

# LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR PHOTOGRAPHER SERGE AND CLAIRE THERRIEN

By Heather M. Brown

Serge Therrien was born in St. Jerome. His father was a photographer for 40 years. Since December 1986 Serge has been running his own Photo Studio in Two Mountains on Oka Road. When he started his own business, he was open for just one month on the corner of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Oka Road. A horrible fire destroyed that fledgling business, and as a result he moved to the present location. Expansion and renovations were done to the studio there about three years ago. Now Serge and Claire have one of the largest studios in the area, and can take portrait pictures of very large families.



Serge and Claire attend many conferences each year to learn new things, and keep up with the rapid changes in their business. Serge took a correspondence course from the University of New York, and another course in retouching from the University of Montreal. Serge is a member of the “Corporation Des Maitre Photographe du Quebec”, and has won a gold medal from that organization. He is also a member of the “Professional Photographers of Canada”.

In 1998 Serge received the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in Canada for the “Wedding Portrait” collection. The year 2000 was a very good year for Serge. Among many awards Serge won the “Soleil Levant” for most promising artist for his rendition of “2000 Years after Jesus Christ”. Serge says, “To date that photo is one of my favourite masterpieces”. That same day “2000 years after Jesus Christ” along with other photos earned enough points for him to become “Chartered Master Photographer”. He also had this photo included in the permanent loan collection, for Quebec and Canada. This picture was also included in Loan Collection, Professional Photographers of America, Vol. III (page 17). This book is a compilation of 300 of the most beautiful pictures included in the International competition of America. To have a photograph published in this book is the highest pinnacle that a professional photographer can achieve. The technical excellence of Serge’s work on this masterpiece was recognized at once. The lighting in this picture was done in an exceptional manner, with each of the figures being illuminated with the same amount of light, a difficult feat to achieve. Serge has taught many photographers the art of lighting through conferences in his studio.

At the moment Serge has the title of “Craftsman of Photographic Arts of Canada.” The next and last level to achieve in Canada is “Master of the Photographic Arts of Canada”. He thinks he will achieve this title in the next couple of years as he always tries to be the best at what he does, and he only gets better as time goes by.

Serge is a busy entrepreneur, but still finds time to collect many old, beautiful and still working cameras. For over 15 years Serge has volunteered his time and services to “Corporation Des Maitre Photographe du Quebec”. For the past three years he has also judged other photographers in competitions, which are held to determine the best photographers in Quebec. He also gives of his time volunteering for many community organizations. Some of them are: The Santa Claus Parade for 15 years, the Optimist Club for 10 years, the Kiwanis Club for 2 years, a Volunteer for the Quebec Association of Photographers for 14 years, with the Chamber of Commerce for 13 years, a Director of the Caisse Populaire Deux-Montagnes for 3 years, and as President of the Master Photographers of Quebec (Montreal Section) for 2 years. This amounts to a lifetime of volunteerism for which he was awarded one of the Citizens’ Medals in 2004.



Serge and Claire have been together for fifteen years, and their partnership is thriving. They are a dynamic team always making the people they photograph feel very comfortable. They first get to know their customers, then they find out why they are having the portrait taken and what it is they expect. Once Serge, Claire and the customer feel at ease a portrait is taken that will capture that moment in time, and will last a lifetime.

**If you would like them to create a beautiful portrait of you, your child, your family or make your wedding day a photographic success please contact them. Their telephone number is (450) 491-6560, the address is 1806 Oka Road and their e-mail address is: [sergetherrienphotographe@hotmail.com](mailto:sergetherrienphotographe@hotmail.com)**