

CNE Archives Project

You can help save precious CNE memories for future generations

From first job to first date, to memories of the lights, sounds and delicious smells of the midway, personal connections to the Canadian National Exhibition span generations. At the Canadian National Exhibition Foundation, we are committed not only to preserving and protecting the rich archival collection of this cherished community tradition, but also to sharing these remarkable images for the public to enjoy.

Thanks to generous support from people like you, thousands of CNE memories have already been saved through the CNE Foundation's *CNE Archives Project*. However, it's a race against time. Priceless archival photographic negatives from the CNE's Alexandra Studio collection remain at risk of being lost. Your gift today ensures these shared memories are preserved for future generations.

Since 2021, public support has been essential to the *CNE Archives Project*, funding the digitization and preservation of at-risk photographs from the Alexandra Studio collection. Your generosity brings us closer to our goal of raising the final \$75,000 to complete Phase 1 of this project.

The Alexandra Studio collection – the largest in the CNE's archives – offers a visual record of the iconic CNE from 1947 to 1983, captured by this well-known Toronto-based studio operating during that period. This collection comprises 109,032 photo negatives, but many are deteriorating due to Vinegar Syndrome, a condition that threatens to erase these memories permanently.

Your support will help save these culturally and historically significant Canadian images, allowing the CNE's legacy to live on for all.



Photo: Crowds enjoying the CNE midway, 1977



Photo: Summer fun at the Ex, 1972

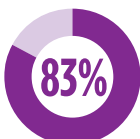
CNE Archives Project Progress*

With the help of our funders and individual donors, the finish line is in sight, but much remains to be completed. Your entire gift goes directly to this important work.



Rehoused

Negatives transferred to specialty archival envelopes and boxes



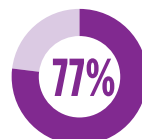
Scanned

Digitized images saved in multiple file formats and locations for redundancy



Added to database

Images uploaded with descriptors to facilitate searches and public viewing



Frozen

Negatives packed for cold storage to slow deterioration and extend usable life



* Percentage completed of 109,032 Alexandra collection negatives

Your gift at work: How your contribution will be put to good use

Together, we can protect the CNE's Alexandra Studio collection from the damaging effects of Vinegar Syndrome. This is a chemical reaction that deteriorates cellulose acetate photo negatives – a type of film used from the 1950s to the early 1990s – over time. Eventually, the film shrinks and cracks, leading to the loss of the images.” The entirety of your gift is directed to this urgent digitization and preservation effort while also supporting young, emerging archival professionals through valuable employment opportunities.



Archival
Intern Wages



Specialty Archival
Supplies



Specialized
Equipment



Photo: An example of a deteriorating negative from the CNE archival collection

CNE Archives Project

Looking ahead, our aim is to share these photographic treasures with the public during the CNE event and in the broader community through future exhibits.



Phase 1

Campaign to raise the funds needed to digitize and preserve the deteriorating photo negatives



Phase 2

Future campaign to support an archival exhibit at the CNE of the digitized collection†



Phase 3

Future campaign to enable a community initiative to share the digitized collection with the public†

† Details to come

With your support, we can ensure the rich history of the CNE is protected and can be enjoyed by many generations to come.

To make a donation in support of the *CNE Archives Project*, please visit: cnefoundation.com

Ask us today how you can support CNE Foundation charitable programs with in-kind products and services.

About the CNE Foundation

The Canadian National Exhibition Foundation is a public foundation and registered charity. The philanthropic arm of the Canadian National Exhibition Association, we fund programs year-round to make a positive impact in the lives of individuals and the community in support of our vision: “Empowering community. Improving lives.”

To learn more about the CNE Foundation and our programs, or to make a donation, please visit: cnefoundation.com
Charitable Business Number 118834639 RR 0001

” Source: Brockbank, Nicole. “When librarians smelled vinegar, they knew the clock was ticking to save historic archives.” CBC News, Toronto, August 21, 2023. Read more here.