

Photography

## Pre-Holidays Photography

December 21, 2018 | Charles T. Low, Photographer

### Busy While Idle

Once again, for someone with nothing to do, aiming at "half-time" for my retirement photography business, I feel awfully busy. Overall: happy!

Since reporting last time about a concert-photo session, a number of things have happened, including but not limited to the following.

---

### Nature Conservancy of Canada

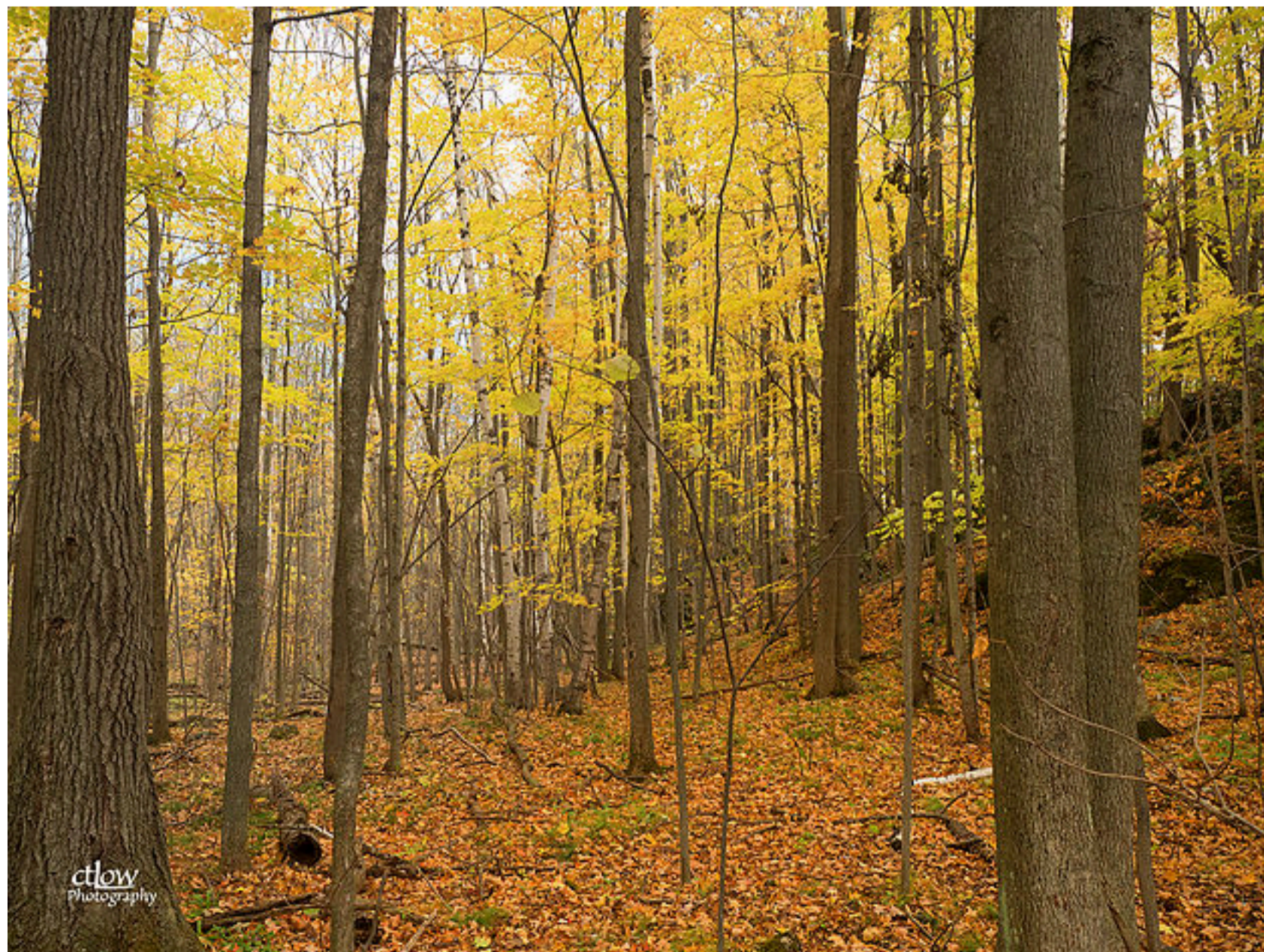
I contributed a little to this organization (the "NCC") a year or so back as an in memoriam to a deceased friend, so started getting email, and eventually I even read a few. There are a lot of opportunities for charity, but this intrigued me, and I sent them a little note asking if they might not want some occasional volunteer photography.

