

# The PHSC E-MAIL

Volume 7-10, Supplement to Photographic Canadiana, March 2008

The Photographic Historical Society of Canada

## Wednesday, March 19th Meeting...

Our March speaker will be Canadian born Rob Skeoch who has been working as a photographer in the Burlington, Ontario area all his adult life. Throughout these years he has maintained his passion for black and white landscape work, and it's out of this love that he started his Big Camera Workshops. "I wanted to create a place where photographers could learn more about photography... more about shooting big film and making traditional prints."

But the question Rob will ask in his presentation is: *Where is photography going?* — based on observations of a large format photographer.



ROB SKEOCH

"Since I travel throughout North America giving workshops and talking with photographers, I've found a huge diversity in what photographers are doing... from those who have gone back to wet plate, to those who use digital files to make large format negatives for platinum printing. This will be an informal discussion of the trends that I see and where I think it might lead."

Meetings are held in the Gold Room, Memorial Hall,  
(basement) of the North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street.  
Handy TTC Subway stop and underground parking

## April, May and June Meetings...

For our April meeting Gerald Loban will bring together a favourite research topic on *The History of the Leica*. This will also be our Annual general Meeting. May will see us working with mirrors as professor Irwin Reichstein of Carleton University in Ottawa, visits to discuss his findings on the Multi-Graph Process. Our June program will be on stereo photography when Paul Pasquarello, a popular speaker south of the border, treks north to Toronto.

## HOLD THE BUS FOR THE NEXT PHSC SPRING FAIR – SUNDAY, MAY 25TH

Yes! hold the bus for the PHSC Spring Fair on Sunday, May 25th at the Soccer Centre in Woodbridge. Free transportation will be available from the Kipling Avenue subway terminal in an 18 passenger bus. So look for the big yellow bus and the PHSC Fair signage.

Those wishing to rent a table should register now. Chairman Mark Singer says applications have been mailed to previous table holders. Pull out your old images and camera gear and sell it at Canada's largest photographica fair. Contact Mark at 905-762-9031 or via e-mail at marklsinger@gmail.com.

Over 100 tables – Doors open at 10:00 AM – Entry fee \$7.00.

Buy, Sell, Barter, or Ask Questions and Seek Information.

## PHSC Monthly Meetings

are held on the third Wednesday from September to June in the Gold Room, of Memorial Hall in the basement of the North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St., North York, Ontario. The meeting officially begins at 8:00 p.m. but is preceded by a Buy & Sell and social gathering from 7:00 p.m. onwards. For information contact the PHSC or Felix Russo, 33 Indian Rd. Cres., Toronto, ON, M6P 2E9, Phone (416) 532-7780.

## Programming Schedule:

### March 19th, 2008

-Rob Skeoch of Burlington, Ontario will present his topic: *"Where is photography going? with observations by a large-format photographer."*

### April 16th, 2008

-Gerald Loban will be discussing the *History of the Leica*. This will also be our Annual General Meeting with reports from the Executive.

### May 21st, 2008

-Prof. Irwin Reichstein of Carleton University will travel from Ottawa to enlighten us on the interesting Multi-Graph process.

### June 18th, 2008

-Paul Pasquarello provides an interesting program on stereo photography. Paul lives in Buffalo, N.Y. and is a much travelled speaker.

Ideas for monthly programs are most welcome. Please suggest speaker, topics and even interesting locations to visit. Contact Program Chair Felix Russo at (416) 532-7780 or e-mail [felix@photoed.ca](mailto:felix@photoed.ca).

## FOR PROGRAM UPDATES

**[www.phsc.ca](http://www.phsc.ca)**

our new E-mail address is

**[info@phsc.ca](mailto:info@phsc.ca)**

Robert A. Carter – Webmaster

# Toronto Notes

Reported by Robert Carter

## THE JANUARY 2008 PROGRAM

In confronting the onslaught of Digital photography, how did schools teaching traditional film-based photography cope with all the changes? Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario met that challenge and our speaker Rafael Goldchain was on hand to explain "the great shift."

From the late 1960s, Sheridan College had a program of applied photography education. Their emphasis on mastery of the tools and techniques gave a good education but offered little in creative ideas.

Today Sheridan's photography program has three full-time faculty members - two trained commercial photographers and Rafael who views himself as a visual artist and documentarian. The faculty is rounded out with part-time teachers from the industry. Sheridan's teachers encourage all students to succeed in the demanding program with an enviable record of 97% employment for its graduates.

