

SHUTTERBUG NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Number 8, December 2012



MILNER GARDENS



For more information about the club, check out the website at: oceansidephotographers.ca

The aim of Oceanside Photographers is to promote learning, sharing and enjoyment of photography in a convivial atmosphere.

Contact information for all those on management is available on our website. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the editor by phone at 250-586-3323 or email me at newsletter@oceansidephotographers.ca, or gailcourtice@shaw.ca

Guest Speakers

December: Social with Club Members 'favourites' slide show. Please bring finger Food.

January: Grizzly Bear Trip, Paul and Jack

February: Wally Chin, Photographing Antarctica

Field Trips

December: Xmas around

QB. Lunch at Bailey's

January: The Old Quarter in

Nanaimo, lunch at Old Train Station.

February: Nanaimo Seawall

(For date and details see club website)

Please note

**Next Meeting will be
Wednesday, December 5th
2012 in
Pioneer Hall East at the Civic
Centre. The big room at the
front of the building on your
right.**

Assignments

January: Musical Instruments

February: Architecture

December: Barns and Benches

(Assignments due by the 20th of the month)

Monthly Photo Assignment Clarification

Assignment photos should be taken for that assignment, which means that the photo has to be taken within 3 months of submission. No pulling photos from your files that are 5 years old. It does not have to be taken locally, or even in the country, so long as it is current and fits the category. Don't forget the date of the image is encoded into your photo! See guidelines on Page 4

CLUB BULLETIN BOARD

Please Note

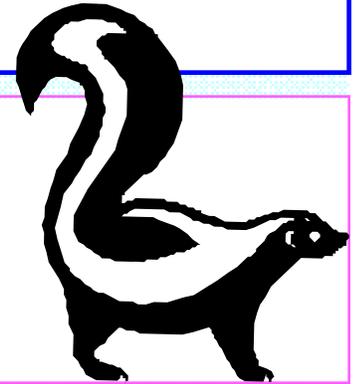
**There will be no more coffee and goodies served at the meetings. Feel free to bring your own.
(There will be coffee at the December meeting)**

EDUCATION MEETING

**THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7PM AT QB CIVIC CENTRE.
MEETING IN THE WINDSOR ROOM.**

Submission Deadline for the January 2013 Newsletter is December 23rd

Due to allergies, asthma and other conditions, we request that you do not wear anything with a fragrance to the club meetings. Thank you from those who suffer!



Please remember to wear your name tag at each general meeting, education meeting and field trip. We have so many new members it would be nice to be able to put a name to the face.



Important

If you change any of your personal information, like email address etc, PLEASE let us know so that we can update our records.

From The Editor's Desk



First, Dave and I wish you all a wonderful Festive Season, and may the new year bring you good health, laughter and lots of excellent photos!

I think it is time that I set out some guidelines for submitting articles, something that I have neglected to do so far. A written article can be 500-700 words plus or minus. I would like it in a word document, no space between paragraphs, paragraphs indented 5 spaces and justified. This helps me when I transfer it to Publisher. Photos should be sent separately and it doesn't matter the size because they will have to be resized anyway. I sincerely thank those who have contributed articles and hope that club

members have enjoyed them as much as I have.

There was a lot of useful information that came from Ken Meisner's workshop in October, but one particular point that really stood out. And....something I have heard repeatedly from good photographers. Do not put anything in the photo that doesn't need to be there, or distracts from the subject. If you want to take your photo from a snapshot to a noteworthy image, this is one way to do it. How many times have we taken a photo and found some distracting object in it that adds nothing and leads the eye right to it? If this happens, take it out physically, change your angle, or if it is really obvious, perhaps don't even bother to take the photo—unless it is just for a memory because you will never have that opportunity again. Some tiny things can easily be cloned out in Photoshop. If we paid more attention to the surroundings of our subject our photography would improve tremendously. (See the article on page 11.) Perhaps not a bad New Year's resolution!