The NCC answered saying yes, how fortuitous, they were just about to embark upon a marketing campaign and some Eastern Ontario, Frontenac Arch work would be wonderful. In due course I spent a day traipsing through protected wilderness, some of it co-managed with Queen's University's Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre ([ELEEC](#)), with an NCC staffer as guide and educator (really helpful, knowledgeable and enthusiastic), camera gear in tow.

My guide looks at the lands under her protection as ecosystems, not as art, so I gave her a new perspective. I look on them as art, not ecosystems, so she gave me a new perspective!

When I slipped and slid down a short rock-face, at minimal peril, she gasped and asked if I was all right. I held up my hand, and proudly proclaimed, "Yes! I protected my camera!"

What a day! The NCC later said it was thrilled with my work, and I was thrilled with the experience, so truly a win-win.



### Featured Posts



#### Photographic Light

March 24, 2018

### Recent Posts



#### Pre-Holidays Photography

December 21, 2018



#### Photographic Smorgasbord

November 14, 2018



#### Feels Like Nothing Going On

October 16, 2018



#### Digital Camera Basics ... Again!

September 8, 2018



#### Whoa! Back Up There!!

August 20, 2018



#### Three points for photography learners

August 12, 2018



#### Automotion 2018

August 7, 2018



#### Distracted Photography

July 23, 2018



#### Galleria

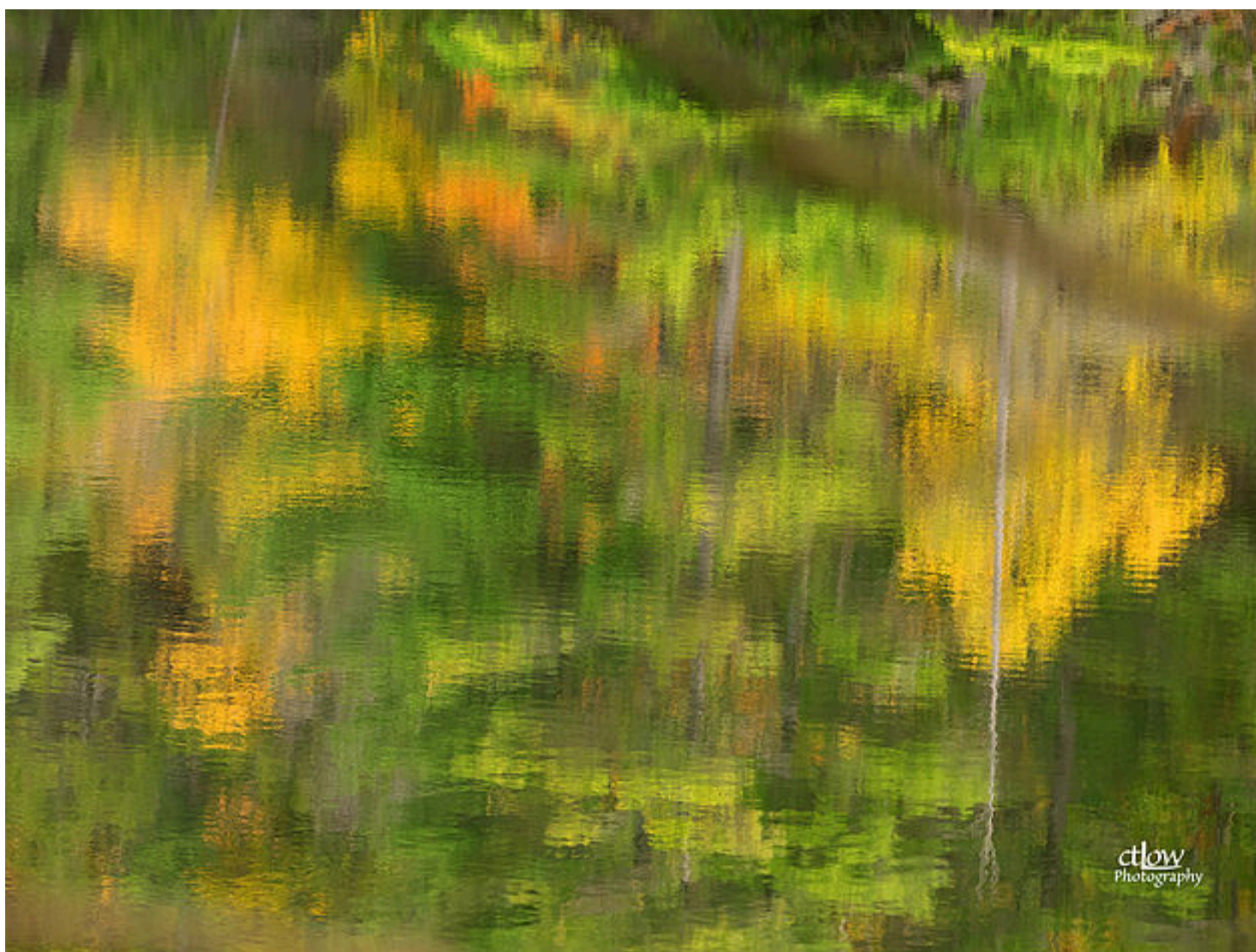
June 29, 2018



#### A Background in Photography

June 17, 2018

### Archive



No one says that marketing photographs cannot be abstracts - this of course a reflection in a lake.

To see more from that shoot, check out the eponymously-named album in my [Gallery](#).

---

## Trudeau-McFall

I called up some friends about a planned lunch meeting. "I can't make it, but we can meet at [Richard's Coffeehouse](#) instead, and I can't tell you why." What had happened was that Sam, of Richard's, had called me and said he needed my services that afternoon. He said, "The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, is dropping by". The PM was campaigning with a local Liberal candidate, Mary Jean McFall, in a by-election. I thought that a good enough reason to change my plans.

