

Variable Category Topics for 2024-2025

Clinic 1 – Black & White

As a reminder, this a black & white photo competition not a monochrome photo competition. A black & white image ranges from very dark gray (black) to very light grey (white) with varying shades (darker) and tints (light) of the grayscale.

Clinic 2 – Colour

This competition and its themes invite photographers to showcase their creative skills, using colour as a vibrant medium to capture outstanding and stunning images.

It is an opportunity to explore areas that may stretch your comfort zones, pushing to the boundaries of your creativity.

To keep the focus on the dynamic world of colour, we kindly request that submissions be limited to colour images only, excluding black & white, monochrome and infrared images.

Clinic 3 - Photojournalism

Photojournalism is the art of crafting a 'newsworthy' image that narrates a compelling story.

We invite you to delve into the creation of a "newsworthy" image.

For the purposes of this competition, "newsworthy" is defined as:

- Timeliness – a recent occurred event or incident;
- Proximity – a local, national or international topic of interest;
- Conflict and Controversy – situations where people argue or disagree or protest for (or against) actions, events, ideas or policies;
- Human Interest – situations that show people are interested in other people;
- Relevance – images which would attract individuals in forming decision(s) or aiding them to confirm (or changed) their current perspective on an issue.

Each image submitted into this competition should endeavour to answer Who, What, Where and When, which are the foundations of Photojournalism.

Photojournalism is not meant to be pretty, structured or artistic.

Permitted Editing Techniques:

Color Correction: Adjusting the color balance and tones to accurately represent the scene as perceived by the human eye is generally allowed. This compensates for limitations in the camera or lighting conditions.

Cropping: Removing portions of the image to focus on the main subject or fit layout requirements is acceptable, as long as it does not alter the context or meaning of the image.

Brightness and Contrast Adjustments: Enhancing details that are too dark or too bright, especially in challenging lighting, is permitted. The goal is to mirror the true appearance of the scene.

Mild Sharpening: Some sharpening to improve clarity is acceptable, but over sharpening that introduces artifacts is discouraged.

Focus Stacking: merging images with different focus points to increase the depth of field.

Removal of Camera Artifacts: techniques to remove dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches caused by the camera.

Artificial Intelligence: feature can be applied to the submitted **PROVIDED** that these features are limited to: colour correction, brightness/contrast adjustments, and sharpening.

Editing Techniques Not Permitted:

Images without Photographic Origin: Images that are entirely generated electronically with no photographic origin.

Content Manipulation: Adding, removing, or altering elements like people, objects, or backgrounds in an image is strictly prohibited, as it changes the reality the photo represents.

Misleading Filters: Applying filters or effects that dramatically change the mood or perception of the image is not allowed, as it can mislead viewers about the event or scene.

Selective Editing: Altering specific areas of an image to emphasize or de-emphasize certain elements is unacceptable, as it can bias the viewer's perception.

Expansion of Scene: Creating panoramas or stitched images from multiple photographs is not permitted.

Sky Replacement: Sky replacement is **NOT permitted in this competition.**

Triptychs (an image of three (3) separated images contained in a single image) are not permitted in this competition.

Frames, Borders, Pin-lines, and Mats: Photograph must not contain any decorative elements like frames, borders, pin-lines, or mats. This includes the edges and markings of scanned film. When the frame is integral to the captured image, for instance a window frame or door frame that has been captured by the camera, these elements are permitted.

Artificial Intelligence Renderings: Images that have been created or modified using specific AI generative techniques are not permitted for submission into our competitions. This includes:

- **In-painting** (*where AI fills in generated elements not captured by the photographer or removes and replaces elements from a photograph with AI-generated content*);
- **Out-painting** (*where AI extends beyond the original boundaries of the photograph using generated elements*); and
- **Image-to-image AI** (*where AI transforms an entire photograph based on text prompts or style references*)

These restrictions apply whether or not text prompts are used in the AI generation process.

Accepted Image Types:

- Colour Images
 - Black & White image
 - Colour images converted to black & white
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Clinic 4 – Curves and Lines

Capture the energy and emotion that lines and curves bring to an image. We invite you to explore these powerful compositional elements and share your creative perspective through photography.

Sharpe Tester – Mastering the Light

Light is the essence of photography, shaping our perception and influencing the mood and narrative of an image. Our competition invites photographers of all backgrounds to reveal the stunning interplay between light and shadow.

Submit an image that conveys your unique perspective. Develop imaginative composition that sculpt shapes with light and shadows. Capture kinetic motion in suspenseful action shots, craft intimate narratives with subtle light cues, or reveal breathtaking landscapes and cityscapes awakened by dawn's glow. Feel free to experiment with techniques like rim lighting and light painting to showcase your technical artistry and unleash your creativity.

President's Medal – Waterfalls of Niagara

The geographic area for the waterfalls is Ancaster to Niagara Falls. Falls that could be photographed are Beamer Falls, Balls Falls, Louth Falls, Rockway Falls, Swayze Falls, Terrace Creek Falls, DeCew Falls and Niagara Falls.

These are some examples other falls not listed can be included if they are in the area from Ancaster to Niagara Falls.

Members Choice Submissions

There will not be any variable topics assigned to the Member's Choice this year. Member will be able to enter images of anything they would like to.