

Photographing the Prairies

Steve Ricketts

Sept 2020

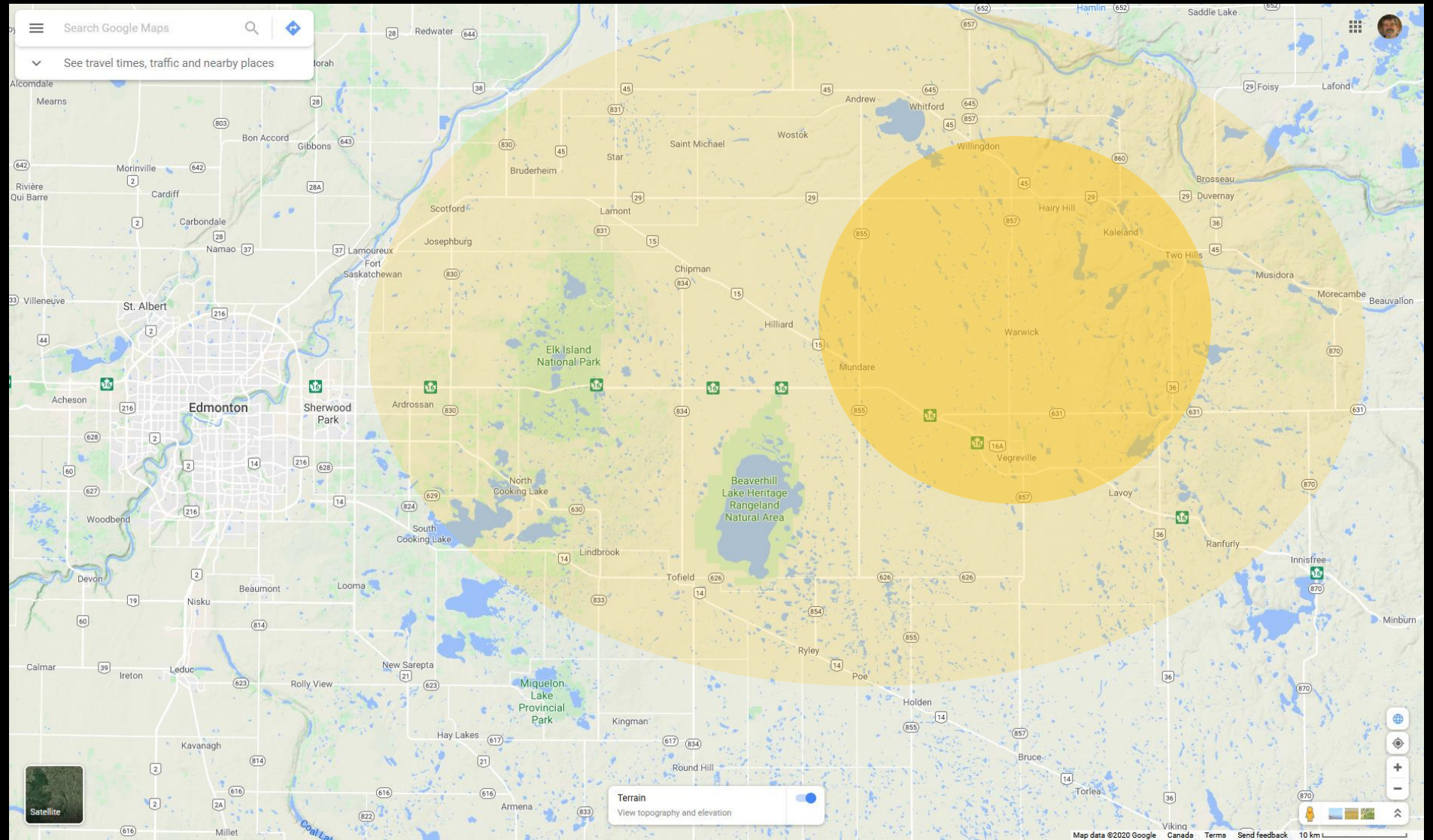
The Rockies are amazing...