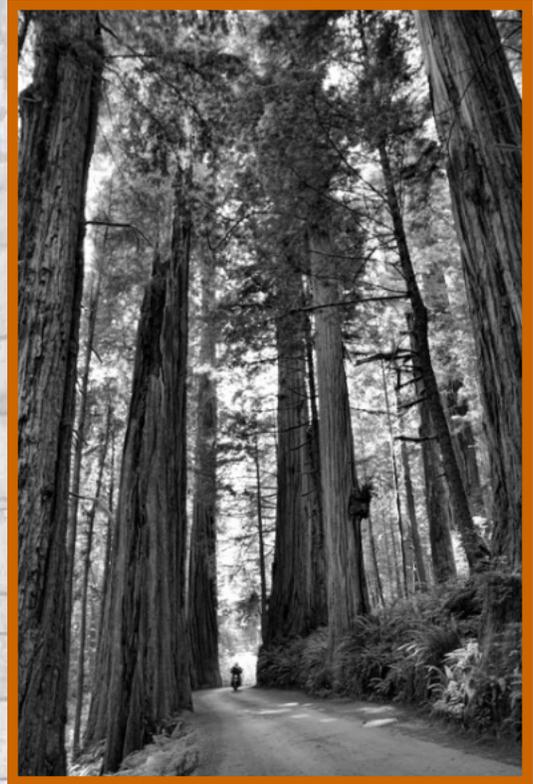
Guidelines for the Assignments

Colour : All the assignment images should be taken within a few months of the assignment. Cropping, minor cloning, minor saturation and sharpening, contrast and brightness boosts are allowed. No running image through plug ins or any major post production work.

Black and White: Same as above. The image is best taken in colour and changed in editing soft ware to black and white. Do whatever it takes to get the very best contrasts in the image. Black and white is all about good, crisp contrast.

Digital Art: The sky is the limit on this one. No holds barred on this assignment! You can use layers, plug-ins, anything you like to enhance your image and let your creativity flow. It must be obvious.

Assignment: Roads and Lanes



L-R: **First Place** Colour: Ken Ginther
First Place B/W: Jack Harynuk
First Place Digital Art: Donna Wickstrom
First Place tie: D/A Sheila Hepton

Assignment: Roads and Lanes



Second Place Colour: Jim Troyanek
Second Place B/W, Christine Budimir, tie Jim Troyanek
Second Place Digital Art: Gail Courtice

GRIZZLY BEAR TOUR

Submitted by Paul Edelenbos

On Sunday, October 7, Gary, Jim, Jack and I took a grizzly bear tour with Aboriginal Journeys out of Campbell River.

Last year I took one out of Telegraph Cove where you stay in a boat, whereas this tour uses platforms, so my thought was – more chances of seeing bears as you can move between the different locations.

As soon as we left port, we ran into a pod of transient killer whales and stopped to photograph those. A two-hour boat ride and beautiful scenery got us to our destination, Bute Inlet on the mainland. Our transport took us to the first stop and a grizzly (with salmon) was waiting for us to immortalize it. The rest of the day we moved from area to area and saw several more bears. The light reflecting off the river later in the day made for some difficult and challenging shooting but still exciting. When at 3 p.m. we left to go home, we ran into 60 to 80 Pacific white-sided dolphins that put on quite a show of incredible speed and jumping ability.

Close to Campbell River saw another large pod of killer whales of which the youngster put on some impressive jumps – guess he was feeling frisky!

The tour guide really went out of his way to find things and instead of getting back to the Marina at the scheduled time of 5 p.m., it was after 6 p.m.

A great day was had by all! These tours are fairly pricey but SO WORTH IT!!





Photos by Paul Edelenbos

Field Trip to DemXX

About 18 club members showed up on Sunday, November 18th at DemXX on the Alberni Highway for the Field Trip. The weather forecast had not been promising, but obviously the 'weather-gods' heard someone's prayer as the rain held off until after lunch.

The yard at DemXX is a veritable treasure trove of 'stuff' from rusting chains, giant saw blades, doors, windows, white plastic trellis and so on. You name it, they seem to have it! There was a wonderful panelled door, resplendent in peeling cream paint, that came from Egypt. And, I might add, had a high price tag!

I for one was in my glory checking out all the treasures. After traipsing around outside for an hour or so, happily snapping away, it was nice to take refuge inside the warm building where I noticed a few other members were also enjoying thawing out!

It was good to see several new members on the field trip as it is a great way to get to know each other and have time to chat. We ended an interesting morning by having lunch at Coombs market. Must say I enjoyed the French Fries! Can't wait to see the field trip photos! [GC](#)

Best Laid Plans...

