



GREG COMAN
PHOTOGRAPHER
**Grounded by the
Natural World**

“A WALK IN THE WOODS” — My happy place. In the woods, immersed in nature. This is near my sister’s cottage on Little Lake Joseph in Muskoka Region. The pathway meanders through lichen-covered rocks, while the sunlight trickles through, lightly painting the lush green forest floor. As a thank you, I gave this photo to my sister. It now adorns her cottage wall. *Nikon D810, 85mm lens, Focal length 85mm*

► “HUMMINGBIRD” — One spring day, I was working in my studio, and I looked out the window to see this cute little hummingbird perched on a nearby branch. I have caught fleeting glimpses of the occasional hummingbird hovering around the flowers, but they’re here and gone very quickly. This was the first time I have seen one stationary.
Nikon D810, 70-200 mm lens, Focal length 200mm



▼ “TOAD STOOL” — I was hiking on a trail in the Haliburton Highlands, near the Leslie Frost Natural Resource Centre, shooting with my macro lens, a fixed 105mm Nikkor lens, as I hoped to photograph mushrooms up close. They are abundant along these trails, especially in fall. I lay on my belly for this shot, when this little toad unexpectedly landed on the mushroom that I was photographing. Talk about a photobomb, one that I was thrilled to have captured!
Nikon D810, 105 mm lens, Focal length 105mm





◀ “CANADIAN SHIELD” — While driving along the TransCanada Highway, enroute to Ottawa, I saw this rocky landscape and had to stop. I was attracted to the light, as the sun dropped low in the sky behind the clouds. I composed this image with the rocks in the foreground, set against the moody sky. When I’m on a driving trip, I avoid big highways. I want to be able to stop and photograph if something catches my eye. For me, that is part of the journey. *Nikon D810, 24-70 mm lens, Focal length 24mm*



▲ “STORMHAVEN” — Stormhaven Backcountry Campground on the northern Bruce Peninsula is a hidden gem, although it took a lot of planning and preparation to get there. I booked my permit six months prior in order to secure one of the coveted shoreside campsites. Overnight campers need to be prepared for a two-hour hike on a treacherous section of the Bruce Trail, packing everything in and out for the overnight stay, including a lightweight tent, sleeping bag, camp stove, food and water. I also packed my dSLR camera. This photo was taken at the spot where I would get my drinking water, fresh out of Georgian Bay, using a filtered water pump. Sleeping under the stars on the secluded white limestone shoreline was well worth the effort. *Nikon D810, 24-70 mm lens, Focal length 24mm*





▲ “INTO THE MIST” — The Lake Huron shoreline boasts some of the most spectacular sunsets in Ontario. The calm shallow waters make for ideal kayaking conditions. I photographed this duo of sunset kayakers from the beach at MacGregor Point Provincial Park, which is located on a seven-km stretch of coastline. The minimalist composition of this image instilled in me a sense of calmness and wonder. Perhaps it prompts the viewer to ask “what lies beyond the limits of this frame?” *Nikon D810, 70-200 mm lens, Focal length 200mm*

▼ “MONSTER” — We found this injured baby bird on the side of the road. We suspect it had been attacked by a bird of prey, and dropped. We soon identified it as a young Grackle. A day later we serendipitously found an abandoned bird’s nest. It became the bird’s new home. While we searched for an animal rescue facility, we nursed it to the best of our surrogate abilities. We affectionately called it Monster because of the way it would squawk as I dug in the garden looking for its favourite food source, worms. Hobbitstee, a wildlife rehabilitation centre, would become its new home before being released. We hope it is now back in the wild where all little monsters belong. *Nikon D810, 85 mm lens, Focal length 85mm*



▼ “ON THE HORIZON” — The Bruce Trail holds a special place in my heart, having hiked the entire 900-km trail end to end with my kids. One of my favourite sections of the trail is near Tobermory in the Bruce Peninsula National Park. I have been back to this section many times. On this occasion, I was co-leading an Adventurer group. Several of my photos taken along this section of the Bruce Trail have been published, including the front cover of *UP!* - WestJet’s inflight magazine, as well as the *Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine*. *Nikon D810, 70-200 mm lens, Focal length 200mm*





◀ “ARTIST’S PALETTE” — The Speyside South Side Trail of the Bruce Trail is one of our favourites to walk the dog, because it’s an easy loop trail. While walking this in the early autumn, I was intrigued by the twisted branches of the Sumacs, amidst the warm colours of the foliage. I shot this with my iPhone. I may not always have my dSLR camera with me, so I work with what I have. If someone asks me what the best camera is, I always say “it’s the camera that you have with you.” Although I choose Nikon as my tool of the trade, I have used many other types of cameras as well, including Canon, Olympus, Minolta, Pentax, and Sony. *iPhone 8, focal length 28mm*



