

BNC 2019

BETTER NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

Award Results



CELEBRATING THE BEST OF ONTARIO'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The time has finally arrived to showcase the great work of Ontario's weekly community newspapers. We received over 1,400 entries, all illustrating the hard work and dedication that goes into a community newspaper. This book is full of award-winning newspapers, stories, photos, and ads showing just how talented the staff of community newspapers are.

The awards process is a long one, beginning with newspaper staff sifting through a year's worth of stories, photos, and ads to submit the best they have to offer. Months later, after compiling results from judges, the finalists are announced on February 14th. But there is still more waiting. It is not until the Awards Gala (usually occurring in April) that the winners are finally announced. This year the wait has been extended, as it was necessary to cancel the Convention and Awards Gala due to COVID-19. The day is finally here – your results are in.

This year's program included two new categories. Best Feature/Unit Pages highlights the innovative approach newspapers use to generate volume sales using traditional or new themes for holidays or community events. Breaking News Video recognizes the best single breaking news video presentation.

A very special thank you goes out to all our volunteer judges, without whom we could not recognize the great work of Ontario community newspapers. Not only do they spend countless hours at the office putting their own papers to bed, they then spend hours carefully looking over your entries. They are to be applauded for their tireless dedication and hard work in helping to keep the community newspaper industry the best it can be.

We also owe a big thank you to our sponsors: to Ontario Power Generation, for their continued sponsorship of our Awards Gala, even though we were unable to gather together to celebrate, and to our BNC category sponsors, whose support allows us to continue to run the program and spotlight the great work of Ontario's community newspapers.

And to the staff of Ontario's weekly community newspapers, we thank you for your hard work and dedication. Community newspapers are the heart of our communities, and it is through you that we tell their stories.

Now, please take some time to sit down, relax and enjoy the wonderful work celebrated in this year's competition.

Congratulations to all the winners!

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "John Willems".

John Willems
President
Ontario Community Newspapers Association

RECOGNIZING THE HARD WORK & DEDICATION

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OF ONTARIO'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS!



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ONTARIOPOWER
GENERATION



General
Excellence
Awards

GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 1

13 ENTRIES

CIRCULATION 1,999 & UNDER



BURKS FALLS ALMAGUIN NEWS

The Almaguin News is an excellent community newspaper. It includes a good editorial page that also includes feedback from social media platforms. It includes solid reporting and a good range of stories. Very good photos help to impact the overall quality and presentation of the product. It even has a column on fishing! We devoured this paper. A very good read.



BARRY'S BAY, THE VALLEY GAZETTE

The community is well served by The Valley Gazette. It is visually appealing with a great use of colour throughout. Photo spreads highlight community activities while placing faces people know and want to see in the middle of the action. Editorial content is well written and reflects a range of interests and news. Advertising presence is extremely strong throughout both issues and the pro trade section looks great. Judges felt that advertorials were placed too upfront, reducing space for actual news. Overall, however, a job well done!



BLYTH/BRUSSELS CITIZEN

A strong editorial page shot the Blyth/Brussels Citizen into the top three, along with plenty of news. The winners must leave us with a feeling that we have enjoyed a good read, have learned something, and been informed. This paper did just that. Well done!

GENERAL COMMENT

Ontario is very well-served by its newspapers in this class. We were impressed with all entries, despite how many take a different approach to delivering its product. In depth features were meaningful and relevant to communities served, demonstrating why strong newsrooms make a difference. Fewer letters to the editor suggest the shifting participation of some readers, but some publications were smart to respond to this shift by including social media comments in print. Advertising continues to appear strong in most publications which is encouraging to the sector. One criticism - there were very few attention-grabbing photographs, and some did not include cut lines. Based on these entries, Ontario's local newspapers continue to serve their communities extremely well!

Judges

Andrew Brooks

Publisher,
The Victoria Standard,
Baddeck, NS



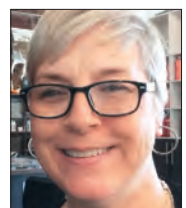
Chris Clegg

Editor,
The South Peace News,
High Prairie, AB



Carmen Marie Fabio

Editor in Chief,
The Journal,
Vaudreuil-Dorion, QC



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 2

CIRCULATION 2,000 - 3,499

5 ENTRIES



1

WINCHESTER PRESS

The Winchester Press has got its community covered. There's a phenomenal amount of content packed into what is comparatively a small paper. The newspaper is well laid out, easy to read and has a wide range of local content. The writing is solid with news stories having clean leads that draw the reader into the story. The front page has one single, dynamic, dominant image that invites people to read the paper. The photography is solid. Overall, a great read.



2

NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER

The Temiskaming Speaker is an impressively large newspaper for a weekly – obviously important to the readership. It has a clean, easy-to-read layout with a lot of great local content. One of the highlights of this newspaper is a feature page on the front of one of the sections of the paper. The Speaker had a lot of good photos, solid sports coverage and good feature pages. It's refreshing to see large broadsheets still in production and thriving.



3

VANKLEEK HILL REVIEW

The Vankleek Hill Review is another strong broadsheet publication. There is a logical layout and flow to this newspaper. It covers a lot of ground, with a wide variety of stories and photos. These stories are well written and pertinent to readers. The editorial pages are good, and the letters showed a lively mix of reactions from the readers. Lots of attention paid to local issues that affect the readers. The Last Word page was impressive and engaging. It's another solid community newspaper. More sports content would make it even better. Overall, a great newspaper.

GENERAL COMMENT

Another great round of reading reminding us of how fortunate Ontario communities are to have this caliber of local news reporting. The entries this year were all solid, making it difficult to choose the top three. Universally, they had a lot of stories and photos, some good special sections, and seemed to all cover their communities well. While we see the decline in quality of some dailies due to restricted budgets, weekly reporting standards remain high despite budgetary constraints, and that's a product of staff going above and beyond. It was a pleasure to judge such strong entries and we congratulate everyone for not only continuing to put out a newspaper every week, but also achieving a high standard while doing it.

Judges

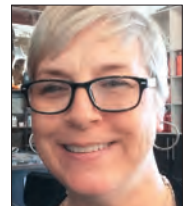
John Arendt

Editor,
Summerland Review,
Summerland, BC



Carmen Marie Fabio

Editor in Chief,
The Journal,
Vaudreuil-Dorion, QC



Rob Vogt

Editor,
Claresholm Local Press,
Claresholm, AB



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 3

3 ENTRIES

CIRCULATION 3,500 - 6,499



1

EGANVILLE LEADER

The Eganville Leader is a wonderful newspaper. In going through its pages, it obviously feels some of the stresses that all community newspapers must deal with today, such as declining sales of some categories of advertising, the internet and the distractions of modern-day life which make it hard to gain committed new readers of a print product. Yet The Leader has not lost sight of its fundamental purpose – to inform its readers about the many details of everyday life in their community. This is its strength and clearly there are enough readers who are willing to pay for such information in a paid-circulation newspaper. News coverage is thorough, as is sports and community coverage. A significant amount of space is devoted to the history of the area. The editorial page is strong. There are many photos, some obviously posed, but they are given plenty of room, and they tell the story of the past week in the community. Overall, it is a very strong paper and a credit to its community. The owner, publisher, editor and all other staff members obviously work hard to make this newspaper significant.



2

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE ADVANCE

Niagara-on-the-Lake Advance included some thorough reporting on a wide range of local issues. Reporting on municipal issues, new developments and environmental issues is solid. Strong editorials also make this newspaper stand out. Overall a solid product, but it could be improved by including some sports coverage and in-depth feature articles. Congratulations to the team for their strong submission!



3

GRAVENHURST BANNER

The Gravenhurst Banner has many strengths and covers the community well. It includes good photos and photo size as well as a strong advertising base. Many stories include infographics and side bars, which is very helpful, but could be more visual at times. Lots of ads, however sometimes these are placed in such a way that the story gets lost. Overall, a great paper!

GENERAL COMMENT

While there are only three entries in this category, they are mighty. All the papers in this category are strong products. What set the Eganville Leader apart is the clear connection with the community and the depth and breadth of local coverage. Production quality, photography, and design is solid on all of the papers in the category. It's great to see so much advertiser support!

Judges

Danielle Gordon-Broome
Editor,
Swan Valley Star and Times,
Swan River, MB



Frank Bucholtz
Columnist,
Black Press Media and
Retired Editor, Langley Times,
Langley, BC



Kevin Weedmark
Editor & Publisher,
The World-Spectator,
Moosomin, SK



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 4

CIRCULATION 6,500 - 12,499

20 ENTRIES



1

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, FORT ERIE POST

The Fort Erie Post stood out with its strong presentation and impactful coverage, from the front page right to the back. A good read through and through. Strong op-ed pages with ample columns complemented the strong community news coverage and the editor made good use of art to tell stories and to enhance the reader experience. Great presentation, good tight news stories, photos that jumped out at you and plenty of ads and classifieds. Well done!



2

COLLINGWOOD CONNECTION

The Connection lives up to its name, connecting well to its community in an attractive package with good use of art on nearly every page and some sports coverage to boot. It has a good look and feel and many local people photos. It does what a good newspaper should do – a great job of reflecting what's going on in the area. The "5 Things That Happened At Council" was a good way to present briefs. Great job.



3

HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

The Highlander's locally owned and operated roots come shining through with its unique look and focus (on what one can only presume to be a hockey-mad community). This paper has a strong layout, thoughtful headline writing, great local coverage, excellent art and hallelujah, a sports section! It has a clean and attractive inside design and compelling editorial pages. A very enjoyable newspaper to spend some time with.

GENERAL COMMENT

It is great to see the amazing journalism being produced by community newspapers in Ontario. Excellent quality and range in coverage of news in each of these communities – from historically based stories to breaking news. Those with local editorials rather than columns stood out. The editorial page should be a place where readers come for analysis and commentary on local events. This is something they can only access from their local newspaper. Take advantage of that and capitalize on this space to make the weekly newspaper even more relevant to its readers. There was also a lack of local sports and arts coverage in many of these papers. Overall, these newspapers are doing a good job of keeping their readers informed.

Judges

Tanya Foubert

Editor,
Rocky Mountain Outlook,
Canmore, AB



Tim Shoults

Vice President,
Content and Audience
Development,
Glacier Media, BC



Manfred Tempelmayr

Retired Publishing
Company President,
Past BCYCNA President,
Gabriola Island, BC



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GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 5

11 ENTRIES

CIRCULATION 12,500 - 22,499



ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER

The Elmira-Woolwich Observer stood out above all the entries. It covered all the bases. In most of the designated categories, its staff managed to outpace others – front-page news, across-the-board community coverage, editorial writing, arts and entertainment and sports. It also had solid footing in community business reporting, though not a category in itself. The Observer used its front to present stories with relevant pictures that focused on those stories. Editorials were well-written and included well-argued critiques of local decision-making of community importance. Small wonder the paper’s readers responded through letters to the editor. Well-deserved high marks.



NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

The Northumberland News is a great publication. The editorial portion of the paper was great with quite a lot of local news content relevant to the community itself. The advertising content was excellent, and classifieds stood out. Quite a strong newspaper, but the front-page story lost immediate exposure due to the multiple ads competing around the lead story. While advertising is the life blood of print advertising today, more lead ins to the community news content could be preferable. Also, a suggestion would be to move more stories closer to the front of the paper to even out the distribution of content and ads. Congratulations to the staff for a great product.



STOUFFVILLE SUN-TRIBUNE

The Stouffville Sun-Tribune has strong front-page images with excellent, locally relevant news. There is some excellent journalism at work here. The stories contained good headlines and leads with overall decent photo quality and a relevant editorial page. Would avoid using the one column photos where possible, and try to keep column widths consistent, unless it’s a feature page which truly calls for a change. Great work overall!

GENERAL COMMENT

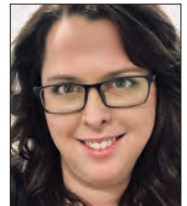
The challenge for Canada’s community newspapers is both to be relevant to the communities they serve and earn enough revenue to pay staff and print the paper. A balance must be achieved between strong editorial content and advertising. Advertising carries these newspapers, but content keeps the readers coming back. It is a balancing act offering local journalism opinion and local reporter stories versus ad space and survival. It is refreshing to have a community paper in hand that covers most if not all of the bases. The staff at the newspapers reviewed clearly go to work to serve readers who, above all, need to be informed.

Judges

Susan Attiana
Publisher,
The Local Weekly,
Sunshine Coast, BC



Danielle Gordon-Broome
Editor,
Swan Valley Star and Times,
Swan River, MB



Jim Mosher
Freelance Editor & Journalist,
Winnipeg Beach, MB



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 6

CIRCULATION 22,500 - 44,999

21 ENTRIES



FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

This is what a community newspaper should look like. The Wellington Advertiser has fantastic coverage of all aspects of the community; nice use of big photos, and head shots to identify people in the story. Classifieds are awesome and the ad designs are simplistic. Layout is good – four (4!) stories on a front page not littered with ads. My only suggestion would be to make the headline fonts bigger, particularly on the front. Great job, team!



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

A clean, colourful presentation, with a modular design. Offers thorough accurate coverage of the local community. These items combine to make Sudbury's Northern Life stand out among its peers.



