If you have a portrait image, tell your application to size it 1050pixels tall and to “maintain proportions”. The horizontal dimension will be set automatically. If your horizontal dimension ends up being greater than 1400, then set your horizontal dimension to 1400 and let the vertical dimension calculate automatically.*
- *If your image is closer to being a square than it is a rectangle, set your vertical dimension to 1050, maintain proportions and let the horizontal dimension calculate automatically. It is best to size your pictures to provide the maximum number of pixels possible within the 1400 horizontal x 1050 vertical constraints. That is, if the image is taller than a 4/3 aspect ratio (width/height=1400/1050) (for example, a portrait) then be sure to make the vertical dimension 1050 with the width then being less than 1400.*

Any image that is larger than the stated dimensions may be returned for correction providing there is sufficient time to correct the error or potentially eliminated from competition. You are strongly advised to verify that your files are in compliance prior to submission.

8.3 Where to E-mail Your Files

Send your images as e-mail attachments to the following address:

prints@mississaugacameraclub.ca

You will receive an automated email response from the main email address indicating successful receipt of your images.

9.0 THE JIM CRANSTON FLOWER PRINT COMPETITION

(This competition has a separate award and therefore does not contribute to the total point score.)

The Jim Cranston Award is sponsored by Mrs. Marjorie Malloy in memory of Jim Cranston, who was a long-standing and enthusiastic member of the Mississauga Camera Club. Mrs. Marjorie Malloy established an Endowment Fund to provide prizes. Originally, the Jim Cranston Award was open for slide and print submissions but is now for prints only.

9.1 The Competition

The Jim Cranston Competition is an annual competition designed to promote excellence in flower photography, and is open to all members of the Mississauga Camera Club, in good standing. It is not necessary that the members compete in the other club competitions to be eligible. The subject is FLOWERS (live), whole or in part, either wild or cultivated. Although creative techniques may be used, any manipulations used must not destroy the realism. Images of non flowering plants, paintings, artificial flowers, sculpture, etc. will be disqualified. Images entered in previous Jim Cranston competitions are not eligible. Whenever possible, results will be announced and the images displayed at the Club's Annual Banquet.

At least two competitors are required to validate the competition. Each competitor may submit a maximum of one print entry. All images entered must have been exposed by the entrant. Prints of the image may be

either commercially printed or printed by the maker. The print must be mounted and meet the criteria established for print competitions.

9.2 Awards

One first prize and up to three honourable mentions will be awarded. Commemorative certificates will be awarded to the winning entry. In addition a First Prize, payable out of the interest received from the endowment, will be awarded to the winning entries. e.g. if the endowment earns \$35.00 it would be paid as the First prize. The club executive may, at its discretion, add to this award from the Club's general funds, if the interest earned is not significant.

9.3 The Endowment Fund

The Jim Cranston Endowment fund is in the form of a 5-year GIC, and is administered by the executive of The Mississauga Camera Club on behalf of Mrs. Marjorie Malloy. Should the Club cease to exist or hold periodic meetings the principle amount of \$915.00 becomes due and payable to the Mississauga Seniors' Centre, to foster Senior Citizen Photography.

10.0 CLUB COMPETITIONS AWARDS

10.1 Certificates of Achievement

Certificates will be awarded based on the total number of points accumulated in the current competition season, on an annual basis as follows:

SEAL	PRINTS
RED	148 to 159 Points
GOLD	160 to 175
DOUBLE GOLD	176 to 191
TRIPLE GOLD	192 +

10.2 Competition Class Advancement

Following the end of a competition season (typically at the end of May), members will graduate from class to class based on the following accumulated scores:

Advancement Type	Average of your current year's total and the best total from your previous 5 seasons.	CURRENT SEASON
Print Level 1 to Print Level 2	167	176

Graduation to the next class will occur when the member's overall score for the Club year exceeds the defined total point score in each of two seasons, (current year + best of the previous 5), or exceeds the defined total point score in the Club year.

APPENDIX I - CLUB TROPHIES

Achievement	Trophy	Criteria
Prints Level 1	The Simmonds Print Trophy	Highest total points of all images submitted in that print class.
Prints Level 2	Jerry Soltys Trophy	Highest total points of all images submitted in that print class.
Best Print	Wilf Natrass	Highest score for a Print across Level 1 and 2.

Tie Breaking

In the event that the above criteria for trophy awards results in tie, the following method will be used to determine the winner:

1. A list of the tied participants' images will be arranged in descending order of image score.
2. A comparison of the 1st images, (i.e. their top scoring image) is made and the top score breaks the tie.
3. Failing that comparison, the 2nd best image scores will be compared, again the top score breaks the tie.
4. This procedure carries on until all 12 images or 8 prints have been compared; but very unlikely to get that far.
5. If a tie situation remains after all the submissions have been compared, then the trophy will be awarded to all tied competitors.

2015-2016 MCC COMPETITION HANDBOOK UPDATES

VERSION

1.1

Contents of Appendix II moved to Section 5.0. Other minor editing.

1.2

Minor editing and Digital File naming modified