...but the Prairies have their own allure



My stomping ground

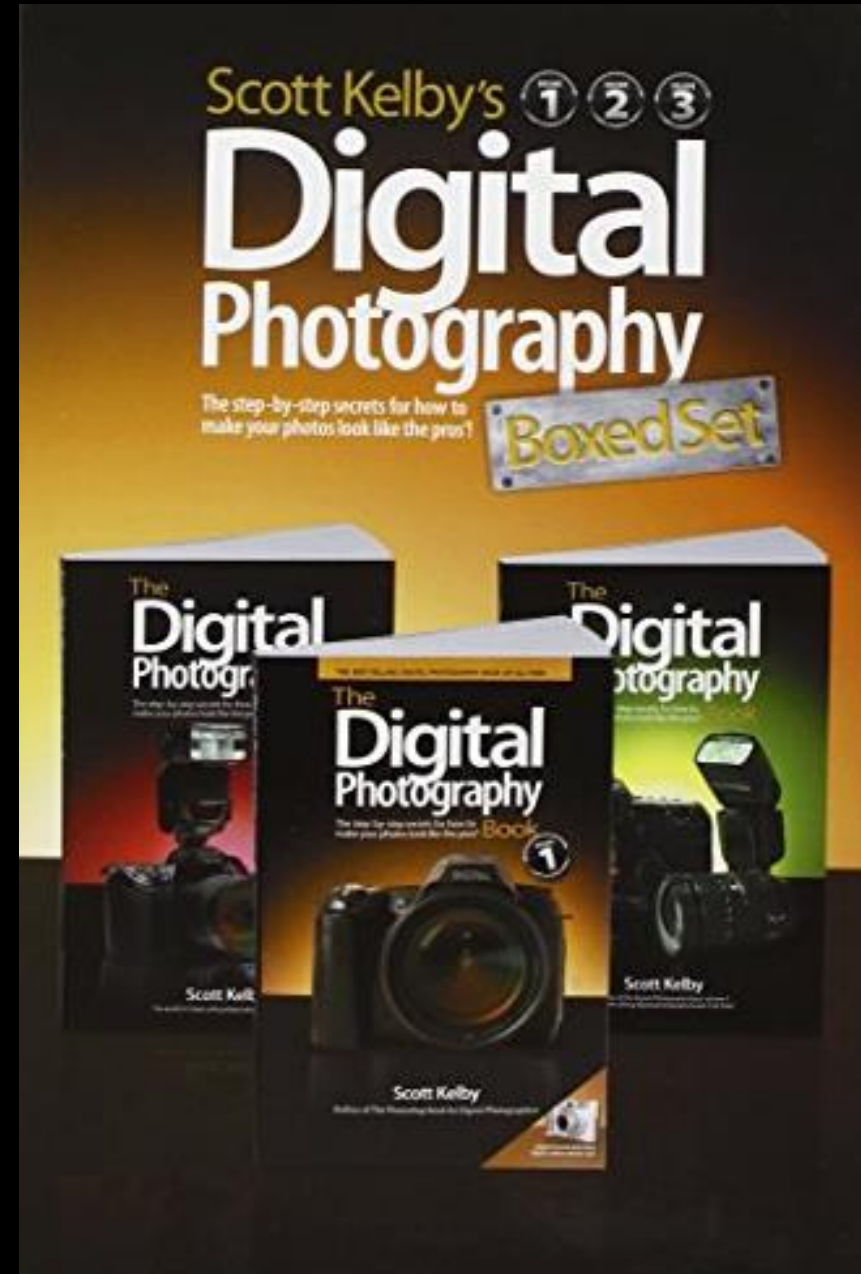


How do good images happen?

- Being in the *right* place
 - At the *right* time
 - With the *right* equipment
 - And the *knowledge* to use it
 - (plus more than a titch of luck)

