

# news

PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF CANADA (PHSC)

APRIL 2026

26  
22



**Editor**

Patrick Gunn

**Distribution**

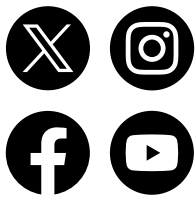
David Bridge  
Robert Carter

**Contributors**

Robert Carter  
Clint Hryhorijiw

Views expressed in  
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news@phsc.ca  
[phsc.ca](http://phsc.ca)



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The Photographic Historical  
Society of Canada,  
since 1974

Registered charity  
119251205RR0001



The Molson family brewery after the fire, Montréal, Quebec, 1858  
Library and Archives Canada (MIKAN 3192967)

## April 2026

We've been busy behind the scenes preparing the items for our upcoming estate auction being held Sunday, May 3, 2026 — details are on the following page.

Note, that it's being held at a Legion Hall adjacent to the Long Branch Go Station, and the Legion does have small foods and beverages available for purchase on the lower floor to help get you through an afternoon of auction goodness.

We've also started to post lot images, and have a lot listing (PDF) available.

While the majority of images have been catalogued, we'll still be adding a few more lots, mainly expired film of various formats. [See phsc.ca](http://phsc.ca)

Also coming up is our annual camera fair on Sunday May 24, details on page 9. There's still some room to purchase selling tables as well!

Let us know what's on your mind, equipment or treasures that you've found, we'd love to share.

Happy shooting, discovering, sharing, and collecting.

## Photographic Historical Society of Canada's



This auction features approximately 300 lots of high-quality Leicas, Hasselblads, Mamiyas, Nikons and Canons, as well as professional-grade photographic equipment and accessories. Includes an exciting array of sought-after past-expiry 35mm and medium-format film.

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**Sunday, May 3, 2026**

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION HALL #101**

**3850 Lake Shore Blvd. West, Toronto**

**Viewing 1:30pm to 2:30pm**

**Auction starts at 2:30pm**

Free admission / Free parking (more parking at GO Station lot, west of the Legion)

More details and a selection of images at [www.phsc.ca](http://www.phsc.ca)

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Clint - Auction Chairman 416-919-9617 [auction@phsc.ca](mailto:auction@phsc.ca)

**Note: This is not a consignment auction.**



# Auction

## Upcoming PHSC May 3 Estate Auction

Behind the scenes with the crew for our upcoming May 3 auction, as the crew packs, catalogues and photographs the auction items.

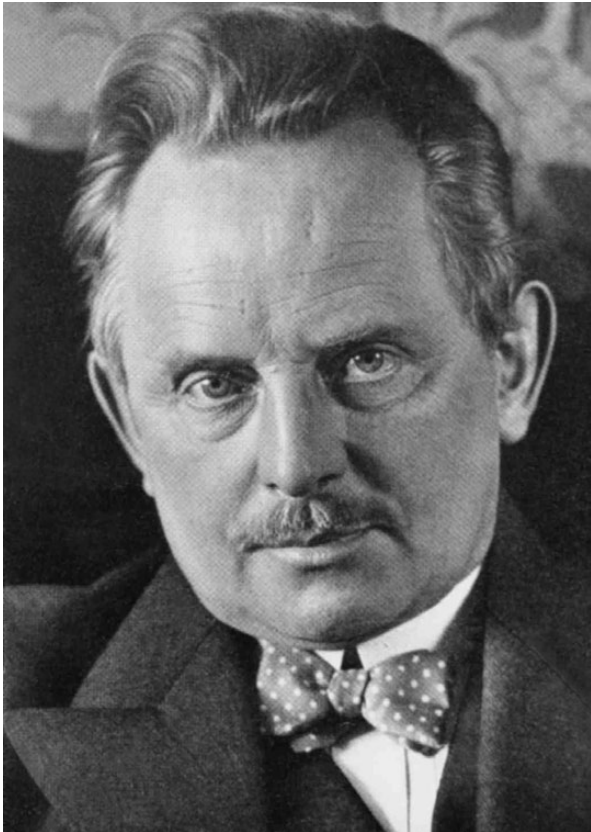
We expect to have both images and the lot listing on our website starting the week of April 13. If you're a fan of Hasselblad and Linhof material, this auction will interest you. We'll also be adding to many lots of expired film in various formats in the coming weeks as well.



