

ZOOM TESTIMONIALS BY BAC MEMBERS

Below you will find many testimonials from fellow members who are currently taking part in our Zoom workshops and drop ins. I'm sure you may be able to relate to some of their statements and concerns when they first thought about using Zoom. [I hope these testimonials will ENCOURAGE you to try our Zoom offerings](#), and perhaps feel a little less intimidated. I will gladly meet each of you 'one on one' on zoom to help you get started.

... Vice President / Workshop & Drop In Coordinator / Carol Wiggins

I highly recommend trying one of the online workshops via Zoom. Although initially a little apprehensive, I've now done several of them and have enjoyed each one. The zoom app is free, easy to install, and simple to use. I love the idea of being able to continue my creative journey and stay connected with club members all from the comfort and safety of my own studio. Although everyone is physically apart, somehow these sessions feel more personal.

... Member / Margaux Pyke

Zoomazing! I had serious doubts about art this way but there are so many obvious advantages. First you don't have to drag all your stuff, second you get to paint and if you're reluctant you don't have to show your work but you get the expertise of a teacher nonetheless and last - the price is so right! You can easily take courses that you might not have considered otherwise ... And even if you only learn one small thing that is relevant to your style or direction, it's worth it! Plus everybody is so nice!!

... Member / Diane Greenfield

I'm really enjoying the Zoom sessions, I recently turned 76, so if I can do it anyone can, after downloading the Zoom app you're all set! Make your own coffee and click the link Carol sent you.....LOVE IT!

... Member / Pat Tracey

I enjoy my Barrie art classes, over the last couple of years I have learned a lot and met some wonderful people. When COVID-19 struck the province with force and we all went into lock down it was a frightening and sad day for all of us and an end to our classes and social gatherings. Until, we had the opportunity to try ZOOM. I was skeptical, not sure of how this would work and if I was able to use the technology. But to my surprise, Carol sent a link, I just clicked and there was everyone. I could see my fellow classmates, talk, share and most of all see the instructor and project step by step. I also noted how focused we were on painting unlike when we're together there was always distractions, coffee, and cookies, etc. I love the cookies!

The project was completed in the time frame and I had so much fun, I have signed up for two more online sessions, ZOOM also showed me that I can remain a member of the Barrie Art Club in the future because you can sign in from anywhere in Canada, a bonus for me as I am moving to Nova Scotia.

... Member / Janice Schmidt

Highly recommended! I participated in three Zoom workshops recently and I am so amazed at what the instructors were able to give. I believe everyone had a wonderful time and it is an opportunity to stay connected with fellow artists while staying in your own home. No travel, no lugging, no forgetting something, no virus! Thank you Carol for making it easy for us to get on board.

... Member / Deb Grise

The zoom way to participate and learn is actually very good. At first, I was a touch intimidated just wondering how to access the application. Reality is that it is one of the easiest application I worked with. And, Carol, your guidance on functionality and ongoing monitoring makes it even easier. Thank you.

As to participating in a workshop using Zoom, I also found it to be excellent. It's almost like having a private lesson. The only advice I have is having your own workplace at home set up so you can comfortably learn and work. But then, you are at home so have access to whatever you need.

For any BAC member who has yet to try, I totally recommend you do.

... [Member / Violette Love](#)

It reminded me of that radio ad that says "chickens welcome". I was using Zoom for the first time and was really nervous. I had followed the steps; I downloaded the app for Zoom basic, then opened it. I went back to the email invitation to the meeting and clicked on the link. It took me to a screen where I chose the 'join meeting' button. Shortly after, Carol appeared and to my amazement, she could see me! From there she instructed me how to turn on my audio and how to see everyone else as they joined. Easy Peasy!

Looking back on that initial experience, I realize how simple it really is and wonder why I was so "chicken". Thanks, Carol. You've turned me into a Zoom fan which I use for get togethers of my own now.

... [Member / Barb Ritchie](#)

The Zoom workshops have been an excellent way to stay painting, hone my skills with the examples and guidance of the artist leaders and above all, to connect with fellow members of our artist community. The fee is very reasonable, I can paint in the comfort of my home studio, and downloading the Zoom app and then clicking on the link sent is super simple. Thanks Carol and the BAC for keeping the creative spirit alive!

... [Member / Lisa Perrin](#)

Friends... have you tried a ZOOM workshop yet! What fun! It's so easy to participate! You just set up your paints and canvas at home on your dining room table (or in your studio), Carol emails you the "link" and you click on it at starting time! "Whoosh!" ...the link takes you to the ZOOM app and "Voila!"... everyone taking the workshop appears on your screen!

The instructors have been clear with directions and you just paint along as they guide you through the workshop. I've had such a good time with the ZOOM experience. Workshops have been very informative and less expensive than they usually are. As well, Carol has lined up a wide variety of artists and subjects!

