



**GTCCC INTERCLUB OPEN CHALLENGE
2017 RULES & GUIDELINES
Rev. June 22, 12:00pm**

Entry Eligibility:

The **GTCCC Interclub Open Challenge** (hereafter “Competition”) is open to members of all GTCCC Member Clubs in good standing in accordance with the GTCCC By-laws.

Image Qualification

Images entered in any previous GTCCC Competition are ineligible. Similarly, images that are substantially similar to a previously submitted image, remain ineligible. An image is eligible for one category only; e.g., the same image cannot be submitted as a projected image and as a print. Alteration will not change the image.

Open Challenge Categories:

The Open Challenge has a total of 12 (twelve) categories comprised of Digital images and Prints:

A full description of the categories is detailed on page 4-6.

Digital Categories:

1	NW	<i>Pure Nature Wildlife</i>
2	BR	Birds
3	AN	Animals
4	BO	Botany
5	LG	Landscape & Geology
6	PE	People
7	AR	Architecture
8	PD	Pictorial
9	CV	Creative Vision
10	PA	People in Action
11	TH	Annual Theme Topic

Theme Topic:

For this competition, we are also introducing a “*Theme Topic*”. The theme category is a separate digital submission. For 2017, this theme is “**Macro**”.

11	TH	2017 Theme Topic: Macro
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The theme topic of “**MACRO**” is an open topic and encompasses macro images of 1:1 or greater in magnification of subjects close to or greater than life size.

Examples would include extreme closeups of insects, flowers, crystals, organic or inorganic elements. Techniques of Focus stacking or HDR would be acceptable.

Any form of image capture, processing and manipulation is allowed although the intent of this category is that images look natural. If the image is highly, creatively altered it would be more appropriate to include it in the **Creative Vision** category.

Print Category:

Colour and Monochrome Prints combined (not subjected to any image classification)

12	PR	Prints
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For the 2017 Open Challenge, the total number of allowable images for each entrant is limited to a maximum of twelve images constrained by

1. Up to 9 Digital Images
2. Up to 4 Prints
3. No person may submit more than 12 images irrespective of the number of Clubs to which the entrant belongs.

Final combination of entries can be **9 digital + 3 prints** or **8 digital + 4 prints**.

If it is found that the entrant has exceeded this limit due to submission through more than one club, the entrant will be disqualified from entering images from one club or the other. Interclub Chair and Data Manager will make this determination.

For all categories, the original image (or images or image elements) and all digital manipulation must be the work of the entrant. Original images made in workshops without significant ownership by the entrant may be disqualified from the competition, e.g., model lighting and positioning must have been directed by the maker. The entrant must have taken the original image, regardless whether the original medium is digital or film.

Monochrome images are acceptable in all categories.

No image may display any titling or maker identification which could serve to identify the maker or club. Please note you must exclude visible titles, watermarks and digitally visible copyrights from the face of the image. Images submitted in the *Pure Nature Wildlife* category must not exhibit the ‘hand of man’ in any form (animate or inanimate) nor artificially created black backgrounds or digital/artistic frames – such as rough edge frames.

Any image which fails to meet the criteria of the category will be declared ineligible and will be disqualified from the competition.

All entries must be named according to the Image Identification Standards

Entries must be submitted as Digital Files

Print Entries will also require a corresponding Digital File to be submitted.

OPEN CHALLENGE STATEMENT

- This competition concept is not a variation on our previous InterClub competition but a new concept for future InterClub competitions.
- None of the rules/guidelines from previous competitions carry over
- Maker may submit up to 9 digital entries in any combination in any of the digital categories (e.g. you could submit 9 in one category).
- Maker may submit up to 4 print entries in any combination – colour or monochrome – note if submitting 4 Prints you are limited to a maximum of 8 digital submissions.
- For the Photographer of the Year Award, a maker must enter a minimum of 1 entry in 9 of the eleven digital categories including at least 1 print and including at least one image that qualifies for this year’s theme, “**MACRO**”.
- For the Birds, Animals, Botany, Landscape/Geology, People, Pictorial, People/Action or Architecture categories, any form of digital manipulation is allowed including cloning, adding/removing elements (*as long the final results appear natural to the human eye.*
- Examples and acceptable allowances are indicted under the category outline
- Makers will still indicate to which category they are submitting an image and they should make a considered choice to ensure the image is strong in that category. However, at the discretion of the vetting committee, an image will be moved if the committee feels it appropriate to do so and it would be to the maker’s advantage. Subject to the limitations of 9/3 (8/4), above, a maker may submit as many images as desired to a given category.
- It’s to the Maker’s advantage that they submit images that are strong within their respective category to attain the highest score. If Judges feel an image is weak in category, the awarded score will reflect that.