# Equipment

Sam Carpick

## Canon IV Sb2: The Search for the Best Leica Copy



Oskar Barnack, designer of the original Leica camera

I've always been a fan of simplicity when it comes to design. No more is this ideology shown in the camera world than in the Barnack Leica. I've talked at length about the design of the "Barnack" shutter and the Leica I in my previous articles, so I'll only give a brief overview here.

These types of 35mm cameras were named after the designer of the first Leitz "Leica" camera, Oskar Barnack. It is from this design that all "Barnack" Leicas originate, showing very little design variation up to the release of the Leica M3. Almost all 35mm focal plane shutter cameras (that is, cameras which have their shutters right next to where the film is exposed) owe their design in part to Oskar Barnack. After all, his design was ingenious, and it's no wonder there was no significant iteration or improvement in its basic form. It could not get simpler than the shutter design of the first production Leica of 1925.



FED-S: a rare example of an original FED-1 camera with added 1/1000 speed

Many companies made their own versions of the Leica shutter design, starting with primitive (and infringing) wartime examples such as the FED-1. As German patents became public domain following the end of WW2, many more companies began to use the "Barnack" design, as it was by far the most reliable focal plane shutter of its day. The styling of the Leica as well as the shutter design were directly copied, resulting in the numerous "Leica copy" cameras that kickstarted several of the largest camera companies.

# Equipment

Beginning in 1934, the company that eventually became Canon began development of a “Barnack” style camera of their own, the Kwanon. This camera would turn into the Hansa Canon of 1936, which spawned several more mildly iterative models in 1939. After the end of WW2 and when the last of the leftover parts from pre-war camera production were used up, Canon began on a new camera, the Canon S2 (SII).

The S2 was a major advancement. The Leica cameras separated their rangefinder (for focusing) and viewfinder into different windows. The S2 iterated on that design (and Canon’s previous cameras) by combining them into the same window, much like the viewfinder of the Contax II. In this way, the S2 combined the best of both designs, the reliability of the Leica with the ease of use of the Contax. Unfortunately, this also came at the cost of focusing accuracy, as the viewfinder magnification was lowered.

This fault was considered with Canon’s next camera, the IIB in 1949, which had a larger viewfinder as well as selectable viewfinder magnification. For a 50mm frame of view, the selector could be set at F (0.67×), whereas for a magnified view (or if using lenses other than 50mm with an external viewfinder) you could set it at 1× or 1.5× for ease of focusing. This design stuck with the Canon cameras up until the end of the 1950s and proved very useful.



Canon IV Sb2: the penultimate “Barnack” style Canon rangefinder

Over the next five years, Canon continued to iterate. They added a 1/1000 speed, flash synchronization, an improved shutter speed dial, more reliable slow speeds, higher machining precision, and a larger viewfinder eyepiece among several other small changes. These changes culminated in perhaps the greatest “Barnack” camera ever made, the Canon IV Sb2. This camera was the 4<sup>th</sup> iteration of the flash synchronized Canon IV, and each time a new suffix was added instead of calling it the IV4 (why, I’ll never know).

Unlike many of its competitors (and even Leitz themselves), the Canon stayed remarkably similar to the original design from Oskar Barnack. While the Leica had moved towards die-cast construction starting with the Leica IIIc, the Canon retained the copycat construction of the pre-war Leicas. This made for a camera that was advanced in function, but simple in construction. Canon continued improving on this tried-and-true design while other manufacturers strayed from it or didn’t have the manufacturing precision to perfect it.

# Equipment

The IV Sb2 was Canon's penultimate (and best) camera of this design. It was designed to compete with the popular Leica IIIc, a battle which it handily wins, in my opinion. Released in 1954, the camera's launch was (unfortunately for it) barely preceded by the Leica M3, which revolutionized the professional rangefinder camera. Canon followed suit with their own professional camera, the VT, which departed from the "Barnack" design. The IV Sb2 was left behind.