Submitted by Nicole Muchowski

This year I celebrated a milestone birthday. To mark the occasion, I booked myself on a four-day kayak adventure in Clayoquot Sound. Wahoo! My partner, having been a former kayak guide, graciously (or knowingly?) offered to pack the necessary gear. The photographic gear, though, was my responsibility. DSLR in pelican (watertight, cushion-lined carry case) – check. Back up battery – charging. Filters – check. P+S camera – check. Extra memory cards, formatted – check. Tripod... whoops.

The morning of Day 1 in Tofino was spectacular! At daybreak, the morning mist was already lifting, and wide, inviting beams of sunlight broke through the clouds over Browning Passage. I made my way to the launch site to meet our guide and four other adventurers with whom I would be spending the next four days.

By noon, the tide had crept up conveniently close to our kayaks, which were now loaded with tents, cooking gear, rain gear, sun gear, and wine. And so, we set off – into the sun! Did I mention this was Tofino? The bright sunlight sparkled like little diamonds on our path directly ahead. Also directly ahead was the incoming tide, surging around the rock face we'd have to circumnavigate to get out into the Sound. All hands on deck! No time for photos.

Crossing the main thoroughfare for tour boats and water taxis was also harrowing – one really gets a sense of being a little fish in a big ocean! It's not until we reach the ocean-side edge of Vargas Island that the tempo of our paddling eases and I can dig my P+S out of my vest... and now the sun is hiding and everything is shrouded in fog and mist. No matter. It's peaceful out here. The gentle swell of the ocean on this day was soothing. Good thing. My P+S had a freshly formatted card and charged battery, but the camera was telling me I only had room for 15 photos – on Day 1!

Because the conditions were so great, we pushed onward, further around Vargas Island saving us some effort for later days when conditions might not be so forgiving. We arrived at our first destination: a deserted beach. It was stunning! It looked almost tropical.

I extracted my DSLR from my pelican case to discover I had left the camera on for the better part of seven hours. No matter. I had a back up battery... hmm, which was still at home charging. I crossed my fingers and started clicking away. And while we're at it, we'll use the backup memory card for the P+S (the memory card that actually wasn't meant to be used as a backup memory card on account of the malfunction from the last time the card was used... but it's amazing out here! Lost photos or not, I used the card).

We paddled for two more days – lazy days of paddling, island hopping, mushroom hunting, and bird watching.





Photos by Nicole Muchowski

[Member, Dave Blackmore has an upcoming show](#)

Dave's show is entitled ***Impressions and Expressions: The Art and Photography of David E. Blackmore***. It is at the MacMillan Arts Centre (OCAC), 133 McMillan Street, Parksville.

The show runs from January 7th to January 28th. There will be a reception on January 11th from 7PM to 9PM.

(Editor's comment: this should be an interesting show, so hope you will get out to see it.)

A well-composed image will exhibit the following:

The inclusion of key elements within the frame that send a clear and concise message to viewers. These key elements should be those parts of the image that both draw the viewer in and retain or hold his or her attention.

The exclusion of all other elements or parts of the image that may detract from the key elements. These elements are beyond secondary in nature and can be manifest in anything that consciously or subconsciously distracts the viewer from cycling smoothly through the visual journey of each image.

The proper arrangement or balance of primary and secondary subject matter within the photographic frame.

Dynamic Composition

Our greatest challenge in photography is to transport the viewer "there." Where is there? It's Yellowstone National Park in the winter with crisp, early-morning light and bugling elk. It's an aquamarine waterfall in a paradisiacal locale, cascading ever so gently over travertine pools and under lush jungle canopy. It's perched on the edge of vermillion cliffs, overlooking a vast otherworldly expanse of grottos, plateaus and canyons. Are you getting the picture?

Our perception of reality is based upon depth and dimension, and that's the largest obstacle we must overcome in capturing a three-dimensional wonder and placing it in a two-dimensional medium. It can be done by finding three-dimensional compositions that create the feeling that one could step right into our photographic frame.

The above article is from the Internet



Layers of fall color abound in Utah's Big Cottonwood Canyon. Search for layering components within your frame when shooting longer-lens landscapes.



