

news

PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF CANADA (PHSC)
MAY 2026



26
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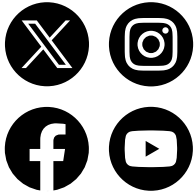
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Views expressed in this publication solely reflect the opinions of the authors

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The Photographic Historical Society of Canada, since 1974

Registered charity 119251205RR0001



Chateau Frontenac, Quebec City, QC, about 1898
William Notman; Silver salts on glass, Gelatin dry plate process
McCord Stewart Museum

May 2026

Another successful estate auction last month, thanks to all who attended and left with their new treasures.

Coming up is our annual camera fair on Sunday, May 24, details on the following page. There's still some room to purchase selling tables as well.

Our outdoor trunk sale is scheduled for Sunday, July 12 – we're awaiting confirmation of its location change due to construction at the Croatian Cultural Centre parking lot. It may be at the Legion Hall in Etobicoke, watch out for info.

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.



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 Details at www.phsc.ca

Presented by the Photographic Historical Society of Canada



Auction

PHSC May 3 Estate Auction

Another well-attended (and long) auction is behind us, with many treasures being found. Thanks to all of the PHSC volunteer crew for the rush set-up, Clint the unwavering auctioneer with both Sam and Jeff helping out, Todd managing the projected images, and everyone else behind the scenes making the day a success.

We're expecting to schedule another auction early fall, TBD.



Industry news

Lomography now ships from Canada

Recent updates from Lomography via their Canadian website, shows that they're now shipping both film and supplies from their Canada warehouse.

Big news for Canadian Lomographers!

Our bestselling gear and film now ship directly from our new Canadian warehouse! That means no duty fees, faster delivery, and easier returns; so you can spend less time waiting and more time shooting.

<https://shop.lomography.com/ca/about/shipping>



Local Shipping is Coming to Canada!

CA online orders will now be shipped directly from our Canada Warehouse, featuring local shipping and a special launch offer. Canadian customers can enjoy 10% off during opening week with the code **CANADA10** on the Canada Online Shop.

AGO: Mapping Toronto's 19th-Century Studio Photography

Open Door Exhibition

Wednesday, May 27, 1-8 pm

Marvin Gelber Print & Drawing Study Centre,
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto

Join the AGO for a special Open Door Exhibition: Mapping Toronto's 19th-Century Studio Photography. This presentation explores the rise of photography studios in Toronto in the mid- to late 1800s, with a focus on the popular carte-de-visite format and its role in a rapidly growing industry.

The presentation is curated by graduate students in the Film + Photography Preservation and Collections Management program at Toronto Metropolitan University, with guidance from instructor Sara Knelman and AGO staff Sophie Hackett and Tal-Or Ben-Choreen. It builds on the research and curatorial work of F+PPCM students Olivia Boccia, Conor Gray, Madison Hall, Jules Keenan, Marisa Kelly, Kelsey Myler, Shaw Quan, Valencia Sipes, and Tasha Yokoyama-Ramsay.

A selection of original photographs will be on view, and students will be on hand to provide additional information, context and insight into the practices of Toronto's photography studios more than 150 years ago.

<https://ago.ca/events/mapping-torontos-19th-century-studio-photography>

Equipment

David Bridge PHSC Auction Treasures for the Birds



Vintage Tasco Zip 7×35 left, slightly less vintage Pentax XCF 12 x50 right.

The spring PHSC auction is over, and the birds are arriving. We found three interesting optics at the auction that, while not cameras, would be good companions for a trip to Pt. Pelee.

Like cameras, binoculars can be prone to most extreme of equipment design and cost. Indeed, birders can be some of the wealthiest boomers we know, making Leica collectors look like Costco shoppers. (Not that Leica doesn't make binoculars.)

Our items, however, were all in the \$20 to \$30 range and medium quality for their time.