In hindsight we can see the IV Sb2 for what it is; a great camera released at the wrong time. Canon somehow created the perfect balance between reliability, serviceability, and simplicity that resulted in what I consider to be the greatest camera ever made. My IV Sb2 is of the smoothest running cameras I've ever used, easily tying or besting any Leica. Canon put a lot of effort into creating a "Leica Killer", and had the IIIc been its only competition, the IV Sb2 would win easily. It contains everything I need and nothing I don't. It is the perfect camera.

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**Leica IIIc: the first Leica to use die-cast construction, modifying the original top cover style to one that hugs the lens flange**



directions for using  
35mm **CANON CAMERAS**

Models

II - D

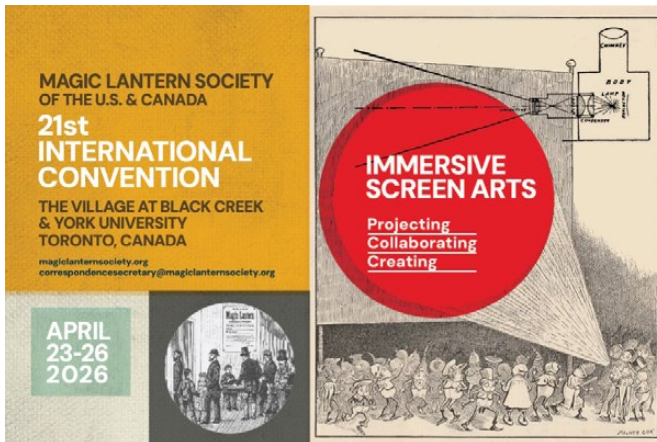
IV - S2

**Canon**

JPN. PAT. 176637 187594 379444 383724 400878 U.S.A. PAT. 2643597

# Events

## Magic Lantern Society convention



### Immersive Screen Arts highlights

April 23–26, The Village at Black Creek  
Toronto, Canada

The final deadline for IMMERSIVE SCREEN ARTS day pass registration and full registration is April 15th.

The two evening events at York University SHADOWS IN STEREO and DUO KINETICA are free and open to the public (advance registration required for DUO KINETICA – limited seating).

Full conference details at:

<https://www.magiclanternsociety.org/2026-convention-toronto/>

### SHADOWS IN STEREO

Friday, April 24, 7–9pm at the Foster Acting Studio (Accolade East 207) at York University – free and open to the public.



### DUO KINETICA

April 23, 7-9pm, Goldfarb Gallery, York University





# SPRING CAMERA FAIR

Sunday, May 24, 2026

**TRIDENT HALL**

145 Evans Avenue, Toronto

Noon to 4:30 pm

**Admission \$10 / Students \$7**

**FREE PARKING!**

**TTC via the South 110 Islington Bus**

Lunch available at Trident Hall's Uno Bistro

Mark Singer - Chairman - [fair@phsc.ca](mailto:fair@phsc.ca) Details at [www.phsc.ca](http://www.phsc.ca)

**Presented by the Photographic Historical Society of Canada**



# From our web blog

Bob Carter

## Beyond the frame

While we are primarily a photographic collectors club, many of our members also take photographs. In its earlier days, the PHSC sponsored an annual photographic contest for its members with winning photos featured in our journal. The skills of those who participated varied — we can all learn more.

As a photographic society, we share interest with similar organizations. One such group, the [Ontario Council of Camera Clubs](#), or **O3C**, focus on taking photos rather than collecting them and the associated equipment, giving our members an opportunity freshen their ‘taking’ rather than ‘collecting’ skills.

Our friends at the O3C are hosting a special event this year on May 2nd (Saturday). The event is called “[Beyond the Frame](#)”, and features talks including:

### **Architectural Photography**

Learn to photograph buildings and structures with impact. From perspective control to dramatic angles, this session will elevate your architectural work.

### **Smartphone Photography**

The best camera is the one you have with you. Unlock the creative potential of your smartphone with composition tips, mobile editing techniques, and more.

### **Street Photography**

Capture authentic moments of everyday life with confidence. Learn how to anticipate action, work with natural light, and tell compelling visual stories.

