

**Tips & Hints for taking Photographs: Prints and Digital Images**  
**Extra information about Digital Cameras**

*Digital Camera:*

Digital cameras are now becoming more like ‘point & shoot’ but with a review!  
Get comfortable with technology – read the instructions, practice and keep notes.

– Camera, Computer (Program/Application), Transfer method, Printer, and File management.  
Option: Purchase a ‘Unified’ system: camera with a docking platform and attached printer.

This eliminates the need for the computer – but requires more memory sticks cards.  
Digital Frame: a portable 8+” screen to display a digital image slide show (via memory card).  
Buy a Memory Card, this is extra image file storage (e.g. 5 -10 MB) then take lots of pictures!  
Very important - Always have extra batteries on hand and or keep the internal battery charged up.  
Save the good pictures, and print only the pictures that you like the best and those to give away.

*Basically:*

For a good quality images purchase a camera with minimum of 5-10 mega pixels resolution.  
A digital camera creates images which are called files and these are made up of a grid that is like a ‘graph paper’.  
Each of the squares (referred to as pixels) in that file hold a code that represents a colour – and this is what creates the ‘photograph’ image.

Image Dimensions refers to the image width and length in pixels (1888 x 2832, 800 x 1200).

This directly reflects on the file size since the larger the dimensions the more pixels and therefore a larger file size.  
(File sizes- 500KB, 1500KB=1.5MB, 2MB= 2000KB, some are now +5MB.)

File Size refers to the size of the image digital file, as in the storage space it takes to save the image file on a device such as your computer hard drive or the memory stick, usually KB or MB.

The higher the ‘Resolution’ setting of the camera- the larger the image files size. This is due mainly because of the larger number of pixels which the camera is programmed to create when taking the image file. The higher the resolution - the higher the quality of the digital image.

*Beyond:*

Editing of the image file is most often done on a computer with an application, e.g. Photoshop or ACDsee, however, several digital camera models now have built in editing capabilities.

Editing can improve the images in the same way editing prints does, for example: cropping, however, with digitals you can change pixels to delete unwanted objects. Other edit functions are: adding Text, changing the colour to B&W, etc.

An editing function which is helpful to learn is ‘Resizing’ – this is the process of changing the number of pixels, usually to make a smaller file size for the internet / web use or emailing. Resizing can either increase or decrease the number of pixels in an image, which will not affect a good photo with a high resolution. However, if the image has a low resolution it will make the image look ‘grid’ like and there will be a loss in the image quality. Note: Do not email images larger than 2MB they take a long time to transfer and most mailboxes have limits i.e. 2-5MB . Also resizing the dimensions, allows others to view the image without having to use the scroll bar. For emailing aim for images that are lower than 500 KB and 600 x 800.

*Other Information:*

Image files have ‘Properties’ – This is what is referred to as ‘meta data’ that is attached to each ‘file’ such as: Date and time the Image was taken, Size (KB MB), Dimensions (e.g. 2832 x 1888), Type - Camera Model, Date Modified.

*Printing:*

Printing digital images has several options, depending on your comfort level with technology.

Your home computer and a printer which prints good quality photos or you can go to a printing station such as Kodak found at Loblaw and Wal-Mart or you can deposit your memory stick with Blacks and Costco and let them make the prints.

Beware: Image dimensions vs. printed dimensions may be different with the result of loss of image detail at the edges to fit on to a 4”x 6”paper.

To minimize this happening, use a 2 by 3 ratio file dimension, which then fits into the 4” x 6” format.

*A Power Point Presentation of digital images as examples will be given at the June Meeting,*

*By Shirley Monkhouse , for the Kanata-March Horticulture Society,*

*In conjunction with the 2010 K-MHS Photo Competition.*