In the late 1980s Howard Simpkins introduced small computers and experimented with computer generated images. The Macintosh computers of the day were powerful enough to use with scanners, and thus the first courses in Digital photography were off and running. A ten to fifteen year timeframe was estimated in which to change from analogue (film) to fully digital if the school was to remain a force in photo education.

Sheridan's first Macintosh computer lab opened in 1994 with thirty computers plus some scanners and printers. Digital cameras of the time were expensive and low in resolution. Sheridan was a big art school with courses in illustration and animation and people from those disciplines pushed the fact that computers were the way of the near future.

Via connections to software and hardware makers the school sought opinions on technology one-to-five years in the future. In 1994 the school had a single scanning back camera - essentially a studio view camera

with a miniature scanner attached to its back, generating 190 meg image files stored directly on the hard drive of a tethered computer. The faculty learned much, becoming comfortable with the new technology before it was embraced by other schools.



PHOTO BY ROBERT LANSDALE

RAFAEL GOLDCHAIN

The massive camera files initiated the faculty to understand digital workflow. The 190 meg files created a file storage problem, going from camera to the lab, then to the teacher for evaluation, and back to the student again. If the 140 students each made a single image, it would require 26 gigabytes of storage! The school had to invest in servers, large hard drives, and terminals for the teachers before the students could use the scanning back camera. Today Sheridan has a huge server setup, work stations for each teacher, a portable hard drive for each student to save work, and a campus-wide wireless network for fast and convenient communications.

It was only after faculty undertook special courses in colour management that they were able to resolve the problem of matching the colours on monitor screens to those in the final prints - no matter which work station or printer was used.

Desktop workstations cost more than laptops and are critical for colour integrity and the ability to be reliably colour corrected. When the government declined additional funding, Sheridan was pushed to raise tuition fees to cover the shortfall.

To stay current, equipment is acquired on a three year financial lease with a buyout at the end. This allows the school to build a stock of cameras keeping their labs and cameras current with the industry. By providing each student with a camera for the full school term, Sheridan ensures each student has a quality camera and one familiar to the teachers. The student can delay purchasing an expensive camera until graduation. If a camera breaks down, it is replaced immediately to alleviate waiting for repairs.

It took considerable effort to overcome resistance by old-time staff members and to have everyone learn the basics of PhotoShop. By government mandate, all Sheridan photography teachers require a masters degree in fine arts. It is a problem to find candidates with an MFA and also skills in commercial or architectural photography.

The present Ontario College Diploma is earned in two years, although some schools offer a third year. Sheridan's approach is to push for a BA in Applied Arts. Some programs collaborate with the University of Toronto and York. We may look back nostalgically on the age of the darkroom, but there was nothing romantic about colour darkrooms full of dangerous chemicals. Sheridan's darkrooms are gone, enlargers dismantled, sinks ripped out, and paper processors removed. The darkroom is now a digital lab filled with quad-processor Macintosh Pro computers, colour balanced 23 inch cinema monitors, wide-format printers, print viewing stations with calibrated white light, and V-700 and Imagecon scanners.

Digital technology has produced a demographic change. Years ago the ratio of male to female students was 80/20 - today it is reversed with 75 female students for every 25 males.

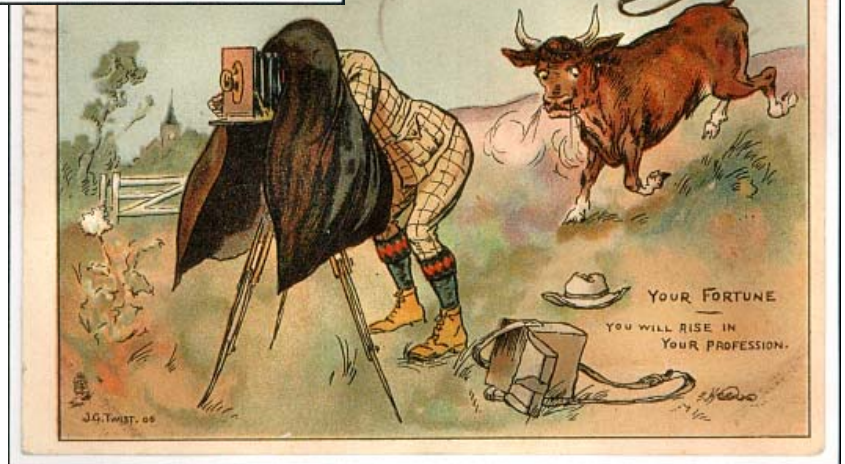


# EASTER GREETINGS FROM THE PHSC



Prof. Lindsay Lambert of Ottawa has delved into his paper collection to show some specialized postcards with photography as their main theme. With the card at the left it gives us the opportunity to extend Easter greetings to all our readers and hope you enjoy the holiday with family and friends. Post mark April 6, 1909.

