

## **“From There to Here and All the Steps in Between: My Photographic Journey”**

A presentation by Ruth Ball, April 11, 2019

Article by Cindy Poulin

Ruth began her presentation with a disclaimer, that among other things, *“The photos included in this presentation are provided on an “as is” basis with no guarantees of...usefulness, timeliness, and most of all cleanliness.”* As the owner of a vast library of slides, Ruth discovered what other photographers have found over the years: slides collect dust and any other bits and pieces floating in the air and thus were difficult to clean. This proved no barrier to her presentation as once launched, Ruth displayed her wit and wisdom, gained over years of recording her travels and experiences.

Ruth quickly led us through her journey, from black and white Kodak Brownie shots of family, friends and neighbours - to the creative use of blur, macro and low light photos which she takes today. We were treated to some of her early errors, which included “centeritis” (the focal point is dead center, horizons at the midline, distracting backgrounds, missing body parts (cut off at the edges of the photo), not changing point of view and finally, not using your camera creatively (always shooting horizontally.) It seemed, from the laughter, that these are all “relatable” experiences.

With the advent of digital cameras, Ruth learned to grasp the correlation between aperture, shutter speed and ISO and with the help of friends, finally began shooting in manual – rather than automatic – mode. After joining IACC, with all its friendly and helpful members, outings, SIGs and workshops, she began to see an improvement in her photos, started shooting in RAW and learned a “little post-processing.” Increasing her knowledge of editing is to be her next challenge, one that I’m sure she’ll meet with humour and determination.

Thank you, Ruth, for an instructive and humorous glimpse of your photographic journey.