

# Getting a bit more from your camera

A camera for Christmas? Here's some hints on how to get the most from it

By BOB OLLIVIER  
Herald Columnist

According to Santa's letter file, there were a lot of cameras given and received for Christmas. Great, if you know how to use one.

If not, there are a few simple rules or hints to get you on the way to great pictures. If you received a camera or money to buy one, you're part way to being an artist. The rest is up to you.

"Think" pictures, and "make", don't "take" what you see as a picture. Anyone can take a picture, but "making" a good photograph is a little harder.

The newer easy-load size 110 and 126 cameras take a ready-loaded cassette or cartridge of film, and loading is simply opening the back and inserting the cartridge. They're designed to fit only one way and can not be inserted backwards.

These versatile cameras are for the snapshot type of photography, and are great at the beach or cottage, as well as indoors with a flashcube. The more expensive and harder-to-use 35-millimetre cameras usually have through-the-lens viewing and more often than not use interchangeable lenses.

Whatever type of camera you now own, if you take the time to think about a picture before snapping the shutter, it will usually turn out better. Try for different angles, light or poses and if taking scenes, you may be better at some times in one day. Once to decide the best angle and if the light may be better at some other time of day, such as evening, when the sun is setting and making things glow red.

Your choice of film has a lot to do with the final results of your photographs, and trying various brands or types will help in your own personal choice.

The clerks in GOOD camera stores are usually very knowledgeable and always willing to help with your choice of film. Booklets are available for further help. The higher the "ASA" rating of a film, the more sensitive the emulsion or coating of light sensitive chemicals on the backing.

Kodachrome ASA 25 has extremely fine grain, and excellent clarity and tonal contrast, and when enlarging from a negative or transparency, the final results are top quality. A faster film, such as Kodak Ektachrome 400, is grainier and less sharp, but can be used in dimmer light conditions, or with a faster shutter speed or smaller lens opening. All designed to get



Soft lighting and composition is important in portrait photography. Herald columnist Bob Ollivier points out. Having taken hundreds of pictures over the years on both a professional and amateur basis, Bob - the author of The Herald's Ontario Outdoors and in the Churches columns - has some helpful hints for local readers who might have received that camera they were hoping for at Christmas.

that photograph that low speed film just would not get for you. Campfires, for instance, can be photographed with the use of ASA 400 film and a faster speed than the ASA 64 film. This way, if there is movement or you wish to get sharp flames, you can get by without a tripod to set your camera on.

Christmas tree lights can be caught for posterity with a film of the same speed or by using ASA 64 or 100 and a larger aperture.

Apertures? The size of the opening of the lens on an adjustable camera. Since shutter speed controls motion and "f"-stops control depth of focus, you must decide which setting is more important for the picture you want to make.

For instance, to photograph lightning, which is of course

fast and under poor light, set your camera on f11 with ASA 200 film and use the "B" setting, leaving the shutter open through several flashes of lightning, then close it.

With "simple" cameras, those without adjustments, it may be possible to make night or lightning photos by careful timing of the flashes and good luck, but it is risky and can waste a lot of film.

Double exposures with my 35mm camera are among my favorite photos. These may be of scenery, with one exposure to get the setting sun and one to get the moon on the same scene several hours later. Just set the camera on a tripod and make sure it is not moved, and make the second exposure when things look good.

Generally speaking, the art of photography is a mixture of learned tricks or techniques and a certain degree of artistic feeling in the photographer. Study others work and learn from them.

An exhibition of photographic art will be held at Gallery House Sol Feb. 20 to March 11.

Flash for the simple camera is of course simple. Just use a flash cube of whatever type is called for. The 35mm camera has a separate flash that does not come with the camera. Decide on the price you can afford and buy the best you can get. Study the booklet that comes with the flash unit, as it is too detailed for this article. Learn to use flash in the many innovative ways that the experts do, and you'll be surpris-

ed at the results. Take care of your new camera; treat the lens as you would your own eyes and keep it covered when not in use.

Don't polish it, but simply dust the lens with a cloth bought for that purpose alone. Above all, remember: if all else fails, read the instruction book.

Simon Fraser  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

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Crossword Puzzle Answer on Page C7

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**To the slopes!**  
By NANCY SHORTILL  
Y Publicist  
The Georgetown Y will be offering cross country ski lessons Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to noon beginning Jan. 16. Here's an opportunity for the family to enjoy this fun outdoor sport together.  
It's important that you pre-register at the Y office at 89 Mountainview Rd. S., 877-6163. Fee for the cross-country ski lessons is \$25.  
Also, the Georgetown Y is still accepting registration for most of its programs, from play school, ballet, aquatics, stained glass, quilting and chess to aerobics. Please note that ballet lessons began yesterday (Tuesday) and today.

**Photos by Bob Ollivier**  
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**Y exchange can bring you faraway places**  
As the Canada World Youth commences its 1982 recruitment campaign for young people to participate in this year's youth exchange program, the local Georgetown YM-YWCA has information and applications at its disposal.  
CWY, funded in part by the Canadian International Development Agency and now in its 11th consecutive year, is looking for workers and students between the ages of 17 and 20 who are interested in learning about development and cross-cultural communication in both Canada and a developing country.

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