The Island of
Santorini, Greece
Submitted By
Al Westnedge (*Al has managed a three dimensional feel to this photo.*)

Top 10 Favorite Inexpensive Accessories

Plastic zipper bags: I use these bags for everything from an impromptu rain cover for the camera to keeping lenses and other expensive gear clean and dry inside my bag or vest. Airline security can easily see what's in them, too. Buy several sizes from one quart to three gallon; they have a million uses. Cost: about \$3-5.

Heavy-duty garbage bags: I keep several garbage bags in my shooting vest and in my shoulder bag and if I get caught in a downpour, all the gear gets stashed immediately. Cost: about \$7 for a box of 32.

Small flashlight: Finding and reading all of those tiny dials and switches on your camera is tough once the sun sets (or if you're in a dark room). They're also great for reading maps in a dark car (dome lights are worthless) and just might save your life if you get lost in the wilderness. Buy and carry a few. Cost: under \$5.

Disposable lighter: I wouldn't go into the wilderness—even a local state park—without a lighter. You can use them to light an emergency fire, or even to signal for help. Cost: under \$2.

Laminated maps: Most grocery stores and gas stations have a pretty good selection of local and regional maps. Laminated maps last for years (I have a Manhattan map I've had for 10 years), they fold very flat, and you can mark them up with China markers and then wipe them clean. Cost: about \$8 (overpriced but worthwhile).

Trail mix: If you fly a lot, you know how hard it is to catch a snack between flights or when waiting for one. Also, whether you're hiking in the city or woods, a bag of trail mix can save your sanity and your mood. Cost: under \$5 (much cheaper at home than in the airport).

Rain poncho: I recently got caught in a horrific downpour while photographing the Statue of Liberty and a poncho kept me and my gear totally dry. Cost: under \$8, and worth every cent. Buy better quality if you have a choice.

Duct tape: A small roll of duct tape or electrical tape has a million uses, from patching tears in a camera bag to repairing a blown-out flip-flop. It's also good for quick-fixing a broken battery compartment door. Buy the bright neon colours; they're easier to find in your gear and you can use it to mark trails if you start to get disoriented in the woods. Cost: under \$5.

Travel soap dish: The unbreakable plastic variety are great for keeping small accessories like memory cards and batteries from floating around in your bag, or for stashing some extra cash. Cost: under \$2.

Small bungee cords: Absolutely indispensable for keeping tripod legs together or backing up your shoulder bag's zipper lid during the airport shuffle. Great for securing a water bottle to your tripod leg, too. A million uses. Cost: Under \$5 for a pack of five.

Read more at <http://www.pixiq.com/article/the-photographers-ultimate-toy-kit-#EUu7qWqs3UYDmVxV.99>

If I have any 'message' worth giving to a beginner it is that there are no short cuts in photography. - Edward Weston

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Annual Membership Cards are now available and will be handed out to members at the next General meeting. By showing your card to places like The Source, London Drugs, Island Exposures Gallery etc, you will receive discounts on your purchase.

SAVE ALL YOUR MAGAZINES!

Libby has a fun project planned for an upcoming education meeting: Date to be announced, but probably in the New Year. For this you will need magazines of every description so start saving them. More details later.



December Social



Bring finger food to the December Social. Coffee will be supplied but please bring your own mug. The December meeting is strictly a social affair where we get an opportunity to mix and mingle. Field trip photos will be shown, along with Randy's 'Members Favourites' Slide Show. Well worth seeing as Randy goes to a lot of trouble with this presentation. Don't forget your name tag!!

Photo Challenge, 'Shutterbug Spotlight'

Each month we will post a photo challenge and the chosen submitted photo will feature on the front cover of the newsletter. **January's challenge is 'Winter'.** There are no limitations as to how you do it. Black & white, colour, manipulated. Have fun with it. The photo must have been taken within a year. Please send it no less than 1 MB. Email photo to: newsletter@oceansidephotographers.ca Deadline is December 23rd for January's edition. Each month a different committee will pick the front page. The images are sent to them anonymously. ***Only one photo per person Please!!** **With so many new members, when submitting, Please give me your full name, just your email address is not enough. Thanks.**

Actually, I'm not all that interested in the subject of photography. Once the picture is in the box, I'm not all that interested in what happens next. Hunters, after all, aren't cooks.