..let's dissect that

Learning





Google Maps: identifying promising areas

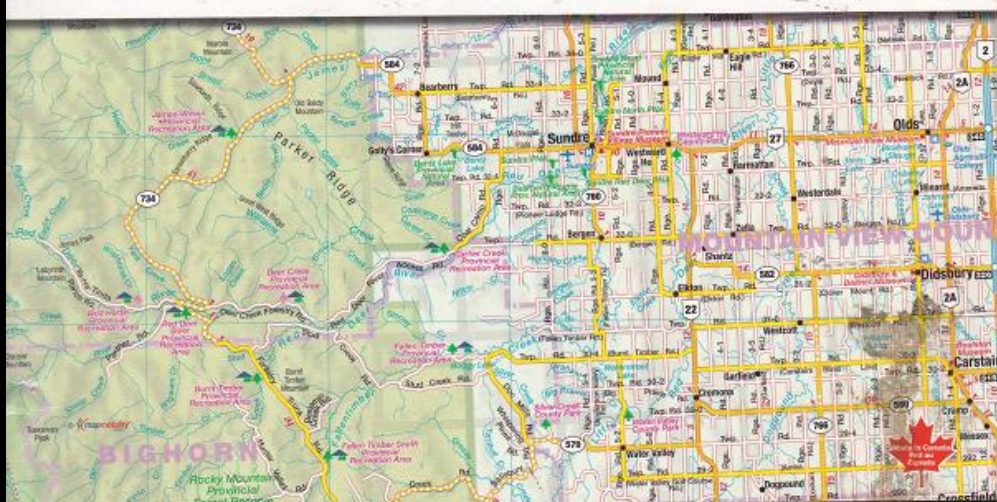




Alberta Back Road Atlas

Accurate
Dependable
Up-to-Date

Easy to Read



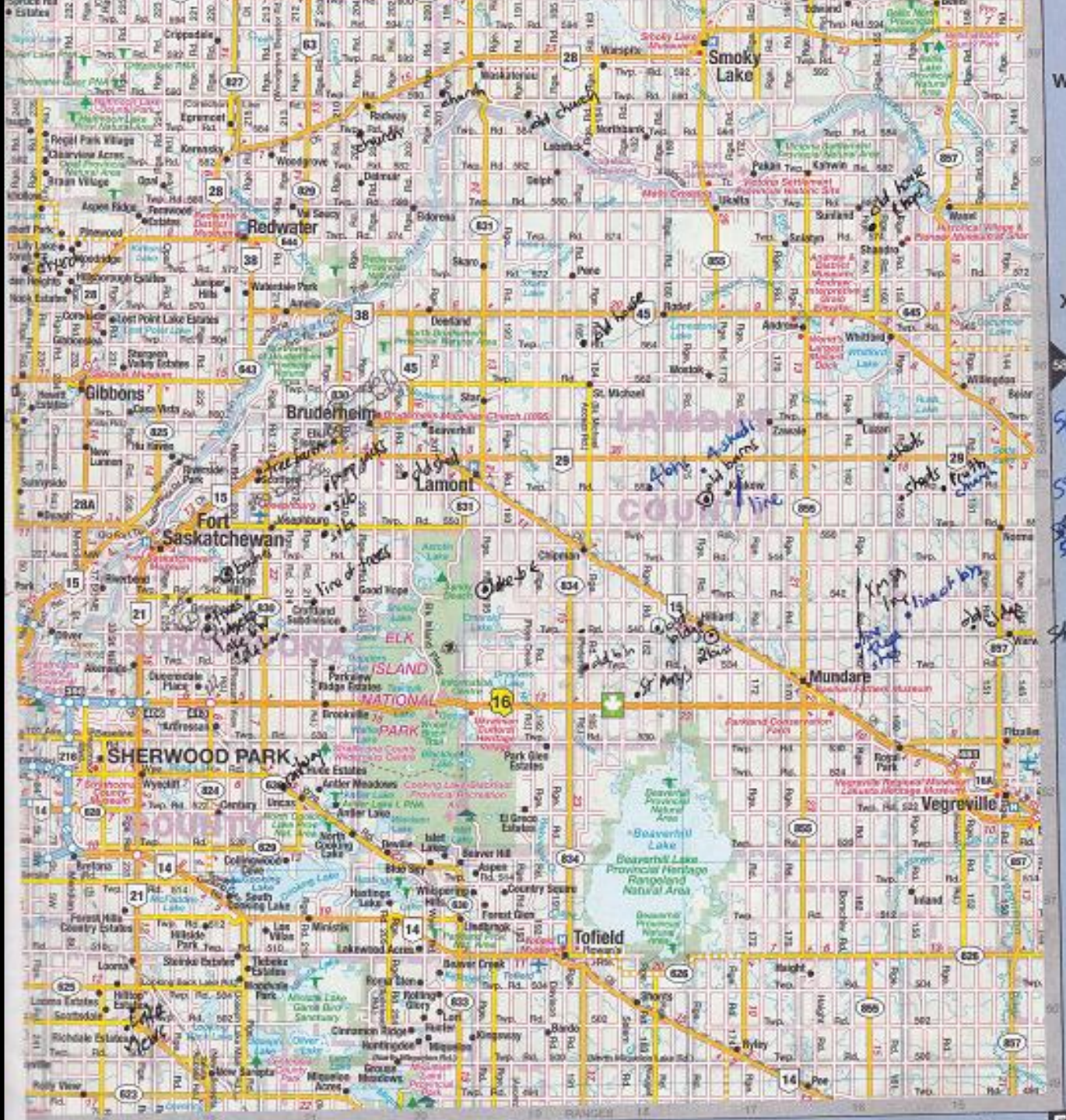
Includes

