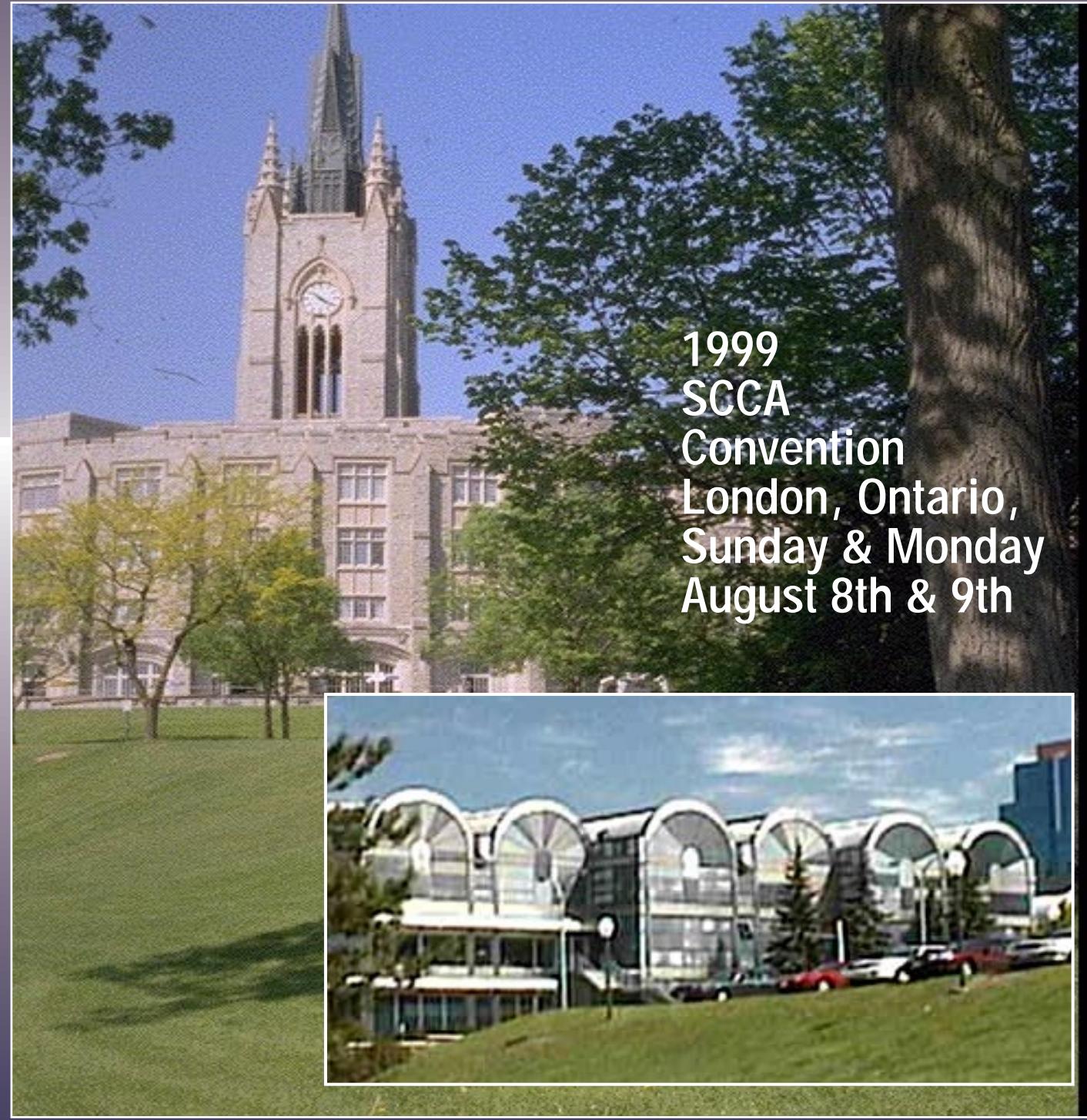


VOL.. 33 No. 2, SPRING, 1999

PANORAMA

OF AMATEUR FILM & VIDEO

SUR LE FILM ET VIDEO AMATEUR



1999
SCCA
Convention
London, Ontario,
Sunday & Monday
August 8th & 9th



The Publication of the SOCIETY of CANADIAN CINE AMATEURS / SOCIETE DES CINE AMATEURS CANADIENS (Inc.1969)

Executive Panel

1998-1999 ISSN 1187-8207

Honorary President

Christopher Chapman, C.M.

President

Fred Briggs, FSCCA,
3 Wardrobe Avenue South,
Stoney Creek, Ontario L8G 1R9
905-662-4406 scca@canada.com

Past President

Jon Soyka
45 Highcliffe Avenue
Hamilton, ON, L9A 3L3
905-388-5840 Fax 905-388-5840

Eastern Vice-President

Jan Bekoooy ASSCA
274 Alexandre Tache Blvd.,
Hull, Quebec, J9A 1L7
819-777-5078

Western Vice President

Margaret Chamberlain ASCCA
2701 Arbutus Road,
Victoria, B.C. V8N 1W8
250-477-5814

Secretary

Adam Houston
2047 Coral Crescent
Burlington, Ont. L7P 3K4
905-335-3534 sccasecy@canada.com

Treasurer

Carolyn Briggs FSCCA
3 Wardrobe Avenue South,
Stoney Creek, Ontario L8G 1R9
905-662-4406 scca@canada.com

Festival Director

Ben Andrews, FSCCA,
25 Eugenia Street,
Barrie, Ontario, L4M 1P6
705-737-2729 ciaff@canada.com

Contest Chairman

Keith Gloster
10 Seneca Crescent,
Brantford, ON. N3R 1K2,
519-752-5745
sccacompetition@canada.com

Membership

Thom Speechly, #19 - 295 Wilkins Street
London, ON, N6C 5C1 519-685-6197
sccamembership@canada.com

Publicity Officer

Fred Briggs, FSCCA,
3 Wardrobe Avenue South,
Stoney Creek, Ontario L8G 1R9
905-662-4406 scca@canada.com

Film Library

Fred Briggs, FSCCA,
3 Wardrobe Avenue South Stoney Creek,
Ontario L8G 1R9
905-662-4406 sccacanada.com

Honours Chairman

John J. Carey FRPS, FSCCA
632 Ellengale Road
Burlington, ON L7T3N8
905-637-3025 sccahonours@canada.com

PANORAMA Editor

Joan Bochsler
475 Caithness Street East
Caledonia, ON, N3W 1E3
905-765-5408 panorama@canada.com

Video Librarian

Stella Magic
#200 - 1395 Wilson Avenue
North York, Ontario M3M 1H9
416 - 248-9389
sccalibrary@canada.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What a difference a season makes. Last Winter I was here contemplating a step backwards. Now it's Spring, and the two steps forward are unmistakable.