The Tasco “Zip” binoculars represent what used to be a department-store brand, before Walmart and Canadian Tire reduced this to mean “something

so cheap and horrible that it is really only a visual icon of what the real thing might be.” They are the traditional 7×35 spec that was thought best for general use before the market decreed that binoculars should be very tiny. Our pair of Tascos was of the “Zip” line, which pertained to the fast movement of focus from an enlarged and quick-g geared focus wheel. Binocular forums generally opine that the “Zip” line meant the beginning of decline for the Tasco mark. Ours seemed reasonable, easy to focus and sported an extra wide field of view. Great glove-compartment dwellers for those with cars.

The Pentax XCF are interesting in that the 12× magnification gets you “closer” to the subject. However this presents epic problems with holding the binocs still enough to see what you want, and smallish exit pupil size and eye relief means holding the glasses in correct relation to your head a challenge. The XCF line from Pentax was their cheaper range, designed to compete with the like from another camera manufacturer, Nikon. These have a nifty overall covering with soft rubber whose major issue in our case was extreme mustiness, which is not a good thing for something you use close to your nose! After various trials, we found in this case that a liberal splash of WD-40 minimized the funk.

Perhaps most unusual, and certainly oldest, of our treasures was a 15-30X zoom spotting scope. This is the sort of thing waterfowl lovers, often seen standing Tilley-hatted with their scopes on windy shorelines, use to ID distant flocks. Warning! Searching the internet has made us aware that many using this type of equipment may not be content to stand by and watch! It's hard to separate the firearms posts from the birder posts.

Equipment continued



The spotting scope — brand unknown.

Our particular example has a generic nameplate with the brand “Carsen” added. The internet digs up a few examples of seemingly identical scopes, but with different brand names applied. Even smaller than the serial number was a tiny logo “K.O.C”, which we assume is the actual manufacturer, perhaps Katsuma Optical Company in Japan. Confusingly, this name seems not to be related to the current importer of Carson (with an “o”) optics. We think it probable the name refers to the Canadian distributor Walter Carsen, who eventually represented Olympus here.

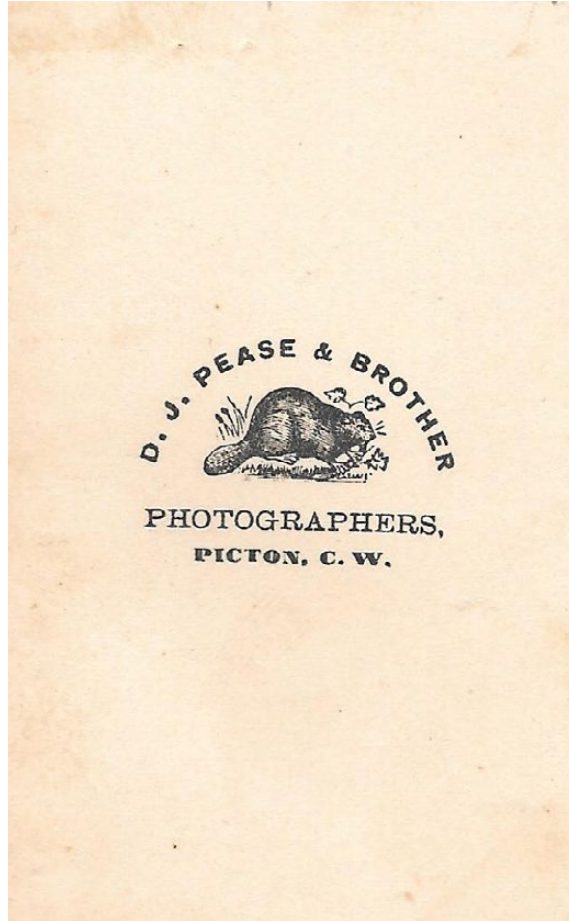
This model is fitted with a snazzy striped 15-30× eyepiece, and is finished in nice krinkle-gray paint. Unfortunately, the tripod collar was missing, but fortunately we had a collar that would fit from another project.

