

## *The Beaver* Magazine seeks Witnesses to History for its First-Ever National Photo Contest

(WINNIPEG, May 6, 2008) Were you taking pictures in the crowd at Expo 67? On Yonge Street the night the Blue Jays won their first World Series championship? Did you happen to grab a great snapshot of one of our Prime Ministers? The Queen? Terry Fox? Do you have heirloom family photographs documenting some of the tragedies, triumphs, and tribulations that tell the history of everyday life in 20<sup>th</sup> century Canada?

*The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine* is inviting Canadians to share their photographic memories as part of its first-ever "Witness to History" Photo Contest.

For the effort, contest entrants will have a chance to win one of three Olympus digital cameras with a combined retail value of over \$1200, as well as have their photograph published in the August/September 2008 issue of *The Beaver* magazine. The winning photographs will be published as part of *The Beaver's* special feature on "The Photographs That Changed Canada" as selected by a panel of Canada's top photo editors, including *Globe and Mail* Photo Editor Moe Doiron, *Canwest News Service* Photo Editor Barry Gray, and University of King's College Photography Instructor Michael Creagen.

"Canada's history, in a sense, can be seen as a collection of shared memories and moments. And for decades, Canadians have used photography to capture those key moments and record them for posterity. Now we want you to share those images with us, and our readers," explained Mark Reid, editor of *The Beaver* magazine.

"Some of the best visual evidence of Canada's more recent past is likely to come from the letters, photographs, and other keepsakes of individual Canadians that are passed down from one generation to the next. We feel it is important to provide a space in *The Beaver* magazine to draw attention to the value and importance of those collections."

"Canada's National History Society is always looking for innovative ways to bridge the connection between Canadians and their history," added Deborah Morrison, History Society president and CEO, and publisher of the magazine. "This contest represents a great opportunity for Canadians to reflect on their own place in our history — to better appreciate that history didn't happen to 'other people' but rather to people just like themselves. Most importantly, it helps to recognize that we all play a role in commemorating and preserving that history."

There is no fee to enter the contest. It is open to all Canadian residents, who have until June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, to scour their shoe boxes and photo albums for their best shots of their personal encounters with Canadian history. *The Beaver* issue featuring the contest winners will be available on the newsstand beginning July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. For full contest details visit [www.thebeaver.ca](http://www.thebeaver.ca).

*The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine* is the flagship publication of Canada's National History Society, a Winnipeg-based charitable organization devoted to promoting greater popular interest in Canadian History. In addition to publishing Canada's second oldest magazine, they also produce *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*, and administer Canada's top history honours: the Pierre Berton Award and the Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History.

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*For more information contact:*

Mark Reid, Editor  
The Beaver Magazine  
(204) 988-9300 ext 18  
[mreid@historysociety.ca](mailto:mreid@historysociety.ca)

Deborah Morrison, President & CEO  
Canada's National History Society  
(204) 988-9300 ext 22  
[dmorrison@historysociety.ca](mailto:dmorrison@historysociety.ca)