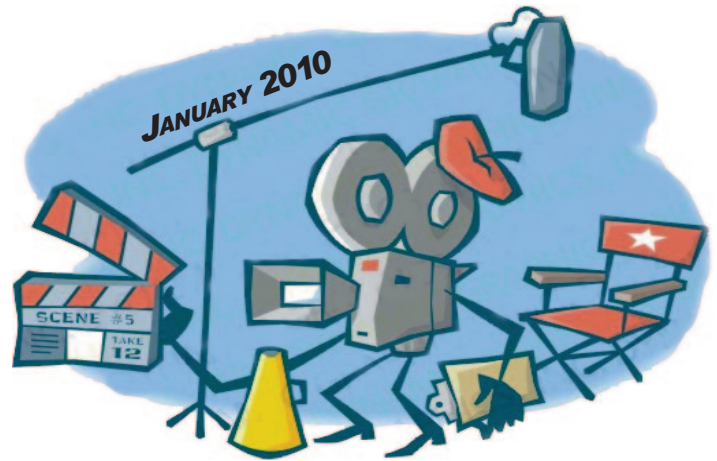


REEL NEWS

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THE YEARS END -

The final meeting of 2009 for the Hamilton Video/Film Makers took place on Thursday December 3rd. Isn't it strange how the final meeting of each year always falls in December. I haven't worked out why that is yet, but I am working on it.

A smaller than normal crowd (26 breathing souls) braved the frigid northern climes to attend the annual Christmas soiree. That number included two guests. One was a visitor from Holland (Albert Schoolderman) who has been to the club several years ago and the other (Inglebert Lievaart) is a local photographer who says that he will be back again. Notable in their absence were Joe and Joan Bochsler who had had a busy day and were not feeling up to driving into Hamilton in the frozen dark. However the surprise of the night was the absence of Ralph Trouten who has been engaged in close-up observation of the battle between some of his bodies normal muscle functions and the anti-bodies who have for some reason chosen to go to war with each other. Ralph says that this was the first Christmas club meeting that he has missed in five point six decades, two score a decade and six, thats Fifty-Six, 56 YEARS. Ralph, at 88 years young, is not our oldest living member in the club. **Who is you ask???? Show up at the next meeting and find out.**

Of course it is understood by all that the oldest member has to be a man as there is not a woman in the club who will claim to be more than 39 years old. And I will not argue with any one of them.

After Harold's Corner joined the rest of the group the meeting got under way. I am trying hard to remember

what happened but the old grey cells are not connecting. This will be much easier next month when I get to sit down and write as the meeting progresses instead of trying to put everything back in place a couple of weeks later.

After some general rubbish and news we got under way with Harold Cosgrove's "LOCK 3". At three and a half minutes it was an entertaining look at the sights of guess where???? Lock 3 at the Welland Canal. Harold shoots in HD and brings an SD DVD to the club meetings. Fred brought up the question as to whether Harold had got permission to shoot signs inside the building. As everyone else in the room knew, it was a silly question, Harold just shoots and worries about the consequences later. Harold works on the theory that "it is easier to say you're sorry than to ask permission".



For the first time in 56 Christmasses,
Ralph Troutens seat is empty.

**Meetings held the first Thursday every month at the
Royal Canadian Legion Hall – 12 King St. E., Stoney Creek
Videomaking Basics – 7:00 p.m., Regular Meeting – 7:30 p.m.**

Somewhere in here Keith Gloster of the Brantford Club got up (wearing a hat in the Legion no less) and even with cries of "take it off" (the hat, that is) Keith carried on wearing the hat and explained that it was a souvenir from PBS Buffalo as a result of the video on Brantford. If you do not know (and you had better have a darn good excuse) the Brantford Video Club was invited to partake in network broadcaster WNED's 14th Community "Video Scrapbook" Production... OUR TOWN - Brantford. The program was broadcast on WNED at 6:30 pm on Saturday December 12th, 2009. I think that every home in Brantford was tuned in to this one. It turned out later that some of the homes did not get good reception for the first segment which contained the clubs stuff but Keith should have copies available soon?

Along with about twenty-five other local video enthusiasts, Brant club members Dan Kennaley, Randy Hincks, Terry Kittridge, Keith Gloster and Joan Jacquemain each accepted an assignment to provide footage for the final production. Local sites covered by the club group included the Brantford walking trail system, the venerable CNR railroad station and the Sanderson Center for performing arts.

The shooting was done in October 2009. In keeping with the "Our Town" series on PBS the volunteers were asked to shoot on a tape provided by WNED and then return it to them for editing.

Next up for our delectation was the result of a tour by Ken & Iris Davy to Kiwi land, or as it is better known, New Zealand. Titled "NEW ZEALAND CRUISE" the production was an informative, beautifully shot tour through the coast of the Kiwi homeland. It must be the clean sea air down there but I thought that the images were spectacular and not needing of any HD. More on that later. Coming in at a lengthy 20 minutes the production held interest and the information imparted later drew several questions and comments from the

assembled mass. The audio was good but now we have to get Ken to do something about the graphics and far more important.... come up with some really good titles for his production. Something like "Cruising Upside Down on the Earth" or "Trippin' in the big Maori Canoe" - you get the idea. But then again, maybe Ken was just paying homage and being unoriginal, like the Kiwis.... Let's face it, despite all the history and Maori names for stuff, the best they could come up with for their country were North Island & South Island. Duh!!!