- Easy to read large scale maps
- Range & Township Roads
- Provincial Road Maps
- City Insets for Banff, Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray

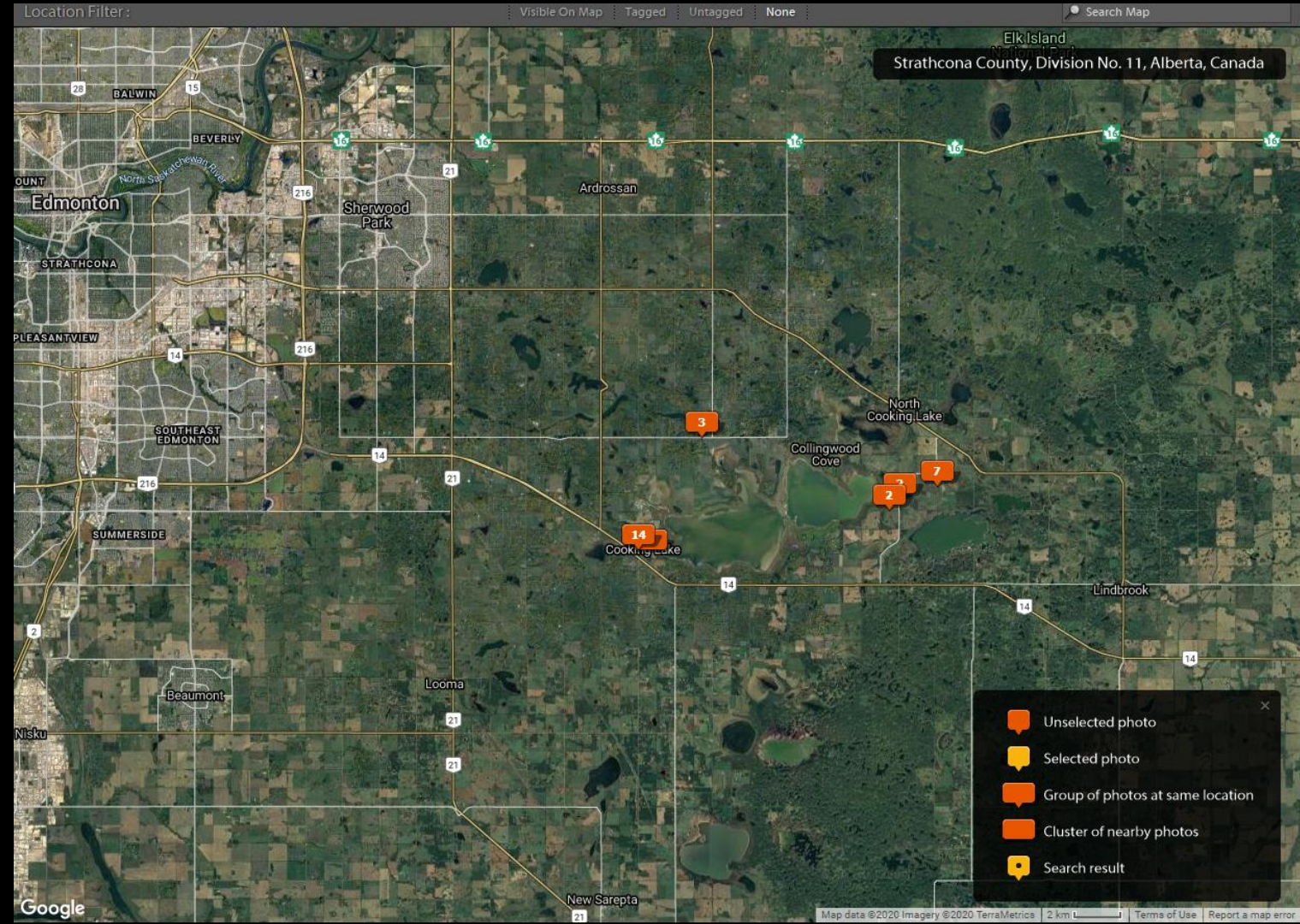
Grande Prairie
Jasper
Lethbridge
Red Deer
Medicine Hat