### **Geometric Photography**

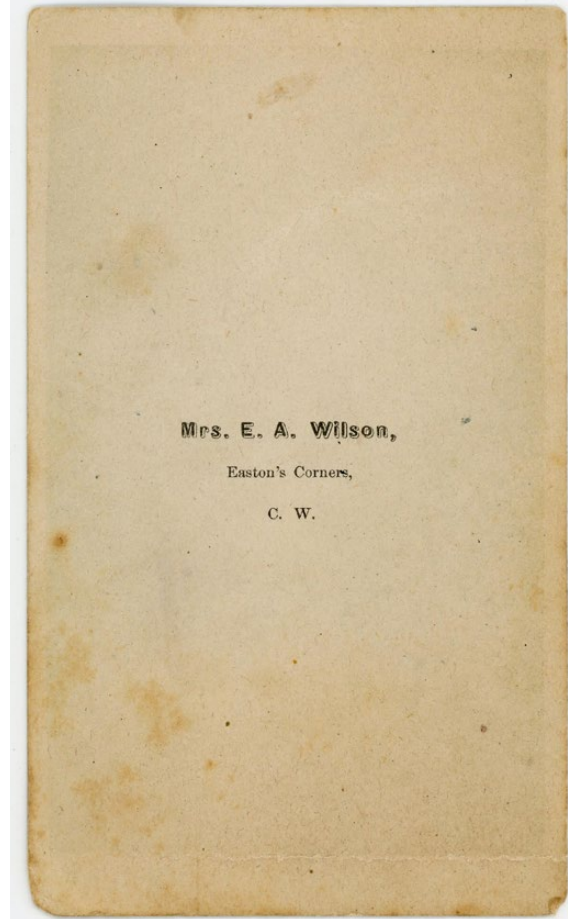
Discover the power of shape, symmetry, pattern, and form. Explore how lines and repetition can transform ordinary scenes into striking compositions.

Those of you who take photos can always learn more about our art. The O3C suggest that you “grow your photographic skills for just \$50 per person for the Full Package”. Space is limited. Please note: Registration is now closed, but you might be able to get on a waiting list.



# Photography

## Canadian CDV of the month



From the collection of Irwin Reichstein. Pre-Confederation CDV portrait from the Ontario photographer **Mrs. E.A. Wilson** of Easton's Corners, C.W. (unlisted).

**Call for info:** Details about Mrs. E.A. Wilson are unknown. Do you have any of her photographs in your collection, or information about her? Let us know and we'll update in a future newsletter: [news@phsc.ca](mailto:news@phsc.ca)

Eastons Corners is about 15km SE of Smiths Fall, Ontario.

**Join the Facebook Group**  
[Ontario CDV's and Cabinet Cards](#)

### What is a CDV?

The carte de visite ('visiting card') was a format of small photograph which was patented in Paris by photographer André Adolphe Eugène Disdéri in 1854.

Each photograph was the size of a formal visiting card about 4½ x 2½ inches and were commonly traded among friends and visitors in the 1860s.

The popularity of the format and its rapid uptake worldwide were due to their relative cheapness, which made portrait photographs accessible to a broader demographic.

CDV by photographer  
**Mrs. E.A. Wilson,**  
Easton's Corners, C.W.,  
from the collection of  
Irwin Reichstein



# PHSC Upcoming events

We're adding events throughout the year, and they'll also be shown on our website when confirmed.

## ■ Sunday, May 3, 2026

### Spring Estate Auction

1:30pm viewing,

Auction starts 2:30pm

Royal Canadian Legion Hall,  
3850 Lake Shore W, Etobicoke,  
Toronto, adjacent to the Long  
Branch GO station

