

List of all presentations the Ottawa PC Users' Group offers at the Ottawa Public Library.

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Armchair travel with Lynda Buske

Some context and history will be provided during each lecture along with **travel photography tips**.

Armchair travel: Alaska - Experience the beauty of Alaska through Lynda's photos and narration of multiple Alaskan cruises. Explore the glaciers and watch her pan for gold! Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Armchair travel: British Columbia - Enjoy photos and narration of coastal, interior and island beauty including stunning gardens and birdlife. Included are some historical photos from the 1920s! Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Armchair travel: the Danube - Photos and narration from a river cruise that included, Prague, various stops in Germany and Austria and ending in Budapest, Hungary. Included is a side trip to the Danube Gorge. Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Armchair travel: Iceland - Enjoy photos and narration of an Icelandic cruise that included magnificent waterfalls, lava fields, geysers and stunning fjords. Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Armchair travel: Ireland/Scotland - Photos and narration from multiple trips via car, ship, and bus. Ireland includes Cork, Dublin, Northern Ireland (Belfast, Londonderry, Giant's Causeway) and the west coast (Cliffs of Mohr, Connemara). Scotland includes Hebrides, Edinburgh, Inverness, Shetland Islands. Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Armchair travel: Newfoundland - Photos and narration from multiple car trips around this wonderful province. Sights from north, south, east and west coasts. Highlights include the Viking settlement in L'Anse aux Meadows, fjord at Western Brook Pond, the Tablelands, Bonavista, Twillingate, Cape Spear, icebergs, puffins, and more. Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Armchair travel: Norway - Experience Norway through photos and narration of two separate cruises. See scenery from north of the Arctic circle and enjoy misty fjords, mountain top vistas and wild reindeer! Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Armchair travel: Nova Scotia - Let Lynda's photos take you around "Canada's Ocean Playground" from Annapolis Valley to the south shore, Peggy's Cove, Halifax and stunning Cape Breton! Having spent her childhood there, she will include a few older images as well. Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): fun and useful tips

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools have exploded over the last few years. They can: supercharge your web searches & help you find the most relevant information; generate images & videos from text prompts; summarize web pages, YouTube videos, & PDF files; help you accomplish tasks in your programs; assist with creative writing; and more. Chris Taylor from the Ottawa PC Users' Group will show you how easily it can be done and how to avoid dreaded "AI hallucinations". And you can do it all for free.

Basic photo editing - learn easy, stunning techniques

Demo on how to enhance your photos by adjusting light, colour, and composition using free photo editing software (Photoscape X) available for both Windows and macOS desktop computers and laptops. Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Fun with fonts - the art and science of typography

Dive into the fascinating world of typography with Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group. Chris will demystify the terminology of typography and explore its rich history. Learn what makes a typeface readable or distracting, how to effectively combine multiple typefaces, and the emotions different fonts can evoke. Whether your next project is a greeting card, poster, newsletter, business card, logo, or anything else that incorporates text, Chris can help you avoid common typographic pitfalls. Practical tips will help you choose the right typeface, create visually appealing and readable text, and more. For the design novice or seasoned pro, this presentation will enhance your appreciation and understanding of typography's powerful impact.

How to Buy a Digital Camera

When buying a digital camera, you are faced with a bewildering array of choices. Chris Taylor, Ottawa PC Users' Group President and Orleans Photo Club Vice-president will help "focus" your search for the ideal digital camera to fit your budget and suit the style of photography that interests you.

How to Buy a PC

When buying a PC, you are faced with a lot of choices: laptop or desktop; how many cores in the processor; Intel, AMD, or ARM processor; size of storage; how big a monitor; is it better to buy a faster processor or more memory; ... Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group will help sort out the choices so you can buy the computer that is right for your needs.

How to make a hard copy photo book

Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club will show you how to make a hard copy book using the on-line service Photobook Canada. You can completely customize the arrangement of your photos, backgrounds, frames, embellishments, etc. A great way to preserve memories of family events or travel!

How to Secure a Home Wireless Network

Many wireless routers do not default to the most secure configuration. Make sure you are not the "low-hanging fruit" that someone will decide to attack. It is surprisingly easy to make sure your network is secure. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group will show you just how easy it is.