\$19⁹⁵



Use your camera's GPS to tag photos



Then look for a good day; e.g. ripening crops







Timing is everything... early morning fog in fall





..and frost



Clouds create drama



Get low



Think wild



Historic buildings





Bracketing images





Black-and-white accentuates textures, patterns





Playing
with
light

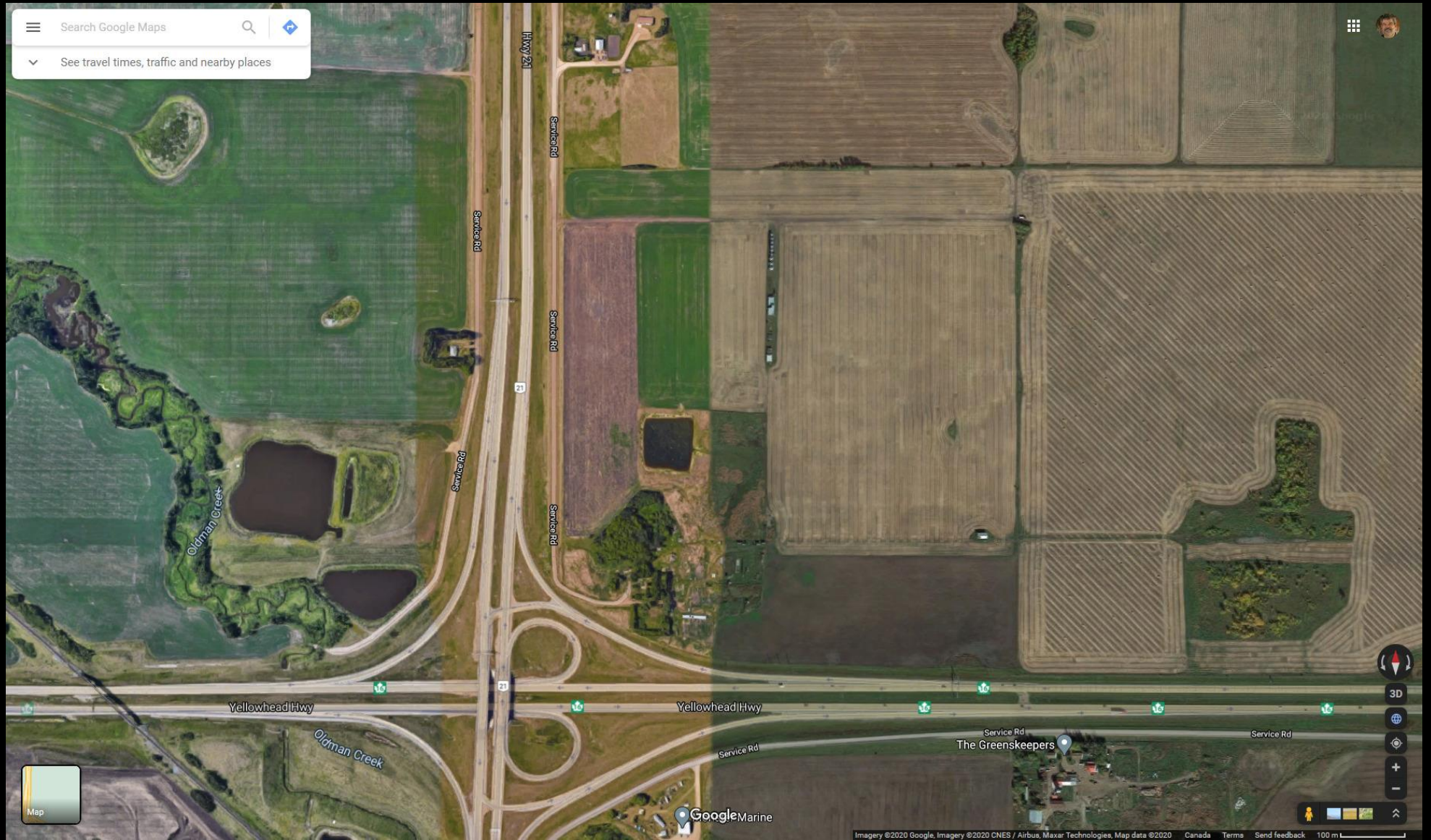








Finding a good time and location for a shot





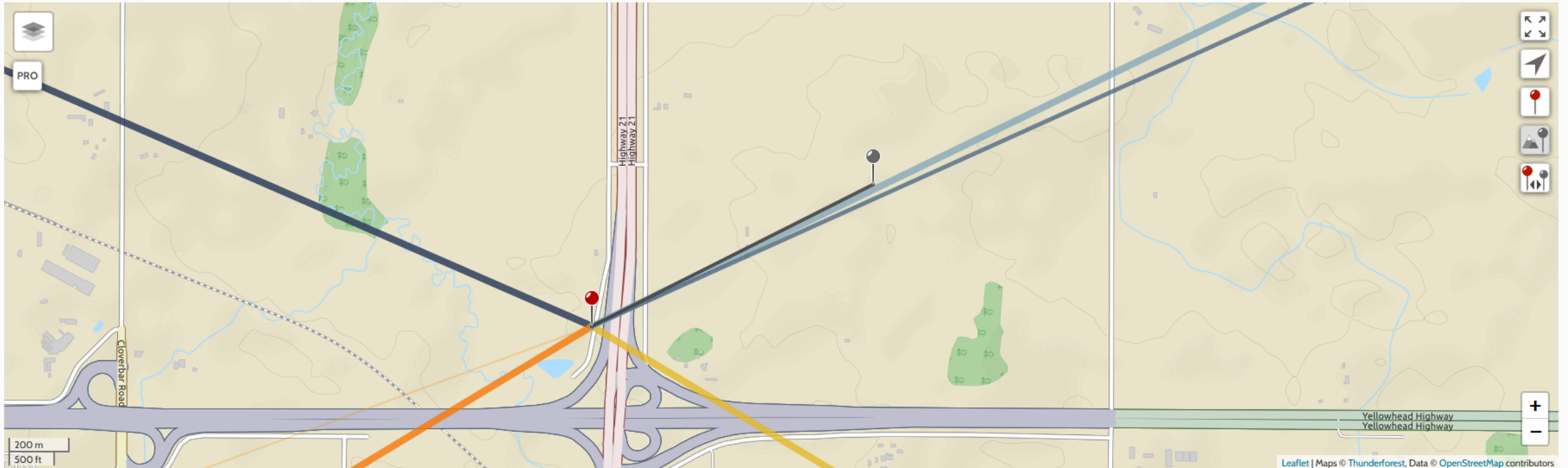
Monday, November 14th, 2016



5:31 PM America/Edmonton -0700

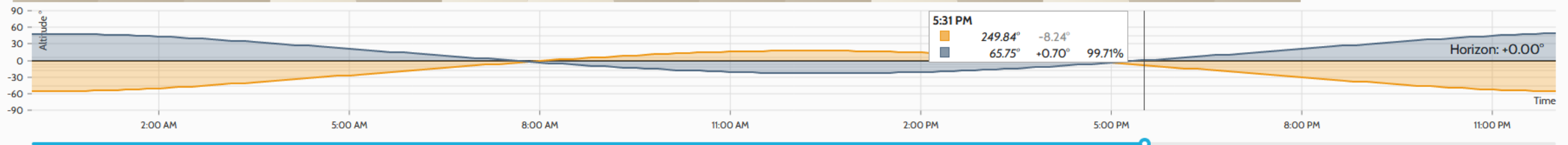
Default ☐ Google **PRO**

+0 ft Set +2198 ft SRTM3 ☒ PRO | 53.572887°N 113.247457°W



Distance 3403 ft Bearing 63.34° Δ El +39 ft Elevation angle +0.66°

Moon transit 12:06 AM 180.02° Waxing 99.87%	Astro start 5:55 AM 96.84°	Nautical start 6:36 AM 104.84°	* Full moon 6:52 AM 284.11° Waxing 100.00%	Civil start 7:19 AM 113.14°	↓ Moonset 7:41 AM 293.53° Waning 100.00%	↑ Sunrise 7:58 AM 120.90°	Golden hr 8:55 AM 132.71°	Sun transit 12:17 PM 180.00°	Golden hr 3:38 PM 227.14°	↓ Sunset 4:35 PM 238.93°	Civil end 5:15 PM 246.68°	↑ Moonrise 5:23 PM 64.17° Waning 99.71%	Nautical end 5:58 PM 254.96°	Astro end 6:39 PM 262.93°
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..nailing the shot





Look for simplicity, minimalism, repeating elements



Finding patterns in the mundane



Don't forget wintertime





Questions?

Think w-i-d-e (2:1, 3:1, even 4:1 aspect ratio)



Sometimes, farmers aid in composition



They also have a sense of humour



Telephoto lenses compress features



..making for memorable compositions



Look small too



When the time, location, atmospheric
features all “click”



I don't do wildlife well





Tips on safety, courtesy

- Country roads get sketchy when wet and in winter
- When parking, drive onto shoulder as far as possible (field entrances)
- Ask permission before going onto private property
- Respect fences
- Be careful around old buildings
- Rural people are naturally suspicious. Wave, chat. Give them your business card