GUELPH MERCURY TRIBUNE

The Guelph Mercury Tribune immediately grabs a reader's attention with a crisp front page that features a strong lead story and accompanying photo. It follows through with clean, modular layout filled with a good variety of local and area news, arts, feature and sports stories, as well as interesting editorial and opinion pages. The strong classifieds section includes a compelling obit layout that somehow reinforces a sense of community. In all, this paper covers all the bases. Bravo.

GENERAL COMMENT

In all, we were impressed with the focus each and every newspaper had on local news and events, as well as regional stories that mattered to the population it served. Some papers would do well to give more space to arts, entertainment and sports, while others might do well by adding a strong opinion page. And it's nice to see that so many small and medium sized companies, as well as neighbourhood shops and service providers still see a value in print advertising. Well done.

Judges

Anthony Bonaparte

Associate Editor,
The Suburban,
Montreal, QC



John Kendle

Managing Editor,
Canstar Community News,
Winnipeg, MB



Roger Knox

Reporter/Photographer,
The Morning Star,
Vernon, BC



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 7

21 ENTRIES

CIRCULATION 45,000 & OVER



NIAGARA THIS WEEK, ST. CATHARINES

The relationship between a newspaper's editorial and advertising staff is symbiotic. The editorial staff needs the advertising staff to sell lots of ads so there's enough room for stories and photos that appeal to all segments of the community. The advertising staff needs editorial content that's compelling enough to convince advertisers to invest in sharing the same page as those stories. Niagara This Week achieves that perfect harmony. It clearly has a healthy advertising base, which bodes well for the future in an age when many newspapers are scaling back or shutting down. With a fairly high page count, the editorial staff has lots of room to play with. There are imaginative photos – and even photo pages! (What a lost art.) The mix of stories ranges from everything readers need to know about what's going on in their community to everything they want to know, with a few fun moments in between. My first editor always stressed that a good newspaper reflects the community it serves. Not just the "official" voices, but also the stories of the "real" people who live there. Niagara This Week does a good job in holding up that mirror to its readers. Terrific teamwork.



OAKVILLE BEAVER

The Oakville Beaver has a nice mix of news, news features, good photography and community bulletins. However, like many newspapers in this category, more needs to be done to explore stories that don't rely on "official" voices. While such stories are a necessary part of any paper, they don't tend to hold a readers' interest like a well written feature.



AJAX PICKERING NEWS ADVERTISER

The News Advertiser has good local coverage, and a strong editorial and op-ed section. There were good local features and photography. It was one of the only papers with any significant sports coverage. While I realize commuters in suburban areas don't always have the same sort of connection to their communities than people in small towns, sports is a part of the community fibre and shouldn't be ignored.

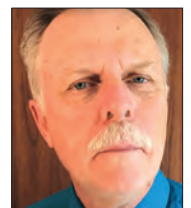
GENERAL COMMENT

Overall, these large newspapers serve their communities well and there is little to find fault with. With all of the entries under the same ownership banner, virtually all of the entries have many of the same strengths and weaknesses. Newspaper revenues struggle, as made clear by the story in many of the newspapers in this category about Canada Post competing with community newspapers. Yet the advertising end of most of these newspapers appears strong. Arts coverage was included in the judging criteria for the first time and most of the entries did a reasonably good job. Perhaps small-town bias, but there is not a lot of difference between arts and sports when it comes to their importance to community life. The reminder to readers that there is more available online is very relevant, and hopefully the combination of print and online will continue to serve these businesses for a long time to come.

Judges

Frank Bucholtz

Columnist,
Black Press Media and
Retired Editor, Langley Times,
Langley, BC



Martha Perkins

Retired Journalist of 30 years,
from manual typewriter to
Google Analytics
Ontario & BC



Andy Walker

Editor,
Island Farm,
Montague, PEI



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 8

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY

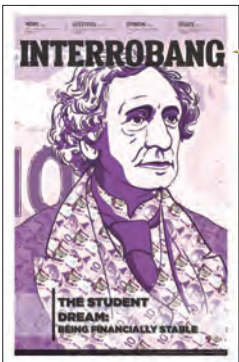
6 ENTRIES



1

DURHAM COLLEGE | THE CHRONICLE

The Chronicle is a fantastic paper! The front pages were eye-catching, however lacked copy on the front. I would have liked to see a story start on the front in place of one of the photos. The news content was a nice mix that mainly focused on campus life, which for a college newspaper, makes sense. The editorial and op/ed pages were fantastic! The presentation of issues was flawless – great use of graphics, photos and pull quotes in the stories. The photography was also solid. The advertising was nicely designed and didn't take up too much space in the paper. I especially liked the use of advertorials. Great local features – interesting topics and solid photography and infographics to go along with them. The sports pages were informative and focused on larger issues, such as a shortage of players to field a team, rather than game results. Overall, the Chronicle is a great paper to read and look at. Congratulations to the team at DC/JOIT!



2

FANSHAWE COLLEGE | INTERROBANG

What a pleasure it was to read The Interrobang! The layout of this publication is excellent! At no point did I wonder to myself why certain things were done the way they were; the features had great graphics, including some cutouts, and it was very easy for the reader to stick with a story as they weren't overly lengthy. A great advertising mix – you can tell that the community reads this publication. Loved the opinion cartoons. The only complaints I have is that there wasn't enough colour for the photos to really shine, and that the front pages are magazine style. Having your biggest story start on the front to catch my attention and make me want to pick it up would be beneficial. Great job by the staff at The Interrobang!



3

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | IMPRINT

The University of Waterloo's Imprint is a well-produced paper. The images on the front pages were nice and impactful. The news content was a nice mix of university and community news, along with general interest pieces in the health and arts categories. The photos that went with the stories were impactful and creative. The editorial and op/ed pages were your run of the mill pages – the content was thoughtful and well written, but it did not make me want to take-action. The presentation of the publication was fantastic. It's clean, sharp images and small things, such as boxes around text and faded images, broke the page up and added a great visual. The advertising content and design was also great. Local features were well-written and informative, and the accompanying graphics and photos were suitable. Great sports section! A nice mix of game results and health issues, good photos and writing. Overall, this is a great paper!

HONOURABLE MENTION

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE | ALGONQUIN TIMES – I really enjoyed reading the Algonquin Times. The front pages had stories that made me want to keep reading, however the photography could have been a bit more impactful. Great features and news stories throughout the paper that dove into hot topic issues on campus and in the community. The editorial pages were good; was nice to see members of the school community have regular pieces on those pages. The presentation was clean and crisp. A nice advertising mix as well. Overall, the team at the Times can and should be proud of their work. Great job!

GENERAL COMMENT

What a tough decision this was! All of the universities/colleges submitted great issues to be judged and I enjoyed reading all of them. Every paper was well presented, contained great content and was unique in its look and feel. The one thing I would recommend to all who submitted is to not overlook the fact that a well-rounded paper includes more than just news. All too often opinion and sports are overlooked or are cut in favour of the hard news items. People love reading opinions and editorials (they drive conversation) and seeing their friends and family excel at sports. Overall, it was a pleasure to judge the General Excellence category this year. Everyone should be proud of their work and the product they put out to their readership each issue. The future of journalism in Ontario is very bright!

Judge

Mike Wilson

Editor, Listowel Banner, Listowel Independent Plus, Walkerton Herald-Times and Wingham Advance Times, Ontario



Mike Wilson is the editor of Midwestern Newspapers' three paid weekly papers – the Listowel Banner, Walkerton Herald-Times and Wingham Advance Times – and the Independent Plus, a free weekly paper serving Huron and Perth counties. Mike began his career in journalism as a freelancer for the Palmerston Observer, and later the Mount Forest Confederate in 2015. He became editor of the Listowel Banner and Wingham Advance Times in 2017, and the Walkerton Herald-Times in 2019.



Premier
Awards



PREMIER AWARDS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

48 ENTRIES



PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK

Todd Vandonk and Catherine Whitnall paint a convincing picture about the multiple ways the arts contribute to society and why there should be better funding to support programs and individual creators. Many voices are included to build the case, rather than just a single perspective, and the many dynamic photos of different groups in action provide the perfect complement. An extremely well-researched and well-crafted piece.



VOICE OF PELHAM

Sam Piccolo gives us a beautifully written piece that describes a unique form of music and the process behind making an album. The contributed artwork by the subject of the story is the perfect choice to illustrate his diverse artistic interests and products. A pleasure both to read and look at.



SARNIA JOURNAL

A fulsome discussion of Sarnia's public art and a little-known committee that could use more support. Original photos showing much of the work discussed helped illustrate the story beautifully, and showed Cathy Dobson is well acquainted with her material. The photo and discussion of the McPherson fountain was especially interesting, but it was a great choice not to limit the story to this one piece.

HONOURABLE MENTION

HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO – A well written entry that demonstrates how art can transform lives, with nice photos showing some of the artwork and multiple voices included. The page layout could have emphasized those photos to better effect, but altogether an engaging and thoughtful submission by Jenn Watt.

SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE – This was a tough one to judge because although the video did a great job of increasing interest in the arts, it didn't really fit the category. The creators can be commended for a terrific commitment to the project and an engaging product, including use of drone footage to truly capture the massive scale of the work. However, a more robust written story to accompany it could have provided much richer reporting and filled in all the questions raised by the video.

GENERAL COMMENT

Most of the entries in this category were very solid examples of community arts reporting, representing the type of good work that local papers supply on a weekly basis. The stories that jumped out as being more award-worthy all achieved something beyond the expected standard, whether by a deeper level of research or insight, or through an extra level of creativity or sparkle to the approach. Use of original photos instead of press hand-outs is not always possible in this field but having a variety of images and/or being careful with the selection to make the most impact is especially important here, with images acting as a crucial partner to the writing component.

Judge

Elizabeth Nolan

Reporter,
Driftwood Gulf Islands
Media
Salt Spring Island, BC



Elizabeth Nolan has worked as a full-time reporter on Salt Spring Island, B.C. since 2010. She is the recipient of multiple national and provincial newspaper awards, including the 2019 award for best arts writing from the BC & Yukon Community Newspaper Association.

Sponsored by: Listowel Banner

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST BUSINESS & FINANCE STORY

49 ENTRIES



1

ARNPRIOR CHRONICLE-GUIDE

Reporter Derek Dunn not only takes readers inside an embalming room at a funeral home in Arnprior, he allows them to venture inside the mind of the embalmer. He weaves the practical with the personal, even the philosophical, as he humanizes one of society's most misunderstood professions. Well done!



2

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, NIAGARA FALLS

Paul Forsyth spins a well-written tale of a dog escaping death row to become an expert bed bug hunter, and the business that talent spawned for the woman who rescued Mercy. Forsyth deftly sets the table by recounting a fortuitous chain of events before exploring the business they created.



3

MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION

Another heart-warming story comes from Steve Leblanc who introduces readers to a developmentally delayed nine-year-old Milton girl who has created her own dog treat business. Leblanc does a nice job of capturing the youngster's joy and determination in launching a venture the whole family has embraced.

GENERAL COMMENT

The best business stories are often the ones that go beyond the numbers to include a human element that lends perspective to a particular situation or issue. There were several strong examples of that approach in this year's entries, highlighted by Derek Dunn's engaging piece on a local funeral home. Unfortunately, there were also a number of entries of a more pedestrian variety, pieces that are perfectly fine in weekly news coverage but not necessarily award worthy.

Judge

Ted Murphy

Editor, Delta Optimist,
Ladner, BC



Ted Murphy has been editor of the Delta Optimist in suburban Vancouver for the past 30 years. He loves the fact community newspapers are an integral part of the areas they cover by providing all kinds of information that readers won't find anywhere else. He also likes that he walks to work and shares his office with his rescue dog. The Optimist has received countless awards under Ted's leadership, including a General Excellence victory in the 2018 Canadian Community Newspaper Association Awards.

PREMIER AWARDS

EDUCATION WRITING

52 ENTRIES



1

OSHAWA THIS WEEK

Outstanding piece of reporting, rare in the small world of community journalism and very much reflecting Jillian Follert's deep knowledge of her subject matter. Her ability to draw upon historical motions before the board and indicate the context of what those led to, as well as a finely balanced look at parental angst and teachers/board constraints, resulted in a very fulsome package of information.



2

CAMBRIDGE TIMES

Bill Doucet's beautiful article about an innovative high school writing/journaling project encapsulated in so few words what passion for knowledge, experience and learning is all about. Beautiful. That's all you need to know.



3

MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION

A fabulous profile on an internationally award-winning librarian that managed to elevate this often-undervalued profession. Steve Leblanc gives us a wonderful, well-written, well-researched and well-told tale of one man's quest to make the library a focus of people's lives in a thoroughly modern fashion. Well done!

HONOURABLE MENTION

NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS – Northumberland News' look at budget cuts in their area. Sarah Hyatt manages to cram in a ton of data, all well-placed in context with the human angst and the politician's weak defense. Comprehensive does not begin to describe this excellent piece of reporting.

GENERAL COMMENT

Some powerful writing in this category that soared above the rote and routine coverage of school board meetings – stenographer journalism. A lot of competence all around, but some amazing gems to be found.