How to take better vacation photos

Learn how to more effectively tell the story of your vacations through pictures. Regardless of what kind of camera you use (cell phone, tablet, DSLR, etc.), Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club will show how to use light, foreground, people, and framing. Learn the best ways to shoot seaside, sunrise/sunset and more to create descriptive photos that needs no captioning.

Keeping passwords safe

We are told: don't write down passwords; don't reuse passwords; make passwords long and complex. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group will show how to use free software that stores all your usernames and passwords along with related information and protects them with a single, very strong password. Don't let your online accounts get compromised. It's easy and free.

Landscape photography

Landscape photography is the art of capturing the natural world, outdoor spaces, and urban environments to evoke emotion, a sense of place, or to tell a story. Learn how to utilize light (e.g., blue hour/golden hour) and how to use long exposures to create silky waterfalls even with your cell phone! Lynda Buske, from the Orleans Photo Club and the Ottawa PC Users' Group, will give you tips on how to take great landscape photos in any season and in all sorts of weather. Most of her sample images were taken in the Ottawa area so no need to travel far to practice what you learn!

Macro/ close up photography

Get up close and personal with your photographic subjects such as flowers, insects, water droplets, or detailed parts of larger subjects or scenes. Learn how to isolate your subject from the background, and control how much of the image is in sharp focus. You can shoot up close with regular lenses and cell phones but Lynda will also include a discussion about using dedicated macro lenses. Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Organizing and showcasing your photos

Learn various ways to organize photos on your computer, phone or on the cloud. Understand how to create backups so your photos are protected against theft, fire, or other disasters. Learn how to create on-line photo albums and how to make a PowerPoint video to showcase a trip or a collection of family photos even with music! Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Protecting Your PC

The average time it takes for an unprotected computer to be compromised after connecting to the Internet is under 15 minutes. Don't let it be yours. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group will show you the simple steps you need to take to keep your PC from being hacked. And best of all, it can be done for free.

Quick PC Tips: Enhancing capabilities and performance with free tools

Learn how to extend the battery life of your PC laptop, discover the handy Microsoft PowerToys, detect fake USB flash drives before you lose data, learn why you should avoid PC "fix-it" utilities, and embed music in PowerPoint presentations. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group, will help you with these quick and effective remedies.

Restoring old photos

Learn the options for digitizing old photos plus receive a demo on how to straighten, sharpen, adjust lighting, remove scratches and spots using free software (Photoscape X). Free online AI editing tools will also be covered. Lynda will also cover Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Taming the inbox: organize and stay safe

E-mail systems are used by almost everybody but not well understood by all. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group will cover the basics of webmail and email clients such as Thunderbird and Outlook. We will discuss the evils of spam, spoofing & phishing and how to detect & deal with them. We'll look at organizing email with folders and filters. Find out how disposable addresses can safeguard your privacy when giving your email address to those you don't entirely trust. And Chris will show you a free program that makes it easy to migrate email from one system to another.

Tips and techniques for better photos

Learn, in simple terms, how your camera works to enable you to take better photos. The lecture will cover tips on composition, depth of field, lighting, people pictures and how to avoid common pitfalls. Applicable to cell phones too. Presented by Lynda Buske from the Ottawa PC Users' Group and the Orleans Photo Club.

Whoa, backup! Effective strategies for keeping your computer files safe

Think about all the data on your PC; videos of the grandkids playing in a park, photos of your trip to Patagonia (lucky you!), tax records, emails... Now think about whether those files exist anywhere else. If the answer is no, you need to think about backup. You could lose data due to viruses, fire, theft, tornado, hard disk failure, making an unintended change to a file, or a wayward finger deleting a file. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group will discuss various ways you can ensure your important data survives any catastrophe.

Who's the Boss - You or Your Camera?

Take your photography to the next level by getting your camera off "Auto" to achieve the creative effects you want. Learn how to tell your camera to capture what you see - don't let it decide for you. Topics covered will include an understanding of aperture, shutter speed and ISO which can be applied to any camera that has a dial for selecting exposure settings (e.g. "A" or "Av", and "S" or "Tv"). Presented by Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group and Vice-president of the Orleans Photo Club.

Windows Performance Tune-up

If your Windows computer is getting sluggish, you don't have to re-install Windows just to gain back lost performance. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group will demonstrate and explain how to safely use many native and free 3rd party tools that can help speed up Windows.