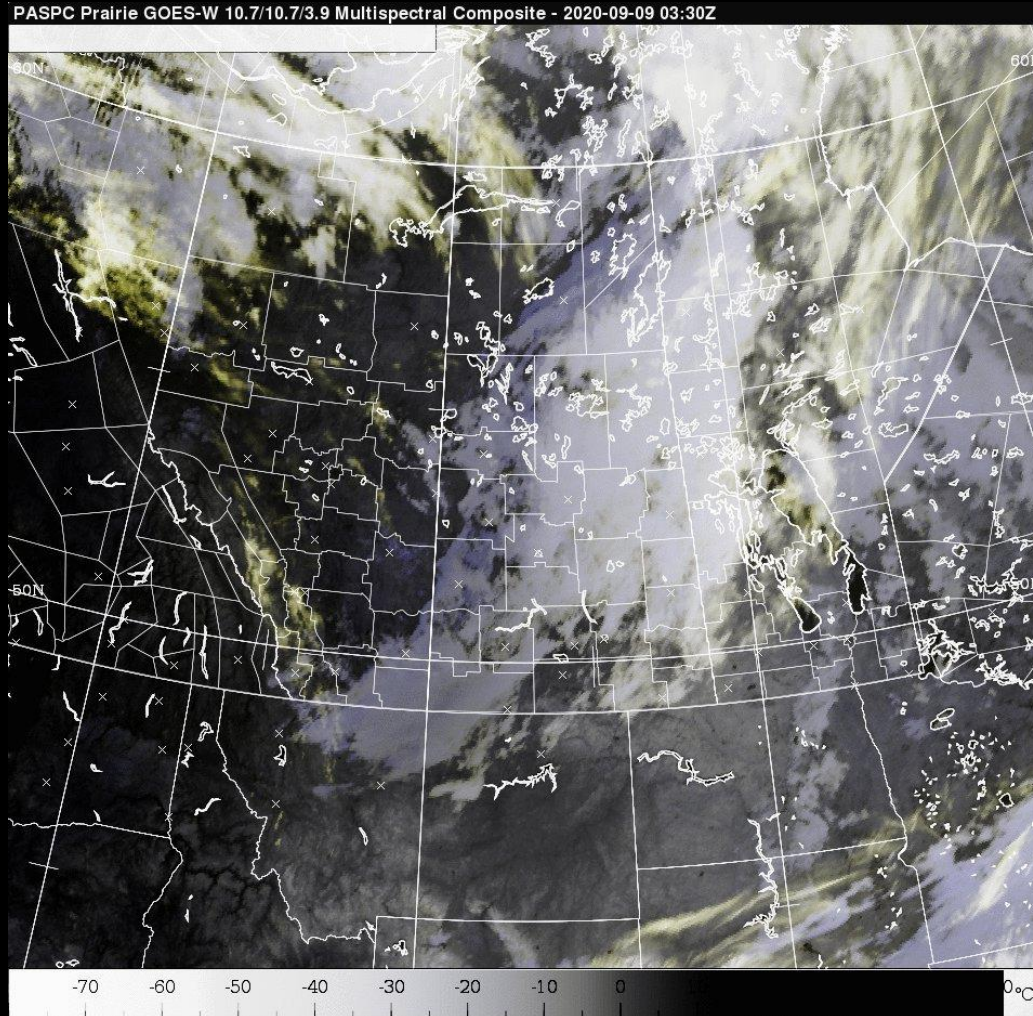
Things to bring along

- Alberta Road Atlas
- GPS
- All your photo gear
- Lens cleaning cloth
- Headlamp
- Flashlight
- Ladder or pole
- Raingear
- Rubber boots
- Rubber knee pads
- Bug spray
- Food and water
- A friend

My processing tool chest

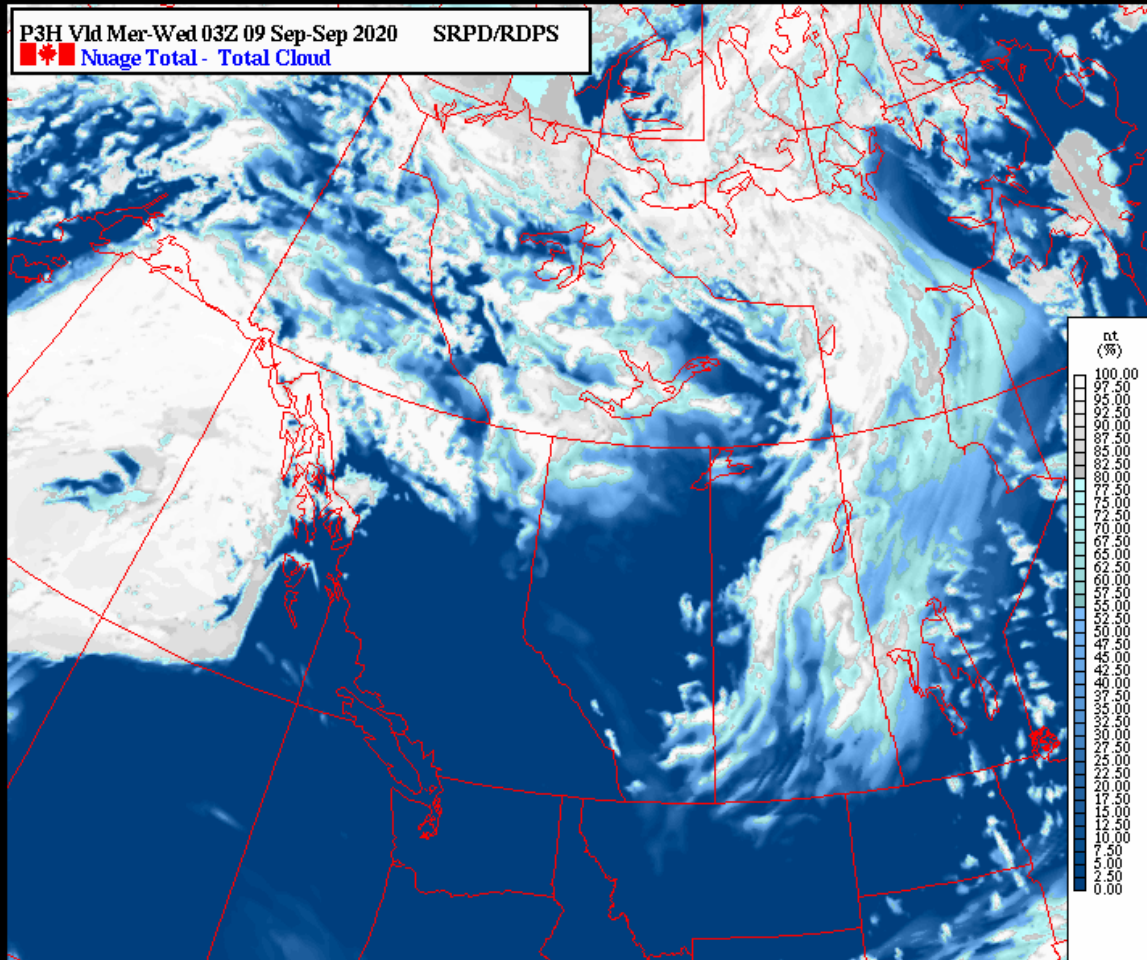
- Lightroom Classic (fulfills 90% of my needs)
- Photoshop (for blending, focus stacking, content aware fill)
- Nik Collection (Silver Efex, for B&W conversion)
- Photomatix Pro (B&W conversion)
- StarStaX (image stacking)

