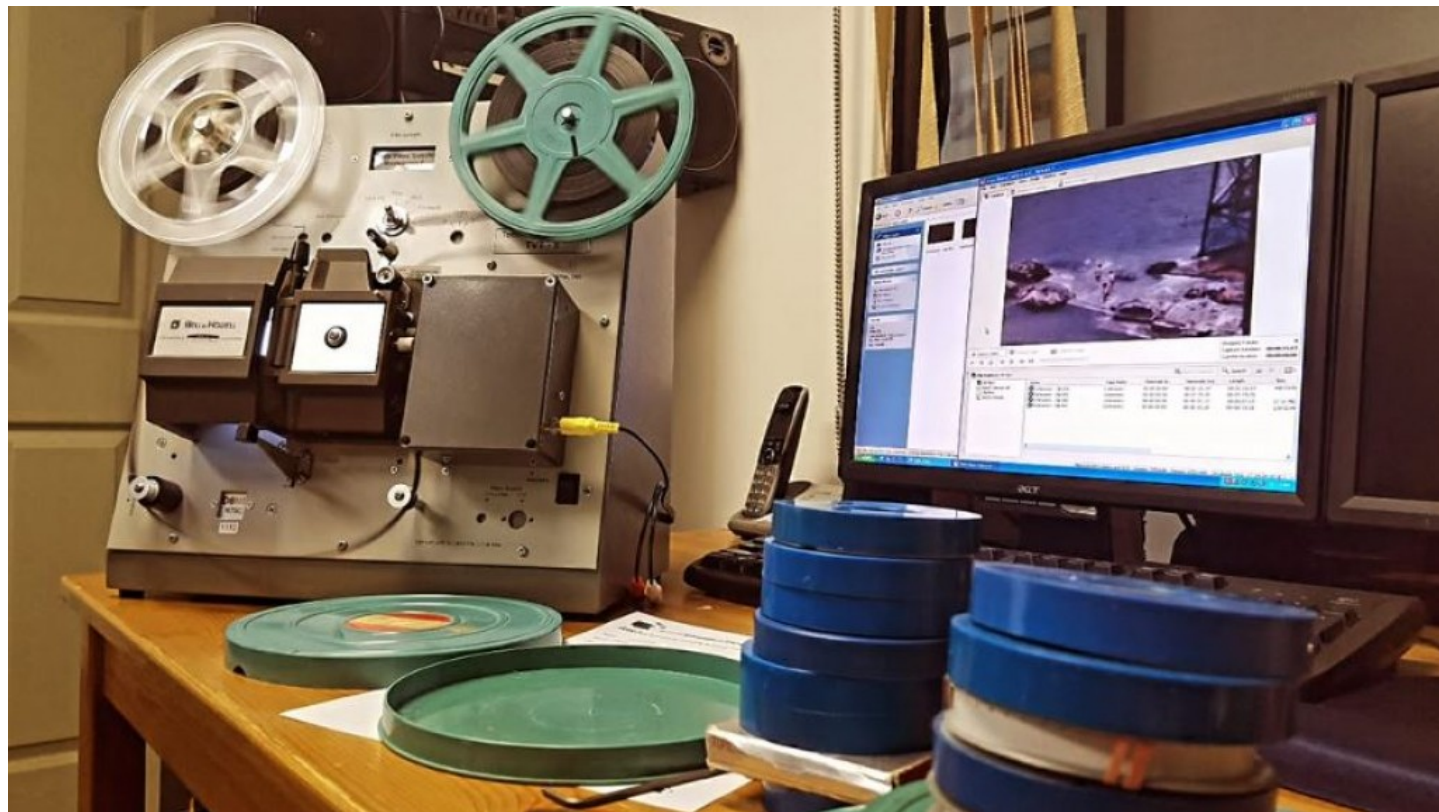


Toronto Video Transfer Company Warns Time Is Running Out to Save Old Family Tapes

As analog equipment disappears, Azure Production Inc. helps Canadians preserve irreplaceable home videos before it's too late



Toronto, Ontario Feb 10, 2026 (IssueWire.com) - A former theatre student now operates a Canadian business that helps families across the country protect their most important life memories from permanent loss.

Azure Production Inc. is a video transfer company based in Toronto that specializes in converting VHS tapes and various camcorder recordings into modern digital formats. The company has served customers since 2004, helping families preserve their home videos for future generations.

The company's founder discovered the need for video transfer services while studying technical theatre at Ryerson University, now known as Toronto Metropolitan University. At the time, student stage productions were recorded on tape for archival purposes. Later, many of those recordings needed to be transferred to computer files for editing and preservation.

"Sometimes, we needed to edit our plays, and transferring the footage was a challenge," the founder explained. "I was part of the group tasked with solving that problem. What started as a school project later grew into a real business, which was incorporated in 2007."

Azure Production mainly works with consumer video formats such as VHS, 8mm film, Betamax, and Hi8 camcorder tapes, as well as broadcast formats including Betacam, U-matic, and DVCAM. The company

primarily serves people who have stored old family tapes in basements, drawers, and storage boxes for many years.

“Our services are usually for people who have retired or families who want to save their home videos before they are lost,” the founder said.

The company’s midtown Toronto location also provides complimentary pickup services for client materials. Each tape is inspected before any transfer begins to ensure it is not damaged or affected by mold. Equipment is cleaned regularly, and each transfer is monitored to maintain proper video and audio levels.

After capture, every file goes through a quality control process where it is reviewed at several points to ensure there are no technical errors. The final files are converted into MP4 format and made available to clients through secure online delivery.

The founder credits his technical theatre background and hands-on experience with outdated equipment for helping him build the company.

“The practical work I did in school taught me how to use and preserve systems that most people no longer understand,” he said.

However, he warns that the window for transferring analog tapes is closing. Manufacturers have stopped producing many of the machines needed to play old formats, such as VCRs. Once the remaining machines can no longer be repaired, it will become increasingly difficult to recover footage.

The founder says the most rewarding part of his work is hearing how families reconnect through their preserved videos.

“We often hear from clients who watched their old recordings together and felt closer as a family,” he said.

One of the company’s most meaningful projects involved scanning hundreds of 35mm photo slides for a family while their mother was in the hospital near the end of her life. The family gathered around her bedside to view and remember those moments together.

“It meant everything to them to see those memories again,” he recalled.

Although the founder believes the business will eventually fade as digital recording becomes more common, he says there is still an urgent need to preserve existing tapes before they deteriorate.

“Just like film moved to VHS, then DVD, and now digital, each format eventually becomes obsolete,” he said. “Tapes break down over time, and once the original is gone, it’s gone forever.”

Azure Production Inc. continues to process a large number of transfers each year, including wedding videos, family recordings, and important life events.

The founder encourages Canadians who still have old tapes stored away to consider preserving them while playback equipment and trained technicians are still available.

“Memories can fade, but film lasts forever,” he said.

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