First, we have a new PANORAMA Editor! She is Joan Bochsler, of Caledonia, Ontario, and a member or the Hamilton Video/Film Makers. Joan is very well qualified to be an editor, as an Associate of the Library Association in Australia, with a B.A. in English Literature from McMaster University, a Masters in Education from the University of Toronto, and a Diploma in Education from Hamilton Teachers' College. Besides working in libraries in Australia, in England, and in Moose Jaw and St. Catharines, and teaching in Hamilton, she was a proof

Cover Photos:

Site of the 1999 SCCA Convention.

Check out page 6 for Convention information.



EDITORIAL BOARD

Joan Bochsler

Wallace Robertson

LAYOUT, DESIGN &

TYPESETTING

George McLachlan

PANORAMA

...is published in Vancouver, B.C.
Canada.

The publication of the Society of Canadian Cine Amateurs an association of video and filmmakers devoted primarily to informing Canadian Movie/Video makers of the activities of the Society and developments in the realm of amateur motion picture making. It aims to provide information about the new equipment and methods, offers a forum for discussion of topics affecting the interests of amateur/video makers.

Subscriptions:

Free to members of the SCCA.

Membership Dues—

Individual \$30.00 — Family \$35.00

Annually — Payable by May 31st.



Joan Bochsler

Continued on Page 4

CLUB NEWS

by Wallace Robertson
ASCCA

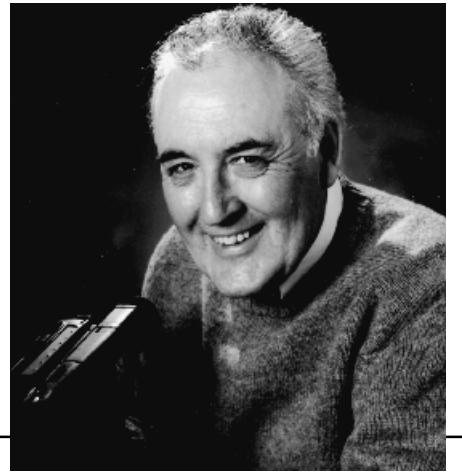


Photo by Ross

Last summer Jon Soyka was in town videotaping testimonials from players and friends of Joe Poplawski, who was to be inducted into the Canadian Football League Hall of Fame. At that time I had the opportunity to ride with Jon on a couple of his assignments. On one particular occasion we were driving down a street near my home when we spotted a thirty-year old man, crouched in the entrance to a lane-way, attempting to stuff a VCR into a sportsbag. Because it was a busy street, Jon quickly decided not to attempt to stop but carry on to the closest available telephone. Two blocks away was an Esso station. As Jon turned onto the lot, I jumped out, ran inside and requested the use of their phone to call 911. A few moments later when I came out of the station Jon had the van turned around and was trying to spot the suspect. We were in for a surprise! By the time we went back the two, short, blocks, the police had already nabbed the culprit, put handcuffs on him, and were in the process of heading back to the station.

Because of the instant, unquestioning, co-operation of a number of people, we were able to catch a thief in flight. My reason for relating this incident is to show that if we can apply this same attitude and co-operation to our individual groups there is no telling how much we could accomplish. Presently, most of us seem to work as individuals, struggling along, trying to improve our films on a rather slow, step-by-step basis. Attempting to pick up pieces of information here and there, information we hope will improve our videos. Possibly, if we set out time to work with others in group projects we would find that the improvement would be much faster, and when it came time to produce something on our own the process would be somewhat easier.

The Victoria group is pleased these days with the efforts of Margaret Cham-

berlain. She won an "Award of Merit" in the SAVAC one minute, "Magic Moments" contest, with her production "Bertie Bassett". Their "Assigned Subject" contest topic is "A Dream Come True". We should be hearing shortly who the big winner is!

The results of their Annual Contest are official, in the Novice Class, E. Hutchinson was First Place winner with his video, "I've Been Working On The Railroad", with 2nd Place being taken by G. Knappett with "Queens Town". In the Open Class the winners were: M. Chamberlain, 1st Place, with "Steamboat", "On The Banks Of The River" by E. Haire, came in second and E. Breckenridge's, "Discovery Coast", was third.

The Vancouver Video Production Club announced that they recently had Howie Woo and Antonio Nicoletti, winners of the First Annual Evergreen Video Festival, as their special guest speakers. The two young men discussed scripts, talent, sets, shooting, editing, grants and competitions. The second part of the programme featured Jim Babichuk and David Cooperstone who prepared a discussion on "How To Objectively Evaluate Films". I, for one, would like a copy of their criteria to see how we match up.

Winnipeg Amateur Moviemakers have been conducting a number of demonstrations and seminars in the past few months. Everything from audio and video insert editing, white balancing, "dead" battery revitalizing and charging, and a seminar on how to adjudicate films. On slate for future meetings will be the organizing and programming of video "shoots" for the preparation and set-up of events for the Pan-American Games, which will take place in Winnipeg, on July 23rd through to August 8th.

London Videography Club welcomed Jim Town back at their recent meeting after completing his service work in Nica-

ragua following the disaster created by 'Hurricane Mitch'. Jim brought with him his video entitled, "A Nation Weeps", a very moving and effective production. As reported, the film, "showed the extent of the damage from the 'storm of the century' and the misery and hardship the people have yet to overcome."

It appears that Thom Speechley, Editor of **London's**, "It's a Wrap", has given himself another job, from here forward he will be collecting material from their new website. For those who would like to contact Thom or the **London Videography Club**, use the following site. members.home.net/speechley 8505 By the way, Thom is the Membership Chairman for the S.C.C.A. Congratulations and thanks Thom!

"Shots & Angles", **Toronto Film & Video Club**'s monthly newsletter, mention that Laurinda Hartt Fournier was to conduct a forum on the "Technique of Assessing Videos with Examples". In the same issue Josephine Black recounts fondly on the 40 years of dedicated service which the late Al Ainsworth contributed to the **Toronto Video Club**. Along with his involvement with the Toronto Club Al had enjoyed close ties with the S.C.C.A., as an Associate Member. He had been presented with the S.C.C.A.'s Public Service and Community Involvement Awards for his film "Shelter", which detailed the construction of the Children's Bloorview Hospital.

The Ottawa Film & VideoMakers were pleased to have Peter Biesterfeld, writer/producer/director as guest speaker at their recent meeting. Among the many topics Mr. Biesterfeld discussed was 'Documentary Production', and the importance of pre-planning and setting of a 'tone' for the final production. Mr. Biesterfeld's credentials also include teaching at Algonquin College and Carlton University. Don Svob, the Guru of Gadgets, will be a special guest

speaker at an upcoming meeting.

The "Start, Middle, End" group of **St. Catharines** report that Russ Hall presented an audio-dubbing seminar at their last meeting. Audio-dubbing is extremely important for enhancing our videos. With the wonderful addition of sound on our videos we now have the capability of improving faulty soundtracks, hyping up visuals with music or making our documentaries sparkle with lively narratives. Included in their newsletter is the assigned topic for March. Members are asked to produce a three minute video featuring the word "Ship", in any form. The winners of the April assignment, "Glass" were Gilles Overbeeke, First Place, 2nd, Jim McDonald and 3rd Place went to Tom Ingham.