[Henri Cartier-Bresson](#)

Design & Make a 2013 Mini calendar

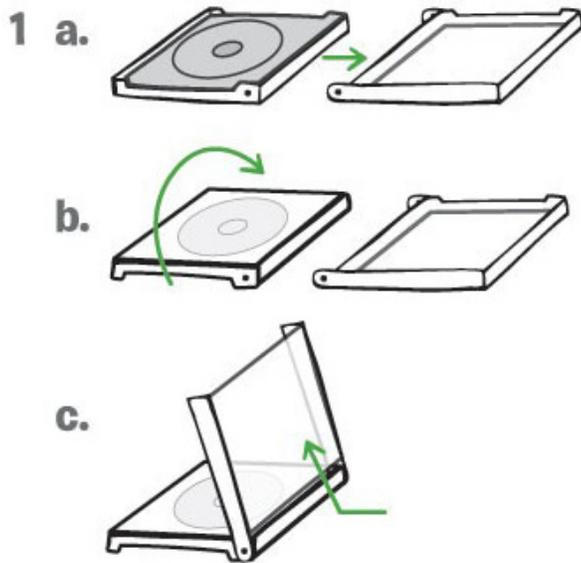
Would you like to make use of all the fabulous photos you've taken this year?
Do you need stocking stuffers or hostess gifts for the holidays?

Perhaps some mini calendars would fit the bill.....

These are calendars sized to fit in CD 'jewel' cases. The case makes an attractive package in which to present & store your calendar, and by carefully un-hinging the lid, rotating it & re-attaching it, you make a neat easel style display for the calendar.

Jewel cases are available from Staples, do not buy the slim ones, size matters!

To prepare the CD Case



Open your CD case.

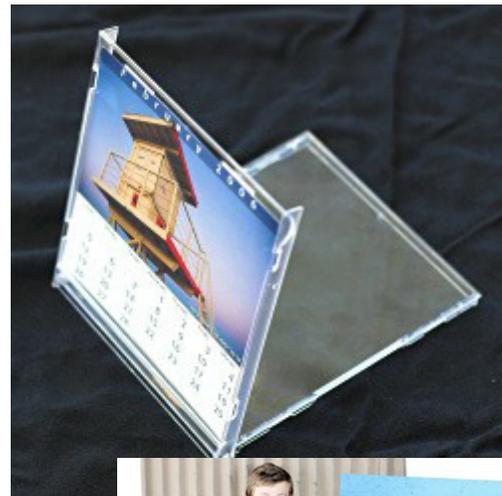
Pop out the black CD carrier base, then very carefully remove the lid from the base.

Flip over the base and re-attach.

Bend back the lid so it stands upright at a slight angle..

Et Voila!

Now you are ready to make the calendar.



What you'll need

At the time of writing I could only find one free 2013 template this is at –
<http://persnicketyprints.com/creative/calendars/calendar-designer>
find the download at the bottom right corner of their page