I would have liked more notice, but probably so would have Sam!

Some friends have expressed surprise at my hitherto unannounced political affiliation, and I hasten to remind them that although I hold *decided* political views, I was there as a photographer. And he is our Prime Minister.

I got, by the way, my first press-pass. I might get it framed.

There were a variety of other press-photographers there, and I had found myself in a corner which might not have been the centre of the action, but at the last moment, somewhat spontaneously, and with no one behind me, I hopped up on a chair, and started snapping away. I got some results which pleased me.

---

December 2018 (1)  
November 2018 (1)  
October 2018 (1)  
September 2018 (1)  
August 2018 (3)  
July 2018 (1)  
June 2018 (3)  
May 2018 (1)  
April 2018 (2)  
March 2018 (3)  
February 2018 (4)  
January 2018 (3)  
December 2017 (2)  
November 2017 (2)  
October 2017 (1)

---

## Search By Tags

Autumn Balleycanoe Brockville  
Bryenton CMHR Canada  
Charles T. Low Christmas  
Creekshore Farms Haliburton  
Hang Ups Justin Trudeau  
Leigh Bursey MAG  
Merrickville Photography  
Collective  
Nature Conservancy Ontario  
Paul Matte Peter Bryenton  
Railway Tunnel  
Richard's Coffeehouse  
Sara Wilkinson Zinour aperture  
appreciation architecture  
archive art art gallery art gift  
artisan show artisans  
assignment automobile  
automotion back-up  
background basics black  
black-and-white blog  
butterfly run camera car cause  
chaos charity church city hall  
club colour colour change  
commision composition  
computer cottage country  
crafter ctLow data dawn  
depth depth of field digital  
distraction downhill dynamic  
equipment event exhibition  
field filme galleries gallery  
garbage truck gift golf  
healthcare impromptu  
influences instruction iris  
justice learner lens life light  
looking loss mentors  
monochrome music obstacles  
organic farm outdoors people  
performance photo  
photographer photographers  
photography politics portrait  
portraits portraiture practice  
preservation protetction prowl  
recovery rules salvage  
scenery seeing seminar shoot

The event did not last long. There were short speeches to the mostly-friendly audience, and he was gone - but not before doing a circuit of the room. Score!