It is with sadness that we received word on the passing of Henrietta Schlager on March 16th at the Sisters Hospital in Buffalo. We only had occasion to meet Henrietta once, and that was at a convention back in the mid-eighties. We found her to be a lovely lady, with a pleasant outgoing personality. Someone who easily shared her knowledge of filmmaking with others. To iterate what her kind friends wrote in "Camerama", and shared by us, "It will be some time before we meet someone as accomplished, devoted and resolute as Henrietta."

The Brantford Club has been involved in post production editing demonstrations lately. A number of award winning members are working on a group project. How can you miss producing a great film when you have people like Don Bradley on edit control, insert editing done by Frank Birch, Keith Gloster heading up sound, camera operated by Laurie Ross and for floor support, the inimitable Joe Blake!

A number of awards were handed out at Hamilton's March meeting. Forty members were in attendance to see Tony Bifano present certificates to Jerry Apanosowicz for his production, "Chippies Funeral", Ben Andrews for "Velosean Soleau", Evelyn Rosa for "Wedding Highlights" and to Jim Town for his documentary "A Nation Weeps". To continue the evening Bert Lopinski showed "Luzerene, Switzerland", Jim Town followed with "Nicaragua Entre Uno Senor Puro" and Joan and Joe Bochsler presented "Seville Orange Marmalade". The evening also highlighted John Cole's, "Gord and Gail's 25th Anniversary", "The Amputation" by L & R Video, "So This Is Winter", by Art Bowes, "St. Petersburg", by Jean and Ken Day, and the programme closed on a high note with Jerry Apanosowicz's "Keep Moving", and

"Christmas Cards" by Joan and Joe Bochsler.

The Society of Amateur Videomakers & Cinematographers (SAVAC) our sister organization in the U.S. has been busy issuing information on their annual convention. This year it is entitled "Showtown '99" and will take place on September 17-19th in Branson, Missouri. Branson has the reputation of being one of the show capitals of North America, hosting some 70 daily performances in 40 local theatres. So there is still plenty to do, even after the convention is over. Looking at the abundance of material one is certainly impressed with the reasonable prices of the convention, shows and accommodation.

The "Ten Best of the West- and Amps" (American Motion Picture Society) will be holding a joint convention in Salt Lake City from October 21 - 24th. Award winning movies from the "Ten Best" and "Amps" competitions will highlight the three day affair.

For additional information contact Harold or Mary Cosgrove P.O. Box 793, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E CV6 Canada or P.O. Box 474, Lewiston, New York 14092 U.S.A. or <halmar@niagara.com>. Early in this article I mentioned that co-operation was probably the most important criteria of any group or organization. This became particularly evident in the March/April edition of Britain's "Film & Videomaker" magazine. Valrie Ellis (FACI), National Chairman of the Institute of Amateur Cinematographers, states in her article "Spring is in the Air", that a short while ago, she noticed that the association's office in Epsom was beginning to look a little tired and was sadly in the need of redecorating. So with the help of Mike Donlan, their Treasurer, she embarked upon an eight hour round trip from her home in Manchester to the offices, where she picked up a brush and applied a fresh coat of paint to the walls. Valrie and a few others did this because they felt that the working environment for the staff should be improved. Now, you may say, "What has this to do with filmmaking? Well, probably very little, but it certainly has a lot to do with dedication, co-operation and helping to strengthen relationships. Of course, we all have our own priorities, but as Valrie says, "There is more to life than making movies." I'm sure if you were to talk to the Chairmen of other clubs they could also relate similar instances, where someone, selflessly, rolled up their sleeves and did the job that others overlooked or ignored. In order to have a strong vibrant organization, we must be prepared to co-operate not only on the camera work but also on club activities

and functions. You will find the most successful, progressive clubs, with the largest memberships are the ones which have good inter-personal relationships. When this feeling of camaraderie and co-operation becomes infectious, the clubs become larger, more enthusiastic and obviously are capable of creating better productions.

On the lighter side, in closing, I would like to quote a truism on this subject from one of Canada's most under-rated philosophers. He is the voice of the common man; the Socrates of Lake Superior; the Plato of Possum Lodge, of course I'm speaking of Red Green. Who will ever forget his now famous and inspirational parting words,

"Remember, Keep your stick on the ice, I'm pullin' for you, we're all in this together!" ■

reader in Sydney. Furthermore, her first husband was City Editor in Moose Jaw, and taught journalism at Ryerson while working at the Hamilton Spectator. Joan, her first husband, and her two daughters have all been freelance writers, and in Joan's words "There is some ink in the blood, although now with computers it's more likely to be glaze in the eyes". With a little help and our patience Joan will soon be forwarding email attachments like an old hand. So let's welcome her aboard. From now on please submit articles and PANORAMA correspondence directly to our new Editor, Joan Bochsler, as indicated on the list of contacts on page 2, or on our S-C-C-A.ca web site.

Mention of the S-C-C-A.ca web site brings us to our second step forward. Finally, after many false starts, the CIAFF Entry Form is finally available for downloading from the CIAFF web site, and the SCCA Membership Application and SCCA Contest Entry Form are both available from the S-C-C-A.ca site. The latter has been extensively redesigned, updated and improved. While the details will only be of interest to those who have access to the internet, and will therefore be described elsewhere in this issue, I will mention that we recently added an email announcement service for

SCCA Members, and have since added a Buy and Sell Classified Ads page, a Film and Video News Gathering Service for members, and a Discussion Forum, which we hope will be used more than the last attempt.

Our sites are now listed by two of the major search engines, Excite and Altavista. (For those unfamiliar with the internet and its arcane lingo, search engines are free services which will search the internet for key words like "film making" and "amateur video" and present the searcher with a list of sites using those words or phrases.) Partly as a result, and partly because of a large email mailing to people interested in the CIAFF, the S-C-C-A.ca site has received "hits" in the past month by (in addition to Canadians and Americans) visitors from Australia, Israel, Netherlands, Malaysia, Sweden, and the U.K. The CIAFF site has received "hits" from most of the same countries, plus Brazil, Belgium, Chile, Germany, Iceland, India, Japan, Singapore, Slovenia, and Switzerland.

I did say "two steps", didn't I. Well, that was uncharacteristic understatement! An Eastern Regional Meeting was under planning for August in London, Ontario. The Board of Directors decided in early May to upgrade that to a National Convention. Please mark August 8 and 9 on your calendar and start making plans to come to London. Start with the article elsewhere in this issue.

In the last issue you received a copy of the CIAFF Entry Form, and we hope you are planning to enter. In this issue you will find a copy of the SCCA Contest Entry Form, and again, we hope you are planning to enter several films, videos, or scripts. And don't forget your club's entries for the Intercities Contest and the Garlick Trophy. Let's show Keith Gloster, our new Competition Chairman, some support by doubling the number of entries this year!

