

A Northshore Photographer's Portfolio



Sunny days provide sharp contrast, as in this picture.

Local photographers can take advantage of changing weather conditions in area

By Susan Johnson Hewson

Photographers live in a world of variety; they take pictures no matter what the weather happens to be.

It might surprise you to know that overcast days provide great opportunities for photographers.

Your pictures will be better because of the changes in lighting due to adverse weather conditions. A rainy day will give objects a different colour because of moisture. A gray day, where there is spotty light, will be very effective and will provide a softer look to your subject.

Gray days are great for portraits because of the even light. If a distant landscape seems dreary, concentrate on close subjects. Fog,

mist, and haze can provide an artistic quality in your pictures which is otherwise difficult to obtain in clear sunlight.

When the lighting is soft, colours tend to be subtle and unwanted backgrounds become subdued.

It's fairly common to have the sun break through just before or after a storm. This is a wonderful time to shoot foreground against a dark background. Rainbows record best when slightly underexposed.

The hours before midmorning and just after mid-afternoon are the best times for taking pictures. With your choice of time and sky conditions, you are able to create your impressions at will. There are almost unlimited opportunities for

the same scene.

Sunrise and sunsets can be the most strikingly beautiful of all types of outdoor photography. For better composition, colour should build up towards the top of the photo when shooting the horizon over flat terrain. The division line tends to disappear.

Objects such as trees, figures, etc., in the foreground tend to break the monotony. To create serenity, use soft lines of clouds; sharp lines of cliffs will convey harshness.

Every photographer will express their own feelings by the way in which they capture beauty, feeling and mood in a subject.

"Nature is man's religious book, with lessons for every day."

Theodore Parker

Helpful hints to make your children's school year a safe one

With another school year just beginning, now is the time to talk with your children about safe pedestrian and cycling habits, says the Ontario Safety League.

If your child is attending school for the first time, or if you have moved to a new area, it is a good idea to first find the quickest and safest route to school.

You should then walk with your child over the route a few times before school begins. Remember, children tend to copy their parents' behaviour. If you jaywalk or cross a street in an

unsafe manner, so will they.

Teach children to cross only at corners, and to not dash out between parked cars.

They are safer if they cross at signalled or supervised crossings, or corners where a crossing guard is stationed.

Children are also generally safe if they walk to and from school in groups.

Discourage your children from walking alone, or taking shortcuts through strange neighbourhoods.

If your children ride a school bus, teach them not to rough-

house while boarding or alighting. If possible, meet them at the bus stop and walk home with them.

Make sure that your children understand the rules of the road for bicycles. Check your child's skills before and during his or her trips to and from school.

Dress children in light or brightly coloured clothes on overcast days. If they must be out after dark, look into purchasing reflective clothing or tape.

In rural or poorly lit areas, supply each child with a flash

light.

Here are a few other tips for safety on the streets for children:

- Children are adventurous. They will frequently devise their own "short cuts" and travel patterns. Get to know your child's habits and friends better by asking them to take you around the neighbourhood, to the store, to school, to friends' houses, to the playground.

- Emphasize that children should not talk to strangers on the street. Make sure that they know to report to you any person who

approaches them on the street.

- Cute though they may be, clothes with the child's name on the outside are not a good idea. Too many children respond trustingly to adults who call them by name.

- Make sure your children know their complete names, address, and phone number.

- If your child carries his or her own house key, don't mark it with your name and address. If it is lost, the finder has all the information needed to enter your house at will.



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