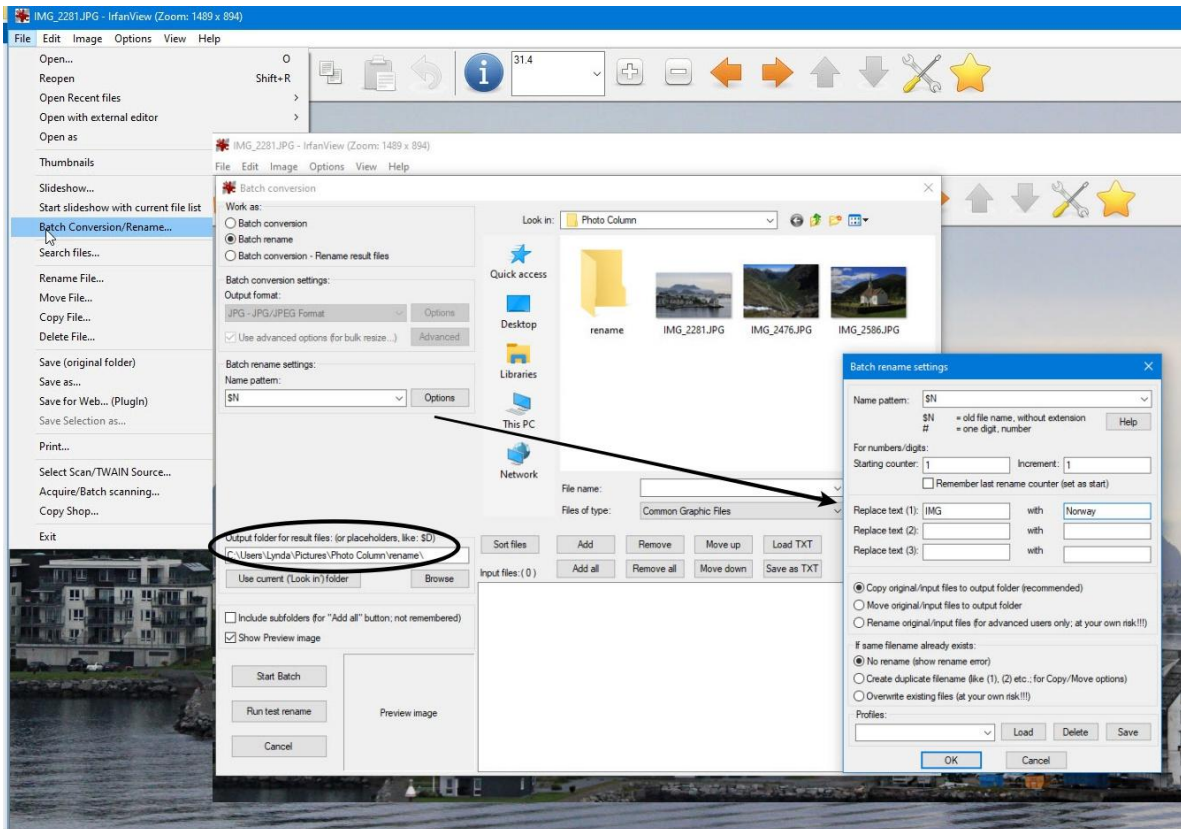# Through The Lens

A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts.
After the click of your camera, you're only half done!

Renaming photo files
by Lynda Buske

Most of us have at least a decade's worth of digital images. If you are loyal to one camera brand, they may all have the same prefix such as IMG and eventually the numbers start repeating. This can happen for example, when you buy a new camera from the same manufacturer or when your camera resets after reaching its maximum number. As well, having non-descript names such as IMG_2813.JPG can make it more difficult to find specific photos you are looking for.

With free software such as Irfanview (https://www.irfanview.com), you can rename an entire batch of photos and minimize the number of duplicate names. To do this, simply use the option to replace the text in your file name from say "IMG" to something more descriptive such as "Norway". So IMG_3440.jpg becomes Norway_3440.jpg, probably making it unique and more descriptive on your system. If not, refine the prefix to perhaps "Norway 2018".

Another option is to assign each image a sequential number, starting at whatever number you wish. This may be handy when you are mailing or posting photos and wish to keep the conversation simple. If you shoot with more than one brand of camera/cell phone/tablet, they will likely have different naming conventions. So instead of, "wdyt of photo 20190916_085901 versus IMG_5990?", you can ask, "wdyt of photo 1 versus photo 2?"

> *Editor's Note: This article marks the first in a series of tips on using digital cameras in conjunction with personal computers.   Lynda regularly provides such information as part of OPCUG's series of presentations at branches of the Ottawa Public Library.   She can often be seen at monthly meetings, with camera or cellphone in hand, taking shots of the club's activities for use in the newsletter and on*