DIGITAL CATEGORIES AND GUIDELINES

(up to 9 entries allowed in any combination of categories)

Pure Nature Wildlife

- This category is limited to Wildlife subjects (Birds, Animals, Fish, Insects) taken in the wild only
- No Hand of Man (HOM) is permissible *in any form*; animate or inanimate (e.g. in addition to the obvious, that images may not contain unintentional examples of HOM, *Pure Nature Wildlife* images may not exhibit wildlife in a habitat comprising elements of the hand of man – such as barn swallows in a barn, owls on fence posts, birds on a wire, etc even though such an inclusion is minimal in the context of the image). If such HOM is evident, the image must be exhibited in the other *Nature* categories.
- No Domesticated/Trained, Captive, Zoo or Conservatory subjects are admissible
- No cloning, repair or digital manipulation to add or remove elements is allowed
- Image manipulation is limited to cropping, general or selective lightening or darkening, cloning of sensor/dust spots and restoration of original colour

Nature Birds

- This category is open to any type of live birds, domesticated or wild. eg. Ducks, Geese, Herons, Raptors, Song birds, Sea and Shore birds, etc, shot in a studio (with a background), zoo setting or in the wild.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural
- Hand of Man is limited to 15% of the total image area.
- Large areas of black/solid/manipulated background are permissible; the 15% refers to artifacts in the image other than the principle subject such as might be found in a cage setting, artifacts, etc.

Nature Animals

- This category is open to any type of Animal; domesticated or wild (e.g. Mammals, Amphibians, Reptiles, Invertebrates, Crustaceans, Fish, Insects, Family Pets, etc.), which may be shot in a studio (with a background), zoo setting or in the wild.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural
- Hand of Man is limited to 15% of the total image area.
- Large areas of black/solid/manipulated background are permissible; the 15% refers to artifacts in the image other than the principle subject such as might be found in an aquarium, cage setting, very artificial rock, etc.

Nature Botany

- This category is open to any type of botany subject whether wild or cultivated. eg. Flowers of any type, Mushrooms, Trees, Seed pods, etc.
- Can be photographed in the studio, with a background, or in the field
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural
- Hand of Man is limited to 15% of the total image area.
- Large areas of black/solid/manipulated background are permissible; the 15% refers to artifacts in the image other than the principle subject such as vases, flower pots, fences, etc.

Nature Landscapes & Geology

- Landscape described as an expanse of scenery that can be seen in a single view
- Can include people or HOM as long as those elements are not primary subject matter. eg. Landscapes, Seascapes, Natural phenomena, Geology, Astronomy, (Cityscapes by their very nature comprise the HOM so they must be submitted in the Architecture category),
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed as long as the results look natural

People

- This category is limited to images of human subjects only as the primary subject
- Eg. Portraits, Group Portraits, Environmental Portraits, Studio, Photo Journalism, Posed or Candid, etc.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed although the intent of this category is that images look natural. If the image is highly, creatively altered it would be more appropriate to include it in the **Creative Vision** category.

People/Action

- This category is to showcase images, which must include a person or a group of people engaged in an activity depicting physical motion. This can be related to Sports, hobbies or leisure activity and represented as the principal subject in the image.
- Either a physical person or evidence of a person must be present in the image. (eg. Skier in full gear, race car driver with helmet visible through window. An image of race car or race boat where a driver cannot be made out would be ineligible)
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed although the intent of this category is that images look natural. If the image is highly, creatively altered it would be more appropriate to include it in the **Creative Vision** category.

Architecture

- This category is limited to images of any architectural man made structure
- The subject must be a significant aspect of a landscape or cityscape. Eg. Building exteriors/interiors, architectural details, bridges, piers
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed, although if the image exhibits significant post process modification, rendering it more of a creative work than a depiction of the architecture, it would be more appropriate to include it in the **Create Vision** category.