Getting Started

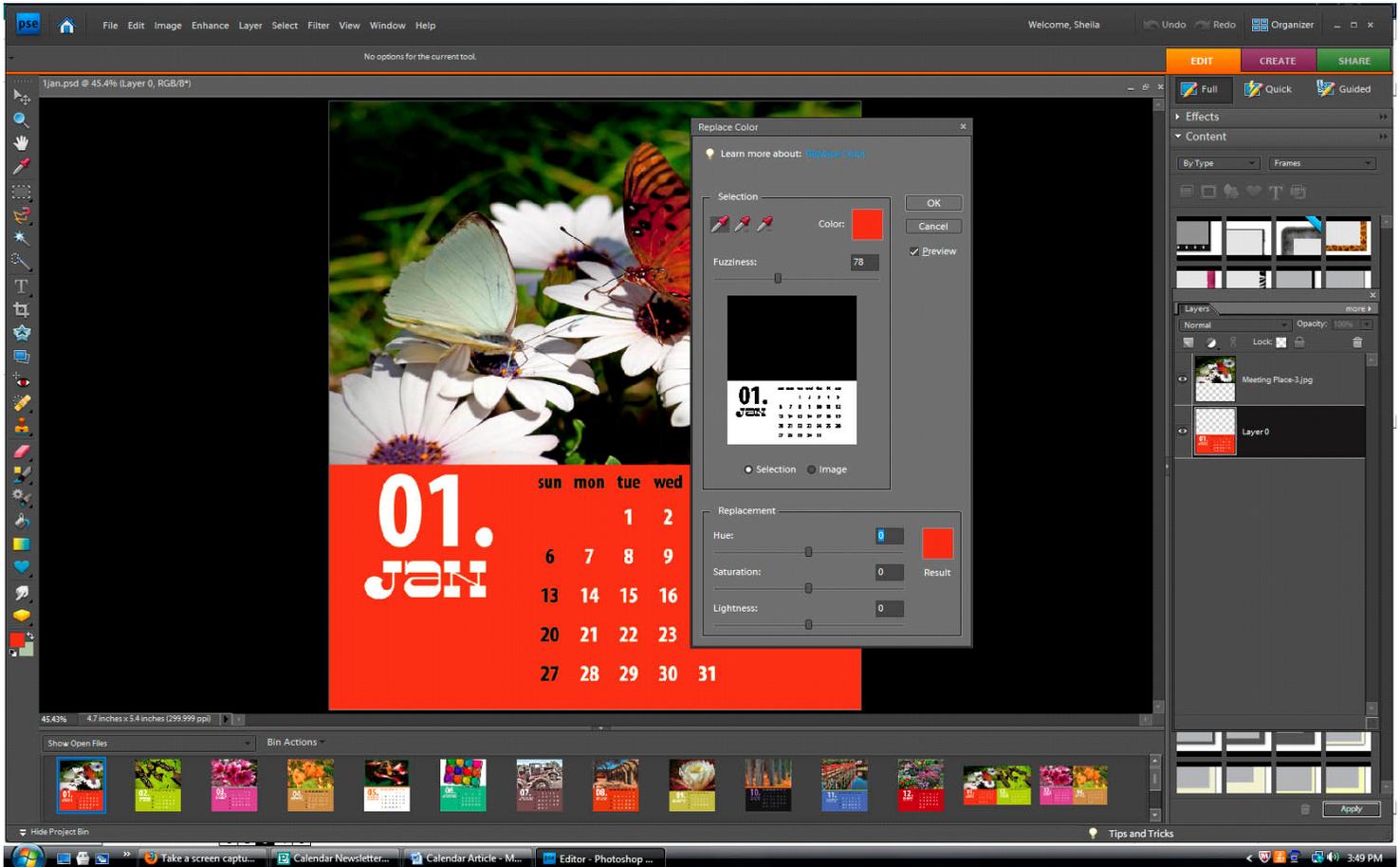
In addition to the photo paper you need a rotary cutter or some other means of cleanly separating your images.

Download & unzip the templates.

In Elements open the photos you want to use.

Open templates January & February.

You can change the colour of the template by going to Enhance – Adjust Color-Change Color.



Resize the photos using the Crop Tool to 4.7" wide, approx 2.7" height and 300ppi, You do have a bit of leeway on the height, so just see what works for your image.

Click on the January template and make a new layer (Control -J)



Drag your photo onto the template, then drag on the handles so that it exactly fits the space in the template.

If you are happy, flatten the image & save it.