And speaking of doubling (the King of Segues strikes again!), you'll also find an SCCA Membership Renewal/Application Form in this issue. First, make at least one copy. Second, renew your SCCA Membership. (The new

President's Message Cont. on page 8

Video and Computers

by Art Taylor

Editor of The Toronto Film and Video Club's Shots & Angles

A comment made at the Feb. CAVSIG (Computer Assisted Video Special Interest Group, a group within The Toronto Film and Video Club, particularly interested in learning about and using computers for video production in editing, creating scripts, story boards, audio tracks, titles and graphics) meeting really hit the nail on the head: "Video and computers are being used together so much now that it will soon be likely that most video is produced digitally." Sony's introduction of Digital8 © is intended to make it easier for people with extensive Video8 or Hi-8 tape collections to switch to digital (Video8 and Hi-8 together made up about 70% of the total camcorders sold worldwide in 1998).

Over 20 of the 25 to 30 members who attend our regular club meetings either currently own computers, many equipped for video editing, or have expressed an earnest desire to learn about using computers for video production and intend to buy computers in the future. Attendance at the meetings over the nearly 2 years of CAVSIG's existence has been consistently high and usually the same members. Many of the members who have joined the club during this same period are also interested in digital video and computers.

If we wish to retain their interest and participation and attract and keep more new members, we need to overcome the limitations imposed on the CAVSIG by the fact that we meet in members' private homes. A committee has been formed to investigate ways to do this. One possibility being considered is the acquisition of computer video editing equipment by the club for use by our members. There are many questions to be answered before this happens: where will the equipment be stored and used? How will access be controlled so that persons not familiar with its proper operation cannot cause any damage? Exactly what kinds of equipment should be purchased? How will ongoing expenses such as upgrading hardware and software and a dial-up internet connection be met?

There are many existing web sites featuring user groups for various products, e.g. www.digitaleditor.com, which features news, tips and a user forum for users of Adobe Premiere © and After Effects ©. Other sites, such as www.corelmag.com, feature tips, techniques, and down-loadable scripts

(macros) for people using the CorelDRAW!© graphics suite. Videomaker magazine, www.videomaker.com, has offered free graphics for titles and free sound effects files in the past. Most hardware and software manufacturers post news and updates about their products on the web. Some also provide free technical support via the web but charge for telephone technical support. When researching specifications for a new camcorder, VCR, or other product, you can most likely find lots of information on the web. Just a few other sites to visit are: www.desktopvideo.miningco.com, which features links to numerous sites for hardware and software manufacturers, user groups, tips about composition, lighting, audio for video and other relevant topics; www.gel.ulaval.ca/~beauli03/DVLinks/Home.htm, a list of Desk Top Video Links; www.videonics.com, the Videonics Video Editing Resource Page; and www.videoguys.com, home of the Desk Top Video Handbook On-Line and lots of product reviews and information. Certainly, anyone investing in a computer system for video production today should seriously plan to include internet access in the budget.

Should the club establish its own web site where we could host a discussion forum for video-related questions and answers, on-line copies of Shots & Angles, hints and tips for new-comers to video in general, membership information (where and how to join us)? The technology exists today, at a modest cost, to provide streaming video on the web. Members could show some of their video productions to anyone with internet access and the appropriate browser software. There are potential benefits to having our own web site but there are financial costs as well as time and labour to build and maintain a site. Where will the money come from and who will be responsible as our Webmaster?

Just as production evolved from film to video some years ago, it is now evolving from the analog video form we are familiar with to the newer digital format some of us are working with. Computers already play a large role in commercial film and video production and they are rapidly entering the consumer/amateur/hobby video production arena. ■

Art Taylor

1999 SCCA CONVENTION

Start making plans to attend the 1999 SCCA Convention, which will be co-hosted by the London Videography Club, in London, Ontario, on Sunday and Monday, August 8th, and 9th.

While not all plans have been finalized and Speakers have not yet been selected, we can tell you that the Sunday activities will be held in the 150 seat Theatre of the London Regional Arts and Historical Museum (LRAHM), and the Monday program will be held in the 381 seat McKellar Room, which operates in the evening as Theatre Western showing 35mm commercial films, on the campus of Western University.

While we have to rent these rooms and the costs will be reflected in the Registration Fee, we are holding convention costs down in several ways. There will be no hotel associated with the convention and the program will be scheduled to minimize the number of nights most people will need to stay in a hotel of their choice in the price range they prefer.

Registration (and Coffee) will open at 10:00 on Sunday morning, and the Annual General Meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m., allowing time for people from South Western Ontario to the Golden Horseshoe to arrive that morning. A Lunch will be provided at noon for pre-registered SCCA Members who attend the AGM. The Speaker Program will begin at 1:00 p.m. and we will break for supper at 5:00 p.m.

There will be no banquet, but we are currently investigating various possibilities for an optional supper. Delegates will be free to choose any restaurant in the vicinity.

We will reconvene in the theatre at 7:00 p.m. for the presentation of any SCCA Honours that may be awarded, the presentation of the Awards for the SCCA Annual Competition, and the screening of the winning films and videos. The program will adjourn at 10:00 p.m., enabling some who must work Monday to get home Sunday night, with no hotel bill at all.

The Monday Program at the McKellar Room/Theatre Western at Western University will begin at 10:00 a.m. with Speakers and videos, and end at 5:00 p.m. Delegates will be on their own for lunch, and the inexpensive University Cafeteria downstairs from the Theatre is suggested. The 5:00 p.m. closing will allow many delegates to return home Monday evening, making another night's stay in a hotel unnecessary.

For those coming from farther afield and arriving Saturday, there will be an optional trip to the IMAX Theatre at the Western Fairgrounds. While the films to be shown in the double bill are not yet determined, it appears that one of them will be T-Rex, Back to the Cretaceous. The second feature may well be "L5, First City in Space". If twenty or more attend we will qualify for a group rate of \$8.50 for the double feature. If fewer attend the admission will be \$10.00 per person.

Yes, there are two glaring omissions in the information we can release at this time. We have begun to contact Speakers but we can't yet announce our Speaker list, and we are not yet able to announce the Registration Fees and distribute a Registration Form.

As there won't be another issue of PANORAMA before the Convention, we must take extraordinary measures. During the month of July, every member will receive up-to-date Convention information including a Speaker List, Program Schedule, Registration Form, and information about London, and a voting proxy for those who will not be able to attend the Annual General Meeting. Also included will be a Return envelope, for either the proxy or the Registration Form, which must be received back by July 23.

For those with access to the Internet, a Convention Page will be setup on the S-C-C-A.ca site where we will add information as it becomes available, including maps, hotel information, Speakers' bios, links, etc. For an example, see the Regional Meeting page at <http://S-C-C-A.ca>. ■



SCCA HONOURS

The following is list of the SCCA members who have in the past received recognition for their work and devotion to the principles of the SCCA. The SCCA Honours were awarded "in recognition of contributions to the advancements of the arts and sciences of photographers combined with elements of service".

