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PHOTOS BY TELFER WEGG

Searching for **TELF**

A profile of photographer Telfer Wegg

When Neustadt resident Telfer Wegg began taking landscape pictures over a decade ago, photography agencies told him there's more money shooting models or weddings. "I've only got so many days in a year ... plus weddings screw up your Saturday," he says. "I get a lot of satisfaction turning out these books. Plus, I really think it does something for the community."

His latest, *Searching for Grey-Bruce*, is the photographers' fifth, self-published book of landscape shots, as well as rural scenery including historic mills and schoolhouses. More professional, he says, than his first coil-bound and saddle-stitched softcover books from the mid-nineties, *Searching for Grey-Bruce* is a hardcover compilation of 120 colour photographs of the Bruce

Peninsula, the Huron shore, Saugeen country, Southern Georgian Bay and Owen Sound.

With a prejudice for the secluded and isolated, the dairy farm-raised photographer makes no bones about his preference for nature's simplicity. "I don't care about waterslides and how many Tim Hortons you've got," says Telf, a laid-back name that suits him. *Continued on page 66*





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Wearing his usual blue jeans, and a wool sweater unraveling at one elbow, the photographer also prefers going solo when he takes his pictures. "I've had good luck going out alone. I can get right into it and I don't have to worry about lunch and dinner; when you're with somebody and they get hungry you stop and then you break the spell and you never get it back ... if you go yourself you're totally in control of that kind of thing."

A self-taught photographer since he left teaching in 1996, he searched through thousands of pictures for this book; some shots were 15-year-old slides, others were 5 x 7 film shots while

a good portion were digital, his favourite medium. Besides getting a better quality photo with his Nikon D200, "I get more control," he adds. "It used to be you had to rely on some Grade 10 dropout in the lab to make the print." Digital allows him to crop, edit and develop as he sees fit.

Never one to search out the stereotypically sunny day for a photo shoot, as sunshine tends to make subjects turn out flat, he prefers his skies a little overcast. "What looks good to the eye might not look good to the camera ... dawn or shortly after, that's when lighting is special."

Lighting is something that

people can play with but, for the most part, he believes good photographers are born. "I think a good eye, to an extent, is inherent ... some people can see beauty in the smallest thing, like the shadow off a tree." You can also train yourself, he adds.

Telf advises budding photographers to study pictures subjectively: ask yourself why they work, or why they don't work. Find out what style you like. For this spry 66-year-old, photography and travel go hand-in-hand. In February, he jumped into a motor home and headed to Arizona for two months. Some call that free living and that's just how he likes it. 