◀ “TREELINE” — I like the simplicity of this winter scene. I shot this at Scotsdale Farm, a favourite local destination of mine for hiking. Scotsdale is also one of my favourite spots for photographing family portraits and engagement shoots. It can be very popular on weekends, so I like to go during the week or later in the day. It’s a large property and the Bruce Trail winds through it. I shoot in all seasons and weather conditions. I’ve photographed a dance school there on one of the hottest days of the year, and photographed a couple’s portrait on one of the coldest. *Nikon D810, 24-70 mm lens, Focal length 70mm*

► “SPLASH” — The Grotto near Tobermory in Bruce Peninsula National Park is a cave with a natural pool of water. The light illuminates through an underwater tunnel, enhancing the deep blue colour. This photo is the decisive moment that one of the Adventurers in our group dove into the clear, very cold water. I have heard stories of scuba divers swimming through the tunnel, however that is not recommended unless you are an experienced cave diver. The hike into The Grotto is tricky, and on one occasion I came face to face with a snake climbing on the rocks. *Nikon D810, 24-70mm lens, Focal length 24mm*



► “MISTY POND” — This shot was taken close to home, just a few minutes’ walk away. It’s a familiar and quiet pond, which changes character with the seasons. I shot this on a winter day, when the fluctuations in temperature caused foggy conditions. I go to this spot often and have spotted muskrats, turtles, and coyotes. It is also a popular spot for various types of water fowl. I printed this on acrylic and have it hanging proudly on my living room wall. *Nikon D810, 24-70 mm lens, Focal length 35mm*





▲ “NORTHERN REFLECTIONS” — I rediscovered the magnificence of Algonquin Park in the last couple of years. I was amazed by the sheer size of it, and the multitude of lakes, trails, and backcountry campsites to explore. One may say it could take a lifetime to explore, and not see all of it. This was shot in late fall. I applied an infrared filter to highlight the trees and reflection. There’s a sense of mystery as the eye is drawn to the dark area, perhaps wondering what lies beyond. This photo won first place in the Halton PhotoArt 2022 contest, in the scenery category. *Nikon D810, 24-70 mm lens, Focal length 70mm*

Artist’s Statement

I’m a Halton Hills photographer with a recognizable style, not limited by subject matter. I open my senses to the world around me, quietly observing, and when the moment is right, utilizing the camera to capture the decisive moment. Creatively speaking, I’m earthy, grounded by the natural world around me, including people, creatures, landscapes, and spaces.

I have had solo exhibitions at the Side Door Gallery, Georgetown, and the Fez Batik, Toronto, as well as numerous juried exhibitions, including the Scotiabank Contact festival, PhotoArt, and other mixed media exhibitions at the Red Door Gallery, Georgetown, Holcim Gallery, Milton, and Helson Galleries, Halton Hills. My images have been printed in numerous publications including *UP!* - the West Jet Inflight magazine, the *Bruce Trail Conservancy Magazine*, *SideRoads of Halton Hills*,

and *Niagara Escarpment Views* on several occasions, including a photo essay about hiking the Bruce Trail from end to end.

I’m past president of Halton Hills Camera Club, and also a member of Fine Art Society of Milton, (FASM). As part of the FASM Fall Studio Tour last year, I hosted my first photography exhibition at my Halton studio. My photographs cover a variety of themes including landscapes, as well as specific themes including underwater photography, and abandoned spaces.

My business, Greg Coman Photography, provides services including portraits, engagements, weddings, and corporate events. A specialty is family portraiture set in a natural environment. To see more of my work, check out www.gregcoman.com, and follow me on Instagram.

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“GETTING THE SHOT” — My partner Jody took this shot of me while hiking together at the Bruce Peninsula National Park. I am pictured here with my workhorse of a camera, the Nikon D810, with the Nikkor 24-70 mm /f2.8 lens. If I have to choose one lens, due to space/weight limitations, it would be the 24-70mm, my go-to lens due to its versatility.
 PHOTO BY JODY VAN DER KWAAK. *Canon 5D Mark II, 85 mm lens, Focal length 85mm*

▼ “ICING ON THE CAKE” — American Falls, viewed here from the Canadian side, is the second largest of the three waterfalls that together are known as Niagara Falls. Niagara Falls can get very busy on weekends. In order to avoid the crowds, we went midweek on a cold winter day in February. We had the place to ourselves, which is a rarity. Winter is my favourite time to photograph the Falls. I love how the trees are coated in ice. It had been overcast but then the sun popped through the clouds, and a rainbow manifested in the icy mist. Nature provided a wonderful palette of colour, from the blue sky, to the dark green water, to the varied colours of the rainbow. *Nikon D810, 24-70 mm lens, Focal length 70mm*



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