Judge

Carol Picard

Co-Founder & Former Editor,
Rocky Mountain Outlook,
Public School Board Chair,
Canmore, AB



Carol Picard is a retired journalist and editor, and co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Outlook in Alberta's Bow Valley, which has won numerous AWNA and CCNA first place awards for everything from editorials to features and both spot and news coverage. She currently sits as chair of the local public-school board.

Sponsored by: Ontario Journalism Educators Association

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST EDITORIAL CIRC. 10,000+



BRAMPTON GUARDIAN

The Brampton Guardian's concise defence of the role of the newspaper in documenting a tragedy in the community was a beautiful example of standing up for the profession in the face of criticism. They are lucky to have this writer on staff to be able, in so few words, to express the weighty duties and decisions of this profession.



FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

The Wellington Advertiser's entry was a great takedown of the kind of bureaucratic stonewalling we all know and love so well. It makes the bureaucrats squirm and the politicians quiver, so well done. Such an opinion piece can only be deployed when the behaviour justifies it, and the writer very clearly spells out the contortions that led to these words. No sheeple on this paper.



BARRIE ADVANCE

The Barrie Advance levels some well-earned criticism at the local officials and challenges them to get their heads out of the ballot box. Powerful, concise and pointed – everything a good editorial should be.

HONOURABLE MENTION

ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN – Wow. Well done. Gave me personally some food for thought. Well written with nice phrasing. Exactly the kind of strong and strongly stated opinion local readers should all be getting in their local papers.

GENERAL COMMENT

Wow, Ontario community newspapers have very much upped their game with editorials over the last few years. Not long ago "on the one hand, on the other hand" was the standard for small-town opinion (and fear of offending advertisers) but this year was difficult to judge. The subjectivity of the reader is very much at play, and any one of the top four could well have won. Well done, all.

Judge

Carol Picard

Co-Founder & Former Editor,
Rocky Mountain Outlook,
Public School Board Chair,
Canmore, AB



Carol Picard is a retired journalist and editor, and co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Outlook in Alberta's Bow Valley, which has won numerous AWNA and CCNA first place awards for everything from editorials to features and both spot and news coverage. She currently sits as chair of the local public-school board.

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST EDITORIAL CIRC. -9,999

26 ENTRIES



EGANVILLE LEADER

Very well written. A universal topic that reaches everyone. Strongly written and argued.



MANOTICK MESSENGER

Wow. Great issue. Well discussed.



HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

Well written and well-debated. Strong argument backed by facts and numbers. Well done.

GENERAL COMMENT

There are a few essential keys to writing a great editorial. First of all, the lead should be tight, grab the readers' attention, and begin defining what the discussion is going to be. Have a point of view. Background for issues should be given – never presume the reader knows the history of the issue at hand or has read articles regarding the topic. Your editorial should have points that back up your viewpoint – build your case! Use statistics if applicable. Sum it up in a closing statement. As for layout, please make sure you take out the hyphens. It's very distracting for the eye. There were some absolutely outstanding editorials submitted, giving great debates for their topics. It made for a very difficult decision for the top placements.

Judge

Sheena Read
Freelance Journalist,
AB



Sheena Read has been a photojournalist, editor and communications specialist in Alberta for a lengthy career. She is now doing contract communications and promotions and is focused on community involvement and how communications impact it.

PREMIER AWARDS

ENVIRONMENT ONTARIO

53 ENTRIES



RICHMOND HILL/THORNHILL LIBERAL

Kim Zarzour gives us outstanding research and great writing that successfully turns what could be a dry issue into a compelling one. By juxtaposing the issue of public safety against the issue of red tape, it shows just how backwards, and potentially shortsighted the government's priorities are.



CARLETON PLACE/ALMONTE CANADIAN GAZETTE

Tara Gesner takes the human angle to an important environmental issue. On the technical side of writing, it might be of benefit to paraphrase some quotes instead of using ellipses in each one. Use a little more background on the floods in order to make it complete. Overall, very well done.



SMITHS FALLS RECORD NEWS

Evelyn Harford does an excellent job showing the impact bad water has on local people.

GENERAL COMMENT

I was so pleased with the quality of many of these stories. The depth of reporting and desire to discover the impacts of environmental issues shone through. The variety of stories told here show how environmental journalism is more important than ever.

Judge

April Hudson

Editor,
St. Albert Gazette,
St. Albert, AB

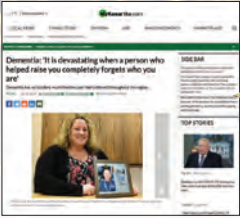


April Hudson is the editor of the twice-weekly St. Albert Gazette and has spent her career reporting and editing in Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

PREMIER AWARDS

HEALTH & WELLNESS

59 ENTRIES



PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK

A personal angle was woven nicely in with expert opinion and statistics in this article, sharing the reality of Alzheimer's progression. Todd Vandonk and Catherine Whitnall present challenges along with tools to combat them, such as music therapy. The visualization of staff, with hands gently on a dying resident, humming "Happy Birthday" was a powerful one that speaks to the importance of caregivers. I would only suggest closing with a quote or reference to Hele, in the same way the piece opened.



SMITHS FALLS RECORD NEWS

It would be interesting to know how many organ donor cards were signed after this article was released. The young woman featured was captivating and statistics showing that the first sharing of her story resulted in an increase in people signing organ donor cards was impressive. Laurie Weir's article had the opportunity to make a difference not only for a single person needing assistance with medical costs but for the multitude on the giving and receiving ends of organ donation.



UXBRIDGE COSMOS

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove's article paints a picture of dementia care both through words and photos. A comparison of Elliot's "DementiAbility" method to other types of care would have provided some contrast, along with local and/or provincial statistics.

HONOURABLE MENTION

BRAMPTON GUARDIAN – There were several entries speaking to funding changes affecting families with autism. Through a personal example, Maryam Mirza spoke to specific costs and the negative impact a father fears will fall on his son as he grows to adulthood.

GENERAL COMMENT

The entries in this category provided about eight hours of good reading. I drew both inspiration and knowledge and found myself drawn to the articles that artfully mixed personal stories and impacts with fact and news. The balance can be tricky to find – some pieces were strict presentations of fact while others were very personal but could have used specific statistics. The impact of the right photo was also noted even though it didn't show as a specific number in the judging. Overall the articles were well written, enjoyable and informative with a variety of interesting topics. I appreciated those who took the time to make multi-page PDFs and liked seeing the articles presented on the original page. One stylistic note would be to the use of hyphens. After reading 59 articles, many of them lengthy, I can say that excessive hyphenation made the reading more challenging, especially in cases where hyphens were also used instead of long dashes. I had to go back and re-read fairly often in these instances and some engaging stories were in danger of becoming tedious reads. Thank you for the opportunity to learn through your work.

Judge

Shannon Robison

Publisher,
Shootin' the Breeze,
Pincher Creek, AB



Shannon Robison is owner and publisher of Shootin' the Breeze, a weekly community newspaper in southwestern Alberta. She is passionate about the power of words and about her community and its people. Shannon believes community papers will continue to have value for many years to come.

PREMIER AWARDS

FEATURE WRITING CIRC. 10,000+

47 ENTRIES



BRADFORD WEST GWILLIMBURY TOPIC

A well-researched, expansive piece that addresses its subject thoroughly. Kim Zarzour put a lot of effort into this and canvassed a lot of voices.



NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

A thorough presentation on the topic of suicide chock full of statistics and data. Sarah Hyatt makes use of the personal element of the tragedy of suicide through the voices of people trying to make a difference.



RICHMOND HILL/THORNHILL LIBERAL

Kim Zarzour went to a lot of effort to get a diversity of voices into the story. She also included excellent side bars that provide useful information for readers, whether they be long-term residents or newcomers themselves.

GENERAL COMMENT

This was a wonderful category to judge. Feature writing is frequently when reporters put their best effort forward because the stories are unique and touch both the subjects and the readers in an emotional way or have an impact beyond regular reporting. All of these entries were fascinating and were a pleasure to read.

Judge

Alistair Taylor

Editor,
Campbell River Mirror
Campbell River, BC



Alistair Taylor, an award-winning journalist, avid outdoorsman, music lover and family man, is editor of the Campbell River Mirror, a position he's held since 1989. He started his career with a brief stint in Delta, BC before relocating to Whitehorse, Yukon to work for the Yukon News.

Sponsored by: O'Donnell, Robertson & Partners

PREMIER AWARDS

FEATURE WRITING CIRC. -9,999

26 ENTRIES



1

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

Warren Schloté's beautifully written feature story brings its readers onto the water with the boat-builders and reveals their personalities, while adding interesting technical and historical information to the mix.



2

MINDEN TIMES

Sue Tiffin gives us an in-depth sense of what propels people to dedicate so much time and resource to improving the lives of feral or abandoned cats. Nicely written too.



3

BARRHAVEN INDEPENDENT

Writer Jeff Morris weaves the experiences and perspectives of three family members as one is set to donate a kidney to another. It provides interesting medical information and has real emotional impact as well.

GENERAL COMMENT

Most of the entries in this category were pretty ordinary fare. The best stories were derived from reporters talking to at least three people and bringing in other relevant information about the topic. Excellent writing that doesn't rush the reader through the story and is free of grammatical errors or typos also made some entries stand out.

Judge

Gail Sjuberg

Editor,
Gulf Islands Driftwood,
Salt Spring Island, BC



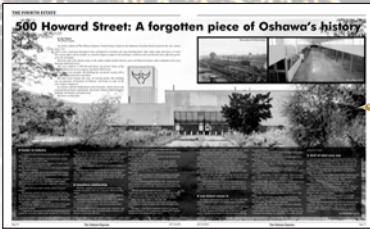
Gail Sjuberg has been the editor of the award-winning Gulf Islands Driftwood newspaper in B.C. since 2003 and in the community newspaper business for almost 30 years. She is also the editor of the Driftwood's Aqua - Gulf Islands Living magazine and the Gulf Islander tourist guide and has been a judge for numerous community newspaper competitions. She was the 2019 CCNA feature series award winner for under 4,000 circulation.

Sponsored by: O'Donnell, Robertson & Partners

PREMIER AWARDS

HERITAGE

54 ENTRIES



OSHAWA EXPRESS

Dave Flaherty's detailed history of an industrial property in the Oshawa Express is not a common topic for heritage stories, but this story is both highly relevant and important in a city whose economy is changing rapidly. Well-researched and very interesting.



NIAGARA THIS WEEK, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE ADVANCE

This important story by Beth Audet reminded residents that the founder of their town, which is a living piece of history in itself, is not being remembered in the way that he should be. This story goes to the roots of what a heritage story should be.



BARRY'S BAY, THE VALLEY GAZETTE

Katrina Boguski wrote a well-researched feature on a very fascinating and well-known Canadian artist. This story was a pleasure to read. The artwork which illustrated this story really helped with the understanding of a complex personality.

HONOURABLE MENTION

PARRY SOUND NORTH STAR – John Macfie was a community treasure. In addition to being a prolific writer, he took photos and taped interviews with old-timers, to preserve the history of the various places he lived. Stephannie Johnson tells us exactly how much he will be missed.

PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK – The Quaker Oats factory and mill is a significant part of Peterborough. Taylor Clysdale tells of a devastating fire which destroyed the original mill in 1916.

ORILLIA TODAY – Frank Matys gives us a very important heritage story, as it covers the varying interpretation of and feelings about historic statues and what to do about those ones which cause a lot of controversy. There is no easy answer.

GENERAL COMMENT

The entries in the heritage category covered a wide variety of topics and came from many perspectives. Many stories were about historic and well-loved buildings, and many others were about people. War was a common theme with stories from the War of 1812, the First World War and the Second World War. Aboriginal history also was covered in a number of stories – important in an era of reconciliation. The three that were the eventual winners were just ahead of many others. The topic of heritage is well-covered by Ontario community newspapers. Undoubtedly, these stories are well-read.

Judge

Frank Bucholtz

Columnist,
Black Press Media and
Retired Editor, Langley Times,
BC



Frank Bucholtz has been in the community newspaper industry since 1978. He retired as editor of the Langley Times in 2015 and continues to write columns for Langley Advance Times and other community newspapers in the Greater Vancouver and Fraser Valley areas. He also blogs on a variety of topics at frankbucholtz.blogspot.ca. He has judged numerous better newspaper contests for OCNA and other Canadian newspaper organizations, and in B.C. has served as a judge for the Webster Journalism Awards.

Sponsored by: Fort Frances Times

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST INVESTIGATIVE NEWS STORY

44 ENTRIES



VOICE OF PELHAM

Dave Burket took the time to investigate all information, collected the data and reported in a clear, concise manner. This opened an issue with the community that few people would be willing to do. Excellent work.



ORANGEVILLE BANNER

Good investigation and interviews. Detailed reporting. Lots of "Need to know" info on a national crisis. Chris Halliday does a good job bringing the issue to the forefront.



OAKVILLE BEAVER

A well-researched and written story by David Lea. Well done exposing this to the community and taxpayers.

HONOURABLE MENTION

BARRY'S BAY, THE VALLEY GAZETTE – Christine Hudder shared details and information that's of interest to all. She dug deep for detail and touched on a very important topic. All questions asked and answered. Good work.