The smaller card has a different theme of Thanks Giving which is being recorded with a small hand camera. The final card suits all seasons with the greeting that "You will rise in your profession."  
-R.L.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman Wayne Gilbert welcomes recent new members to PHSC:

Josephine Pica, Toronto, #1308 – with interests of early Canadian photographers, digital cameras and Rollei equipment;  
Claudia Puchiele, Toronto, #1308 – interested in photo history, Canadian images, early photo literature and stereo;

Norman Ball, Toronto, #1309 – aerial photos and equipment, early Canadian photog's, processes, literature and stereo;  
Attila Zalanyi, Toronto, #1310 – early Canadian. photographers, processes, classic cameras, digital cameras and stereo;  
Robert J. Montpetit, Ajax, #1311 – is interested in early Canadian photogs, processes, photo history and trivia.

**Aldryn Clark says he has a stereo macro camera for sale. Contact him via FAX at 705.645.6927 or EMAIL [alldyn@sympatico.ca](mailto:alldyn@sympatico.ca)**

Bill Belier has taken another step into digital photography with this mini-digital camera that fits onto a key chain. One and a half inches by two and a quarter inches, it fits onto a car's key chain and can be used for emergency photos if you are involved in an accident. The 16 MB of memory allows up to 243 photos or, as a video camera, capture several seconds of live action. Additionally it can be used as a web cam when connected to your computer.



Digital media continues to invade our lives. Now all those photos stuffed in your wallet can be stored in a similarly mini digital photo album that fits onto a key chain. You can review up to 60 photographs on a 1.4 inch digital LCD screen. -R.L.

# FROM THE 'NET

An updated version of Adobe Camera Raw and Lightroom are now available with support for the RAW files from the following cameras: EOS D Rebel XSi (EOS 450D, Kiss X2), Fujifilm S100FS, Nikon D60, Olympus SP-570 UZ, Pentax K20D and K200D, Sony A200, A300 and A350.

For Lightroom 1.4 go to: <http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/detail.jsp?ftpID=3891> (for Mac version), and to: <http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/detail.jsp?ftpID=3892> (for the Windows version).

Adobe Camera Raw 4.4 for Photoshop and Elements (Mac and Windows versions) visit: <http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/new.jsp>

Fujifilm Holdings Corporation says the shift to digital photography is prompting it to close film processing plants in Maryland and Indiana that employ a total of 230 people. Fujicolor customer service director Darla Camman said the plants process film for Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and other U.S. retail stores. Work will be moved to other Fujicolor labs. Camman said the plant closings will better position the company for the rapidly increasing shift from film to digital photography.

Reporting on the fourth quarter of last year, the camera market share for digital cameras showed sales lagging but grew by 20 percent for 2007. Some highlights:

- Digital camera shipments including dSLRs grew 31 percent to 16.6 million units in Q4 2007. Despite a lackluster overall holiday season for consumer electronics the digital camera market continued to defy expectations and post strong growth with experienced consumers flocking to dSLRs.

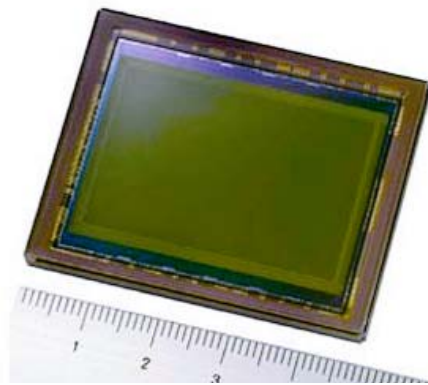
- Canon was again number one with share of 23 percent, followed

by Kodak (20 percent share) and Sony (18 percent share).

- From a yearly perspective, the U.S. market grew to 37.7 million units.