A Weather Moment (clouds)



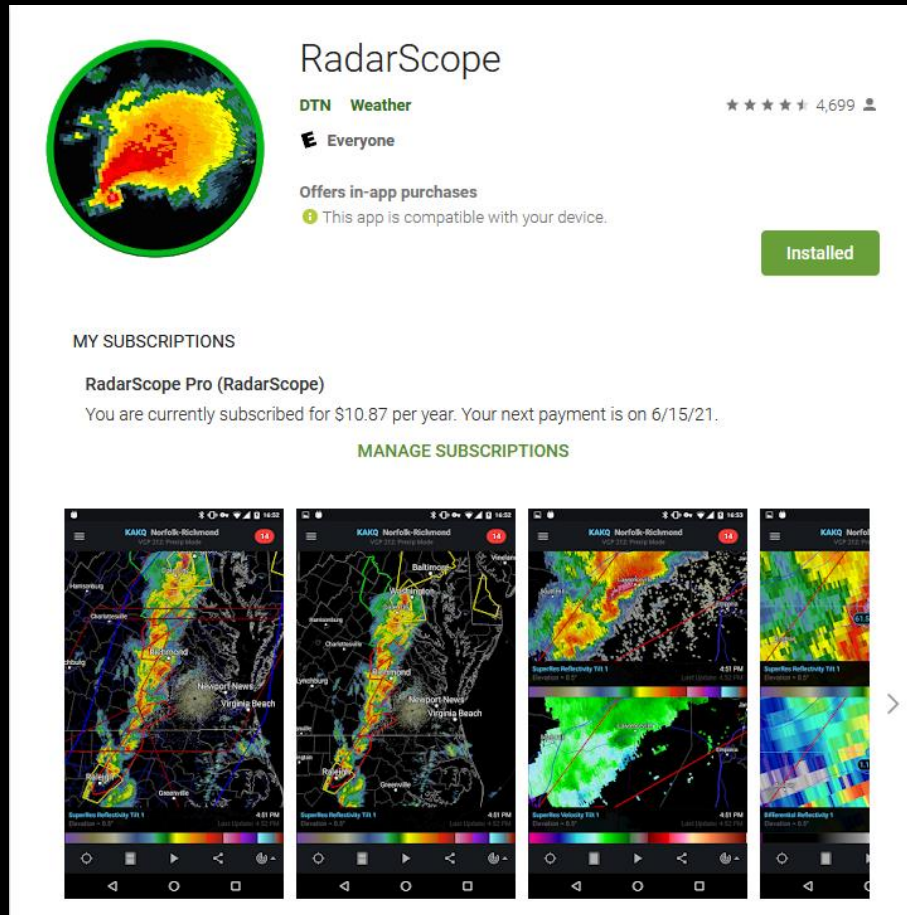
<https://www.aweathermoment.com/sat-viewer/>

Clouds Forecast For Astronomical Purposes (future clouds)



https://weather.gc.ca/astro/clds_vis_e.html

RadarScope (rain, lightning): Android, iOS



The image shows the Google Play Store listing for the RadarScope app. At the top, there is a circular icon of a radar map. To its right, the app name "RadarScope" is displayed, followed by the developer "DTN Weather" and a 4.5-star rating from 4,699 reviews. The age rating is "Everyone". Below this, it states "Offers in-app purchases" and "This app is compatible with your device." A green "Installed" button is visible. Under the "MY SUBSCRIPTIONS" section, it lists "RadarScope Pro (RadarScope)" with a note that the user is currently subscribed for \$10.87 per year, with the next payment on 6/15/21. A "MANAGE SUBSCRIPTIONS" link is provided. At the bottom, there are four preview images showing different radar data layers on a map, such as "Superbes Reflectivity T01.1" and "Superbes Velocity T01.1".