GENERAL COMMENT

It was my privilege and honour to judge this fine category of Best Investigative News. Each and every one of the entries were worthy of consideration. I was amazed at the depth of investigation reporters undertook to bring the details to readers. They all exhibited passion for their craft. To say choosing a winner was difficult is an understatement. There are fine writers in the OCNA. Congratulations to the winners and to those who do not receive a certificate, never quit.

Judge

Darci Semeschuk

Manager,
Souris Plaindealer, a
division of Glacier Media Ventures.
Souris, MB



Darci Semeschuk has been working in the newspaper industry since 1997, beginning as a minor reporter at the Souris Plaindealer in our small town of Souris, Manitoba. It's a role she immediately loved. Nothing is more fulfilling than bringing the story to the public. She's worked through three different owners and is currently working for Glacier Media Ventures in what has become a one-man newsroom. She's seen first-hand the challenges that are affecting our industry as we all do what we can to bring our very best to our readers. Like the industrious reporters in the OCNA, she's submitted many articles for judging, and is proud to say a few plaques hang on her wall. She is honoured to be able to judge this fine category.

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST NEWS STORY CIRC. 10,000+

47 ENTRIES



PERTH COURIER

Good work throughout this piece. From research to execution to final product, Desmond Devoy gives us a great read on an extremely contentious story.



MUSKOKAREGION.COM

Alison Brownlee presents a strong package and presentation of news in words. A bit long in the write, but the details are all there, as plans continue to evolve.



WASAGA/STAYNER SUN

Ian Adams gives us a great presentation and works through a complex story to break it down for readers. Good job.

GENERAL COMMENT

Less than three points separated the top 10 news stories in Ontario this year. It was the toughest and most diverse year I've had for judging in my 15 years or so of doing it. Great work.

Judge



Rob Brown

Managing Editor,
Dawson Creek Mirror,
Dawson Creek, BC

Rob Brown is an award-winning journalist, and photographer, and the managing editor of the Dawson Creek Mirror. He has been writing for newspapers, stage, and screen, each and every day since 1998. He is British Columbia's only 2019 News Media Canada Quill recipient for 20 plus years in journalism.

Sponsored by: **Hydro One**

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST NEWS STORY CIRC. -9,999

19 ENTRIES



1

GLANBROOK GAZETTE

Tamara Botting shows us why community news matters. Well done.



2

THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

Heather Wright gives us such an important story. The pressures small town papers are under to NOT report these stories, makes this one even more significant. Well done.



3

WALKERTON HERALD TIMES

What an important story. This is why community news and community reporters like Jonathan Zettel matter. Well done.

HONOURABLE MENTION

AYLMER EXPRESS – A great news story for all journalists!

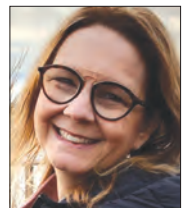
GENERAL COMMENT

Reading all of these great stories makes me proud of the work small community newspapers do. It was so hard to pick winners. Every story entered is important and was well done. Special shout out to those that fought forces that tried to quiet them. The journalists who were acquitted in Aylmer deserve honourable mention for fighting the good fight. Keep up the good work all.

Judge

Jennifer Thuncher

Editor,
The Squamish Chief,
Squamish, BC



Jennifer Thuncher is the editor and a roving reporter at The Squamish Chief. She can be found chasing down the paper's other journalists, local politicians or wildlife, depending on the day. She is a Simon Fraser University and Langara journalism grad. She had careers as an English instructor, administrative assistant and ice-cream scooper in her life before journalism.

Sponsored by: **Hydro One**

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST RURAL STORY CIRC. 10,000+

27 ENTRIES



1

ORANGEVILLE BANNER

Strongly written article illuminates the prevalence of rural domestic violence. Excellent research weaved throughout the story to provide broader context to personal narratives told. Alexandra Heck's coverage not only tells of a rural issue occurring across the country but highlights how action is being taken to reduce occurrences. Choice of photos illustrate the issue on a theoretical and personal level. Well done!



2

WASAGA/STAYNER SUN

A colourful opening to this piece paints just the right amount – Ian Adams teasing the reader of what is to come. Details of the hemp operation and the possibilities that the industry holds are well examined. Common confusion between hemp and cannabis is handled in a clear and concise fashion. Relevance to both local economy and national level health is well navigated. Photo perfectly illustrates the issue. Congratulations. .



3

PORT PERRY/UXBRIDGE, THE STANDARD

A well-written piece highlighting the demographic and technological shift in today's farming. Subject is painted as committed to change but also personable and non-judgmental of neighbours. Eve-Lynn Swan gives us a great opening paragraph, setting the scene for the reader. Shift to electric tractors is compelling as an environmental success story and is good news for readers. Section header is attractive and clearly denotes the subject at hand. Photo tells the story. Overall, a job well done.

HONOURABLE MENTION

ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER – By far and away, the most graphically appealing piece in the category. Faisal Ali's writing is strong and compelling with factual information about the maple syrup industry. This pairs nicely with the personal story of the lead subject. While a beautiful portrait of a man in agriculture, the piece leans more towards human interest than agricultural or rural reporting.

GENERAL COMMENT

The variety of interesting topics combined with consistently high-quality work made judging this category difficult. As a fellow rural journalist, it can be hard to find stories of development and progress to feature when decline feels all around us. The best stories in this category showed the balance between decline and triumph of adversity.

Judge

Andrew Brooks
Publisher,
The Victoria Standard,
Baddeck, NS



Andrew Brooks has been the Publisher of The Victoria Standard since taking over the newspaper in May 2016. Serving Victoria County, Cape Breton and beyond, The Standard received the general excellence award for its class in the 2019 Canadian Community Newspaper Awards. Before entering journalism, Brooks earned a Masters in Cultural Anthropology from the CUNY Graduate Center, a degree in Environmental Studies at York University and previously studied film at Ryerson University.

Sponsored by: Ontario Federation of Agriculture

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST RURAL STORY CIRC.-9,999

21 ENTRIES



1

BARRY'S BAY, THE VALLEY GAZETTE

Well done. This is a great piece. Christine Hudder tackled a tough subject and told a story that needed to be told. I think you approached it with the sensitivity and care it deserved. It's also very interesting to hear that this story had an impact, eventually leading to local physicians forming one unified patient waiting list. Great job.



2

EGANVILLE LEADER

Fantastic story; what a journey. Debbi Christinck's piece is a great tribute to this community. Sometimes documenting groups like this can be hard, as they tend to be quite private. However, this piece documented their story very well, with transparency and sensitivity. Well done.



3

VOICE OF PELHAM

What a story. Where do I even begin? First of all, well done to Dave Burket and Sam Piccolo for translating all this information into a well-structured, easy-to-read story. I can't imagine how long you worked on this. It's very commendable that you took this story on and followed through with it the entire way. A bizarre, but important story to tell.

HONOURABLE MENTION

WINGHAM ADVANCE TIMES – Nice piece by Jordan Snobelen. Well thought out, well researched and interesting. I really like the wide variety of perspectives shared. It may have been nice to add a farmer's perspective to give a sense of just how detrimental this issue is. Some grammatical errors and poor choice of words made me stumble in some areas. Overall, good story, well done.

GENERAL COMMENT

First of all, congratulations to everyone who entered into this category. I read some fantastic stories, many that made me audibly say 'wow'. In the end, I chose stories that had the most impact, and stories about topics often untold. However, I will admit choosing the top four was not easy. The list of stories I was given to critique contained some amazing pieces. Having started my journalism career in a small town, I understand that they contain some of the best stories out there, and this category is proof of that. Well done to all of you and a special congratulations to our winners.

Judge

Phil McLachlan

Editor,
Penticton Western News,
Penticton, BC



Phil McLachlan is the editor at the Penticton Western News. Prior to this he served as reporter, and eventually editor for three years at The Free Press newspaper in Fernie. Before Fernie, he worked for the Meridian Booster in Lloydminster, Alta. Since graduating from Loyalist College's Photojournalism Program in 2016, he has been nominated for and won several provincial and national newspaper awards. He possesses a passion for storytelling, an appreciation of community news, and a love for photography.

Sponsored by: Ontario Federation of Agriculture

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST FEATURE/NEWS SERIES CIRC. 10,000+

42 ENTRIES



1 VAUGHAN CITIZEN

If this had just been a recap of an old story, it would have been interesting but not an award winner. Jeremy Grimaldi not only traces the past investigation into the murder of a young girl, but interviews people who were closely involved, including police, family members and the brother of the girl's boyfriend, who was a main suspect. This required a great deal of trust from interview subjects. This series proves he earned it.



2 BARRIE ADVANCE

This is a near-perfect feature series. Janis Ramsay takes a subject – the epidemic of loneliness – and explores it in a way that is both personal and societal. To illustrate the issue, she profiles people who have found solutions, as well as people who bring light to the subject through their profession.



3 SARNIA JOURNAL

Excellent writing by Troy Shantz makes this series sing and soar. He seamlessly weaves in several interviews to give his stories relevance to the wider community, not just victims. The only downside is that given the time between stories, it's not so much a feature series as a series of connected features.

GENERAL COMMENT

There were many contenders for top spot in this category. Newspapers are taking on some of the most compelling issues of our day. What set the winners apart, however, was their ability to engage readers through good storytelling. It's not enough to provide useful information; you've got to compel readers to want to spend 15 minutes of their time to understand why that information is important.

Judge

Martha Perkins

Retired journalist of
30 years
Ontario and
British Columbia



Martha Perkins spent 30 years as an editor of community newspapers, ranging from the Haliburton Echo in Ontario to the Vancouver Courier in B.C. She has won numerous awards for her dedication to sharing people's stories.

Sponsored by: **Hydro One**

PREMIER AWARDS

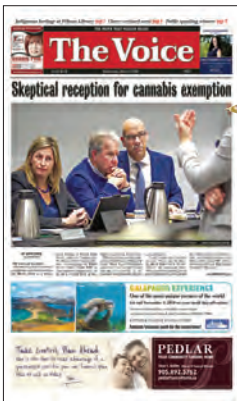
BEST FEATURE/NEWS SERIES CIRC.-9,999

18 ENTRIES



EGANVILLE LEADER

These articles all appeared in the same issue, and though that perhaps doesn't quite fit the spirit of the category, the subject material, relevance to readers and depth of coverage lifted this to the top.



VOICE OF PELHAM

John Chick, Dave Burket and Gloria Katch gave us articles that didn't strongly connect as a series. The writing and reporting was strong throughout and the final two articles were, I presume, must-read pieces in the community.



BRACEBRIDGE EXAMINER

Mary Beth Hartill gave us a series of dedicated coverage to a major news story. This entry benefited from its obvious relevance to readers. The writing was good, and the stories were well-presented.

GENERAL COMMENT

I felt only a handful of entries really fit the spirit of the category by presenting a planned branded series. Most were either continuing coverage of a news story or expanded one-issue coverage of a major story. However, the contest rules seem to allow various interpretations of a feature/news series and so all entries were judged on their merits. Many news teams exhibited dedicated coverage, found interesting angles and composed their pieces well.

Judge

Greg Sakaki

Editor,
Nanaimo News Bulletin,
Nanaimo, BC



Greg Sakaki has worked in the community newspaper business for more than 15 years and has won national newspaper awards for editorial writing.

Sponsored by: **Hydro One**

PREMIER AWARDS

SPORT & RECREATION STORY

44 ENTRIES



1

SARNIA JOURNAL

One of the most well-written stories among all entered. Tight, crisp and informative. Multiple voices added depth and the quotes are well chosen and show Cathy Dobson was really listening. The narrative is engaging. Really good story.



2

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, THE LEADER

Very well written. James Culic brings the reader straight into the home, next to the kids. An excellent decision. Focusing on the boy and his sister and adding rich descriptions and sharp quotes makes this story on a new head of a Special Olympics group so much more interesting to read.



3

BARRY'S BAY, THE VALLEY GAZETTE

Katrina Boguski gives us a lovely piece on an unsung hero.

HONOURABLE MENTION

MINDEN TIMES – Judging criteria for this category states “Story should help people become more aware of and more involved in sport, recreational and fitness opportunities in the community.” Sue Tiffin’s story nails that part. Very well written.

CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS – Tightly written story. Shawna O’Neill gives us good information and a nice profile of an up-and-coming athlete.

GENERAL COMMENT

The submissions all excelled in what community papers should be excelling in – focusing on local people and events. Hyperlocal is what separates community newspapers and the rest of the media. The best of the bunch had a few things in common: great ledes, tightly written copy, well-chosen quotes and multiple sources. The latter – more than one subject/voice – was lacking in many submissions. Adding voices to those stories would have made them stronger.

Judge

Chris Foulds

Editor,
Kamloops This Week,
Kamloops, BC



Christopher Foulds is editor of Kamloops This Week, a twice-weekly newspaper published in Kamloops, B.C., a city of 95,000 in the province’s Interior. Foulds has been editor for 15 years and spent 13 years before that as assistant editor and reporter at the Abbotsford News.

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST HEADLINE WRITING

15 ENTRIES



VOICE OF PELHAM

Very catchy use of space, font size and color for the Me them Too article. Good headlines. They really grab the reader's attention.



AYR NEWS

Very good job on these headlines – they are smart and good hooks for the reader. Well done!



CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS

The cannabis head is a groaner! But we have had so many opportunities for these ones this year – we'll probably never get such great opportunities again! Good heads, very effective.

GENERAL COMMENT

A great headline should grab the reader's attention and compel them to read the article. There are lots of rules to writing a headline, but often the best ones break all the rules. Don't use quotation marks unless your headline really snaps. Use strong language. If you're doing a play on words, make it edgy. We all have websites, so it's always a good idea to use keywords that will come up in a search, as well as tagging the article. Keep it concise. The winning articles followed all these tips!

Judge



Sheena Read
Freelance Journalist,
AB

Sheena Read has been a photojournalist, editor and communications specialist in Alberta for a lengthy career. She is now doing contract communications and promotions and is focused on community involvement and how communications impact it.

PREMIER AWARDS

HUMOUR COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

9 ENTRIES



NIAGARA THIS WEEK, THE LEADER | JAMES CULIC

Filled with laughs. Nice touch on the unique sign offs for each column.



HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO | STEVE GALEA

Well put together with great story telling and sense of humour.



MANOTICK MESSENGER | JEFF MORRIS

Good use of emotion. Able to paint a picture with words well.

GENERAL COMMENT

I looked forward to judging this category and the entrants did not disappoint. Creativity, words of wisdom and laughs were plentiful. Hopefully in the future more will feel the desire to enter.

Judge

Trent Allen
Editor,
Opasquia Times,
The Pas, MB



Trent Allen is the editor for the Opasquia Times and has spent 14 years in the industry, the first three years as a reporter before assuming the role of editor. Currently focused primarily on municipal politics, Allen has spent stints in the past covering virtually all topics, including sports, community events, features and as a news reporter.

PREMIER AWARDS

COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

24 ENTRIES



MISSISSAUGA NEWS | JOHN STEWART

Stewart doesn't just analyze an issue, he injects it with personalities and anecdotes, engaging the reader with flare. His disciplined style sets him apart from the field.



MANOTICK MESSENGER | JEFF MORRIS

Morris has you at 'hello'. He brings a consistent voice to a variety of topics and is relatable, thoughtful, and sometimes amusing.



NIAGARA THIS WEEK, THE LEADER | JAMES CULIC

Culic is a fine storyteller with a gift for the twist in the tale.

HONOURABLE MENTION

EGANVILLE LEADER | JOHANNA ZOMERS – A unique entry, and a writer who must inspire readers to call grandma.

GENERAL COMMENT

The winners stand out for their consistent voices and discipline within the craft. This is a category showcasing diverse views and styles, demonstrating that community newspaper readers are well served on the opinion pages.

Judge



Andrea DeMeer
 Publisher/Editor,
 Similkameen Spotlight,
 Princeton, BC

Andrea DeMeer is the publisher and editor of The Similkameen Spotlight newspaper in Princeton, B.C. She is a former Sun Media executive, and over the last 20 years has been recipient of numerous awards and honours for opinion, column, and humour writing.

PREMIER AWARDS

REPORTER OF THE YEAR | STEPHEN SHAW AWARD

12 ENTRIES



1

RICHMOND HILL/THORNHILL LIBERAL | KIM ZARZOUR

Great range of stories and a wonderful feature-writing style that takes a local perspective and ties it to a larger social, economic and cultural challenge, allowing readers/viewers to understand the relevance of the issue. Also, three important areas of coverage that reflect key current issues that are matters of public interest.



2

HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER | JOSEPH QUIGLEY

Three strong stories and all well executed. These stories reflect the reporter's range of reporting interests and the ability to research and report on them. These stories also had impact, as in the case of the girls' ice hockey team and their time on ice. The long-term care home evacuation is also an important issue. Well done!



3

VAUGHAN CITIZEN | JEREMY GRIMALDI

An excellent range of stories that have been well researched, reported and written. The reporter made an effort to really spend time with sources, as well as primary documents, to build and construct the narrative for both the scam story, as well as the gang piece on Lee. He also shows empathy for Lee by detailing the circumstances of his life and the potential impact the loss of his parents' life had on him. Great narrative, strong reporting and an eye for detail.

HONOURABLE MENTION

OTTAWA COMMUNITY VOICE, WEST CARLETON | ERIN MCCrackEN – Excellent

coverage. Well written. This work takes readers into the world of residents of Constance Bay and McLaren's Landing. One comment/concern about the coverage of floods is the missing voice or coverage of women. As has historically happened, coverage (and hence the public record) focuses on what men do in times of crisis. Women appear invisible in both the stories and the photographs. Sometimes it is harder to find that story, but it might be something worth thinking about in future crisis situations.

GENERAL COMMENT

I really enjoyed reading the strong entries for this category. They reflect reporters' commitment to the craft of journalism, and also a commitment to cover news, events and issues that concern Ontario's many communities, small, medium and large. It is clear that there are common issues at the local level that require local media attention: an opioid crisis that is leading to the loss of life and devastation of families; natural disasters impacted by a growing climate crisis and mental health issues that continue to challenge our ability to report on them. All the reporters in this category are worthy of recognition; sadly, there are only a few awards. The ones that stood out in this lot reflect a commitment to deep reporting, sourcing a range of voices (avoiding the single-interview narrative) and finding a way to tie the importance of the individual story to the larger local, and sometimes, provincial or national, community.

Judge



Sonya Fatah

Assistant Professor,
Ryerson School of
Journalism, Toronto, ON

Sonya Fatah is an assistant professor at the Ryerson School of Journalism. She is also a freelance journalist with over 15 years of field experience, much of it reporting overseas in India and Pakistan. Her research interests include exploring new journalistic practices; examining the impact of nationalism on storytelling; and finding pathways for more inclusive journalism. Fatah has a master's degree in Journalism from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and a master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. She is the EIC of J-Source. Thank you to Gary Gould for the wonderful photo.

Sponsored by: Ontario Power Generation

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST PHOTO LAYOUT

35 ENTRIES



FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

This photo layout had all the elements of a great layout working with a difficult story. How do you make a bunch of music acts look interesting? Kelly Waterhouse, Phil Gravelle and Chris Daponte did it with artistic fonts, by utilizing the background screened photo of The Tribe Called Red and art. The use of the full shot of the stage and crowd at the bottom finished this layout off. Great job.



THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

Wow! Great story telling in Heather Wright's choice of photos. It took all your readers right into the middle of the filming. Font choice for the heading was fantastic.



NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER

Great variety in the layout of strong, sharp photos. A minor suggestion would be to include a small photo with the carry-over. Sue Nielsen's photos told the story well with a superb layout. Congratulations.

HONOURABLE MENTION

SARNIA JOURNAL – Excellent photography and lots of patience by Ronny D'Haene demonstrated in this layout. I often suggest the use of illustrations, different fonts and not just boxes for the photos to gain extra points in design and imagination but in this case the purpose is scenic and wildlife and the photos capture all of that. Congratulations!

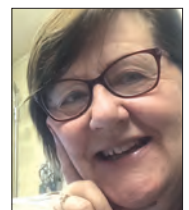
ETOBICOKE GUARDIAN – Excellent photos by Justin Greaves that captured the excitement of the win. The Toronto skyline, the basketball and the hoop gave this photo layout extra points. Good job. The only suggestion I would have would be a few less photos so you could use the Lowry pic much bigger showing more effectively the crowds in the reflection in his sunglasses and maybe fading that photo into the story rather than all of them bordered as a square or rectangle.

GENERAL COMMENT

I didn't get far into the judging of these 35 entries before I found a winner. The use of the large screened photos in the background, the idea for dividing the other photos, and the font for the headline, all added to the Best Photo Layout. This is a tough competition, with lots of entries, so to rise to the top the layout needs a lot of varying components. Congratulations to all participants. Great job.

Judge

Joyce Webster
Publisher/Owner,
East Central Alberta
Review,
Coronation, AB



Joyce Webster has been in the newspaper world for 39 years, most of those years as publisher of a community newspaper in east central Alberta. She's taken many photography courses from award winning photographers and has won several photography awards.

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST FEATURE PHOTO, CIRC. 10,000 +

32 ENTRIES



1

PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK

How can you not love a shot of a girl with a chicken on her head – and her shoulders? This shot is just pure fun. It's technically well-crafted and composed, but what sets this shot apart is – as with my other top selections - it's feeling of spontaneity. Photographer Lance Anderson fired the shutter at that decisive moment when the subject's smile and the birds poses combined (notice the girl's slightly off-camera glance) to portray an image that looks as if the readers just walked into the room and witnessed it happen in front of them. A photo that brings life to – and from – the party. You see a shot like this and you're going to read the article. Well done!



2

SCARBOROUGH MIRROR

Dan Pearce nailed this shot that instantly tells a story. The wonderful expression on the subject. Her eyes that portray her joy and limited movement. The easel, pallet, the hands holding it and the brush are all tools brought into play in the photo to tell the story. The focus and exposure choices and use of available light all combine with that wonderful expression to give a truly spontaneous (and the spontaneity is what fully realizes this as a really beautiful environmental portrait-style feature image. Way to capture the moment!



3

RICHMOND HILL/THORNHILL LIBERAL

Justin Greaves gives us a well thought out shot with plenty of immediate impact. It lures the reader to explore the article. Great job!

HONOURABLE MENTION

YORK-CITY CENTRE NEIGHBOURHOOD VOICE – Arrrgh! Picking an honourable mention is hard, man! I like the way Justin Greaves approaches and composes his shots and the body of his work submitted shows he is a first-rate photojournalist with no shortage of talent. If this image of the Raptors player with the trophy had been given larger play on the page, it would have better portrayed his intent to combine all the elements of the moment into one shot. Likewise, if the expression on the player's face was slightly more animated. Overall a well-exposed, well composed image that helps further the story.

GENERAL COMMENT

Again, there were some real standouts from a field of strong talent in this category. It sounds cliché, but it really was hard to pick the winning photos from the field of images that bubbled to the surface and I really waffled back and forth agonizing over which photo should get first or second place – and choosing the third place versus honourable mention was genuine agony. I could have easily had two or three honorable mentions or three firsts and two seconds for that matter – and I guess that's a good indicator of the quality of work submitted for this category this year. Congratulations to all of you!

Judge



Chris Bush

Photographer,
Nanaimo News Bulletin,
Nanaimo, BC

Chris Bush has been with the Nanaimo News Bulletin since 1998. He is the News Bulletin's lead photographer and has photographed and reported on spot news, business, technology, features, advertising, sports and just about anything else that gets tossed on his desk. Bush holds several provincial and national awards for spot and feature photography. photos@nanaimobulletin.com

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST FEATURE PHOTO, CIRC. -9,999

23 ENTRIES



ARNPRIOR CHRONICLE-GUIDE

Often feature photos are the product of chance. This one from Shery Haaima was intentional, but it has a feeling of a bright moment in the woods being captured. Excellent work in an historic lumbering part of the province.



GLANBROOK GAZETTE

I really like the fact that the story with this feature photo starts on the front page. The image by Tamara Botting pulls one into reading and illustrates what we're told about the child. Well done!



LISTOWEL BANNER

Wonderful shot by Dan McNee to capture little Jude's face wrapped around by water droplets. Well done!

GENERAL COMMENT

A good feature photo can stand alone if it's strong enough or it can elevate a feature story and make it more powerful. There were many excellent candidates this year in this category. The top three were selected for their outstanding visual appeal. Knowing the winning image was taken by an editorial staffer who went beyond the call of duty made that choice an easy one. Kudos!

Judge

Wendy Elliott

Columnist,
Valley Journal Advertiser,
Annapolis Valley, NS



An OCNA judge for several years, Wendy Elliott was a reporter and editor in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia for 40 years. She won some regional and national newspaper awards and is currently a columnist with the Valley Journal Advertiser.

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

28 ENTRIES



BRAMPTON GUARDIAN

I really like this shot! Very creative. A fun, different sports photo that's really interesting to look at. I really don't have many negative comments about this photo. It's composed beautifully, your exposure and focus, tack sharp. The only thing I don't like is the objects half out of frame. Other than that, nice shot. This is the kind of sports photo you remember. Well done Riziero Vertolli.



BARRHAVEN INDEPENDENT

Great shot by Mike Carroccetto! I really like this frame. It's exciting and shows emotion. A great celebratory moment between coach and athlete. The story of them becoming Ontario champions also compliments the photo and makes it that much better. There is some odd colouring around the coach's face, compared to that of the players. In a perfect world I would have liked to have seen this shot closer and with a wide-angle lens in order to better capture everyone's faces. However, I understand moments like these happen quickly. I really don't have many complaints about this photo. Nice shot!



BLYTH/BRUSSELS CITIZEN

Wow! I really like this image by Shawn Loughlin. It's a nice peak-action moment. It's also a crisp image, which can be hard to produce at a rodeo. Nothing important is out-of-frame, and the background is clean. Overall, a nice image, fun to look at, and clean. Nice job.

HONOURABLE MENTION

PORT PERRY STAR – Nice shot! Ryan Pfeiffer gives us a great action shot of the puck, and the helmet coming off. You don't see that very often in hockey. Would have preferred a tighter crop. Good anticipation and reflexes to capture this. Nicely done.