Pictorial

- This category comprises subject matter that does not fall into any of the previous categories
- Eg. Still life and Tabletop photography, food, man-made objects, transportation, urban or rural life
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed
- Use of artistic filters or processing is acceptable
- *Nature like* images are allowed as long as the Hand of Man occupies substantially more than 15% of the image area. Note: images submitted to the Animals / Birds / Botany / Landscape-Geology categories that include substantially more than approximately 15% Hand of Man (including solid colour or highly manipulated or creative background effects) will be automatically moved to this Pictorial category during the preview and vetting timeframe of the competition. *While this would not result in disqualification of these images, makers should be aware that if they intended to have sufficient presence*

across 9 categories to qualify for the Photographer of the Year Award, this movement would likely inhibit eligibility to receive the award as they would not likely then be represented in 9 of the required categories. Consequently entrants should choose their image set carefully.

Creative Vision

- This category is limited to highly creative and artistic images. eg. Altered Reality, Abstracts, Graphical Designs, Conceptual Art, Composites, Montages, etc.
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed
- Use of artistic filters or processing is acceptable and is, of course, encouraged

PRINT CATEGORY AND GUIDELINES

- allowed in any combination of Colour or MonoChrome
- maximum 4 entries if you have 8 or fewer digital entries
- maximum 3 entries if you have 9 digital entries

Prints

- This category is open to any type of print whether colour or monochrome
- No limitation on subject matter
- Any form of image manipulation is allowed
- Use of artistic filters or processing is acceptable
- Submitted prints must conform to the physical print submission standards
- You must also provide a digital version of the image to facilitate our review process and to project the image for our Gala Presentation although the Judges will only consider the printed submission.
- Scoring will credit the inherent photographic quality of the image and its physical presentation

CATEGORY SUBMISSION STANDARDS

Identification:

All entries must be named as required with your Club Code, Maker ID#, Category Code and sequence number. Print entries are to be labeled on the back with File name, maker name and Title and match the corresponding digital reference file. For this purpose, there is a specific Avery Label template provided on our website, gtccc.ca, as well in our competition package provided by the Data Manager to record the information and adhere to the back of the print. In all cases Prints must indicate the presentation orientation by indicating with an arrow which way is up. The front of the print must not include any identifying information such as a signature, watermark, copyright, etc.

Digital Image Standards:

- Makers should be aware that images will be projected for judging at a resolution of 1920x1080 and while virtually any image submitted to the competition can be presented in its original form, larger images may occupy a larger proportion of the screen.
- Image size recommended: 1920Wx1080H with neither dimension less than 500 pixels. The horizontal width will be 1920 with the shorter height dimension falling

proportionally to 1080 or less. The vertical height will be 1080 with the shorter width falling proportionally to 1080 or less.

- Square images will be 1080x1080. .
- For images that are horizontal panoramas, the horizontal dimension should be 1920 exactly with the other dimension falling to to 640 or more in order to maintain a reasonable size for projection and judging.
- Image size minimum pixels not less than 1,470,000 pixels (which is 1400x1050)
- Image format: JPG, sRGB colour space recommended but not required.
- Images may reasonably exceed these dimensions, without concern; the chief concern of the Competition is to maintain image and presentation quality.
- Digital images not conforming to the above standards may be disqualified

Digital Projection Standards:

For digital projection for judging, the computer/projector/screen combination will be calibrated in situ prior to the competition using a projector-capable colorimeter device. Digital images will be projected in the orientation they are submitted at a resolution of 1920x1080.

Prints:

Identify each print according to the **Image Identification Standards**.

- 1. Maximum physical size is 24” wide by 20” tall.**
- 2. Minimum mount board is 11”x 14” – portrait or landscape orientation.**
- 3. Minimum size of image is 11” x 14”– portrait or landscape orientation.**
- 4. Maximum size of image is 22”Wide x 18”tall – in landscape orientation.**
- 5. Maximum size of image is 20”tall x 20” or less wide – in portrait orientation.**
- 6. Print Thickness shall not exceed 1cm or 3/8”**
- 7. All prints must have a full contiguous backing board. Entries submitted with only a front matt and paper print are not acceptable.**

An exception to mount size is provided for wide-format Panoramic images in that they must have an image at least 6" high to a maximum of 20" in width, while maintaining the minimum amount height of 11"x a maximum of 20". Images are considered Panoramic if their width: height ratio exceeds 1.75:1.