HONOUR LIST OF PRESENT SCCA MEMBERS

HonFSCCA

Ben Andrews

FSCCA

T. Victor Adams
Dr. E. Fred Attridge
Armand Belanger (LM)
Carolyn Briggs
Fred Briggs
Patrick Capello
Margaret Conneely
J.J. Carey
Lois Fowler
Gordon Fowler
Lilian A. McKibbon
Jack Ruddell
Helen Welsh

ASCCA

Jan Bekooy
Edna Breckenridge
Margaret Chamberlain
Francis Crutcher
Rose Dabbs
Marguerite Hann
Edwin Neidhammer
Jeanette Robertson
Wallace Robertson
Walter Strickland

If you have received Honours from the SCCA and are not on this list, please contact Jack Carey, Chairman of the Honours Committee, with information about when you received Honours.

Honours are awarded on recommendation by SCCA members. The Proposer must be an individual member of SCCA in good standing who knows the candidate personally. The Proposer must also obtain an Endorser who is a member in good standing.

Associateship (ASCCA)

This award shall be made on the basis of substantial contributions to the advance-

ment of the artistic or technical quality of motion pictures through such activities as teaching, lecturing, judging, writing, publication of articles, papers, etc., organizational or administrative work, and personal achievements in producing motion pictures. Both service and proficiency in film making or photographic knowledge are required.

The award is available only to individual members of the Society of Canadian Cine Amateurs of not less than four consecutive years of membership.

A two-thirds vote of the Honours Committee is required.

Fellowship (FSCCA)

This award will be made on the basis of outstanding contributions to the advancement of the artistic or technical quality of motion pictures through such activities as teaching, lecturing, judging, writing, publication of articles, papers, etc., organizational or administrative work, and exceptional achievements in producing motion pictures either personally or in a group, or an exceptional degree of service to the Society as a whole entailing so many work hours that no time remains for personal film making.

The award is available only to individual members of the Society of Canadian Cine Amateurs of not less than seven consecutive years of membership, and who already hold an Associateship in the Society.

A two-thirds vote of the Honours Committee is required.

Honorary Fellowship (HonFSCCA)

The Honorary Fellowship is the highest honour awarded by the Society. It is awarded only for unique or outstanding contributions of major importance to photography and to the SCCA. Seventy-five percent approval of the Honours Committee and majority approval of the Executive Committee is required. The number of living Honorary Fellows is limited to five.

This award is available only to individual members of the Society of Canadian Cine Amateurs of not less than ten consecutive years of membership, and who already hold a Fellowship in the Society.

If you think you know somebody who would qualify contact the Chairman of the Honours Committee, Jack Carey, who will mail you the forms for the Proposer and Endorser and a copy of the requirements. The Honours Committee will consider your proposal and, if necessary, advise you how to strengthen it. ■

<http://S-C-C-A.ca>

For those with access to the Internet, the following is a report on the recent improvements to the S-C-C-A.ca web site.

- All music on this site (and the CIAFF site) has been shortened and the "looping" which occurred on some browsers has been eliminated. (While I have received favourable comments from some regarding the music, it became very annoying if you spent much time exploring the sites.)
- The S-C-C-A.ca site has been changed to "frames" and a navigation table has been placed at the bottom of the page where it is almost always available.
- The home page, and almost all others, appears in the upper frame.
- The music has been moved from the home page to the stable bottom frame, so the music does not restart every time you return to the home page.
- The old home page Fanfare has been shortened so much (to 10 notes) that an audio control is not needed on the bottom frame.
- The list of SCCA Contacts which formerly appeared along the right edge of the home page has been moved to a new SCCA Contacts page, making the home page less cluttered and easier to display for those using a 640 X 480 display.
- While the navigation table will take you almost everywhere you might want to go, the old navigation links remain for those who use a browser not capable of displaying frames.
For people using frames, the old navigation links will operate the same as the navigation table.
- The CIAFF navigation links, the many links on the two Links Pages, and the new SCCA Classified Ads, will open a new window for the new page. To return to the SCCA site you need only "park" or close the new window.
- All the new windows will display the Address or URL of the new site being visited, and those sites can be bookmarked or saved as favourites. All other pages on the SCCA site will open within the top frame of the SCCA site, the Address or URL shown will always be S-C-C-A.ca, and only the opening page can be bookmarked or saved as a favourite.
- Many new links to interesting and useful third party sites have been added to the Links Pages.
- An Entry Form for the SCCA Annual Competition and a Membership Application/Renewal have been added and can be printed from your browser. (CIAFF Entry Forms are available on the CIAFF site.)

Provision on the navigation table for an Online Entry Form and Online Membership Form has been made, but those features are not yet available. (Online CIAFF Entry Forms are not ready yet either.)

- Four new features have been added along the bottom row of the navigation table, SCCA Classified Ads, SCCA News Gathering Service, SCCA Members' Mailings, and SCCA Discussion Forum
- The SCCA News Gathering Service will take you to The SCCA Courier where you can read the latest news about film from four Hollywood and two Independent News Sources, and video and electronics from five Technology News Sources. All are updated regularly, but many will contain articles from a broader spectrum than you might wish. However, there is no way to filter out information that doesn't interest each reader individually. You will have to scan the sources for information relative to you, just as you do with any other news source. On some sites you may have to look for the news segment, and on most you can find an archive which holds older stories.
- On the same site you will also find daily online news from eight Canadian newspapers representing Canadian cities with SCCA affiliated clubs (unfortunately no Victoria newspaper appears to be online), Weather for Canadian Cities, and the Dilbert comic strip (just because I like it. If you have a favourite we may be able to add it!).
- The SCCA Members' Mailings is an archive of past emailings sent to the SCCA Membership List. You may post a message to all our members here. If the moderator (me) accepts your message as suitable, it will go to all SCCA members whose email address we have. (See Thom Speechley's announcement about London Videography Club's new website.)
- The SCCA Discussion Forum (hosted by Dega) is our second attempt to open such a forum. The first was closed by the host because of inactivity! So far, I am the only member signed up for discussion, although apparently we have been visited by ten visitors.
- Most, if not all, of these new services require that individuals sign up to use the service. There is no charge, and as far as I have seen, no spamming results. I can't provide detailed information about how to sign up for each service because I signed up for each some time ago in order to initiate the service, and have never seen the sign-up procedure again. I'm not asked to sign in each time I visit, apparently because of the miracle of "cookies", which merely allow the host to recognize my

Continued on page 9

Does the Bell Toll for Your Club?

by Art Taylor

Editor of the Toronto Film & Video Club's "Shots and Angles"

Let's take the recent deaths of Linda Smith, Henrietta Schlager and Al Ainsworth as a wake up call to action!

Many of our members are getting on in years and may not be with us for much longer. We should seriously consider taping interviews with these friends, discussing some of the changes in the Club, and in film and video production which they have witnessed over the years.

Such interviews can be done on a one-to-one basis. Some people may prefer that technique. A less formal format, though, may be better. Why not gather some of the older club members around a coffee table for a casual session of reminiscing about their experiences? With the summer approaching rapidly, try an outdoor setting under a shady tree, or around a barbecue instead. We should do the same with fam-

ily members and friends from outside the club as well

I'm sure the members of the Vancouver Video Production Club, (V.V.P.C.) were grateful that David Cooperstone had produced a short video in 1993 which included an interview with Linda Smith. His video was shown at the V.V.P.C.'s January meeting. As well, club member Allan Evers' 1983 film "SFX", in which Linda played the lead character, was shown as a tribute to Linda Smith. At the same meeting Club founder Lou Lanser held a moment of silence in Linda's honour. Workshop Chairman David Cooperstone announced that the Club's library would be named the Linda Smith Memorial Library. Linda Smith had been a dedicated club member for 40 years.