Rick Doelle took the third spot of the evening with his "ROCK-A-BYE-BABY" production. At a mere one and a half minutes Rick entertained us with more footage from the depths of the sea around Belize. Rick's sense of humour is coming out with the titles he gives his films. It leaves the audience wondering where he is going until they see the main part of his thoughts. First the Bicycle Gang threw us for a loop and now the Baby surprise. Using the well known tune "Rock-a-bye-Baby" as the music track we were treated to the tender stroking and petting of a Nurse shark at about 25 ft under the warm Caribbean. Gets a chuckle every time. My question is, when it comes to feeding time which of the guys was going to offer up his nipple?

We had information about all kinds of stuff and questions and comments before we rounded off the evenings films with a work in progress by the "Where Consortium" of Jonathan Garfield, Andrea Bakai, Paul Benson and Alex Szatmary. This is a production that will eventually emerge as a finished work but for the moment JR wanted more club members to be involved in its progression. Titled "WHERE'S BARRON?" it was a series of mock interviews and graphics of quotes by various famous people. Most club members know who Barron is and this ditty is an attempt to get him back into the club. JR was successful in getting more members to join in the shoot as a result of this trailer. We look forward to the finished product.

Five HV/FM members joined the crowd at the London Videography Club Christmas meeting.



At this point we had coffee and donuts and pop and conversation.

For the second half of the evening your moderator, Jon Soyka, ended his run at the front of the room by inviting John Cook, Nestor Rosa, Fred Briggs and Dan Copeland along with many others in the group to make their thoughts and feelings about the club moving on to High Definition equipment for viewing what we produce. As expected it drew many varied comments and opinions and thoughts and kudos and critiques. The crux of the matter is are we a technically oriented club in which the best technical products are needed to show the DVD's to their best advantage or are we a content based club in which the story and content of the productions trump any technical priorities.

As expected the opinions were varied but since we had checked for guns and axes and rotten tomatoes at the door as everyone entered, nobody was injured in the fray. Arguments were presented in a civil and orderly manner with each side more or less acknowledging the others sides ideas. The result was more or less expected.

At the monthly meeting the following Thursday the HV/FM executive voted to look into the purchase of a High Definition projector and a Blu-Ray player along with all of the necessary accoutrements. It was decided to leave the audio at the stereo setting at the moment but in the near future we may go to 5.1 or even maybe 7.1 sound. I of course voted to wait until we could purchase a 27.3 surround sound Ultra-High Definition 3D Holographic projector and player with attached coffee maker and Pez dispenser. If all goes according to the proposed schedule we could have a system in place for the February or March meeting.



Sandi Whithouse (left) and Jack Simpson (right) have somehow missed that Keith Gloster is wearing a hat in the legion.

Therefore, as soon as the system is installed and operating I expect John Cook and George Gerula to be the FIRST to present an interesting HD production. I will be the first to jump down their throats if the content is not interesting. We all know how good HD can look but how good can you make the content?

As an aside, five members of the HV/FM club went to London, Ontario for the Christmas meeting of the London Videography Club. They bill themselves as working in all forms of digital media now and use an HD projector and two Playstation playback units. In fact they toyed with the idea of renaming the club, "The London Digital Media Club" but feared they might lose video fans and might offend their founder, Rael Wienburg. (And god knows who else they might have attracted.) With the convergence of digital imaging technology, they intend to plan the programming to accommodate both serious still photographers as well as videographers. and noticed in only four months... "we are now seeing still photographers adding video content and videographers including slide shows in their videos! It seems to be a happy compromise."

If you are interested in pure HD pop down to one of their meetings (the second Wednesday of most months) and see what they are doing. For more information contact Thom Speechley at speechley8505@rogers.com or Kim Brown at kimbrown@rogers.com or go to the website at <http://www.videolondon.ca/>.

The meeting ended at 11:00 pm with very few members leaving before that. Everyone headed home in a happy state except for the seven who headed off to Crabby Joes once again. Make sure you get out to the January meeting and start off 2010 with a bang.



Jimmy Small gloats as he steals the 50/50 winnings from Jon Soyka.

Oh, and before I forget, the food donated at the December meeting by our members was delivered the following day to St. Matthews House food bank on Barton Street East. It was delivered during a time when they are closed to the public but they let me in and even helped carry the stuff (I had picked up four boxes of donations from my daughters workplace as well) and they were very grateful and appreciative for the items. A big thank you to all who gave.

RING IN THE NEW:

Johnathan Garfield and Dan Copeland will be the MC's for the January meeting so it would be nice to see every member there to support them in this venture. JR has even agreed to slow down his talking speed for the group. Bring your productions on SD DVD's and let's have a great show.

NEWSWORTHY;

JR has a web site where you can see the type of photography that he does. It is divided into sections and makes for a few moments of interest in his art and gives an insight into a club member. Visit JOHNATHAN GARFIELD- FINE ART MEDIA <http://www.johnathangarfield.com>

Christine Whitlock says.... oops, she did not send me anything this month. Maybe next time.

**Regards (and goodbye from the front of the room),
Jon Soyka**



Agnes and Adam Houston protect their Christmas club donation.



Johnathan Garfield (right) gives his "whadda I do" look while Paul Bentley thinks, "If only they knew".



Jon Soyka ends his career at the front of the room by wishing everyone a "Bah Humbug".



Club member Henry Wiltschek (left) and visitor Albert Schoolderman are deep in conversation.



John Cook espouses his argument for bringing HD to the club.



Ken Davy seems happy as he answers all the questions about his "Kiwi Kruise" and he is not going to let go of that microphone until he is good and ready.



Rick Doelle provides more information about his "Rock-A-Bye-Baby" film.