GENERAL COMMENT

Congratulations to everyone who entered this category. You all submitted some great shots and it certainly wasn't easy picking the winners. In the end, I chose the photos I thought told the best story and had the most impact. Well done to you all, and never stop shooting!

Judge

Phil McLachlan

Editor,
Penticton Western News,
Penticton, BC



Phil McLachlan is the editor at the Penticton Western News. Prior to this he served as reporter, and eventually editor for three years at The Free Press newspaper in Fernie. Before Fernie, he worked for the Meridian Booster in Lloydminster, Alta. Since graduating from Loyalist College's Photojournalism Program in 2016, he has been nominated for and won several provincial and national newspaper awards. He possesses a passion for storytelling, an appreciation of community news, and a love for photography.

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

27 ENTRIES



ALLISTON HERALD

The winner was an easy choice and was one point from perfection. Brad Pritchard worked this spot news opportunity. Something different in the life of a police officer doing their job. Nicely played. A winner when it comes to spot news that is not a car crash, bank robbery, homicide or burning building.



RENFREW MERCURY

Derek Dunn's photo filled the frame as flames and exploding window glass greeted firefighters battling a full involved house fire.



HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

Kudos to Joseph Quigley for his tight capture of a firefighter taking a breather from a house fire. Excellent use of depth of field... filling the frame on this fire scene.

GENERAL COMMENT

Of the 27 entries in this category, many did not follow under "spot news" and would have been better in "feature" photography. Play your photos big and prominent on your pages. Look for an active versus inactive image when covering a spot news event. The winner was an easy choice.

Judge



Jules Xavier
Editor,
CFB Shilo Stag,
CFB Shilo, MB

More than 36 years after editor Lorne Drury (now retired) offered him his first reporter job – now multimedia journalist – at the Brampton Guardian, Jules Xavier is still going like the Energizer Bunny. A '59 baby, Xavier is still having fun at 61, so there's no thought of retirement just yet. Currently in Manitoba looking after the award-winning army newspaper Shilo Stag, which published its first edition in July 1947, he's kept busy in a two-person newsroom which focuses on army life, including infantry and artillery soldiers. Xavier has been with the Stag for eight years, relocating from Vancouver Island following newspaper and radio jobs in Ontario, B.C. and Alberta. Being embedded among soldiers who are honing their fighting skills for deployment to Ukraine or Latvia is a lot more fun than covering courts or city council meetings.

Sponsored by: Listowel Banner

PREMIER AWARD

BEST NEWS PHOTO

34 ENTRIES



NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER

Darlene Wroe got impeccable timing on this shot! The white snow blends into the white of the paper giving a floating feeling to the shot. Crisp detail and a little bit of the facial expression of the 'swimmer' add to the appeal. Amazing.



BRAMPTON GUARDIAN

This is the type of photo that stays with you and carries the extreme emotion of the situation. All the facial expressions tell their respective stories. From a technical point of view, the photo is well framed and in perfect focus.



MISSISSAUGA NEWS

Great shot with difficult lighting and a lower to the ground angle. Riziero Vertolli gets the foreground flowers and background candles to frame the pic perfectly.

HONOURABLE MENTION

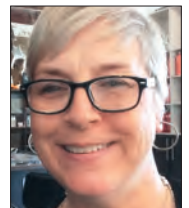
HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO – For what's a potentially boring story, this is a great pic by Darren Lum. The angle gives the shot the perspective of the subjects' viewpoints as well as the importance to the community. The added value of the blue/orange contrast is extra visual gravy.

GENERAL COMMENT

The Best News Photo category was both a pleasure and a challenge to judge. Each time I felt I'd found the 'best' it was replaced by one that was even better. Local photographers were able to pull off amazing shots in poor lighting and awkward – or sometimes dangerous – situations. Excellent work all around.

Judge

Carmen Marie Fabio
Editor in chief,
The Journal,
Vaudreuil-Dorion, QC



A recovering high-tech employee, Carmen Marie Fabio made the leap to journalism in 2009 and has enjoyed every stressful minute of it. An award-winning journalist and staunch advocate for the role of the community paper, she is now the editor and columnist at The Journal in Vaudreuil-Dorion, Quebec.

PREMIER AWARD

MOST CREATIVE GRIP AND GRIN PHOTO

10 ENTRIES



BARRY'S BAY, THE VALLEY GAZETTE

This photo gained top marks for creativity. Christine Hudder put great thought and extra work into it. Congratulations!



MANITULIN EXPOSITOR

Warren Schlote put a lot of effort into this photo. Very good job. One suggestion - have those holding the ribbon and the person cutting the ribbon in the forefront with the rest the background as the scenic view. The photo is so busy you almost miss the ribbon. Otherwise, great shot!



OAKVILLE BEAVER

Great thought and ideas flowed into this photo by Nikki Wesley. Really tells the story without having to read the caption. Great work!

HONOURABLE MENTION

EGANVILLE LEADER – Bruce McIntyre put excellent thought into this photo but a little more care for the background would have helped it out. Might have gained extra points if something in the background said Home Hardware, or the shot up at them with the signage on the building bannering the top of the photo. Good job overall.

NORTH GRENVILLE TIMES – Kudos to the work and thought put into this grip and grin by Marguerite Boyer. However, it may have looked too much like an advertisement. A caption at the bottom of the photo identifying the owner of the vehicle on loan and the two people and their connection to the Sweetheart Brunch would have been better, in my opinion. Good work!

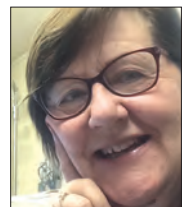
GENERAL COMMENT

Chasing the Ace photo was an excellent example of taking a boring 'grip and grin' and doing the extra thought and work to make it jump off the page. Second and third place were both successful in grabbing the attention as well, but the ideas were more easily imagined. I have to give credit to the Honourable Mentions as both of those entries put thought and a lot of work into their photos and a little more thought to background and captions would have elevated them. I'm hopeful in future competitions that the suggestions as to how to improve 'grip and grins' for those who did not make the cut, will only make the job harder for the judge. Good work!

Judge

Joyce Webster

Publisher/Owner,
East Central Alberta
Review,
Coronation, AB



Joyce Webster has been in the newspaper world for 39 years, most of those years as publisher of a community newspaper in east central Alberta. She's taken many photography courses from award winning photographers and has won several photography awards.

PREMIER AWARD PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

7 ENTRIES



OSHAWA THIS WEEK | SABRINA BYRNES

Sabrina Byrnes' work shows a keen eye, a creative mind and a love for and masterful use of colour. I imagine her photos pop out of pages and OTW's website.



HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO | DARREN LUM

Darren Lum is a photographer any newspaper would be lucky to have, producing images that are striking and help tell stories.



AJAX PICKERING NEWS ADVERTISER | RYAN PFEIFFER

Ryan Pfeiffer is clearly a pro, capturing strong images for his paper's readers.



GENERAL COMMENT

This was a very tight category in the top 3. Kudos to all of them and to the other photographers. I have no doubt you have many demands on your time and resources, and you produce some excellent work.

Judge

Richard Dal Monte

Editor,
The Tri-City News,
Port Coquitlam, BC



Richard Dal Monte has been working in community newspapers for almost 32 years as a reporter and editor, winning provincial, national and international awards for writing and page design. He is editor of The Tri-City News, a twice-weekly paper serving a community of more than 22,000 in the cities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody, B.C.

PREMIER AWARD CARTOONIST OF THE YEAR

8 ENTRIES



OSHAWA EXPRESS | GEORGE LONGLEY

Original, eye catching and graphically inventive drawing style. Very clever GM key/tombstone concept. Wordless and thoughtful. It packs a huge punch.



ORLEANS STAR | SARAH CHAPLIN

Clean and graphically vivid drawing style. Very attractive to the reader's eye. Clear message, and that message is delivered with humour and impact.



STONEY CREEK NEWS | MIKE VUKOVICH

Fun, cartoony and eye-catching drawing style. Solid message is delivered with humour and punch.

GENERAL COMMENT

Lots of good work overall. Some great drawing. A few entries may have fared better but didn't adhere as well to the judging guidelines.

Judge

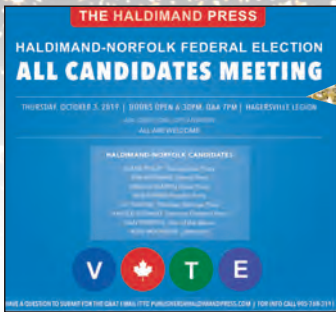
Bruce MacKinnon
Editorial Cartoonist,
The Chronicle Herald,
Halifax, NS



For more than 30 years, Bruce MacKinnon has been the editorial cartoonist for the Halifax Chronicle Herald. Over his career he has won numerous regional, national and international awards. His work has been published and exhibited across the globe and is part of the permanent collections of the National Archives of Canada, the U.S. Library of Congress and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia among other galleries and institutions. He is a member of the Order of Nova Scotia and the Order of Canada.

PREMIER AWARD COMMUNITY SERVICE

11 ENTRIES



THE HALDIMAND PRESS | ALL CANDIDATES DEBATE

This initiative was well covered both in paper and through social media, prior to and following the event. Its importance to the community is evident in the participation, coverage and initiative. Kudos to the newspaper for taking on the debate! Well done!



UXBRIDGE COSMOS | FEDERAL ELECTION 2019

Considerable coverage – both in advertising and editorial – highlight the debate's importance to the community and the newspaper. Kudos to the newspaper for continually hosting a debate.



NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER | FUNDRAISER ON THE FAIRWAYS

Wow! Significant investment in research and reporting plus the space dedicated to it in-paper are clear testaments to its importance in the community!

GENERAL COMMENT

It is heart-warming to see so many meaningful examples of newspaper engagement and involvement in communities they serve. From a hockey pool that benefits a local hospital, to a golf tournament that benefits families with a loved one who is suffering from a life-threatening illness, to federal election debates and all points in between – these newspapers show they put 'community' first and are willing to back up their convictions. I applaud each and every submission in this category. They were all incredibly well done!

Judge

Jackie Jardine
Editor,
Pictou Advocate,
Pictou, NS



Silver Quill Award recipient Jackie Jardine has been a journalist for more than 30 years, working in both daily and weekly newspapers. For the past 10 years she has been editor of The Advocate, Pictou County's weekly newspaper since 1893. When she's not working, she enjoys reading, writing and travelling.

PREMIER AWARD

BEST VERTICAL PRODUCT

28 ENTRIES



BURLINGTON POST | WEST OF THE CITY – 100TH EDITION

Know your market! West of the City is not a magazine for everyone. But it IS a magazine for the exclusive readers who live in the affluent neighbourhoods west of Toronto! And that's the point. The relatively small, exclusive readership of the magazine are well-served by editorial content that satisfies their passion for the finer things in life – and the financial ability to satisfy that passion. And that's an up-scale advertisers dream! The success of West of the City is not just that it has millionaire communities nearby. It's that the publisher has found the right product to serve that niche community. Every publisher can find their own community's needs and passions and work to satisfy that market.



BRACEBRIDGE EXAMINER | MUSKOKA LIFE

Not every publication can have such an exclusive region like Muskoka in its backyard, but if you do, take advantage of it! The Examiner reaches its readers of Muskoka Life 8 times a year – mostly when they are NOT in Muskoka. The quality content, incredible pictures and “living the dream” features must tug at the heart strings, and make those readers want to get back to those up-scale porches and docks! And that makes this a high-end advertiser's dream. I'm sure that this magazine (especially off-season) isn't just read, it is devoured in anticipation of the coming summer season!



CALEDON ENTERPRISE | SIDEROADS OF CALEDON, DUFFERIN & KING

Caledon Enterprise takes its lifestyle magazine to a level beyond. Incorporating well-written shared and local content on home decor, food, gardening, travel, local attractions and so much more, Sideroads celebrates life in the region and life in general. As with some other magazines put forward, however, it has an eclectic mix of layout and font styles that sometimes is a little too much for continuity through the magazine.

GENERAL COMMENT

Entrants in the Best Vertical Product category mostly fell into a few different buckets. Specific event guides, tourism guide, community guides or directories and life or lifestyle magazines made up most of the 28 entries. Every one of them should be deemed a success – in developing new advertisers and revenue – because the publisher recognized a need or an opportunity and published a product outside the legacy newspaper. However, some entrants clearly demonstrated a dedication to fully understanding the wants and needs of the market they were serving and went that extra mile to meet and exceed expectations. That commitment to evaluating your market and acting to take advantage of opportunities is scalable – up and down. Every publisher is capable of understanding their market and developing niche products that help solidify a new relationship with their readers and generate much-needed additional revenue.

Judge



Shaun Jessome
 Publisher,
 Okotoks Western Wheel,
 Okotoks, AB

Shaun Jessome is publisher of the Okotoks Western Wheel and Cochrane Eagle (Great West Newspapers, Alberta). Previously, Shaun spent six years as publisher of the Western Producer, Canada's premier agriculture newspaper, in Saskatoon and VP, Glacier Farmmedia (Glacier Media). Before venturing into agriculture media, Shaun was with Bowes Publishers Limited/ Sun Media Inc. for 29 years in advertising sales, sales management, and as a community newspaper publisher and group publisher.