Sony Japan has developed a 35mm film negative-sized 24.81 megapixel sensor designed for SLR cameras that can capture up to 6 frames per second (fps).

Because it is the same size as a 35mm negative, the new sensor will allow an SLR to capture



24-megapixel images with no lens multiplier factor: the focal length of the lens would be the same as on a 35mm film camera. This is especially important for wide-angle lenses. With an SLR built around this new sensor, the field of view would be the same as on a 35mm film camera.

The sensor can also capture images very quickly – in fact 6.3 fps at full resolution. Much of the circuitry that captures and converts the image for processing, is built into the chip itself. Most existing digital SLRs can only manage 2 or 3 fps at the full resolution (although some can capture more by lowering the resolution).

The sensor is based on the CMOS (Complimentary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) technology. Several of the major manufacturers use Sony image Sensors in their SLRs. We might possibly expect to see it in high-end SLRs later this year.

Having previously been entertained by MaryAnn Camilleri of the Magenta Foundation when she spoke about the launching of her *Carte Blanche* book, a high quality art book featuring Canadian photographers, it is interesting now to hear of the launching of her new project *Magenta Television*.

It is NOT a website but is the foundation of a national conventional broadcast TV channel that maintains the spirit of the popular publishing arm of The Magenta Foundation. It is a photography arts TV channel but launching on the web. The aim is to simply showcase high quality video content and the artists that they profile. For the first previews, they are showcasing the artists interviewed for Flash Forward 07. Check out <http://www.magentatelevision.com/>

Carl Mautz of California, publisher of *Biographies of Western Photographers*, wishes to upgrade his 1997 data base before publishing a new issue. Carl says: "The task will never be complete. I've been collecting extra data since 1997 and adding material from researchers when offered or when appearing in publications. I'm asking everyone to please share their data with me, especially from publications over the past ten years that contain photographers' biographies. Is there anyone with Western Canada information? Reach him at [cmautz@nccn.net](mailto:cmautz@nccn.net)

Werner Schmalz informs us that close friend Eugen Kedl in Quebec has passed away. Last fall he and wife Gretl flew to Vienna to receive the prestigious "Austrian in a Foreign Country of The Year Award" (Auslandsösterreicher des Jahres) that the Austrian Government bestowed upon him. Eugen was diagnosed with brain cancer in August 2006; surgery prolonged his life a bit longer.

Assembled with thanks from reports by Rolf Fricke, Fastlens and TPHS.



# Inside Toronto

## – Urban Interiors 1880s to 1920s

by Sally Gibson

Published by Cormorant Books Inc., 215 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M5T 2C7  
ISBN-13: 978-1-896951-95-9 , Hardcover, 12" x 9", 450 pages, 260 B&W illustrations,  
Priced at \$69.95 (Amazon.com at \$37.77 with free shipping).

Interior photographs are much rarer than exterior views which were more often recorded as new additions to the city. Whether for technical reasons, or simple lack of interest on the part of contemporary photographers and clients, only about ten per cent of surviving photographs in most collections are of interior views; found among the thousands of vintage photographs are the few hundred gloriously informative pictures. Fortunately, Toronto's archival resources, supplemented by private and public collections, are extensive enough to support an investigation of such interior spaces.

In the book the photographs are featured on each page as the prime interest point accompanied with elaborate cutlines. The text providing the historical background is somewhat squeezed in across the bottom of most pages. It is disturbing to retain the flow of the story within the text while balancing the content of photographs and cutlines. Which should be concentrated on first?

Author Gibson makes reference to crusading journalist Jacob Riis who used flash-light photography to unmask the impoverished tenements and darkest alleys of New York City. Such was not the case in Toronto where similar photography was usually ordered up and luckily preserved by officials from the Department of Health. Glorious interiors were assignments to record new construction or capture pride of ownership.

