



Normally, in late October, with weather turning colder and snow starting to fly, we would have been loading up the car and heading to California for the winter. Of course, this year the pandemic changed those plans. While I am really missing the desert, part of me is looking on the positive side as this being an opportunity for some winter (i.e. snow) photography.

Along with the pandemic, other circumstances have also limited my travel this Fall. As a result, I have continued to photograph locally. And I have to admit, I have been enjoying it. Focussing on local scenery has allowed me to go back and visit certain sites on several occasions under different light and weather conditions.

For a little more detail on my Fall activities, please check out my blog post [Fall 2020](#).

Incidentally, as you are no doubt aware, I do have two websites: my blog at [windaturback.com](#) and my photo gallery at [neimillerphotography.com](#). It is easy to switch back and forth between them by simply clicking on "Blog" or "Photo Gallery" in the menu bar at the top of the page.

## NEW IN MY GALLERIES

### Landscapes



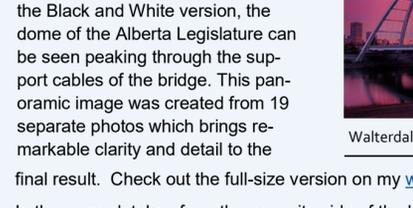
Horsehill Hall

These two old buildings have been added to my [Landscapes](#) gallery. The texture of the weathered wood is emphasized in the Black and white image of Horsehill Hall, an old community hall on the outskirts of Edmonton.

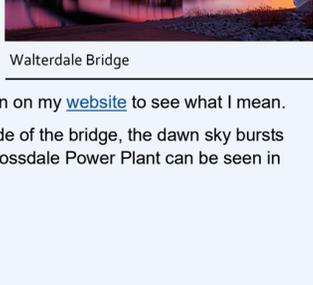


Little White Schoolhouse

Formerly a two-room school, the Little White Schoolhouse is now a museum located a couple of blocks from downtown St. Albert. I loved how the clouds really added some drama to the scene.



Walterdale Bridge—B&W



Walterdale Bridge

I also added two images of the Walterdale Bridge in Edmonton. In the Black and White version, the dome of the Alberta Legislature can be seen peaking through the support cables of the bridge. This panoramic image was created from 19 separate photos which brings remarkable clarity and detail to the

final result. Check out the full-size version on my [website](#) to see what I mean.

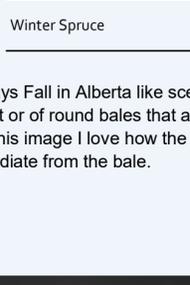
In the second, taken from the opposite side of the bridge, the dawn sky bursts with color. The smokestacks of the old Rosssdale Power Plant can be seen in the background.



Autumn Pathways

Fall is a time for gorgeous colors, as evidenced by this leaf-strewn pathway in Lois Hole Provincial Park, just outside St. Albert.

With late Fall come the first snowfalls. I really like the bleak simplicity of this image.

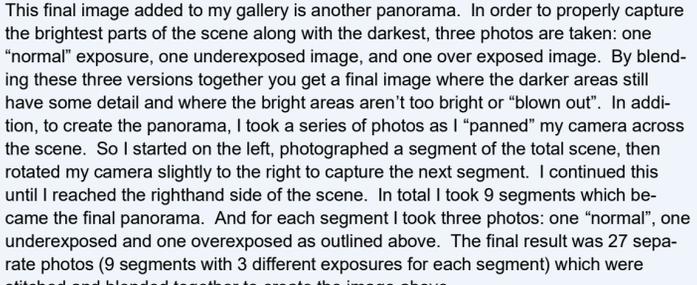


Winter Spruce



Round Bale

Nothing says Fall in Alberta like scenes of the harvest or of round bales that appear in fields. In this image I love how the clouds seem to radiate from the bale.

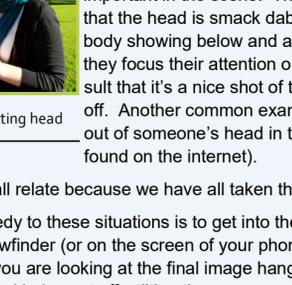


Edmonton Skyline

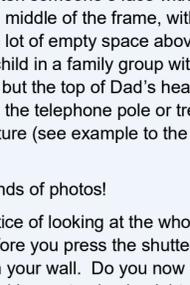
This final image added to my gallery is another panorama. In order to properly capture the brightest parts of the scene along with the darkest, three photos are taken: one "normal" exposure, one underexposed image, and one over exposed image. By blending these three versions together you get a final image where the darker areas still have some detail and where the bright areas aren't too bright or "blown out". In addition, to create the panorama, I took a series of photos as I "panned" my camera across the scene. So I started on the left, photographed a segment of the total scene, then rotated my camera slightly to the right to capture the next segment. I continued this until I reached the righthand side of the scene. In total I took 9 segments which became the final panorama. And for each segment I took three photos: one "normal", one underexposed and one overexposed as outlined above. The final result was 27 separate photos (9 segments with 3 different exposures for each segment) which were stitched and blended together to create the image above.

### Wildlife

Two images have been added to my [Wildlife](#) Gallery. A Ruddy Duck, with it's distinctive blue bill, swims by in a pond at Lois Hole Provincial Park. In the second, a Pileated Woodpecker has a good start on creating a hole in and Aspen tree while in search of bugs.



Ruddy Duck



Pileated Woodpecker

## PHOTO TIPS ... SEEING THE WHOLE SCENE

In this section of my newsletter, I hope to provide some helpful tips for the novice photographer who wants to improve their photos. I welcome reader suggestions for topics they would like included in the future.



Tree-sprouting head

A common error new photographers make, when looking through their viewfinder, is focusing their attention on what to them is most important in the scene. This is often someone's face with the result that the head is smack dab in the middle of the frame, with half their body showing below and a whole lot of empty space above. Or they focus their attention on the child in a family group with the result that it's a nice shot of the kid but the top of Dad's head is cut off. Another common example is the telephone pole or tree sticking out of someone's head in the picture (see example to the left that I found on the internet).

We can all relate because we have all taken these kinds of photos!

The remedy to these situations is to get into the practice of looking at the whole scene in the viewfinder (or on the screen of your phone) before you press the shutter. Think of it like you are looking at the final image hanging on your wall. Do you now notice Dad's head being cut off—tilting the camera a bit or taking a step back might get everybody properly in the scene. Notice that telephone pole? Maybe by stepping to the left or right it won't look like it is growing out of a person's head.

The same thing holds true for landscape photography. Again, a tendency for new photographers is to place the main subject right in the middle of the photo because when they focus their attention on it in the viewfinder it almost always just naturally ends up in the center. As we will talk about in future newsletters, usually (although not always) a much more visually compelling image is to have the subject off-center a bit. Another common error is to not notice little bits of things, like a tree branch or someone's hand, sticking in from the edge of the frame. When the photo is viewed later, these little things on the edge create a distraction; i.e. they draw your attention.



Foot chopped off



Better framing!

So next time you take a picture, remember to look at the whole scene in your viewfinder before pressing the shutter.

Got a questions or comment about this newsletter? Have a question you would like answered in future newsletters? Please reply to this email or use the contact form on my website [neimillerphotography.com](#). I would love to hear from you!

And feel free to pass this email along to anyone who may have an interest in photography.

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