A critical technical feature, as always, was lighting. I noted many of the other photographers with a bare flash on their camera. I aimed mine at the ceiling for a more even light, but put a FlashBender on it to divert a portion of the light back into the faces, "lifting the shadows" as we in photography call it. Simple, portable, effective, if not studio-quality. I would say that it served me well.

singer skiing street machine  
swamp tools tournament tower  
tripod urban walk week white  
wrinkles yacht

Follow ctLow Photography





The baby's political affiliation could be listed as "undecided".

Ultimately, our Liberal candidate, Mary Jean McFall, did not get elected. It wasn't for lack of effort!

---

## Portraits at Richard's Coffeehouse

Honestly, can I just say that we have a lot of great places to grab a coffee and some sustenance in Brockville? But Sam at Richard's and I have developed a friendship and a business-relationship, stemming initially from an exhibition of my work there last year.

And everybody does love the place. There is interesting baking and also a pleasing meal selection, and of course, great coffee.

Sam is always thinking. He asked me about doing free portraits one evening, and he had a specific time and date in mind, which involved some compromises, but basically: I wasn't doing anything else at that time!

In retrospect, I'm so glad that I said yes. It's all mileage, for one thing, and I really enjoyed the work, and the "models" were all great, and very enthusiastic.

Despite some marketing, it was a slow evening in the coffee shop. Anyone in retail will tell you: it happens. It's not entirely predictable or remediable.

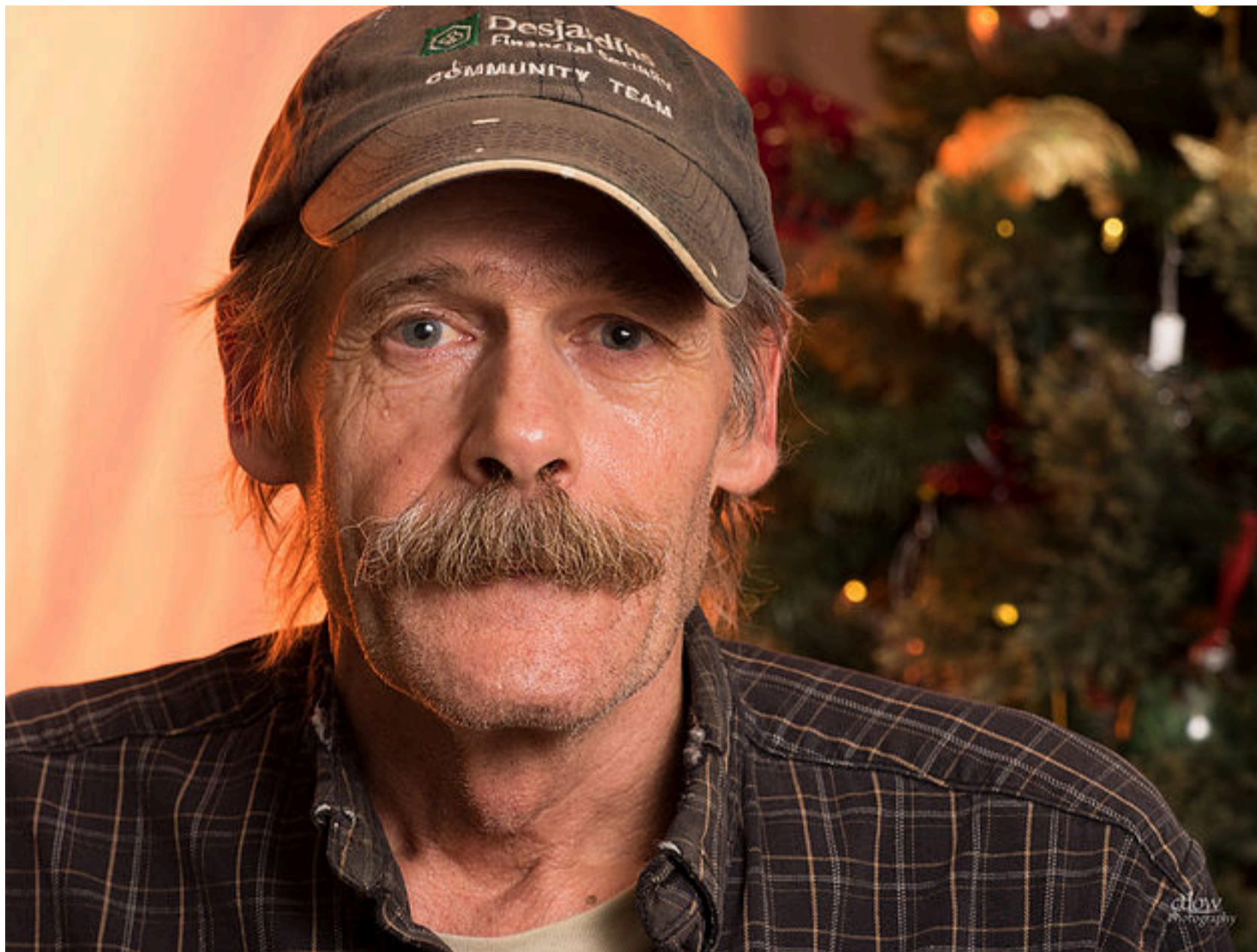
But I would say that I photographed absolutely everyone who came into the place (including the staff) during the four hours we had allocated for this, except for two (and when those two said "no" they both meant no - Sam tried his considerable charm, but it wasn't going to happen). So: excellent response rate!