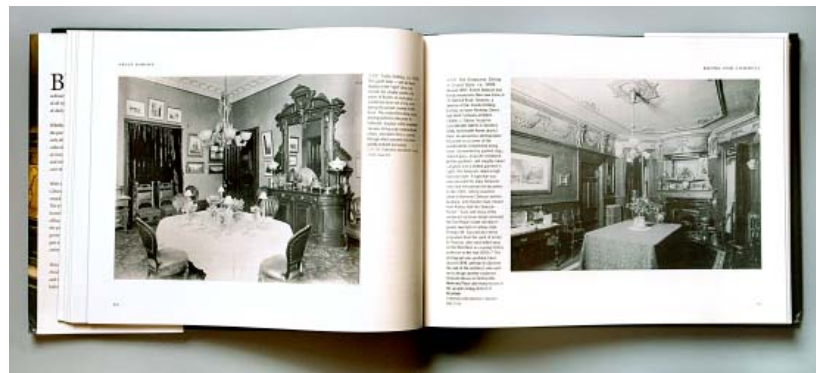
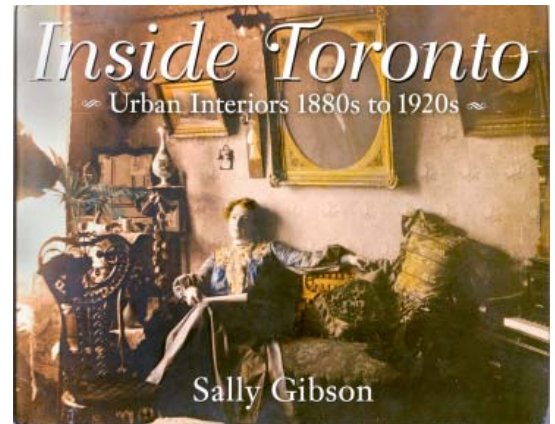
In her presentation Gibson makes full use of the social injustices

between the poor and the favoured, in order to emphasize her study and analysis. As she explained: "Right from the beginning, I was determined to investigate not only the movers and shakers, but also the moved and shaken. I still vividly recall my first encounter with the haunting image of that Edwardian 'flophouse' that

contrasted so poignantly with more familiar images of Edwardian mansions."

Along with the surprising 47 pages of Notes and 17 page Index *Inside Toronto* is an excellent adjunct to other studies of Toronto which only concentrate on our exterior surfaces.

–R.L.



### Information Wanted

Debbie Kingdon is seeking additional information about this *Gokoku Rangefinder* which comes with a leather case. Value and history would be appreciated. She has found that the Riken No.1 was sold in 1939-1940 under the name Gokoku or Gokoku No.1. The word gokoku means "protector of the country," being a "patriotic" wartime name used by Riken.

It is patterned after the *Leica Standard* external rangefinder but with a shorter base. Contact Debbie via e-mail at [rainbow\\_rev@yahoo.ca](mailto:rainbow_rev@yahoo.ca)



# Colour from the mid-1800s

By Les Jones

I came across this coloured photograph of the White House of Washington, D.C. I disassembled it from its brass frame and found the image glued or applied directly to the glass plus a liberal coat of over-paint. Well, that led to deeper analysis and research to find what the process consisted of.

For background information, I searched the official White House web site and learned that the cornerstone was laid October 13, 1792. This North side view would date to about the 1860s when green houses were added on the right side of the building. The columned portico had been added in 1829, completing the image of the building as we know it today. Examination of the picture detects a roadway in the foreground that has been painted over. I caution that at any time some one could have copied an old photograph and begun the process.

COURTESY WHITE HOUSE WEB SITE



THE WHITE HOUSE, NORTH SIDE 1861

The image seems to fit into the "Glass Print" classification with traits after the Eburneum or Ivorytype process. An image, usually on paper, was transferred face down onto glass. The paper backing was either removed by rubbing or made transparent by varnish or hot wax and then coloured. In this case it looks like a collodion positive was applied to the back of the glass which had previously been dobbed with silver paint for the spraying



IMAGES COURTESY OF LES JONES



fountain and the decor of the portico roof and facade. Gold was similarly pre positioned for carved decorations: window lintels, portico facade and fences. Bushes and title were also added.

A white paper mask, the shape of the building, was then glued to the image with four holes cut

at the positions of the windows. Mica and glitter filled these holes to give an effect of inside lighting.

Then the painting of the clouds, sky and foreground grass completed the photograph. A repair was apparently required, at left, when some image started to lift.



## Coming Events

### PHSC SPRING FAIR SET FOR SUNDAY, MAY 25TH 2008

There's something new for the PHSC Spring Fair this year. Free transportation will be provided throughout the day from the Kipling Avenue Subway Station. So look for the sign and the bus marked PHSC FAIR.