The Toronto Film and Video Club has planned a meeting as a Tribute to Al Ainsworth Night, when some of Al's films will be shown. Al was a very active member for many years, serving in many capacities. Unfortunately failing health forced him

to be less active recently.

At the time of this writing I am not aware of what tribute to Henrietta Schlager has been planned by the Buffalo Movie and Videomakers' Club, but they will do something to properly honour their oldest member..

Editor's Note.

Art Taylor's title "Does the bell toll for your club?" moved me to look up its source in my book about John Donne, 1572–1631. I quote part of it.

*"No man is an island....
Any man's death diminishes me, because
I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know for
whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee."*

We are all diminished by the death of three of our video friends. Let us cherish those who are left. J.B.

Continued from page 5

Membership Year begins June 1.) Third, bring at least one new member into the SCCA this month. If each of us does that we can easily double our membership this year. And, of course, if everyone does that the following year, we can double it again! In a few years of growth we could attract advertisers to PANORAMA and produce a bigger, glossier magazine that could also be sold on news stands, offer cash prizes for our competitions, circulate more programs to the clubs, hold more frequent regional meetings and seminars, and bigger, longer conventions, and even influence government policies on matters of special interest to our hobby. Is there anything else that you would like to see the SCCA provide? Then help us build the strength to tackle it. Sign up another

member this month! (Note the "Special One Time Introductory Membership Fee".)

You'll also find in this issue a short piece about the SCCA Honours. If you know of anyone who should be recognized with Honours, please contact the Honours Committee Chairman immediately to request the necessary papers so the candidate can be considered for Honours to be presented at the August 8-9 Convention. ■

Fred Briggs FSCCA

1999 SCCA CONVENTION

Start making plans to attend the 1999 SCCA Convention, which will be co-hosted by the London Videography Club, in London, Ontario, on Sunday and Monday, August 8th, and 9th.

computer. I consider the cookie to be a small price to pay for protecting our service from marauding strangers and freeing me from the need to remember numerous usernames and passwords. Please visit these new features, sign-up, and use them. (You will probably need "cookies enabled" for most of them.)

There have been reports of trouble reaching the SCCA and CIAFF sites. Experimentation has revealed which variations are permissible and which produce failure.

S-C-C-A.ca is a Registered Domain Name of the SCCA. (We couldn't get SCCA.ca because that is registered to the Student Canadian Chiropractic Association. Similarly SCCA.com, and many variations, is registered to the Sports Car Club of America.) Our site is hosted on <http://polar.icestorm.com/scca> and a redirection service transfers S-C-C-A.ca, s-c-c-a.ca, and S-C-C-A.CA (or www.s-c-c-a.ca) regardless of case anywhere) to polar.icestorm.com/scca, or www.polar.icestorm.com/scca. Simple, eh!

We are not able to register a Canadian Domain Name for the CIAFF, but we have engaged another referral system (Internetjump) to transfer <http://Fast.to/CIAFF> to <http://polar.icestorm.com/ciaff>, or <http://www.polar.icestorm.com/ciaff>. **NOTE CAREFULLY.** While caps are disregarded in Fast.to/CIAFF so it's the equivalent to fast.to/ciaff, using www. before fast.to/ciaff will result in taking you to an internetjump.com page explaining the system.

NOTE ALSO: Capitals are ignored in any part of <http://www.polar.icestorm.com/> but any capitals in scca or ciaff will produce a 404 Error on a blue Icestorm Network page.

The solution is simple. Use <http://S-C-C-A.ca>. When you reach the site, bookmark it (or save it as a favourite)! Click on CIAFF HOME PAGE on the navigation table. When you reach the site, bookmark it, too!

We hope you will find the SCCA site so useful that you will bookmark your usual home page (opening page) in case you change your mind, go to the SCCA page (using a bookmark) and make it your new home page! (The way to do that final operation varies from browser to browser.)

Oh yes, if you are an **SCCA Member** and we don't have your email address, please provide it so we can send you announcements. ■

RAINBOW RUNNER

by Pat Sheridan
President of the Vancouver Film & Video Club

It's been a frustrating eight months since I bought my computer last September. I had bought it with the full intention of equipping it with a "low-budget" digital, non-linear, video editing system. I still don't have such a system installed.

I was interested in a system made by Matrox, a Canadian company. They have had several variations of a product called the "Rainbow Runner" over the last couple of years. Basically, it is a video capture card that will **ONLY** work in conjunction with one of their own video graphics (display) cards. This in itself was **NOT** a problem, as I simply specified a Matrox video card when I ordered the computer.

At the time of assembly, I had a G-200 Millennium video card installed. The G-series Rainbow Runner was supposed to be available shortly, and it would work in conjunction with the Millennium card that I had installed. There was another video card, the G-200 Mystique, that I could have had installed, but I was led to believe by the company that built my computer, (who were led to believe by Matrox) that the TV (video) out module built into the Mystique would be redundant because the Rainbow Runner would have a built in TV out module as well. A TV out is required of course, if one wishes to output to a VCR and/or television. Otherwise, your only option is to store your edited video on a CD-ROM and then to view it on the computer monitor. The Millennium was supposed to have slightly better display abilities, so it seemed like the smart choice. Follow me so far? Well, now it's going to get complicated.

For whatever reason, the G-series Rainbow Runner, which was available around the world since at least October, was **NOT** widely available in Canada until December. Keep in mind that this is a Canadian company! And then to my disappointment, I found out that the current Rainbow Runner does **NOT** have the TV out module built into it. Anyone using the G-200 Millennium video card with the G-series Rainbow Runner is required to buy a SEPARATE module for the TVoutability. However, this TV out module has only JUST been released, and it will not be widely available for some time.

I've complained bitterly to Matrox about this, and I was finally told to send the Millennium video card back to them in Quebec and they would refund my money. This would allow me to buy the Mystique card

with the built in TV out module, followed by the Rainbow Runner, and then I'd be in business (so to speak). Seems fair, right? Well...

I can't take the Millennium video card out of my computer and send it in before I get the Mystique card because the computer is inoperable without a video card. So why don't I just go out and buy a Mystique card? Well...

It turns out that the first version of the latest Mystique card has a flaw that adds a green "tinge" to outputted video. There is a newer version of this card that doesn't have the green "tinge" that is currently available all over the world, except, you guessed it, in Canada! I've been told by several suppliers in Vancouver that the newest version of the Mystique will not be available until the "old" stock is gone.

It appears that in order for me to buy the latest product from Matrox, a Canadian company, that I'm going to have to cross the border and buy it in the States. I don't understand this at all.