Challenging things about using such an instrument in our urban environment include finding a distant subject (that isn’t the neighbour’s apartment) and getting the scope high enough up to permit viewing through the eyepiece. We now understand why modern scopes have a right-angle eyepiece to permit easy viewing. Of course, anything with this much magnification requires a tripod, and preferably a head-clamp to keep the image centred on the retina!

In conclusion, we were pleased to find these fine examples of mid-range stuff. Particularly with old binoculars, where abuse may result in misalignment and headache-inducing double images, the auction adage try-before-you-bid applies!

Photography

Canadian CDV of the month



From the collection of Ray Ruddy. Early 1860s CDV portrait of an elderly lady posing in the studio of unlisted Picton, Ontario photographer **D. J. Pease & Brother**.

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
D.J. Pease & Brother,
Picton, C.W. [Ontario],
from the collection of
Ray Ruddy.



Equipment

Jeri Danyleyko Iloca's Photrix B

Following the end of World War II, the West German camera industry underwent a major revival. Besides professional quality manufacturers like Leica and Zeiss, many smaller companies thrived largely to fulfill a growing mid-range market. Their cameras were built for serious amateurs looking for quality, flexibility and affordability. The Photrix B was a 35mm camera, typical of the produced during that period. It was manufactured around 1954 by Iloca Werks, a company founded in the late 1940s in Hamburg, West Germany.

From 1950 to 1960, under the direction of Wilhelm Witt, the company manufactured small 35mm cameras under its own brand name of Iloca and several other brand names for the private label mail order market. These included the Tower brand, manufactured for Sears, Realist 35 cameras for the David White Company (of Stereo Realist fame), Reporter and Argus. The Photrix B was sold by Montgomery Ward, a company that had both a catalogue and retail operation in the US. Reporters were manufactured for a German mail order company.



Other than branded faceplates and a few minor changes, all these cameras were similar in quality, design and features. For example, the Photrix B and Sears Tower 51 were virtually identical, however the Sears version included their own branding plus a plate on the bottom with recommended exposure settings. The Sears Tower 51 sold for \$56.50 in the mid-1950s, roughly the equivalent of \$750 to \$800 in today's dollars so these were clearly higher end items. An extra \$8.50 got you a flash and a case.

Mail order catalogue companies were demanding when it came to quality. Many of their customers were located in rural areas and small communities where services, such as camera repair shops, were limited or non-existent. Besides that, mail order companies typically offered strong guarantees including a full refund if the item failed to perform as expected. They needed sturdy, well-built products that would stand up to the rigours of frequent use as well as the test of time. The Photrix B easily met those conditions.

The camera itself is fun to use. It's small but feels heavy and solid, weighing in at just under a kilogram. Built of quality materials, it still performs beautifully some 70+ years after its manufacture.

Equipment continued

Loading the camera is simple. Insert the film canister on the left side, pull the leader out and drop it into one of the slots in the built-in canister on the right. Once you're ready to shoot, reset the frame counter on the top.

Features include a fast 50 mm f2.8 lens with a maximum aperture of f22, built by Steinheil in Munich. Shutter speeds range from one second to 1/300 of a second plus B. Although flashbulbs were still king in the 1950s, the Photrix designers included an X contact, which I admit I haven't tried yet. Syncing can be done at any speed thanks to the blade shutter. Unlike many cameras of the period, there was no separate cocking mechanism. Like most modern cameras, advancing the film cocked the shutter at the same time. The inventors obviously considered that to be a real time saver and added the word "Rapid" at the end of most Iloca-branded cameras.

Coupled rangefinder focusing is available through the viewfinder. To focus, you need to superimpose one slightly orange-coloured image on top of the other. Other features include a film type reminder dial with listings for colour, black and white, fast and slow films. Wisely brands were not mentioned which allowed the company to use the same dial for the European market where Agfa and Ilford films were commonly used.