Location is at the spacious-aisled foot-sensitive Soccer Centre on Martin Grove Rd.—just south of HWY #7 in Woodbridge. Doors open at 10:00AM and will run to 3:00PM. Price is still \$7.00 at the door. For table registry call Mark Singer at 905-762-9031 or [marklsinger@gmail.com](mailto:marklsinger@gmail.com)

### CAMERA SHOW SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2008

A sign of Spring will be the Toronto International Camera Fair held at the Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Ave. on Sunday March 30, Doors open at 10:00AM. Admission is \$7.00. Contact [suewootten@hotmail.com](mailto:suewootten@hotmail.com)

### THE VANCOUVER CAMERA SHOW APRIL 20, 2008

Siggi Rohde informs us the Vancouver Camera Show will again be at the Cameron Recreation Centre in Burnaby, Lougheed Mall on April 20, 2008. Admission \$5. while early bird costs \$15. Check [www.whistlersinns.com/camera](http://www.whistlersinns.com/camera).

### THE TORONTO BOOK FAIR SUNDAY, MAY 4TH, 2008

The 37th semi-annual Toronto Book Fair will be held again at the St. Lawrence Market, 92 Front Street East at Jarvis St. in Toronto. Time 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM, admission \$5.00. Old, rare and used books, prints, maps and ephemera. Contact: 416-483-6471 or check [www.heritageantiqueshows.com](http://www.heritageantiqueshows.com)

## PHSC AT THE POST CARD SHOW



To publicize the PHSC Past President Ed Warner and Treasurer Robert Carter were in attendance at the recent Post Card Show at Humber College. The aim was to gain more membership as well as greater attendance at our forthcoming Spring Fair in May. Visitors were interested in the displayed cameras and images. Ed Warner is seen displaying sample cameras while (at right) Robert Carter takes his own portrait reflected in the lens of the Unicum shutter.

### OHIO INTERNATIONAL SHOW MAY 30 & 31, 2008

The Ohio Camera Collectors Society commence their two day event with an auction at 12 noon on Friday, May 30th, then a program of speakers at 8 PM. Saturday, May 31 is the Annual Show & Sale, 10 AM to 5 PM. Haimler Center, 1421 Morse Rd., Columbus, OHIO. [www.historiccamera.com/club/occs](http://www.historiccamera.com/club/occs)

### THE MARKET GALLERY MARCH 8 TO JUNE 15, 2008

An exhibition is presented at the Market Gallery, South St. Lawrence Market, 95 Front St. East titled *A Common Thread – A History of Toronto's Garment Industry*. Closed Monday, Tuesday and holidays. Open Wednesday to Friday 10 AM to 4 PM, Sunday noon to 4 PM.

#### Wanted

Philip Taylor is looking for Graflex flashguns to complete his 4x5 press cameras. He bought much of Boccioletti's collection. Contact at [info@handprop.ca](mailto:info@handprop.ca)

#### Available Free

Christmas is coming early this year as Les Jones offers free to a good home a collection of PHOTO DIGEST 1990-1996 and PHOTO LIFE 1996-2006. Contact Les at 416-691-1555 or e-mail at [lesjones@ca.inter.net](mailto:lesjones@ca.inter.net)

#### For Sale

Leica Fotografie magazine (English) as almost complete bound set from 1968 to 2004 is available as individual copies, by year or as collection. Contact Les Jones at 416-691-1555 or e-mail at [lesjones@ca.inter.net](mailto:lesjones@ca.inter.net)

#### Wanted

Sell your cameras, lenses, old photographs, etc. on eBay. Registered eBay Trading Assistant will help you. Specialize in collections, estate and studio liquidations. Call Tom Dywanski for free evaluation 416-888-5828

#### Wanted

Ed James wants Russian F.E.D. and Zorki 35mm type cameras, NO Zenits! Contact: Ed James, P.O. Box 69, Elkhorn, Manitoba, R0M 0N0, Tel: 204-845-2630.

#### Wanted

Bicycle & Motorcycle photography – all related items. Contact Lorne Shields, at P.O. Box 87588, 300 John St. Post Office, Thornhill, ON., L3T 7R3. Tel: 905-886-6911.

#### Buying or Consignment

Vintage cameras wanted by experienced Ebay seller. Professionally presented with pictures and description. Contact at 905-994-0515 or [douglas@dugwerks.com](mailto:douglas@dugwerks.com)