

# Local

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## Project works to preserve home films



123RF

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A national film project is collecting home movies from Indigenous Peoples and visible minorities in an effort to preserve the films in national archives.

The project, Home Made Visible, was started by the Regent Park Film Festival in Toronto and inspired by Ali Kazimi's documentary, *Random Acts of Legacy*, the story of a Chinese American family compiled from deteriorating home movies. To help collect films from across the country, the Regent Park Film Festival partnered with smaller organizations in other cities. In Halifax, they partnered with the Centre for Art Tapes, an artist-run centre that helps support the stories and ideas that are underrepresented in mainstream culture.

Elizabeth Mudeno, special projects manager with the Regent Park Film Festival, says partnering with organizations around the country helps them find films that represent regional diversity.

"This will help Indigenous and minority communities realize how much their lives and stories matter here," Mudeno says. "Their stories ... can be shared within a wider narrative."

To date, the project has collected 125 films from 17 participants in Toronto. The project accepts films from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Formats they accept include 16 mm, eight mm, VHS, Mini DV Tape, Hi8, video and digitized formats. Most of the films date from 2000 and earlier. The oldest film is from the 1960s, while the majority are from the 1980s and 1990s. The films feature everything from weddings and birthdays, to children playing or rehearsals for school concerts. Other films recorded huge weather events, such as snowstorms.

"People know in the moment in time it's a historic event," Mudeno says.

Mudeno says participants don't often have the technology, such as VCRs, to play the films or the film is often at risk of falling apart over time. When films are

submitted to Home Made Visible, they're digitized.

"It's a chance to have it digitized so they can share it with family and community," Mudeno says.

Tori Fleming is the programming director at the Centre for Art Tapes in Halifax and is helping to collect the home movies in Halifax and around the province. She says people who have tapes can use the facility's equipment to digitize the tapes, even if they don't want to share the films with the program. She says old tapes are quick to deteriorate and will likely only last a couple more years.

"I feel like we're actually going to help save the tapes," Fleming says.

But she says saving the content is important, too, especially for historians whose work often relies on documents and films in archives.

"Our part is making sure these stories are available to those who need them," Fleming says.

After the films are digitized, the participant who submitted the film can also choose to be interviewed. That interview will be played over the film itself to provide context. A five-minute segment is selected that will be submitted to the York University Archives. That segment can also be played for public screenings, if the participant wishes.

"It's beautiful to see these [films]," Mudeno says. "Even though they're not my family, it feels like they could be."

As well, Mudeno says those who want to share a film can trust a local organization, such as the Centre for Art Tapes, where they can drop the film off rather than mail or courier it to Toronto.

To apply to contribute a film, go to the Home Made Visible website at [homemadevisible.ca](http://homemadevisible.ca) and fill out the form online. A project organizer will contact you about your film. There is no cost to participate.

Home Made Visible will be collecting home films until May 2019.



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## University hearing study seeks participants.



Connect Hearing, with hearing researcher Professor Kathy Pichora-Fuller at the University of Toronto, seeks participants who are over 50 years of age and have never worn hearing aids for a hearing study investigating factors that can influence better hearing. All participants will have a hearing test provided at no charge and if appropriate, the clinician may discuss hearing rehabilitation options including hearing aids. Qualifying participants may also receive a demo of the latest hearing technology. The data collected from this study will be used to further our understanding of hearing loss and improve life-changing hearing healthcare across Canada.

**Why participate in the hearing study?** Hearing problems typically result from damage to the ear and researchers have spent decades trying to understand the biology behind hearing loss. More importantly, researchers now realize the need to better understand how hearing

loss affects your everyday life\*. In this new hearing study, Professor Pichora-Fuller and her team are trying to find out how people learn to live with hearing loss and how new solutions could help these people take action sooner and live life more fully.

It is estimated that 46% of people aged 45 to 87 have some degree of hearing loss<sup>†</sup>, but most do not seek treatment right away. In fact, the average person with hearing loss will wait ten years before seeking help<sup>‡</sup>. This is because at the beginning stages of hearing loss people often find they can "get by" without help, however as the problem worsens this becomes increasingly harder to do. For some people this loss of clarity is only a problem at noisy restaurants or in the car, but for others it makes listening a struggle throughout the entire day. By studying people who have difficulty hearing in noise or with television, we hope to identify key factors impacting these difficulties and further understand their influence on the treatment process.

**If you are over 50 years of age and have never worn hearing aids, you can register to be a part of this new hearing study\* by calling: 1.888.242.4892 or visiting [connecthearing.ca/hearing-study](http://connecthearing.ca/hearing-study).**



\* Pichora-Fuller, M. K. (2016). How social psychological factors may modulate auditory and cognitive functioning during listening. *Ear and Hearing*, 37, 925-1005. † Study participants must be over 50 years of age and have never worn hearing aids. No fees and no purchase necessary. Registered under the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC. VAC, WCB accepted. ‡ Cruickshanks, K. L., Wiley, T. L., Tweed, T. S., Klein, B. E. K., Klein, R., Mares-Perleman, J. A., & Nondahl, D. M. (1998). Prevalence of Hearing Loss in Older Adults in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin: The Epidemiology of Hearing Loss Study. *Am. J. Epidemiol.* 148 (9), 879-886. 2. National Institutes of Health. (2010).

## Renew Crew

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businesses. Goddard says she's impressed with Value Village's ability to redirect the clothing from the landfill. Goddard says since the program's beginnings, more than 31.5 million pounds of textiles have been kept out of landfills. That's the equivalent of 1,260 Halifax Transit buses.

"Besides raising money for our charity, we work on behalf of the environment," she says.

Goddard says they do notice a pattern in which they receive the most donations. January and February and the summer months are quiet. She says donations pick up in the fall and spring as donors purge their closets and homes of clothing they don't need. She says the truck crew adds extra routes during busy times of the year.

"I think the folks who run Renew Crew are really focused on good customer service," she says.

Goddard says there are always children waiting for mentors and there are currently 100 children on their waitlist. Volunteers or donors can visit [halifax.bigbrothersbigsisisters.ca](http://halifax.bigbrothersbigsisisters.ca).

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