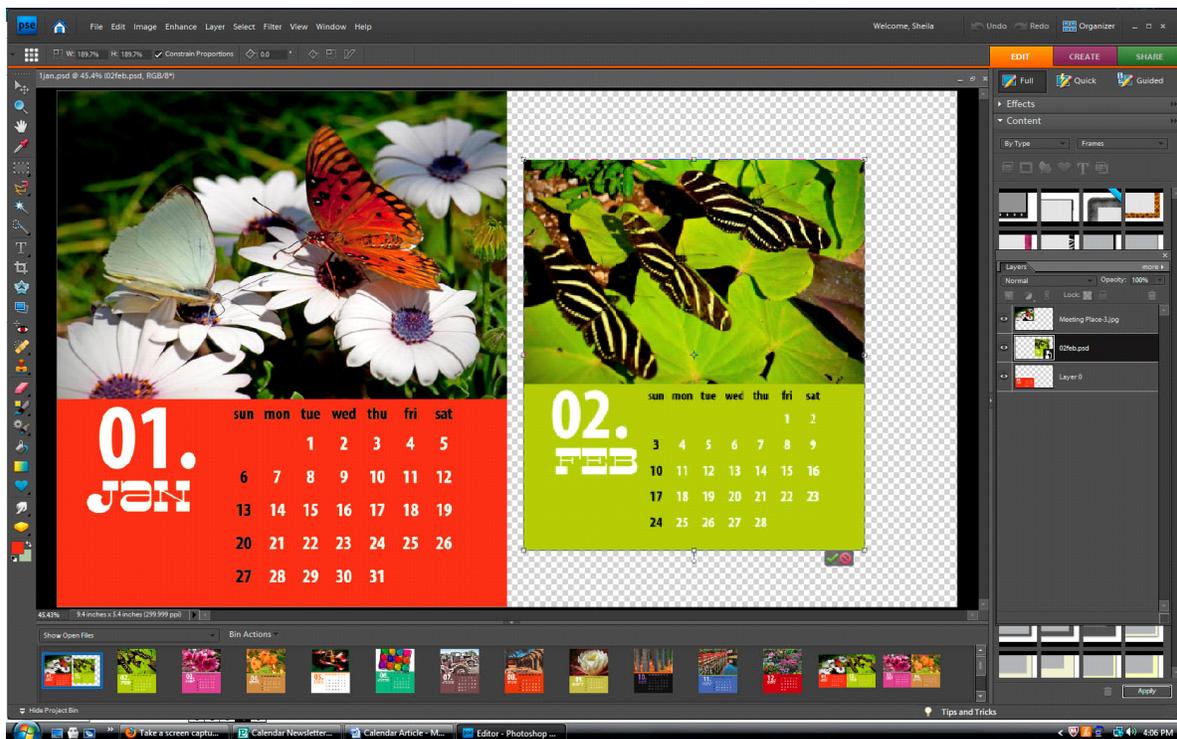
Do the same steps with February's template.

After saving, go to Resize Image – Resize Canvas, resize the width by 4.7 inches (double the width) anchoring the image to the top left of the canvas.

This leaves a space on the right of the canvas.

With the Move tool, drag your January page into that space & resize with the handles until it fits exactly.

In this example I am resizing the February page.



To Print

Set your printer to Landscape, borderless printing.

It should print your image right to the edge of your paper, this way you only have to make three cuts to finish your two pages, one along the bottom of the two pages, one to separate them and the last cut to separate the remaining white paper from the side.

Test to see if the pages fit in the CD case!

I found mine were a smidge too large and made adjustments to the template size.

I think this was because of the borderless printing on my printer, not the size of the template.

Continue with the other months until your calendar is complete.

Hope this works for you.

I'm sure that friends & family will be delighted with your hand crafted, very personal gift. Have Fun!

Sheila Hepton (thanks Sheila, a great idea)

EDUCATION MEETING, NOV 20TH, BRAD POWEL

Article and Photos Submitted by Frieda Van der Ree

At the November education meeting Brad Powell treated twenty-one members to a chance at trying smoke photography. This is a fairly technical challenge using props and gear not everyone has: off-camera flash, wireless trigger, tripod, reflector, black background and joss sticks to supply smoke. Afterwards he used Donna's shots to demonstrate some of the ways software could be used to enhance the smoke images. He tweaked clarity and luminence, turned the image into a negative with black smoke on a white background, applied colour effects, used the warp tool to exaggerate shapes and--ta da!--created another picture altogether by welding the original to its mirror image.

Libby has assigned smoke pictures as the next education project with results to be shown at the education meeting in January. **Please Note: No education meeting will be held in December.** If you don't have the necessary equipment, Paul Edelenbos invites members to use the gear he has set up in his garage. Please check with Paul for a convenient time.



Donna Wickstrom
Brad Powell



L-R: Dave Courtice Sitting,
Michael Van der Ree,
Eric Lovis, Libby Lovis,
Jack Harynuck and Kim
Greig



Alex, Labrador Retriever
Coraline, English Bulldog



Cute corner

London Drugs—10% Discount off Regular Printing

Offer applies ONLY to regular priced developing (online weekly special offers would not qualify for an additional discount)

Members are requested to bring in their membership cards and they will input the discount info into each individual's file so that future discounts will come automatically

Did You Know?

ISLAND EXPOSURES ART GALLERY WILL GIVE OCEANSIDE PHOTOGRAPHERS A 20% DISCOUNT.

Talk to Craig Carmichael at 5-183 West Island Highway,
Parksville (Beach Club)

Phone: 250-586-5225

Craig will meet all your framing needs and do spectacular canvas wraps.