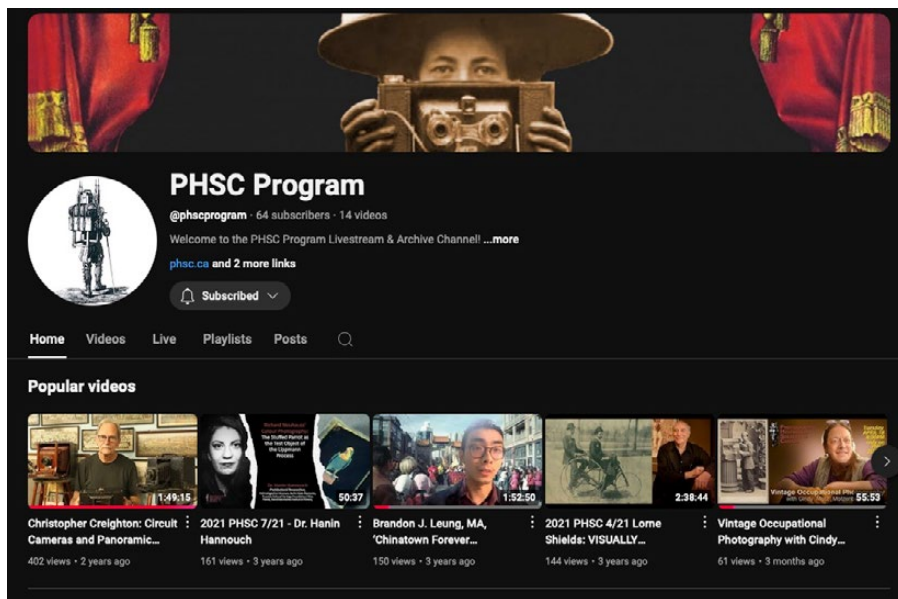
Images & lot listing at [phsc.ca](http://phsc.ca)

## ■ Sunday, May 24, 2026

### Spring Camera Fair

12pm-4:30pm

Trident Hall, 145 Evans Ave,  
Toronto, Etobicoke  
Reg \$10/ Students \$7



### PHSC past programming events on YouTube

Missed past events, or wish to relive the excitement of past programs? Celio, our program coordinator, is busy at work with our PHSC YouTube channel @phscprogram. We're continually uploading past programs, including symposia, guest lectures and Show & Tell events.

Check back often, as program archive continues to grow. Here are a few highlight programs for you to enjoy:

[Conversation with Rita Godlevskis Editor/Publisher PhotoEd Magazine](#)

[Paulette Michayluk on Inspiration](#)

[Client Hryhorijiw interview with Vincenzo Pietropaolo](#)

[Vintage Occupational Photography with Cindy 'MotZ' Motzenbecker >](#)

[Kjeld Duits: Empire of Color >](#)

[Christopher Creighton: Circuit Cameras and Panoramic Photography >](#)

[Technology, Expeditions & Empires: Three-Colour Photography around 1900 >](#)



# Community Upcoming events

Community listings are for reference and convenience only, as the PHSC does not have any control over the events listed, and are not affiliated.

Please visit the various event websites, as the PHSC isn't responsible for any errors, omissions, or cancellations with these listings.

- Canada
- International

## 2026

- **Sat. Apr. 18, 2026**  
**London Vintage Camera Show**  
Westview Baptist Church  
Gymnasium, 1000 Wonderland  
Road SOUTH, London, Ontario  
[londonvintagecamerashow.ca](http://londonvintagecamerashow.ca)
- **Sun. April 19, 2026**  
**Frome Wessex Photographic  
Camera & Photographic Fair**  
Cheese & Grain, Market Yard,  
Frome, England  
[fromewessexphotographic.com/  
camera-photographic-fair.html](http://fromewessexphotographic.com/camera-photographic-fair.html)
- **Apr. 23-26, 2026**  
**Magic Lantern Society  
of the US and Canada  
2026 Convention**  
Black Creek Village, Toronto, ON  
[www.magiclanternsociety.  
org/2026-convention-toronto](http://www.magiclanternsociety.org/2026-convention-toronto)
- **Sun. Apr. 26, 2026**  
**Vancouver Camera Show**  
South Arm United Church,  
11051 No. 3 Rd, Richmond, BC  
[richmondcamerashow.  
wordpress.com](http://richmondcamerashow.wordpress.com)
- **Sun. May 3, 2026** | 10am-3pm  
**Edmonton Photo Fair**  
Edmonton Photographic  
Historical Society  
Ritchie Community League Hall,  
7727 98 St., Edmonton, AB  
Free admission  
[edmphotosociety.ca](http://edmphotosociety.ca)
- **Sun. June 7, 2026** | 10am-3pm  
**Camerama Camera Show**  
Japanese Canadian Cultural  
Centre, Toronto, ON  
Reg \$10/ Students \$8  
[cameramashow.com](http://cameramashow.com)
- **Aug. 12-19, 2026**  
**3D-Con 2026**  
**National Stereoscopic  
Association (NSA)**  
52nd Annual Convention,  
Albuquerque, NM USA  
[3d-con.com](http://3d-con.com)
- **Sun. Sept. 27, 2026** | 10am-3pm  
**Camerama Camera Show**  
Japanese Canadian Cultural  
Centre, Toronto, ON  
Reg \$10/ Students \$8  
[cameramashow.com](http://cameramashow.com)
- **Oct. 4, 2026** | 10am-3pm  
**Show, Sale & Auction -  
Michigan Photographic  
Historical Society**  
Royal Oak Elks Lodge at 2401 E.  
Fourth St in Royal Oak, MI USA  
<https://www.miphs.org/>
- **Oct. 15-17, 2026**  
**Daguerreian Society  
2026 Symposium**  
Washington, DC, USA  
[daguerreiansociety.org/  
Symposium2026](http://daguerreiansociety.org/Symposium2026)