PREMIER AWARD

BEST FRONT PAGE CIRC. 10,000+

27 ENTRIES



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

Easily the most striking front page in this category, which is dominated by papers using the same basic template and, thus, facing the same basic challenges. This Northern Life front is clean and powerful, using simple photos well along with clean design elements.



KEMPTVILLE ADVANCE

Even the ugly Callan Motors ad on this page couldn't completely detract from the powerful photo used as big as it could be given the format. That makes this page pop!



MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION

A news photo used well and a good story starting on the front put this one into first place, but both do battle with ever present right rail of ads in this format.

GENERAL COMMENT

Given that almost all of the entries were working off the same page design, there was very little distinguishing between them. Given the limitations of that design the key was a good well used photo. That said, the mess of busy ads on many of the pages made for excessively busy fronts. With that challenge – and the editors have my sincere sympathy – I cannot figure out why anyone would use those big green “Impacting Your community” arrows that a) point to the obvious and b) add another element to already unwieldy pages. One more thing: When overlaying type on good photos, less is more.

Judge

Richard Dal Monte

Editor,
The Tri-City News,
Port Coquitlam, BC



Richard Dal Monte has been working in community newspapers for almost 32 years as a reporter and editor, winning provincial, national and international awards for writing and page design. He is editor of The Tri-City News, a twice-weekly paper serving a community of more than 22,000 in the cities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody, B.C.

Sponsored by: Laurentian Publishing

PREMIER AWARD

BEST FRONT PAGE CIRC. -9,999

26 ENTRIES



FORT FRANCES TIMES

This cover works from top to bottom. Full yet clean. Diverse without feeling busy, the layout strikes the perfect balance. Inside teasers help build interest around the rest of the newspaper. Advertisements are present in a way that is complimentary to editorial content. Two well-written articles cover disparate topics that are both relevant to the community. Close-up images of community individuals draw the reader in. Where can I buy a copy of this newspaper? A great job all round!



EGANVILLE LEADER

This cover packs a punch. From the angry wag of the finger to the tears of a young woman, emotions run high on this page. Well balanced layout manages to put each piece of the page in its place. Advertisements sit well on top and bottom. Use of colour headlines is perhaps a bit strong but it still lends itself to an overall look that draws readers to know more. The written word is strong and diverse throughout the page. Congratulations!



THE HALDIMAND PRESS

A superbly tailored front page, design-wise. Centre photo grabs reader with wonderful smiles. Advertisements are plentiful yet don't feel overdone. Writing is strong while stats box gives us a quick 'by the numbers' examination. With so much going on, you would expect things to clash – but this entry manages to strike the right balance. Well done.

HONOURABLE MENTION

VANKLEEK HILL REVIEW – A quality front page that shows how clean lines can please a reader. Panoramic image widens the page while showing volume of attendees. As a viewer, I want to get up just a wee bit higher to see the ribbon shape. Where's a drone when you need one? Ad for 'Review Help' at top feels a bit rushed and busy in comparison to rest of the page. Still, a strong entry over-all and worthy of honourable mention.

GENERAL COMMENT

So many quality entries in this category – so many front pages drawing me in to read and view more. In the digital era, these entries show why the printed form still gives us a package of news and advertising that is unlike anything you will find online. If one can be allowed to judge a book by its cover, these entries suggest a wealth of strong newspapers across Ontario.

Judge

Andrew Brooks
 Publisher,
 The Victoria Standard,
 Baddeck, NS



Andrew Brooks has been the Publisher of The Victoria Standard since taking over the newspaper in May 2016. Serving Victoria County, Cape Breton and beyond, The Standard received the general excellence award for its class in the 2019 Canadian Community Newspaper Awards. Before entering journalism, Brooks earned a Masters in Cultural Anthropology from the CUNY Graduate Center, a degree in Environmental Studies at York University and previously studied film at Ryerson University.

Sponsored by: Laurentian Publishing

PREMIER AWARD

SPECIAL SECTION CIRC. 10,000+

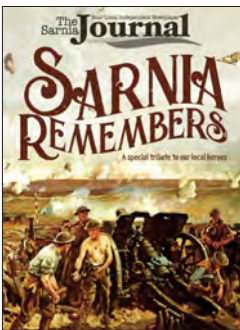
23 ENTRIES



1

CALEDON ENTERPRISE | 130TH ANNIVERSARY

It's easy to be biased about the topic of a newspaper's anniversary, but The Caledon Enterprise's supplement to mark its 130th anniversary earned top marks because it went above and beyond to showcase local history and the role of the paper in the life of the community in a visually fresh format. They truly celebrated in style with its content-rich supplement that was heartily supported by advertisers. Almost every page has a different look and was a real treat to read.



2

SARNIA JOURNAL | SARNIA REMEMBERS

The Journal's 32-page Sarnia Remembers publication is no ordinary Remembrance Day supplement. It is filled with well-written local stories and some beautiful ads too.



3

MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION | WELCOME TO MILTON

This publication aimed at new Milton residents has a solid concept and was well supported by advertisers. The ads overwhelm the editorial copy on some pages, but otherwise it is attractive and an interesting read.

HONOURABLE MENTION

GEORGETOWN/ACTON INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS | HALTON HILLS FESTIVALS AND EVENTS GUIDE

I know how much work goes into these kinds of directory-type publications, from finding the right photo for a page, to ensuring all of the dates and details are correct, to getting all of the ads done and placed on time! This one is easy to read and a handy size too.

GENERAL COMMENT

A number of entries in this category demonstrated a lot of heart and hard work and the publications' readers and advertisers benefitted as a result. The winner earned top marks because it went above and beyond to showcase local history and the role of the paper in the life of the community in a visually fresh format. Some of the entries felt a bit like they had been produced with staff's eyes half closed due to being done on an annual basis. It doesn't take much to plan and execute something a little extra special for those every-year publications.

Judge

Gail Sjuberg

Editor,

Gulf Islands Driftwood,
Salt Spring Island, BC



Gail Sjuberg has been the editor of the award-winning Gulf Islands Driftwood newspaper in B.C. since 2003 and in the community newspaper business for almost 30 years. She is also the editor of the Driftwood's Aqua – Gulf Islands Living magazine and the Gulf Islander tourist guide and has been a judge for numerous community newspaper competitions. She was the 2019 CCNA feature series award winner for under 4,000 circulation.

PREMIER AWARD

SPECIAL SECTION CIRC. -9,999

9 ENTRIES



EGANVILLE LEADER | IRISH EDITION

Great section with lots of nice ads. I like the borders across the tops of the pages. Clearly a section well read in the community!



BARRY'S BAY, THE VALLEY GAZETTE | CHRISTMAS WISHES 2018

A nice way to share local stories of Christmas experiences. I like the holly across the top of the page too.



THE HALDIMAND PRESS | FARMS HARVEST 2019

This semi-annual publication is obviously well received.

GENERAL COMMENT

These sections are all well put together and are community supported. They also appear to be great revenue generators. But do not give away your advertising. Stories on businesses should be supported with ads from those businesses. Nice work!

Judge

Amanda Zimmer
General Manager,
Claresholm Local Press,
Claresholm, AB



Amanda Zimmer is the General Manager of the Claresholm Local Press. She gained her first experience working in a print shop as her after school job in high school. After completing her Printing Management Technologies diploma at SAIT, Amanda joined the staff of the Local Press full time and has been there since 1999!! Amanda loves living in a small community and being a part of the connection people have to each other through their paper. She believes the newspaper is the hub of their community and loves to see people reading and sharing it. Amanda enjoys judging for newspaper competitions! It helps to generate ideas for her own paper and keeps them in check with their publishing standards. Seeing what else is out there helps to step up their own game! Thank you for the opportunity to judge for the OCNA!

PREMIER AWARD

BEST SPORTS SECTION

9 ENTRIES



ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER

The Elmira-Woolwich Observer edged into the win thanks to a clean look and action artwork. I liked the scoreboard idea, with the names of the children attached to the goals and assists. Seeing names draws the reader in.



NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER

The Speaker offered colour, which has great impact in a sports section and included lots of great content. Try to use more sports action photos.



VOICE OF PELHAM

Pelham's sports sections had a clean layout, diverse content and excellent headline writing. Good layout on the golf feature, wrapping the golfer with the text.

GENERAL COMMENT

Just nine entries, but overall, I was disappointed with this category. Is sports an afterthought in community newspapers? Sports is about action, not an abundance of team photos. Sports is about colour and features, not describing how each goal was scored. Where is the high school coverage? The majority of the entries seemed to only enter hockey season submissions. However in saying this, it was a tight race to first place among the topthree.

Judge

Jules Xavier
 Editor,
 CFB Shilo Stag,
 CFB Shilo, MB



More than 36 years after editor Lorne Drury (now retired) offered him his first reporter job – now multimedia journalist – at the Brampton Guardian, Jules Xavier is still going like the Energizer Bunny. A '59 baby, Xavier is still having fun at 61, so there's no thought of retirement just yet. Currently in Manitoba looking after the award-winning army newspaper Shilo Stag, which published its first edition in July 1947, he's kept busy in a two-person newsroom which focuses on army life, including infantry and artillery soldiers. Xavier has been with the Stag for eight years, relocating from Vancouver Island following newspaper and radio jobs in Ontario, B.C. and Alberta. Being embedded among soldiers who are honing their fighting skills for deployment to Ukraine or Latvia is a lot more fun than covering courts or city council meetings.

PREMIER AWARD

BEST FEATURE/UNIT PAGES

19 ENTRIES



1

FORT FRANCES TIMES | EMO WALLEYE CLASSIC

Hooked the judge on this pullout section. A wonderful combination of great stories, colourful photos and solid ad content.



2

THE HALDIMAND PRESS | SALUTING OUR HEROES... LEST WE FORGET

Great to see community papers not just promoting the Legion's poppy campaign. Kudos on continuing this ad feature ... but add more of the history and expand to eight pages perhaps.



3

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER | BROADLINE RENTALS

Excellent job all-round to promote this business expansion.

GENERAL COMMENT

Of the 19 entries, three stood out because they scored high thanks to originality, creativeness, layout and design, advertising content and quality. But the biggest scorer was for editorial content. All three had four-page pullouts.

Judge

Jules Xavier
Editor,
CFB Shilo Stag,
CFB Shilo, MB



More than 36 years after editor Lorne Drury (now retired) offered him his first reporter job – now multimedia journalist – at the Brampton Guardian, Jules Xavier is still going like the Energizer Bunny. A '59 baby, Xavier is still having fun at 61, so there's no thought of retirement just yet. Currently in Manitoba looking after the award-winning army newspaper Shilo Stag, which published its first edition in July 1947, he's kept busy in a two-person newsroom which focuses on army life, including infantry and artillery soldiers. Xavier has been with the Stag for eight years, relocating from Vancouver Island following newspaper and radio jobs in Ontario, B.C. and Alberta. Being embedded among soldiers who are honing their fighting skills for deployment to Ukraine or Latvia is a lot more fun than covering courts or city council meetings.

PREMIER AWARD

BEST CREATIVE AD

20 ENTRIES



1

SCARBOROUGH MIRROR

The movement draws your eye in. Clever use of the opinion article to the right and the Canadian Tire text to the bottom left. The overall affect produces a high impact ad. Great use of colour is not only on brand but adds a dynamic pop to the page. It appears as though the logo is slightly clipped on the top left.



2

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

Great imagery and colour to set a mood with the ad and stand out from the page. Well done on the text treatment of the contest on the top right and the use of chevrons to draw the eye down. Very nice balance to all areas – text block spacing, line leading, and logos.



3

HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

Fun ad! The use of white space draws the eye in and adds interest to the smaller ad unit. I appreciate that the ad aims to 'blow away' real text – and the concept comes across very well. Good use of colour – the Castle logo balances well with the Husqvarna logo. Good timing of ad being placed in August for the upcoming fall season.

HONOURABLE MENTION

DEEP RIVER NORTH RENFREW TIMES – Well laid out and organized ad. Very readable for an ad with so much text. Strong use of colour highlight the concept and to add interest to different areas. Nice attention-getting device with the concept 'breaking news' at the top. Images are crisp and clear. The right side of the ad is slightly unbalanced with an image and text touching the border. Leisure Days logo appears blurry.

GENERAL COMMENT

Lots of great ads and creativity in this year's submissions. It was evident that the ad designers were taking special care to address their clients' needs and impress their readers. Many ads had to balance a lot of copy and retail sales points while still ensuring it was readable and compelling. The use of imagery and colour in all ads was well done. An impressive group of entries which made the judging especially difficult.

Judge

Karen Kavanagh

Coordinator, Advertising,
Algonquin College,
Ottawa, ON



Karen Kavanagh is the coordinator and a professor for the Advertising and Marketing Communications Management advanced diploma at Algonquin College. Since joining the College full-time in 2011, she has taught the students media planning and buying across all mediums, including newspaper and digital, as well as acting as advertising professor mentor for the students on the award-winning Algonquin Times. Prior to joining Algonquin College, Karen worked in the advertising and marketing industry in both Toronto and Ottawa. She specialized in media planning and digital marketing communications. She is a proud graduate of the Algonquin College's Advertising program and has a Psychology degree from the University of Ottawa and an Executive MBA from the Telfer School of Management.