Sadly things did not end well for the Iloca company. In 1959 they produced a camera called the Iloca Electric. Marketed by Graflex in the US as the Graphic 35 Electric, it was much higher end and pricier than any of Iloca's earlier models. It offered a motor drive, driven by four AA batteries and the ability to use interchangeable lenses from Voigtlander and Retina. It was followed by a



simplified version, the Iloca Auto Electric, which had a fixed lens but retained the motor drive.

The following year the company's order for Compur-automat shutters from F. Deckel failed to materialize. Iloca accused both F. Deckel and its parent company Carl Zeiss of unfair dealing. Whether the accusations were true or not, the company had placed all its eggs in one basket and was in serious trouble. They were forced to cease production and file for bankruptcy in April 1960. Its assets were acquired by Agfa.

These cameras can still be found on eBay and other places specializing in vintage cameras. Since they were only in production for a short period and are not that well-known, they tend to be priced at the lower end of the spectrum. Check under all brand names of Iloca, Tower and Photrix. Also keep in mind that lower versions, such as the Tower 50, do not offer the same range of features as the Tower 51. Do your homework first and if you find an interesting product, by all means pick it up, grab a roll of film and have a blast.

From our web blog

Bob Carter

A doozy of a Luzy

As the 2026 Spring Fair quickly approaches, what is more suitable than a look back at a 2001/2 article about a camera discovered at our inaugural Fall fair?

In Bill Belier's column, "A Treasure From My Collection", Bill begins, "Some days you get lucky and such was the case for John Linsky on Sunday, October 20, 1985. The date is only memorable because it was the day of the inaugural PHSC Fall Fair.

"After eleven successful consecutive spring fairs, the Society believed that growing public interest in photographica, in the greater Toronto area, warranted a second such effort. The result exceeded our expectations, and the October Fall Fair became an annual event for the PHSC.

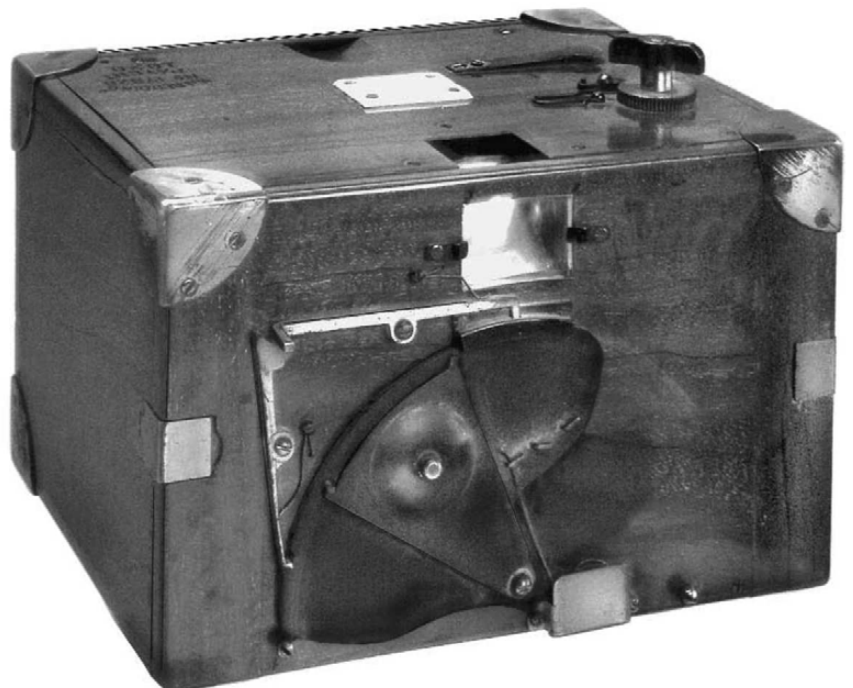
"But what was so lucky and so memorable for John L. on that day? As he recalls the events — with less than one hour to closing time the activities were slowing down. He glanced across the aisle at his neighbour's table and noticed what he took to be a dark wooden box camera... he wondered why he hadn't noticed it before.