Actual print size can be any size within the limits of the dimensions of the mounting board used. Prints may be matted, but any matted print must be permanently affixed to the mounting board which must be the same size as the matte board. Prints with frames, glass, wire hooks, or other hanging devices, or which include title or individual name on the front will be disqualified. The back of the print must be one contiguous mount surface and must be clear of any material that could cause damage or stick to another print. Prints having Velcro, etc., with exposed tape as the adhesive affixing the matt to the mount board, or having no firm backing will be disqualified. Prints which are not the specified dimensions specified above will be disqualified. While this may seem complicated, it is required to allow us to display the prints properly in our print viewing systems and to display them for presentation. Use your best efforts to prepare a print with a pleasing

physical presentation by trimming it and mounting it carefully as part of the print score assessed is based on the quality of the print's presentation.

All print submissions must include a digital file that is an accurate representation of the submitted print. Because the majority of colour or monochrome prints likely originate as a digital file, all that is required is to include in your entry a JPG file of the print converted to the sRGB colour space. Recognizing that some entrants still work in film and darkroom media, a reasonable digital image of your print, photographed or scanned, is acceptable. The tonality of the photographed/scanned digital image should accurately reflect the tonality of the submitted print.

Print digital files must conform to the same naming conventions as specified for digital projection images. Refer to **Image Identification Standards**.

Entry Fee & Awards:

The entry fee is \$2 per image. A maximum entry fee of \$20.00 for 12 images per entrant is being instituted. All images are eligible for Individual Awards in category. Additionally, individual image scores are used to determine Club Awards in each category and the Freedman Trophy for the top club in the competition and Photographer of the Year.

Individual Category Awards:

In each of the categories there will be up to a maximum of 3 top awards and a quantity of Honourable Mentions. The total number of awards in each category will not be greater than 10% of the accepted images in that category-

The 3 top awards in each of the 12 categories will be:

- one first-place award,
- one second-place award,
- one third place award,
- and Honourable Mentions comprising between 4% - 8% of the accepted entries.

A maker can only be awarded one top award per category. However, a maker will retain all points on images if a subsequent award has to be given to the next member with the next highest scoring entry.

Club Category Awards are awarded to the top club in each of the ten categories. The summation of the highest score by 6 different makers in each club determines each Club Category winner. If there is a tie, then the highest score by 7 different makers determines the winning club, etc., until a clear winner is determined.

The **FREEDMAN TROPHY** is awarded to top club in the competition. The summation of the highest score by 12 different makers in each club determines the Freedman Trophy winning club. If there is a tie, then the highest score by 13 different makers determines the winning club, etc., until a clear winner is determined.

The **PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR** is awarded to the entrant who has submitted at least one image in nine out of the eleven digital categories including at least 1 print and including at least one image that qualifies for this year's theme, "**Macro**". The winner is chosen by achieving the highest total point count.

Image Identification Standards:

Each image, digital file, and print must meet the GTCCC entry requirements. Your Club Rep is responsible for applying the identifier for each image entry, but may request you apply the identifier.

The image identifier consists of 8 upper case characters, and appears, for example, as RH160DP1. The code structure consists of the following, sequentially:

- **Club Code:** 2-alpha characters which identify your club - see the chart below,
- **Entrant Number:** 3-numeric characters which is your individual maker # which your club rep assigns, and includes leading 0's as necessary,
- **Category Code:** 2-alpha characters which identify the category as shown on the first page of these rules
- **Sequence #:** 1-digit numeric character to identify your 1st to 7th image in the category or 1-4 for prints (clarification: this was formerly a '1' or a '2')

Examples:

- TP005PR2: Trillium PC, maker #005, Colour Print, print entry number 2,
- CC028PR1: Chinese Canadian PS, maker #028, Mono Print, print entry number 1,
- OC075NW4: Oshawa CC, maker #075, Nature Digital, entry number 4,
- ET121PD2: Etobicoke CC, maker #121, Pictorial Digital, entry number 2,
- RH130AR1: Richmond Hill, maker #130, Natural Things, entry number 1.