RadarScope
DTN Weather ★★★★★ 4,699
Everyone
Offers in-app purchases
This app is compatible with your device.
Installed

MY SUBSCRIPTIONS
RadarScope Pro (RadarScope)
You are currently subscribed for \$10.87 per year. Your next payment is on 6/15/21.
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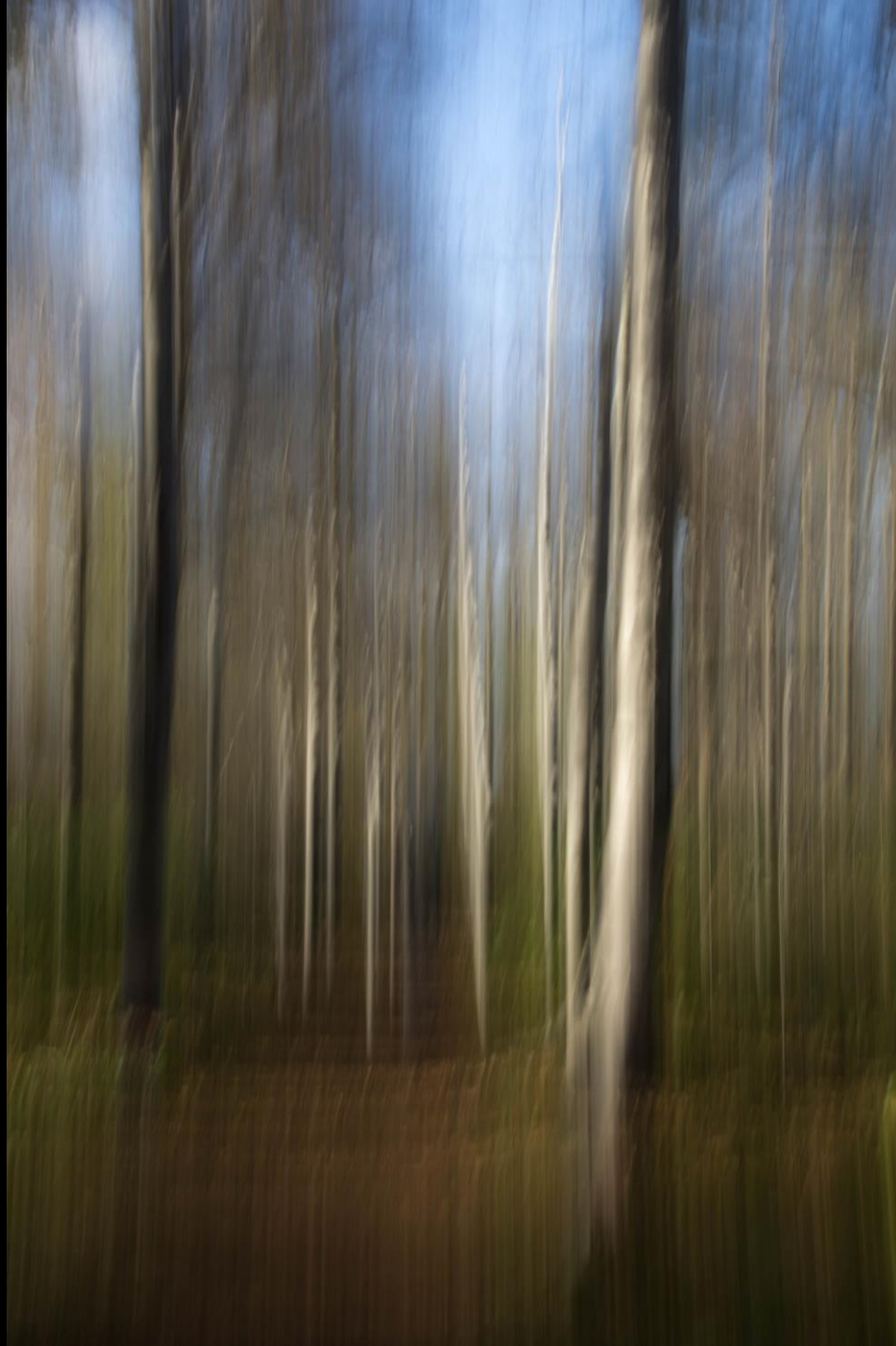
Four preview images showing radar data layers on a map, including Superbes Reflectivity T01.1 and Superbes Velocity T01.1.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.basevelocity.radarscope&hl=en>

Advice to an aspiring photographer

- Shoot... shoot... shoot...
 - Share your images and seek feedback
 - Never stop learning
 - Experiment! Challenge yourself!
 - Pick an area/subject/specialization that's *you*
 - Do a project
 - Do an exhibit
-
- Take images that please you, not to please others or to sell







Holy Trinity
Catholic Church





Edmonton

Family saddened as historic rural church destroyed in suspicious fire



Sokalski family attended service for generations

CBC News · Posted: Jul 31, 2020 8:55 AM MT | Last Updated: July 31



The Holy Trinity Catholic Church, also known as New Kiew church by locals, was completely destroyed in a fire. (Miranda Ketchum)

Outing: Saturday, Sep 19, 2020

Vegreville-Two Hills area

- Leader: Steve Ricketts
- When: Saturday, Sep 19, 2020, time TBA
- Where: Vegreville-Two Hills area
- Cost: free
- How to register: TBA
- Deadline for registrations: TBA
- Space: unlimited
- Prerequisite: membership in IACC