

Photographic follicle

Snapper's 'ludicrous' series of shavers 'kind of steamrolled'

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Sun Media

Kent Waddington never really made a conscious decision to photograph people shaving.

Instead, the Cobermere shooter impulsively snapped a couple of frames of a want-to-be model in Winnipeg one day back in 2002, as he prepared to pose for some athletic shots. There was an interesting wall behind him, and the lighting was just right.

"It just kind of steamrolled," says Waddington. "You start getting a critical mass of images."



WADDINGTON
Critical mass

Waddington calls Close Shave a "ludicrous display of guys shaving."

and though the photographic project is still ongoing at 35 images and counting, about a dozen are now appearing at Pembroke's Turbo Graphics Gallery, 185 Pembroke St. W., until the end of the month.

Waddington has shot men shaving in a British courtyard, on railroad tracks in downtown Toronto, in kayaks near Georgian Bay and under a model of the famous Avro Arrow in Barry's Bay.

Part-time clown

His models include two doctors, several students, an actor and part-time clown from Madrid, a software technician, an auditor and a retired arts professor. They have been from as far away as the Czech Republic and Haiti.

The photographs are of men, though Waddington would like to start capturing women shaving too.

"It's not Spencer Tunick, where I'm asking 2,000 people to get naked and lay down on the street," he said. "But shaving for the most part is something you do in private. Most people do it behind closed doors."



Late last year, a university professor and a web master from The Netherlands approached Waddington to see if they could display his photos on a fundraising site — www.closhave.nl — to benefit Villa Pardoos, a holiday resort for children with life-threatening diseases.

Ultimately Waddington would like to publish a coffee table book of his shaving photos.

After that, he's got an eye toward capturing regular joes and their refrigerator doors.

"People just standing," he said of his vision, "with a bland look on their face."

Waddington, who is also a freelance environmental communicator, is largely self-taught, first studying photography at Madawaska Valley District High School.

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Kent Waddington didn't mean to compile a series of images of men shaving, but since taking a couple of spur-of-the-moment pictures of a shaving model in 2002, he's created a portfolio with the same theme, including the punk rocker at left. A dozen shots from his Close Shave collection are on display at Pembroke's Turbo Graphics Gallery until the end of the month.

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