Capture Oakville 2025

Official Entry Rules for 19th Annual Competition
- Step 1 - Electronic Submission Process -

The *Oakville Camera Club* has adopted a streamlined submission process for the *Capture Oakville 2025* Competition which includes a two-(2) step process:

1.   Step 1 - Electronic Submission Process;
2.   Step 2 - Printed Image Submission Process.

By holding a pre-selection screening process, this method is designed to reduce the requirement whereby all Entrants are required to submit a printed image.

ELIGIBILITY:

1.   Entrants must be residents of the province of Ontario. Anyone entering the *Capture Oakville* Photography Competition under the age of 18, requires a guardian to sign their Entry Form.

2.   This competition is open to photographers of all levels.

3.   All submissions must be accompanied by a completed Official Entry Form.

CATEGORIES:

CAPTURE OAKVILLE - THE STREETS OF OAKVILLE

‣   For Capture Oakville 2025 - The Streets of Oakville, an image that captures and demonstrate the interaction of people in public places within Oakville where you capture a realistic 'decisive moment.'
‣   Though people usually feature directly, street photography might be absent of people and can be of any object or environment within Oakville where the imagery projects a decidedly human character in facsimile or aesthetic.

CAPTURE PEOPLE & PORTRAITS

‣   A compelling portrait photograph that captures the moment of contact or interaction, while accentuating the essential characteristics and personality of the human spirit.
‣   Photographs can include, Candid or Posed, Portraiture, Studio, Photojournalism, or Street Photography, as the human element being photographed is the central element.

CAPTURE BLACK & WHITE

‣ A 'creative' visual image which uses the aesthetic of the black and white medium to best represent the impression of tone, texture or contrast in order to attract, guide and/or polarize the viewers attention.
‣ Black & White is defined as shades of very dark grey (black) to very light grey (white) with varying shades (darker) and tints (light) of the grayscale.
‣ This category is open to any subject matter.

CAPTURE LANDSCAPES

‣ A grand expanse of Natural Landscape, Cityscape, spectacular natural event, or Environmental Vista or spectacular natural event, which conveys the scale, size or proportion of what you are photographing.
‣ The image may include methods such as wide-format panoramic field-of-view, focus stacking, and High Dynamic Range (HDR) techniques.

CAPTURE NATURE & WILDLIFE

‣ Compelling image of natural elements such as wildlife, plants, insects, and close-ups of small natural subjects or textures.*

Notes: Close-up or Macro photographs are welcome in this category.
* Small natural subjects or textures could include parts of animals/plants/insects such as feathers, flower stamens, pollen, leaf vein patterns, compound eyes of insects, etc.
** Hand-of-Man elements are 'permitted,' so long as they are minimal and do not detract from the primary subject matter.

EXPLORATION

‣ This category is open to any subject matter, or the exploration of any technique.
‣ Using creative and innovative images that explore new personal directions in the art or science of photography, which result in compelling images with strong visual effect and/or emotional impact.
‣ Images will be not only be evaluated on their application of photographic principles and techniques, but also a combination of their overall creativity, impact and inventive application.
‣ This may include still life, abstract, conceptual, and experimental imagery.

LOCATION OF WHERE PHOTO WAS TAKEN:

1. Images entered into the *Capture Oakville - The Streets of Oakville* category <u>must be taken within the geographical confines of the Town of Oakville, Ontario</u>.

2. Images entered into the *Capture People and Portraits,* Capture *Black and White*, *Capture Landscapes*, *Capture Nature & Wildlife,* and *Exploration* **categories** may be taken anywhere in the world.

ENTRY CRITERIA:

1. For the purposes of our competition, a Photographic Image is defined as being *"a captured image on a light-sensitive device (e.g. film camera, digital camera, smartphone, tablet, etc…) and recorded on film or in a digital format."*

2. The Photographic Image must be the original work of the Entrant and <u>does not contain the elements created or captured by someone else</u>; and as such they hold and will retain the copyright for the image.

3. The image(s) must have been taken between:
   - **<u>1 January 2024 and 10 March 2025</u>**.

4. Images taken outside the specified time period will be automatically disqualified.

> ## Photo Eligibility:
> **1 January 2024 to 10 March 2025**

5. Prior to submitting any Photographic Image into the Capture Oakville competition, all entrants must first read the Eligibility Criteria relating to their image submission(s).

HOW TO ENTER:

1. The *Oakville Camera Club* has adopted a two-(2) step submission process for the *Capture Oakville 2025* Competition. By holding a pre-selection screening process, only photographers of "selected" images will be notified of their eligibility for a print image submission.

2. Each Entrant may only submit one-(1) image per Competition Category.

3. A maximum of six-(6) images may be entered into the Competition per Entrant (i.e., equivalent to one-(1) image in each Category).

IMAGE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1. Under Image Eligibility Criteria, this competition requires the photographer entering an Photographic Image to assert and agree to the following requirements that:

   a) An **Artificial intelligence (AI)** generated image is <u>not deemed to be a photographic image</u> because it was created from scratch by an **AI** system and contains no image captured by the entrant - therefore, <u>this type of image will not be accepted into our competition</u>;

   b) Use of **AI** features contained within a post processing application (e.g. masking, sharpening, de-noise, enlarging, etc…) <u>are permitted</u> in our competition provided they comply with the competition's ***Permitted Editing*** criteria, and <u>do not contain any elements which were not</u>

directly captured by the Entrant, as per *Editing Techniques Not Permitted* (e.g. texture, sky, etc…); and,

2. Permitted Editing
    a) All In-camera Techniques: Any adjustments made directly within the camera during image capture;
    b) On-Camera Techniques: Utilizing on-camera features and settings for image enhancements;
    c) Post-processing Techniques: Editing the image using post-processing software; and,
    d) Sky Replacement: Sky replacement is allowed, but the replacement sky *must* have been captured by the same photographer submitting the image into this competition.