Since we can't go down to the club anyway, it's a great opportunity to see all our friends! I highly recommend you try it. I'm sure you'll like it!

... [Member / Janet Ness](#)

Zoom has been a very welcomed tool for me. I have taken several online workshops through BAC using Zoom. It was very easy to download Zoom for free on to my devices, laptop, iPad, iPhone. I use by laptop mostly because I like the larger screen and I have also shared my screen with my television to have the largest view. Give it a try and stay connected with our Club!

... [Member / Katherine Stark](#)

I have participated in at least five Zoom art meetups in the past month and a half or so. It is very easy to do, and each time you join, people are happy to remind each other of how to enlarge the main image that we are drawing from. Zoom meetings feel alien for about 5 seconds, and then it's as though you are actually in a room with everyone. It's a great way to art!

... [Member / Karen Stewart](#)

I have enjoyed the zoom classes. They have given me an opportunity to participate with others & learn from them as well as the instructor. We may as well get use to this new technology, because it is a new world. Just sayin' I am not a tech person. Here goes.

... [Member / Marilyn Black](#)

Carol, thanks for offering BAC workshops via Zoom. At first I was apprehensive about using the app but your practice session was great! The actual workshop went very well. I learned a lot and had fun. While I missed the physical connection to the studio and the people, I really appreciated: not having to drive, having all my supplies at hand, not forgetting anything and being able to do/learn something during this time of physical distancing. As I live about a 45 minute drive away, I hope this will continue during the winter months when occasionally the roads between Wasaga and Barrie can be a challenge! I would love to see more workshops offered via Zoom and still look forward to in-house workshops whenever we can do it. Looking forward to the next one!

... [Member / Chari-Lynn Reithmeier](#)

During this pandemic, the ZOOM art classes with Andrew Sookrah have been a real spirit lifter. I didn't realize how anxious and depressed I was getting until I had spent an afternoon painting along with Andrew. I enjoyed watching over his shoulder as he applied all those wonderful colours to his canvas and then I got a chance to try it myself. I hadn't painted since the COVID thing began and this was such fun and I felt so good at the end and I had a colourful scene to complete. I would recommend them for anyone feeling down and cut off from their artist friends

... [Member / Barb Canning](#)

Carol, I am writing to thank you for giving me and others the opportunity of attending online workshops. When Covid first hit I was dismayed to have to cancel some local classes I signed up for. At first I was nervous about online classes - I had never used zoom and didn't know what to expect. However, I have been pleasantly surprised. There are many reasons for enjoying the online Barrie workshops (and online workshops anywhere). I can stay home in my p.j.'s if I want, get up and grab a coffee and snack when I wish, I don't need to drive in traffic or bad weather or carry a lot of art supplies to the classes (once I forgot to bring a canvas so the class wasn't very productive). The Barrie instructors have been fabulous. They give fabulous demos and take time to look at each participants images, give individual feedback and answer each individuals questions. After attending several online events, I have found I actually prefer online classes and hope the Barrie Art Club will continue once things start opening up! I look forward to seeing the next schedule and won't hesitate to sign up! It's a great way to maintain connections in these crazy times!

... [Member / Heather Hess, Victoria, BC](#)

I was really looking forward to this year and getting back into the activities of the club as I've completed my MBA and had more time on hand. Then COVID-19 happened. I am very grateful for technology like ZOOM that allows us to bring amazing artists and teachers into our homes. I have attended a couple of different workshops as well as the Friday Portraiture drop-in and have signed up for a few others. It is easy to follow the artist while painting along and I also enjoy the social aspect of catching up with other members. I think Carol is doing a great job in organizing these workshops and I hope that more people will join.

... [Member / Annelea Bignaut](#)

After my initial apprehension about the Zoom workshops I was able to participate quite well. I found the fact that we were all working together with the instructor very challenging as we are used to watching her/him and then doing our own thing.

The mute and talk buttons worked well but some people may not like having their work critiqued in front of a screen. Joining and leaving the workshop was no problem and I had some problem initially because I could not get rid of the tiles of four people including myself at the bottom of the screen and so I missed seeing how the water was painted.

I will be doing another zoom workshop on the 22nd and so obviously I was getting something out of the experience.

... [Member / Margaret McClelland](#)

I really miss getting out to the club for watercolour workshops. I was very hesitant to download Skype or Zoom onto my iMac but when I saw the chance to take a course with Nancy Newman, I got my daughter to help me download Zoom. Carol Wiggins gave us a great trial run a couple of days prior to the day of the course. She made sure that we all had our Zoom audio and visual working well. When I took Nancy Newman's watercolour course, it was only the third time that I had used Zoom. I have signed up for Nancy's second course. The first one went so well. It is different but also very good. I will watch for more watercolour Zoom courses in the future.

... [Member / Anne Vardy](#)

June 13, 2020