Note: For print entries, the completed Interclub 2016 label must be attached (in the centre for horizontal and right uppermost position for vertical orientation) on the back of the print mount/backing, and indicates the orientation the print is to be presented. The label should be similar to a Staples self-adhering label. The label cannot be taped in place.

Naming/Titling of entries:

Architecture, Pictorial, People, Creative Vision and Print Entries can be named as it suits the maker.

However, for *Pure Nature* Wildlife, Animals, Botany and Landscapes/Geology, refrain from giving *pictorial like* names. Image/Titles for Nature should be the Common Name or the Scientific Name of the subject. eg. "Northern Blue Jay" or "Cyanocitta Cristata".

Avoid using cute titles such as "Blue & White Splendor".

Descriptive names as it pertains to the subject would be allowed. eg. "Blue Jay Preening Chick". Avoid pictorial like titles such as "A Mother's Touch".

The visual presentation of the image will over ride any title description for acceptance of an image within a category.

Honour System:

It is understood that all images entered in this competition in any of the categories are on an honour system and it is the maker's responsibility to abide by the morals and principles of this competition.

All Winning and Accepted Images will be reviewed to ascertain if an image is authentic to the maker or sourced from elsewhere, whether in whole or part. The GTCCC reserves the right to request makers' RAW files if there is an issue before awarding any prizes. If RAW files are not supplied in a timely manner, then that entry will be eliminated from the competition.

Table - Club Name/Code

Current Clubs	Club Code:
Ajax CC	AJ
Barrie	BA
Beach PC	BE
Brampton PG	BP
Chinese Canadian PS	CC
Country Images CC	CM
Creative Photographers Markham	MR
Don Mills CC	DM
Etobicoke CC	ET
Haliburton Highlands	HA
Halton Hills CC	HH
JEPA	JE
Latow PG	LP
Mississauga CC	MI
Oakville CC	OA
Oshawa CC	OC
Photo Historical Society	PH
Richmond Hill CC	RH
Scarborough CC	SC
Toronto CC	TC
Toronto Digital PC	TD
Trillium	TP

Interclub Open Challenge begins: November 1, 2016

Entry Deadline Submission Date:

All entries and fees are due at the **February 1, 2017** at GTCCC Council meeting.

All digital files to be uploaded to DropBox by **February 1, 2017. 11:59pm.**

All Print entries, Entry Fees plus 2 Printed copies of the Club's completed consolidated entry form to be submitted at the February 1st GTCCC meeting.

Entry Print Return Date:

All print entries will be returned to the Club Reps at the first GTCCC Council meeting following the Awards Presentation

For image accounting and physical security, under no circumstances will any images be returned to anyone immediately following the Awards Presentation. Some prints may be held back to be included in the GTCCC/NFRCC Inter-Regional competition.

Awards Night: April 01, 2017 (Tentative).

Details on Venue and Tickets to follow.

GTCCC Disclaimers:

1. Any or all entries may be presented with or without entrant identification at the Awards Presentation. However, because of time and space constraints, the GTCCC reserves the right to not display or present every/all accepted images.
2. The GTCCC will take all reasonable steps to protect the integrity of all entries. However, please be aware that the GTCCC cannot assume responsibility for damage to any image, howsoever caused.
3. By submitting an image to this Competition, the entrant warrants that he or she is the rightful owner and exclusive author of the image and grants the following non-exclusive rights and permissions to the GTCCC, specifically that:
 - 3.1 The image may be displayed on any media for the purposes of competition judging and may be displayed without restriction in any subsequent presentations by the GTCCC.
 - 3.2 The image may be displayed on the GTCCC's website for any purpose at a resolution no greater than 1024 pixels on the image's longest side.
 - 3.3 The image may be included in a HD video compilation, along with other images submitted to the Competition.
 - 3.4 Image file metadata may be altered by the Club to include the maker's information and copyright.
 - 3.5 The maker retains ownership of the image and all other rights to its subsequent use.
4. The GTCCC reserves the right to ask for the RAW, DNG or Original Files out of Camera as taken for any entry(ies) that may be considered a Category Winner and/or Accepted in this Competition before finalizing any awards. Failure to submit in a timely manner will lead to disqualification of that entry.