3. Editing Techniques Not Permitted
    a) Frames or Borders: Photograph must not contain any decorative elements like frames, borders, pin-lines, or edges (edges or markings from scanned film images); and,
    b) AI Renderings: as outlined above, submitted images that have been created or modifed using specific AI generative techniques are not permitted for entry into this competition.
    c) Images that have been created or modified using specific AI generative techniques, such as in-painting (where AI fills in generated elements not captured by the photographer) and/or out-painting (where the AI extends beyond the original boundaries using AI generated elements), whether with or without text prompts, are not permitted for submission into a this competition.
    d) No additive textures, or significant compositing of elements that are not originally present in the captured image (Explorations category is exempt from Rule 3 d)).

4. Images, either an identical or substantially the same image *, MUST NOT have been entered in a previous or other photography Competition, this includes entry into other public competitions, such as CAPA**, or other camera Club events, or any OCC supported program such as *Exploration* series, or OCC competitions such as *Photo Challenges* or displayed at a *Show, Share & Learn* series.
    a) In order for the pre-selection judging to remain objective, fair, and unbiased, the invited OCC-CAPA* trained Judges must be impartial - those judging or curating the Photographic Competition evaluate the images as having met the competition criteria, and apply a point-scoring method without prejudice - the OCC Judges therefore must not have previously seen, judged, or be in a position to attribute the entry to any given photographer;
    b) Any entry found to have been entered into any other competition will be automatically disqualified; and,
    c) The image in not allowed to contain any watermarks such as: name of the image, or name of the photographer, or identifying markings that would indicate or disclose the photographer, and/or the name of the camera club.

        Note: * Images in a series, with only slight variations, will be considered substantially the same image. An image rotated, flipped, re-formatted or converted to monochrome will also be deemed substantially the same image.
        ** CAPA - *Canadian Association of Photographic Art*

5. For the purposes of competition, the Entrant will retain the original un-retouched JPEG or the RAW file.

6. The Director of Competitions has the right to request and receive the original un-retouched JPEG or RAW file for the purposes of verifying competition compliance.

Step 1 - Electronic Submission

1. All entries must be submitted in an electronic format for pre-judging.
2. The photograph submitted must be in a high resolution digital JPEG format
   - where the image is for a Competition Category typically not compatible with a standard digital format (i.e., film image), allowances for acceptable images include those that are scanned into the allowable format.
3. File Size must be greater than **250 KByte** and less than 6**0 MegaByte -** as the digital version will be viewed on a high quality 'colour-calibrated' monitor, and screened based on the submitted quality, the Entrant should ensure the highest quality image is provided.
4. Image files must be provided as a file upload using the *Capture Oakville Entry* interface which can be found at www.oakvillecameraclub.com.
5. The image will be screened electronically, therefore, all JPEG images entered into the competition must include the original metadata (i.e, EXIF) imbedded with the image.
6. The image will be viewed electronically, therefore all images must be processed in the proper orientation (i.e., portrait or landscape) for viewing.
7. Files are to be named according to the camera club naming convention, as follows:
   - ☑ **Title of Image _ Name of Photographer.jpg** (i.e., *Rideau_Canal-JohnSmith.jpg*);
     - Do Not include blank spaces in the file name, or any of the following figures such as punctuation marks, special characters, quotation marks, or symbols such as / \ , ; : '' " " ! ? & $ % *{ } [ ] @ # & ( ) in your Image File name;
   - ☑ Image Title - the Image's title will be used by the judges in evaluating your submission:
     - Entrants should take care in selecting a title that complements or contributes to communicating the *vision* or *message* being presented in the image - the title will be shown prior to, or during, the adjudication process.

8. The Capture Oakville Entry must include:
   - ☑ The photographers (entrants) name;
   - ☑ Contact phone number;
   - ☑ File name of each image entered;
   - ☑ Name of the Category that each image is entered into;
   - ☑ Completed Official Competition Entry Form (using electronic pdf fillable Entry Form); and,
   - ☑ Full payment made through *PayPal*, 🍎**Pay, credit card,** or **G** **Pay**.

9. Entries must be submitted by the specified due date of:

> **Electronic Image Submission Deadline:**
> **Monday, 10 March 2025**

10. Questions regarding the Official Entry Rules, or questions related to your individual entry may be directed via e-mail to info@captureoakville.com.

Step 2 - Printed Submission for Competition and Exhibition

1. Once pre-judging screening process is complete, the Entrants will be notified if your image(s) has been selected for the Print phase of the Competition.

2. The Entrants will be required to provide the printed image(s) within the specified dimensions, for adjudication by the panel of professional CAPA judges.

3. Following the judging, each image will be framed by OCC for display purposes and presentation in the Gallery as part of the Capture Oakville Photography Exhibition.

4. Print Image submission details and specifications will be provided along with the notification of Entrant selection.

For more information on Step 2 – Print Submission Process will be available after the submission deadline.

ENTRY FEES AND PAYMENT:

- ☑ **$15** for the first image entered;
- ☑ **$15** for each additional image entered;
- ☑ up to a total of six-(6) images may be entered into the Competition

Mandatory payment must be made when completing the *Capture Oakville Entry*. Multiple payment options are available, including *PayPal*, 🍎**Pay**, **credit card**, or **G Pay.**, etc.