

Variable Topic 2026/27

Clinic 1

Monochrome Texture and Detail - Images that emphasize the physical qualities of surfaces and materials through close observation of patterns, weathering, organic forms, or man-made structures. From tree bark and rock formations to architectural details and worn objects, submitted images should make viewers want to reach out and touch what they see. Monochrome refers to an image using only a single colour or hue, including its various tints, tones, and shades. ex. black and white or grey scale, sepia, all blue toned,

Clinic 2

Motion and Time Capture movement, change, or the passage of time through long exposures, intentional camera movement, multiple exposures, or other creative techniques that render motion as visual art rather than frozen action.

The next two themes invite photographers to showcase their creative skills, using colour as a vibrant medium to capture dynamic images.

Clinic 3

Nature's Palette - "No artist's brush required" - Images exploring colour in undisturbed natural environments: wildflowers, foliage, fungi, geology, rock, bark, ice, and water.

Clinic 4

Colour with a Human Touch - "We leave our mark in colour" - Images where human influence makes colour the defying element, from urban streetscapes and architecture to rural structures, farmland, workplaces, and transportation.

Sharp Tester Variable

Geometry - The intentional use of lines, shapes, patterns, and forms to create structure, balance, and visual interest within a frame. It involves identifying, arranging, or highlighting geometric elements such as triangles, circles, and squares to guide the viewer's eye, add a sense of order to chaos, or create abstract.

President's Medal

City of St. Catharines Landmarks - In a year of shared celebration, as the St. Catharines Photographic Club marks 130 years and the City of St. Catharines celebrates 150, this theme invites members to capture the landmarks that define our community.

Landmarks may be iconic historic sites or places of personal or cultural significance. They are more than locations—they reflect the identity, history, and evolution of our city.

Entries should go beyond simple documentation. Through thoughtful use of light, composition, timing, and perspective, images should convey the character, meaning, or story of the landmark.

As part of this milestone year, your photographs contribute to a continuing visual legacy—capturing not only what these places look like, but why they matter.