Just to add one more variable into the mix, there is another product made by Matrox called the "Marvel". It is basically a Mystique video display card and a Rainbow Runner video capture card all built into one unit. One big advantage of this product is that it only takes up one slot in the back of the computer. The Mystique/RR combination takes up two. The Millennium/RR/TV out module combination takes up three. So why don't I just go out and buy a Marvel? Well, Matrox in their infinite wisdom decided to ship this product with inferior video editing software. It comes with a "dumbed-down" version of Avid software called Avid Cinema. It's for beginners only. The Rainbow Runner comes with Ulead's Media Studio Pro which is much more versatile.

Anyway, if I ever do get this system up and running, you'll certainly be getting a report from me. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding these products, please feel free to contact me at prsheridan@yahoo.com and I'll try my best to see if I can answer them. ■

Until next time...

"I Want To Make A Statement"

by Trevelyan Beard

This is the cry from the heart that flows from every artist, in fact from every sculptor and even every composer. Come to think of it – from every writer, hairdresser, quilt maker, cabinet maker, gardener and ..., in fact the list includes every creative soul that lives.

Life can be enjoyed so much more if you pursue a hobby and, if you also have a creative bent, then videography is a wonderful candidate. Armed with a camcorder, VCR and membership in a Video club you have the basics. Add a little more equipment for easier editing and you're halfway up the ladder. What's this about a Video club you say. Well, you need the members of a club to form the audience, don't forget that "creativity" and "I Want To Make A Statement" are part of the same fire that burns.

In my experience hob-knobbing with members of my own video club, the common thread is "What Shall I Shoot?". Another is "I don't think I can do it". Still another is "I'd be wasting the audience's time with my junk". These are problems that can be overcome.

Here are some thoughts that might get you moving.

Although it's OK to think that Videography is all about babies and weddings, it's developed into something a little different along the way. In my club we do a lot of "five minutes" – shorts that tell a story. Put another way, this is storytelling that uses a camcorder, like the difference between a "radio play" and a "TV play". Just think of the creative acts involved. You start by dreaming of an overall story, then there's the planning of the shooting, the camera work itself, the editing, the adding of narrative, choosing background music, creating a title and adding visible dialogue. There's even the social interaction if you join a group movie-making event. There's more if you want it, like transitions, special effects and animation. Like Topsy, you can grow and grow with Videography.

If you are like me – a thwarted actor you

can be part of the "talent" in a movie. If you are like me – a thwarted Steven Spielberg you can concentrate on the directing. And if you are like me – a thwarted Michael Angelo – you can "paint" a beautiful story as a script writer. And if you are like me – a thwarted musician you can spend challenging hours selecting appropriate music. And if you are like me – a thwarted handyman you can do any of the hundred jobs every club has to offer.

Let's wind up by describing just what a video or movie is (I much prefer the term "movie", being a romantic).

In the "Standard" movie you take all the shots yourself, add some narration and music and there it is.



In the "Beautiful Music" movie you take some dreamy shots of nature, add The Blue Danube background music and it will bring tears to their eyes.

In the "Travelogue" movie you shorten your holiday shots, add some cute comments then some non-sensational music and you have an offering most will enjoy.

In the "Borrowed clips" movie you use clips from tapes you pick up from the library, add well thought out comments to a well thought out story connecting these clips and you have a show. I did this

once, feeling rather guilty that not one of the shots was mine. To my surprise it scored high and was well received. You can never tell, can you?

In the "Stills" movie you use old family stills to tell a story about an ancestor, use spectacularly appropriate music and it just might bring the house down.

In the "Modeling Clay" movie which, being animation takes a lot of ingenuity, you use models of some kind to take the place of the talent. If well done, this will always be greeted with great hand clapping. We still have a challenge outstanding in the club to do something like this using eggs.

In the "Nature" movie, you borrow a microscope and take pictures of dust mites wandering around like aliens from another planet. Always appreciated, but not easy to do.

In the "Commercial" movie, you show how Lady Olive bashes the used car salesman with her brolly and successfully sells an old wreck to some overly particular bean counter. If the acting is above average, this might be good for a yearly resurrection.

From this incomplete list, you will gather that the focus is on entertainment as the purpose of your movie. As you progress through the fun of making shorts, you will quickly improve if you work at it. The members in our club are tolerant of movies that bomb because they have all been there themselves.

Since taking up Videography I've had to drop bungee jumping and bull fighting, just no time for them. Oh, Yes the Club ... Drop in any 1st and 3rd Thursday, Oct, Nov, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June. North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, 2nd Floor, 200 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto. 7:00 – 9:30 PM. Ages 20 through 90. If you don't like the shorts, you'll like the people. ■

SONY LAUNCHES DIGITAL8

by Bryan Belfont

Bryan Belfont, the owner of *VIDEO INSTRUCTIONS*, is the video instructor for Adult Education with the Vancouver School Board.

A new format has arrived on the scene: called Digital8. These camcorders are available now in the U.S. and will be coming to Canada in March. Digital8 camcorders look very similar to Hi8 camcorders but they function a whole lot differently. Here is a brief list of what they can do. Digital8 and DV share the same picture quality, sound quality, and PC interfacing capabilities. Digital8 Handycam camcorders also offer playback compatibility for 8mm/Hi8 analog recordings as well as Analog to Digital conversion.

Digital8 Handycam camcorders are capable of playing back virtually any 8mm or Hi8 analog cassette. Your existing library of 8mm and Hi8 analog videotapes can still be played back in your new Digital8 Handycam camcorder.

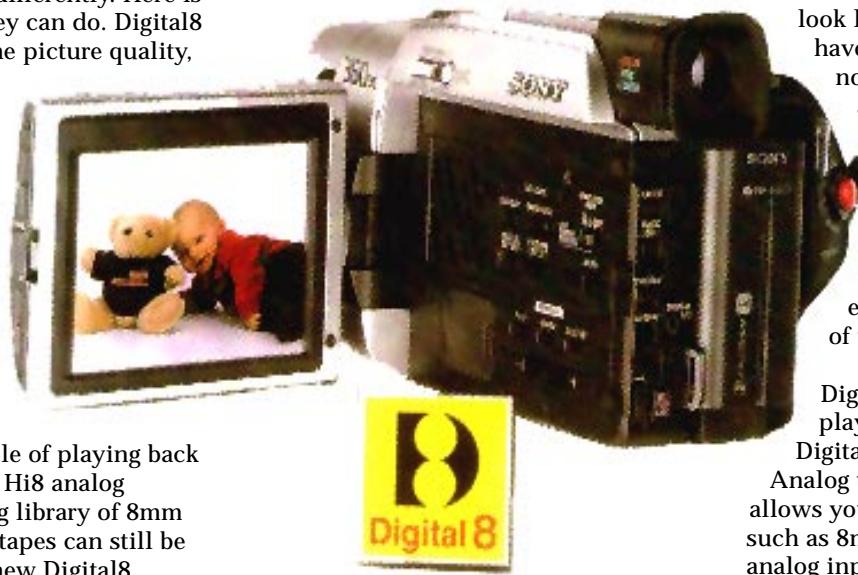
You can use standard 8mm or Hi8 tapes in your Digital8 Handycam. Sony recommends Hi8 metal particle tapes.