I set up a little mobile studio in a corner, so better than grab-photos (as with Trudeau-McFall) but not as good as a regular studio. Technicals: I used three lights, modified by one umbrella, one FlashBender, one flash gel (to colour the backdrop) and one reflector - not a first-day-on-job setup. The contribution from ambient light was negligible.

As of this writing, I have not heard back from all of the participants, and do not display photos without explicit permission, but am able to show some.



The man himself.



Murray the cook at Richard's Coffeehouse - what a great subject!



This young woman arrived after I had deconstructed the set, so I threw this lighting together very quickly - not quite as good. Fortunately, she has a background in photography and knew just how to pose!

---

## That's not all.

On a road-trip into Southern Ontario, I dropped off some portrait-prints and an art-print, the latter being one of several I have sold recently as Christmas gifts.



Variations on this image remain one of my best-selling photographs.

I have some photos on display at [Hang Ups Creative Framing](#) (and art gallery) - all local scenes and ideal for last-minute seasonal gifts.



Hang Ups' Christmas Window

I continue on a regular basis to make fine-art photographs.



King St., Brockville - dark and wet

1 Comment Sort by Oldest ▾

Add a comment...



David Allen

some decent pics here Charles, good to see some 'sharp' focus pics, and the fact you have our PM at an event, it's worth showing, his super sharp eyeballs, a bonus, put them in the archives, in fact send them to his office with a self addressed envelope, get them signed...to you! And then put them on your wall. Years ago I took pics at a G7 meeting, had a pass, got a few world presidents and pm's, neglected to tell them, I was actually hired by the tent company who supplied the canopies!! Good Fun!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 2w

