

## January Musings by Mufty

I'm musing these days about how long we've endured this altered life. It's been a long time since I pressed the elevator button with my bare finger or gone shopping where I could feel the fabric of the garment I was going to buy before I bought it.

What has kept my mental health as normal as it's ever going to be, were our weekly family picnics in the park and Photo Fridays, both of which are on hold until the weather improves. So, the long winter months stretch ahead. I have to say I love the excellent programs put on by members of Images who are working hard to keep us entertained, engaged and inspired. Being a member of two SIG groups keeps me challenged and partaking of club programs and competitions gives some structure to the weeks.

But more of my day to day. I have kept up with my COVID-19 PowerPoint show and am now on Day 312 of the project. I continue to try to make each picture relate to something visual about life with the virus. Yesterday's was a worn sign on the pavement outside Staples: DO YOUR PART. STAND 6 FEET APART. People aren't even "seeing" those signs anymore as they have become so much the norm. Last Thursday was a picture of my iPad with Chris Dodd's puffin on the zoom screen. Tuesday was picking up books ordered online from a table outside my library. Today, I photographed a sign outside Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. "STAY AT HOME. Isolation Services Online." This is today's history as we are making it, day by day.

Remember January last year my friends? We gathered at the Pleasantview Community Hall and sat in our usual places along the rows of chairs put out by early arrivers. We viewed the competition submissions projected on the big screen and walked beside beautifully composed prints on the lower level of the room. We were about 80 people together. We lined up casually for coffee at the break and ate the goodies some members choose to bring. We greeted old friends and learned what they were doing photographically. Who brought a new lens? Who had travelled to where? What were your plans for the spring?

We packed up the chairs after the meeting and called out our good nights. Then we travelled to our various homes all over the Edmonton area and looked forward to the next meeting in two weeks' time.

I miss you, camera friends. I miss you. I really look forward to when we can meet again in person. In the meantime, thanks to those of you who are keeping us going electronically. It is really important.