# Exchanges

# postings

**PHSC members can post for free once per issue.**

**Submit to [news@phsc.ca](mailto:news@phsc.ca)**

- **Category**
- **45-ish max words**
- **Your contact (s)**

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CA\$35/yr with these benefits:

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- Reduced table fees at our fairs and trunk sales
- **To join**, visit [phsc.ca](http://phsc.ca) or [member@phsc.ca](mailto:member@phsc.ca)



**PHOTOGRAPHIC  
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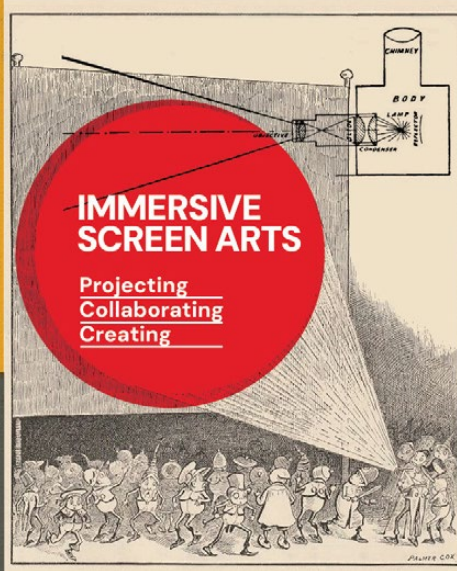
**MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY  
OF THE U.S. & CANADA**

**21st  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION**

**THE VILLAGE AT BLACK CREEK  
TORONTO, CANADA**

[magiclanternsociety.org](http://magiclanternsociety.org)  
[correspondencesecretary@magiclanternsociety.org](mailto:correspondencesecretary@magiclanternsociety.org)

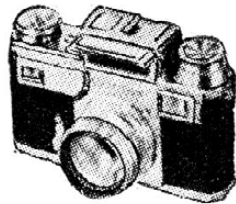
**APRIL  
23-26  
2026**



**21st International Convention Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada**  
April 23-26, 2026, Toronto [www.magiclanternsociety.org/2026-convention-toronto/](http://www.magiclanternsociety.org/2026-convention-toronto/)

## Sam Carpick

Camera Repair



Mississauga, Ontario  
(647) 675-7441  
[samcarpick@gmail.com](mailto:samcarpick@gmail.com)

I can repair most cameras and lenses, but I specialize in:

- **Contax II & III**
- **Canon F series cameras, FD prime lenses**
- **Pentax M42 & K series cameras, Takumar lenses**
- **Praktica I - V**
- **Edixa Reflex**
- **Kodak Retina**
- **Compur shutters, Copal shutters**

Feel free to inquire about other cameras & lenses!

# Past newsletters

Cover images below are linked to the individual PDFs from phsc.ca

Sign-up to receive newsletters free : either our [Google Form](#), or email your name & email address to: [info@phsc.ca](mailto:info@phsc.ca)

## 2026



25-1 March 2025



## 2025

2025 newsletter links

[phsc.ca/camera/newsletter/vol-25-jan-dec-2025/](https://phsc.ca/camera/newsletter/vol-25-jan-dec-2025/)

The quarterly PHSC journal, *Photographica Canadiana* is available with paid memberships.



# MEMBERSHIP FORM

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For just \$35 a year, you receive:

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