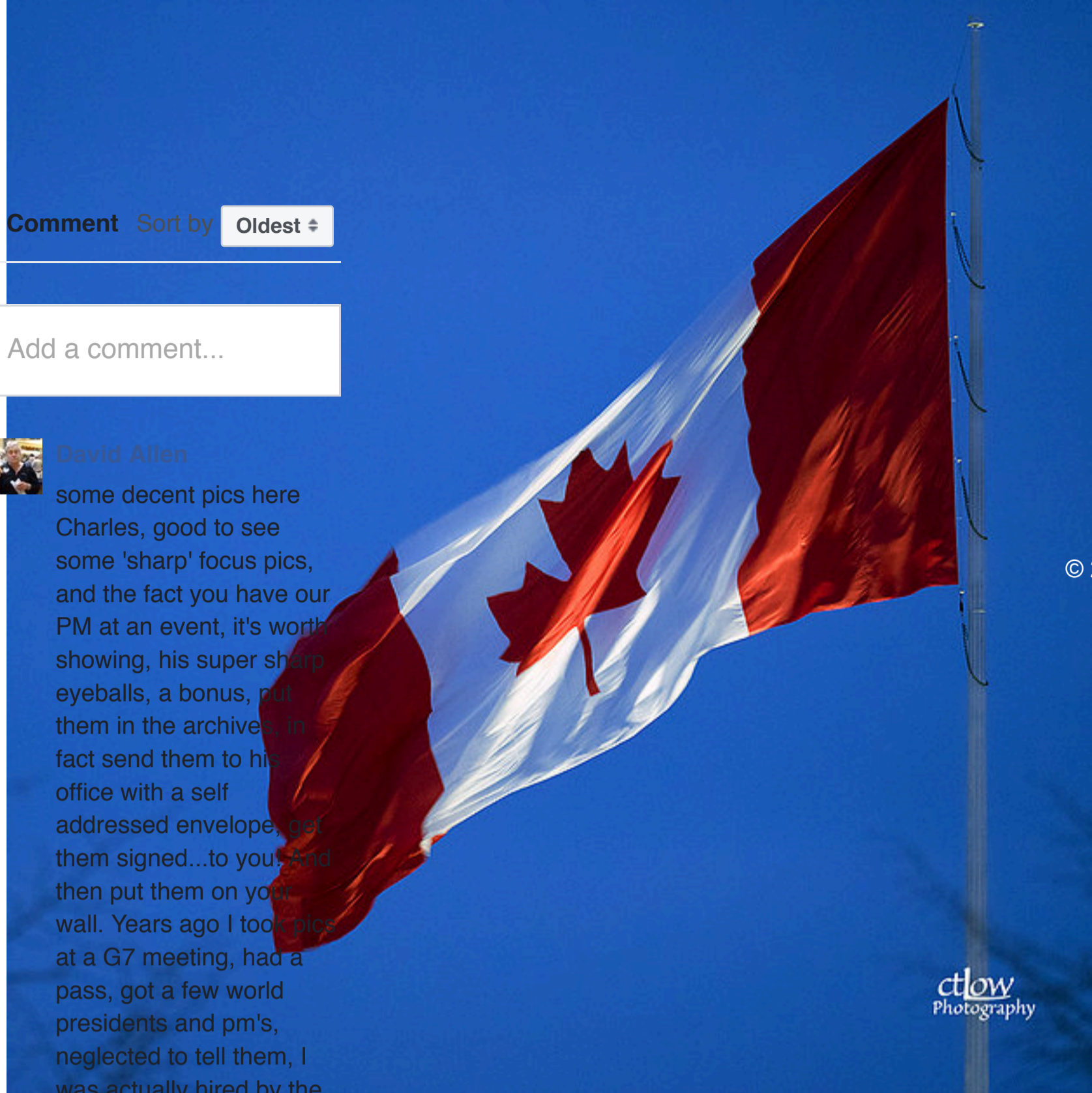


Charles T. Low

Thanks, David. I feel very thankful to whichever camera engineers designed "eye-priority" auto-focus! Invaluable. Great idea about printing and signing

Like · Reply · 3w

Facebook Comments Plugin



© 2013 by ctLow Photography, Brockville, Ontario

ctlow  
Photography



Feathery Winter Shrub - monochrome

I am preparing for an exhibition in roughly five weeks - more on that later! In the meantime, **hold the date** of *Friday January 25th* for the opening.

(I also lead a vibrant personal life, and my inner circle knows who they are, but it involves a lot of love and much photography - but that's for my own personal photo albums, not for here.)

## While you're here:

Remember that I make photographs and that I sell photographs.

Almost everything which you see on this web site is for sale. Prices at the time of writing, for example, for an 11x14" fine-art print with a generous white border would start at about \$50, and you can go up or down from there. Check the [rates](#) page. More importantly, check out my [gallery](#).

Book a portrait-sitting - the right frequency with which to commission formal [portraits](#) is a bit more often.

Remember also to leave a comment, or to [contact](#) me. Note that on the main [blog](#) page you can sign up for new-blog notifications. I am very careful and respectful with your privacy.

Thank you so much for reading.



Charles T. Low  
Photographer



Tags: photographer photography art portrait politics Justin Trudeau charity  
Nature Conservancy Richard's Coffeehouse

