

I joined the Prince George Photographic Society on October 13, 1981 and have been a member ever since. I know that the club was well established at the time I joined and was likely founded in the 1960's. I believe some of the early members were Wally West, Jack Rushant and Lance Morgan.

At the time I joined meetings were held every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the meeting room at Studio 2880. The club also had a large darkroom in the same facility. There were some 30 to 40 members at that time and the darkroom was well used. When the studio increased rent in the mid eighties and wanted the darkroom space we looked for another location and were made an offer by the Connaught Youth Centre, the former Connaught Junior High School. We could have free darkroom space, free equipment storage and a meeting room in exchange for taking individual photos of the various cadets whose groups met at the centre. Members of the club worked hard to move our darkroom and reassemble it in the Connaught Centre. Each fall identification photos of the cadets were taken and printed up for the groups. During that time we had a very active club. In 1986 we had 51 members. I was on the executive at that time. I think I have been on the executive, in some capacity continuously ever since. It was during that time that we held our first Photogenesis, a show of our photos, in the Kieth Gordon Room of the Main Library. We also held weekend workshops at Connaught with various club members covering different aspects of photography. We had a month long annual display of our photos on the stairwell at the library for a number of years, in that time period, as well.

In 1996 The managers of the Youth Centre asked the club to start paying rent and I believe it was a bit too high for our budget so once again the club moved. This time it was to our present location in The First Baptist Church. We no longer needed a dark room as there was one in the church that Lance Morgan had set up. Elmer Giesbrecht was a member of the church and he arranged for us to use a room in the basement of the church for meetings. The room was quite small but our membership had dropped off. Some of our more active members had moved or retired out of town, while others became involved in the Astronomical Society. In the early 2000's The advent of digital began to bring more members back to the club and the need for a darkroom became less important. We moved into the bigger room on the main floor of the church where we currently meet.

I remember that during the 80's and 90's clubs must have been much smaller as we were all allowed to put in 2 entries to the North Shore Challenge and at that time they were slides. We would have to get our slides duplicated and sometimes 10 to 15 were mailed off to the competition. The club owned a Kodak projector and we often did slide shows. We also entered the print competition each year. The photo size and matting requirements were far less stringent in those days. All this began to change when digital photography became the more popular form for serious photographers.

Slowly our club membership built up again in the early 2000's. The interest in photography brought about by digital cameras and technology may have been partially responsible. By 2005 our membership was on a definite upswing. We had let our status as a society lapse so we had to work on regaining it and writing a new constitution. We also began in 2005 to have an annual weekend field trip. These have always been occasions for great fun, adventures and photographic opportunities.