"Fortunately for him he lost no time in crossing the aisle to inspect the camera. Instantly he knew the rarity of what he was holding — a Luzo Detective Camera!

"Being the pragmatic and experienced negotiator that John is, he dispensed with the customary "might be interested" ploy and quickly arrived at a purchase price, mutually satisfactory to both parties... only about five minutes had elapsed since he first noticed the camera! But John had another surprise in store for him." ...

Members read the pdf for issue 27-4 on the members-only thumb drive and discovered John's 'other surprise' that day. You can too. Join or renew from the website. Send any questions to member@phsc.ca.

Join us at this year's Spring Fair — you might find a Luzo or other interesting item!



PHSC Upcoming events

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

■ **Sunday, May 24, 2026**

Spring Camera Fair

12pm-4:30pm

Trident Hall, 145 Evans Ave,

Toronto, Etobicoke

Reg \$10/ Students \$7

■ **Wed. May 27, 2026**

PHSC Presentation

Katrin Faridani – Demystifying Toronto's Water Infrastructure

8pm; Free, online via ZOOM

See next page for details

■ **Sun., July 12, 2026**

Outdoor Trunk Sale

8am-1pm

Location TBD

Toronto, Etobicoke

Free

Dealer space available,
message info@phsc.ca

■ **TBD 2026**

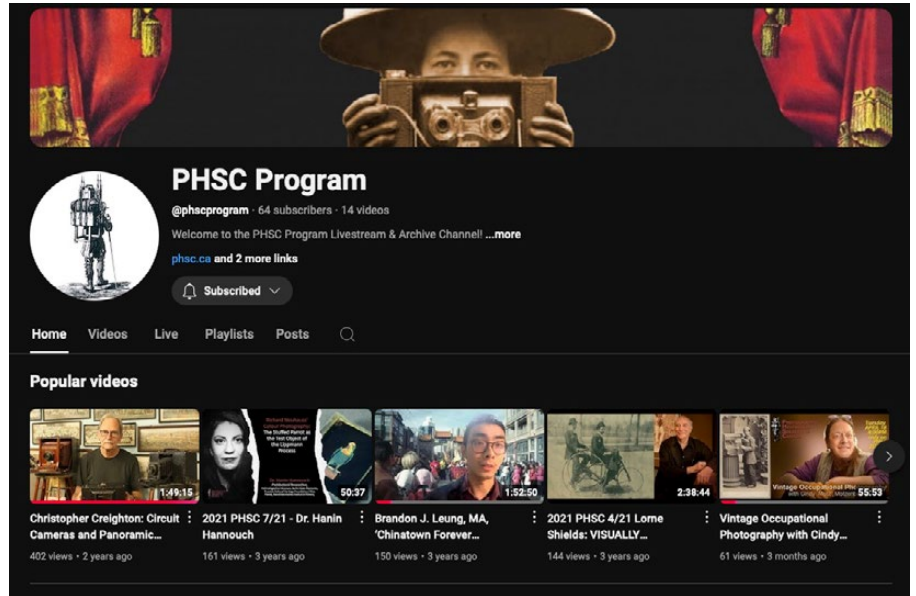
Fall Estate Auction

1:30pm viewing,

Auction starts 2:30pm

Royal Canadian Legion Hall,
3850 Lake Shore W, Etobicoke,

Toronto, adjacent to the Long
Branch GO station



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 >](#)



PHSC

Upcoming events

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

PHSC Presentation

Katrin Faridani — Demystifying Toronto’s Water Infrastructure

8pm; Free, online via ZOOM

ZOOM meeting link will be sent to all members and recipients on our mailing list, otherwise message info@phsc.ca

Interconnected is a visual exploration of the Toronto wastewater system, its connection to our drinking water, and to Lake Ontario. It examines the consequences of urbanization and solutions for mitigating its negative effects for better water management in the Greater Toronto Area.