Although Digital8 uses the same 8mm tapes, recording times differ as a result of recording in digital. For recording in the North American standard of NTSC, the recording time is 1/2 of the analog recording time. So, a two-hour Hi8 tape will record one-hour of digital video.

Digital8 records in 12-bit or 16-bit PCM (pulse code modulation) stereo audio. This is the same type of digital audio quality applied to the compact disc, which means the sound will be cleaner, more dynamic, and has the capability to reproduce wider frequency response

than consumer analog formats. While current models do not incorporate audio dubbing functions, the 12-bit recording mode lets you add narration and/or background music to your video with a DV VCR or camcorder after dubbing to the DV format.

All Digital8 Handycam camcorders will record up to 10 hours on one charge of the optional NP-F950 InfoLithium battery (with the LCD closed).



You can use your Digital8 Handycam to edit on the Sony VAIO Digital Studio computers, and any other computer that features either analog capture capability, or full motion digital capture utilizing the i.LINK (IEEE-1394) interface for digital connection between computer and camcorder.

Digital8 has the ability to reproduce up to 500 lines of horizontal resolution for sharp, highly detailed images. That's more than twice the capability of VHS or VHS-C. Digital8 also has very good signal to noise reduction, which makes your video extremely clean and clear. Because the video is recorded digitally to a high quality tape, your Digital8 videos will also look greater for longer.

Making copies from the Digital8 Handycam is easy. Record to VHS, or another analog source such as a Video 8 or Hi8 Handycam, by using the video outputs located on the side of the Digital8 Handycam camcorder, with the supplied audio/video cables. When making digital copies, use the i.LINK interface to connect to a DV Handycam, second Digital8 Handycam, or other Digital product equipped with the i.LINK interface. Making digital copies means no loss of quality, so copies look like originals. Images that have been recorded digitally do not deteriorate over time, or after repeated dubbing and editing. Therefore, it is possible to store recorded memories for a very long period of time. Also, since the images are digital, they can be transferred to a PC for easy editing without losing any of the original image quality.

Digital8 camcorders are able to playback both Video8 analog and Digital8 recordings. Also, the Analog to Digital conversion function allows you to convert analog video, such as 8mm, VHS or VHS-C, using the analog inputs on all Digital Handycam camcorders.

Here are the five 1999 models of Digital 8 camcorders with Canadian prices....

| | | |
|----------|-------------|----------|
| TR-7000 | 20/360 | color VF |
| no LCD | Steady Shot | \$1199 |
| TRV-110 | 20/360 | B/W VF |
| 2.5" LCD | Steady Shot | \$1299 |
| TRV-210 | 20/360 | B/W VF |
| 3.0" LCD | Steady Shot | \$1399 |
| TRV-315 | 20/360 | color VF |
| 3.0" LCD | Steady Shot | \$1499 |
| TRV-510 | 20/360 | color VF |
| 4.0" LCD | Steady Shot | \$1799 |

Sony has also introduced 2 new 8mm and 4 new Hi8 camcorders in Canada.

I, for one, can't wait to get a Digital8 camcorder for myself. ■

Introduction to the SCCA

by Keith Gloster



SCCA? ... ESS SEE SEE EH?

What does it mean?...

**See Cute Cuddly
Anacondas ?
or Send Candidates
Cuspidors Anonymously ?**

Here's how I found out.

When I joined my first video club (Brantford Videomakers) a couple of years ago, my purpose was simply to learn a little more about an interesting hobby.

Almost immediately I heard my first references about SCCA from our esteemed President Dan Kennally, but I was unclear how this lofty group would be of any value or interest to me. Besides it cost more money to join. With more than enough to learn right at hand, I placed the reference into the mental storage vault, and moved along until—that summer of '97!!

Encouraged by my new friends in the video club, I planned to attend the summer conference for the SCCA being held in Kitchener, On-

tario. By this time I had acquired some skills in using my camcorder, (enough to feel I was already superior to most videographers, and one of God's most potential greats) and it was time to see what else a few mere mortals could show me.

As I reflect upon the few days spent there, I realize that this was the time that the "videomaker bug" really made itself known. I WAS IMPRESSED! I listened to a range of skilled speakers during the conference, saw outstanding demonstrations of the truly skilled in video, and met some of the most interesting practitioners of the video craft. There were actors, special FX, model builders, unique movie making equipment and appliances. This was sprinkled liberally with some real down home solutions to common video by Fonthill's "Tinker," Don Svob.

It is not my purpose here to regurgitate the proceedings of that conference, but instead to focus on the offerings and benefits which are offered by this umbrella Canadian organization. Why is it that so often beginners in an endeavour will work hard, but fail to take advantage of the obvious opportunities right around the corner? We all try to grow and why not do this in the easiest manner possible?

Conferences, contests, conviviality, cooperation, consideration, career choices, canapes, characters and comics, cheers and challenges. All are waiting for you as the Society accepts your input, and offers a tremendous return for those who take that first step — joining the SCCA! ■

Contact the SCCA at...

www.polar.icestorm.com/scca

IT'S SPRING ... GET GOING!

by Jeanette Robertson

Spring is here again! The perfect time to reorganize and get moving on your favourite hobby, before you lose another season to procrastination, lack of organization or another tomorrow. I, too, can defer things with the best of them. We can continue to let things slide with the snow and flow with the spring run-off, but let's re-focus and go for it!

Here are some tips for successful moviemaking:

Pick A Topic - any topic, you think you'll have fun doing.

Take It Easy - you're not Cecile B. DeMille, or Steven Spielberg, at least most of us aren't. Use the 'KISS' method, (Keep It Simple Stupid). This way you will have a degree of success and be motivated.

Plan To Fall Off The Wagon - You may defer filming for some unforeseen reason, or, simply...because. Get yourself back on track!

Look Inside Yourself - Check and evaluate what is going on. Are you on track? Is your project 'jelling'?

Start Your Own Fan Club - Get a buddy to work with you. They can often provide a gentle nudge when you're feeling sluggish, or help set goals and establish a routine.

Make a Date With Yourself - mark it on the calendar and do this not only for your filming but for your editing as well. Allow extra time in case you hit a snag or two. Pretend the date is for a long awaited dental or a doctor's appointment, then you'll be sure to keep

Invest In Your Equipment - Check your camera and VCR in case they require cleaning, repair work or replacement. What about your accessories? Get out the dust cloth, oil can and maybe even your chequebook. For the cost of this hobby, maintenance is as important here, as it would be for your vehicle.

Invest In Yourself - Going filming? Remember to take along those extras. It may take longer than you expect. Include a light snack and thermos of water, a hat and jacket, rubber boots and wear good walking shoes. If you require medication, slip an extra dose in your snack pack.

Finally, spend the time to enjoy your hobby. Talk to people who are knowledgeable and give 'em respect. If you start now, you will feel good about your accomplishments and if you remain consistent, you won't be needing any advice this time next year! ■