

SARNIA PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

A Member of the Canadian Association for Photographic Art

Code of Conduct

The Sarnia Photographic Club (Club) is committed to providing its members a safe and positive environment in which to pursue their photographic interest, in all its aspects, and in which all individuals - club members, club guests, members of the public - are treated in a respectful manner that consistently demonstrates fairness, integrity, and open and honest communication and leads to mutual respect.

This Code is posted on the Club website. All members are deemed to have knowledge of this Code and to have agreed to this Code by virtue of purchasing a Club membership.

Expectations

Our Club and its members, individually and collectively, while attending/participating/engaged in Club activities, are expected to:

- i. treat all other persons fairly, reasonably and with respect, and maintain honesty, integrity and excellence in all dealings;
- ii. ensure that all members are treated with respect, dignity, and common courtesy in their contact with the Club and its members;
- iii. treat individuals respectfully and without prejudice regardless of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, disability or economic status;
- iv. refrain from any behaviour that constitutes harassment, where harassment is defined as repeated comment or conduct directed towards an individual or group, which is likely to be found offensive, abusive, racist, degrading, malicious or sexist, or ought reasonably to be known to be so;
- v. have proper regard for public law, and the safety, health and welfare of themselves, other members, guests, invitees and the public, and refrain from engaging in activities, behaviour or conduct that jeopardizes the health and safety of any individual;
- vi. preserve and enhance the reputation of the Club by exercising discretion and sound judgement when taking photographs, competing in competitions and, in general, representing the Club and its interests and participating in its activities in public;

- vii. respect the privilege of the use of public or private facilities used for Club events or activities;
- viii. refrain from engaging in malicious or deliberately inaccurate criticism of the work or reputation of another photographer and focus comments or criticism appropriately, and avoid public criticism of other members or organizers of Club events and activities;
- ix. act responsibly and ethically when photographing people and property;
- x. act responsibly and ethically when photographing wildlife and nature;
- xi. prevent interruptions to formal presentations from personal electronic devices including, but not limited to, cellular phones;
- xii. respect the Copyright Act of Canada, which governs the legally enforceable rights to creative and artistic works under the laws of Canada, and never incorporate another person's work into one's own work without their written permission, nor share another person's intellectual property via social media or any other electronic or print media without ensuring that full ownership credit is given to the creator of the original work;
- xiii. violations of the Code of Conduct are encouraged to be reported, in writing, to the Sarnia Photographic Club Executive.

A Nature Viewer's Code of Ethics

Based on *A Nature Viewer's Code of Ethics* from Nature Ontario

1. Always put the welfare of animals and plants ahead of your desire to view them.
2. Consider and be aware of the species' behaviours, needs and ecosystem. (Learn how things interrelate and how easily you can break their links.)
 - a. The rarer the species, the greater the care you must take.
 - b. Seasonal circumstances make a species vulnerable. Breeding season, winter and migration are especially stressful times for wildlife. Therefore, you must give your subject a wider berth.
 - c. Leave nesting birds and nursing mammals alone unless you have proper training and guidance.
 - d. Stay away from hibernators.
 - e. Don't stalk, chase or badger wildlife, causing a bird to flush or a mammal to run.
 - f. Don't handle birds, wildlife or their young, or interfere with nests and dens. Never separate babies from their mothers.
 - g. Avoid removing reptiles, amphibians or insects from their natural habitat.
3. Always move slowly, letting birds and other wildlife get accustomed to you.
 - a. If you see any signs of stress, you're too close. Back off immediately.
4. Avoid trampling plants and vegetation in any habitat.
 - a. Never permanently alter any habitat to improve your view. Gardening - cutting and clearing away branches, reeds, grasses and other protective cover - is unacceptable.
5. Minimize your disturbance of the environment.
 - a. Make your visit as brief as possible.
 - b. Take as little equipment as possible to minimize disturbance in the field.
 - c. Avoid creating a trail to your subject's refuge.
6. Consider the collective impact of nature viewers. If the area or subject is over-visited, look for another, less stressful opportunity.
7. Do not bait any animal.
8. Never use flash around birds, especially Owls
9. Don't trespass or litter. Respect landowners' and public terms for land use.
10. If you witness any unethical practice in the field, speak up.