Through a representational approach, Katrin Faridani focuses on the path of water from her home to Lake Ontario, documenting parts of the Don River watershed, the Ashbridge’s Bay treatment plant and ultimately the Island and R. C. Harris water treatment plants, which process our drinking water from Lake Ontario and send it to our taps, thus illustrating the full cycle of water to and from the artist’s home.

<https://www.blogto.com/arts/2024/01/toronto-photographer-below-city/>



Biography

I wasn’t quite born with a camera in my hand, but since I can recall I have “framed” things in my field of view, and have always told stories like they are vivid images. I find almost everything fascinating and worth capturing, from the most remote locations to a face wiser than its years.

In my work, I like to help other entrepreneurs who, like me, have carved out their own path and followed what they cannot live without. I connect well with them, and I like to make them

shine. In my personal life, I cook and feed all my friends, but there isn’t an animal that won’t make me stop and pat it- so much so that I could work with animals and hope to someday. So I have to agree when my friends tell me I should have been born with a camera in one hand and dog under my arm.

For more information about Katrin: <https://www.kfpix.com/>

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

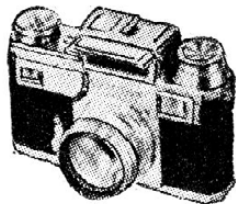
2026

- **Sun. June 7, 2026** | 10am-3pm
Camerama Camera Show
 Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto, ON
 Reg \$10/ Students \$8
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/>
- **Aug. 12-19, 2026**
3D-Con 2026 National Stereoscopic Association (NSA)
 52nd Annual Convention, Albuquerque, NM USA
3d-con.com
- **Oct. 15-17, 2026**
Daguerreian Society 2026 Symposium
 Washington, DC, USA
daguerreiansociety.org/Symposium2026
- **Sun. Sept. 27, 2026** | 10am-3pm
Camerama Camera Show
 Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto, ON
 Reg \$10/ Students \$8
cameramashow.com
- **Sun. Oct. 18, 2026**
Vancouver Camera Show
 Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre
 6688 Southoaks Crescent
vancouvercamerashow.com

Exchanges

Sam Carpick

Camera Repair



Mississauga, Ontario
(647) 675-7441
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!

postings

PHSC members can post for free once per issue.

Submit to news@phsc.ca

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

Not a member?

CA\$35/yr with these benefits:

- You help support Canadian photography
- Receive current and PDF back issues of *Photographic Canadiana*, the PHSC journal published 4X/yr, currently in our 50th volume
- Reduced table fees at our fairs and trunk sales
- To join, visit phsc.ca or member@phsc.ca



**PHOTOGRAPHIC
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
CANADA**

Since 1974

**Registered charity
119251205RR0001**

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

2026



25-1 March 2025



2025

2025 newsletter links

phsc.ca/camera/newsletter/vol-25-jan-dec-2025/

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



MEMBERSHIP FORM

First time **Renewal**

For just \$35 a year, you receive:

- 4 PDF issues of our thought-provoking journal *Photographic Canadiana*
 - A one-time special DVD of 40 years of back issues
 - Subscription to the PHSC NEWS, our email newsletter
- Vendor fee discounts at spring and fall fairs, shows, and trunk sales

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\$35 for a one year membership \$100 for a three year membership (Canadian dollars)

Payment Options.

PayPal available at www.phsc.ca

e-Transfer to PHSC.payment@gmail.com

Cheque by mail to: **MEMBERSHIP**
The Photographic Historical Society of Canada
Box 11703, 666 Burnhamthorpe Road,
Toronto, ON M9C 2Z0 Canada

Complete, print and mail this form to the above address or email it to membership@phsc.ca.