PREMIER AWARD IN HOUSE PROMOTION

20 ENTRIES



THE HERALD SERVING THAMESVILLE, DRESDEN AND BOTHWELL

Awesome! A great idea. Running it full page grabs the attention of readers. I like the idea of prices taking in the 19.55 and the 1955 feel to the artwork. A winner!



SARNIA JOURNAL

Interesting idea ... but there's more to the paper than what's listed. Feel it's too much white space, perhaps better use of CMYK vs spot colour. Wave the flag better with a much larger Journal flag. You're using a full page so go big, with colour, and bolder font. Wave that flag!



CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS

The reporter full pages were awesome, and really stood out as waving the paper's flag. However, the sales rep style ads and media strategy specialist did not keep me as engaged. Maybe due to their size being only a quarter page. Overall a great idea.

GENERAL COMMENT

An interesting category to judge when it comes to a newspaper "waving the flag" to promote themselves "in-house." Lots of Christmas greetings, but that doesn't score points when you use canned art and bury it on a page. Come up with an original idea, and play it big, and colourful!

Judge

Jules Xavier
Editor,
CFB Shilo Stag,
CFB Shilo, MB



More than 36 years after editor Lorne Drury (now retired) offered him his first reporter job – now multimedia journalist – at the Brampton Guardian, Jules Xavier is still going like the Energizer Bunny. A '59 baby, Xavier is still having fun at 61, so there's no thought of retirement just yet. Currently in Manitoba looking after the award-winning army newspaper Shilo Stag, which published its first edition in July 1947, he's kept busy in a two-person newsroom which focuses on army life, including infantry and artillery soldiers. Xavier has been with the Stag for eight years, relocating from Vancouver Island following newspaper and radio jobs in Ontario, B.C. and Alberta. Being embedded among soldiers who are honing their fighting skills for deployment to Ukraine or Latvia is a lot more fun than covering courts or city council meetings.

PREMIER AWARD

LOCAL RETAIL LAYOUT

23 ENTRIES



FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

Beautiful way of tying in Christmas right from the headline to the bottom 'tag'. A very pleasant, almost soothing ad for the reader. Great use of the photo fading, logo, white space, shadowing. Great work!



DRAYTON COMMUNITY NEWS

Very nicely designed ad. The headline partially disappearing, and the illustration are super good. I like the blackboard concept for the specials and the colour of the red tying it all together. Great retail layout.



FORT FRANCES TIMES

This ad used a great graphic, with the portion of graphic, copy and white space well placed and sized. We often don't get the creative license to create these great ads. The page layout works because of the large illustration and white space. It jumps off the page. Good Work!

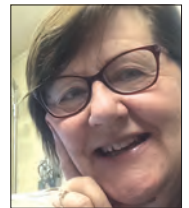
GENERAL COMMENT

There were some very good entries into this category. Congratulations to all the entrants. A very tough competition.

Judge

Joyce Webster

Publisher/Owner,
East Central Alberta
Review,
Coronation, AB



Joyce Webster has been in the newspaper world for 39 years, most of those years as publisher of a community newspaper in east central Alberta. She's taken many photography courses from award winning photographers and has won several photography awards.

Sponsored by: Metro Creative Graphics

PREMIER AWARD

ORIGINAL AD IDEA

22 ENTRIES



1 HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

This was kind of awesome. As a reader, I hate wrap ads, not gonna lie. But the visual on the front has huge impact. Good on you.



2 ORANGEVILLE BANNER

This is a really interesting approach...big image for impact...and seeing the four services highlighted this way...really good.



3 THE HALDIMAND PRESS

Big, bold, eye-catching. Client has a great logo treatment too. Messaging is super clear...you know what the client does.

GENERAL COMMENT

You serve a highly localized advertiser and a highly localized reader. It can lead to great opportunities to create fun ads, eye-catching ads, and ads that speak to your community. Keep challenging your clients to be bold.

Judge

Wayne Aubert

Professor, Advertising and Marketing Communications Management Program, McKeil School of Business, Mohawk College, Hamilton, ON



Wayne Aubert is a long-time judge for the awards and his fulltime gig is a Professor of Advertising at Mohawk College. He's had a long career in advertising, working in ad agencies, government communications branches and client-side marketing departments. He reads a print copy of the local daily paper, and the local community paper of course!

PREMIER AWARD

USE OF PROCESS COLOUR

25 ENTRIES



1 FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

The colour palette strongly reflects the message. Colourizing the vehicles to black further reinforces the Black Friday theme. Judicious use of colour in the type helps to make the offer clearly stand out and to create a sense of urgency.



2 KINCARDINE INDEPENDENT

The colour palette is reflective of the event and everything ties together well with the photo image. The typography and design lead the eye through the ad in a logical manner and highlights the offer clearly.



3 DEEP RIVER NORTH RENFREW TIMES

The colour palette is very appropriate for the season. Great use of black to set the Hallowe'en tone. The font choice for the headline and sub-heads further reinforces the seasonal feel. The body copy is a bit tight and makes for a more difficult read - the costume prizing message is a bit lost.

HONOURABLE MENTION

MANOTICK MESSENGER – The visual and layout send a strong, yet understated message. The store's information is neatly presented and does not detract from the emotional impact of the layout. It ties together nicely.

GENERAL COMMENT

Use of colour in ads is a strong method for attracting the reader's eye and keeping them engaged with the content. This year's winners demonstrated that colour selected to fully support the message takes the ad that one step further, creating a cohesive and compelling offering. Congratulations to this year's winners and a call out to all who submitted. The level of work was strong and innovative.

Judge

Leslie Kellow-Hall

Vice President, Management
Director – Operations,
Fuelcontent,
Toronto, ON



Leslie has more than 33 years' experience in the marketing communications industry in the production and operations areas. Leslie has managed digital, print and photography studios, production management and operation departments in several major and boutique agencies. Leslie's experience spans the gamut of digital, interactive, CRM and traditional mass advertising. Leslie has taught production and project management with the Institute of Communication agencies for 16 years and sat on the Mohawk College Marketing Communications Advisory board for six years.

PREMIER AWARD

MULTIMEDIA ONLINE/BEST ONLINE EXPERIENCE FOR A STORY

10 ENTRIES



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

Remarkably well-written and researched. Excellent team effort incorporating photos, videos and graphics. Intriguing subject matter even to a non-local audience



BURLINGTON POST

Unique, entertaining look at something that most folks can relate to, chocolate. Interactivity and function of map and video was outstanding.



GEORGETOWN/ACTON INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

Unique look at fire response time. Interactive timeline and haunting video especially interesting.

GENERAL COMMENT

A fascinating collection of presentations, displaying the continued growth of our industry's storytelling capabilities. From interactive maps and videos to compelling photos to back up some incisive writing, definitely a difficult task to choose the winners. The first-place finisher, however, absolutely set itself apart with the depth of reporting involved.

Judges

Peter McCully

Group Publisher,
Parksville Qualicum Beach News, Vancouver Island Free Daily,
Alberni Valley News, Westerly News; Black Press,
Vancouver Island, BC



Peter McCully is Group Publisher for several titles on Vancouver Island, including the Parksville Qualicum Beach News. Peter has been a broadcaster and publisher on both of Canada's coasts. He is an amateur photographer and has served as bass drummer for several Scottish Pipe Bands.

Philip Wolf

Managing Editor,
Vancouver Island Free Daily,
Parksville, BC



Philip Wolf is the managing editor for the Vancouver Island Free Daily. He previously served as managing editor for the Nanaimo Daily News and began his career in community newspapers with the Cowichan Valley Citizen. He likes short walks on the beach and Lucky Lager in a can.

PREMIER AWARD

BEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER WEBSITE/ WEBPORTAL CIRC. 10,000+



ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER | OBSERVERXTRA.COM

Excellent website, with a very clean design. Access to back issues from 2005 to current year is an excellent resource. Packed with news and sports, and even a pop-up window to speak with an employee of the Observer. Comment & Opinion and Cartoons right on the front page. Large video section. Very well done!



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE | SUBBURY.COM

Excellent website. Easy to navigate, packed with plenty of local news and information. A real window to the community. Easy access to online version of print editions as well.



CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS | CORNWALLSEAWAYNEWS.COM

Excellent local website. Plenty of Cornwall and regional news displayed. Easy to navigate home page. Both English and French news items are available. Well done!

HONOURABLE MENTION

HAMILTON MOUNTAIN NEWS | HAMILTONNEWS.COM – Excellent local news coverage. A cleaner, less cluttered website than others within the same family.

GENERAL COMMENT

It is wonderful to see newspapers embracing the digital age and all the excellent work on display by editors, writers, photographers, production staff and all those who help make the OCNA websites strong and vibrant. Finding balance between our print and digital content is always a challenge. The best websites are those that have offered their readers content to compliment the print editions and not take away from them. The web is an opportunity for members to present readers with up to date breaking news and information between the weekly print editions. It should not be designed to replace them. Content must be fresh and visual as well as updated often, in order to keep readers coming back. It is equally important that we use each medium to promote the other.

Judge

Oliver Sutton
Associate Publisher,
The Suburban,
Saint Laurent, QC



British born Oliver Sutton was raised in South Africa and emigrated to Canada in 1990, where he studied advertising at Sheridan College in Toronto. He began his career at The Suburban 23 years ago as a part-time graphic designer rising to Assistant Director of Production. He then went on to become Creative Director of the magazine division, producing Wall to Wall, Money & Wealth and Smart Wedding. He rejoined The Suburban's production department after the restructuring of the company, and became Associate Publisher two years ago. Part of his responsibilities at the paper were to research, design, create and co-ordinate the development of thesuburban.com.

PREMIER AWARD

BEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER WEBSITE/ WEBPORTAL CIRC. -9,999

9 ENTRIES



VANKLEEK HILL REVIEW | THEREVIEW.CA

This is a great looking website. It is packed with local content as well as easy access to the electronic version of the print edition. Very clean layout. Lots of photos. Well done!S



PARRY SOUND NORTH STAR | PARRYSOUND.COM

A very clean, well balanced website, with plenty of local news and information right on the home page.



BURKS FALLS ALMAGUIN NEWS | NORTHBAYNISSING.COM

Website has good content. Fairly clean and easy to navigate home page, with access to community news and information. Good balance between news, sports and entertainment.

HONOURABLE MENTION

NORTH GRENVILLE TIMES | NGTIMES.CA – A very clean, easy to navigate website, with plenty of local content. Lots of potential here!

GENERAL COMMENT

Small community newspapers are the heart and soul of the villages and rural towns they serve. Their website must display the same dedication to their readers. It was refreshing to review many of these independently owned papers and respective websites. The websites were well designed, providing readers with up to date information and community events as well as links to the electronic version of the print editions. Many offered the opportunity for readers to communicate directly with staff through comments or email. The winning websites displayed creativity and balance as well as fresh, current content, providing an important link to their readers between print editions.

Judge

Oliver Sutton

Associate Publisher,
The Suburban,
Saint Laurent, QC



British born Oliver Sutton was raised in South Africa and emigrated to Canada in 1990, where he studied advertising at Sheridan College in Toronto. He began his career at The Suburban 23 years ago as a part-time graphic designer rising to Assistant Director of Production. He then went on to become Creative Director of the magazine division, producing Wall to Wall, Money & Wealth and Smart Wedding. He rejoined The Suburban's production department after the restructuring of the company, and became Associate Publisher two years ago. Part of his responsibilities at the paper were to research, design, create and co-ordinate the development of thesuburban.com.

PREMIER AWARD

ONLINE SPECIAL INITIATIVE

7 ENTRIES



BARRIE ADVANCE

Incredible effort, great planning, love use of listen buttons. Sadly, couldn't view the video, if any. Some powerful art, especially with scars story. Appreciated use of questions in the pieces, to engage the readers. Overall, a well thought out and executed special initiative worth mass accolades. Believe your readers could really benefit from your package. Well done.



CAMBRIDGE TIMES

Wow. Good solid read with multiple views. It's a topic that impacts on almost all metropolitan communities in Canada. Timely. Catchy title that helped draw me in. Nice use of strong graphics. Disappointed I couldn't view the videos/audio. Liked the inclusion of questions for the readers. Liked teasing to related content, but there was a mixed use of notes at the end reminding people what's up next. As well, didn't feel like there was as much effort put into packaging up the last two features for online as was given to the first two – where in fact they should have likely put in more effort given that the subject matter in the last two was a little more dry because of the topics. Liked the diverse voices (using three different authors). A strong package of great benefit to your readers. You should be proud.



NEWMARKET ERA/AURORA BANNER

Very insightful package. As someone living across the country, I was surprised to learn of the repeal efforts, and what hurdles the province is facing. Sadly, by its very nature this is a rather dry subject, and I'm not sure how best to breath humanity into it, beyond talking to all these pros, business owners, and industry experts. All that said, loved some of the graphics you created. Think you offered a good cross session of stories, and it is a package you should be proud of. Well done.

GENERAL COMMENT

I was impressed by many of the online special initiative packages presented by the various Ontario papers. So impressed, in fact, that I'm expecting to steal some of their ideas. Well done, everyone.

Judge

Roxanne Hooper
Editor,
Langley Advance Times,
Langley, BC



Roxanne Hooper has been in the newspaper industry since age 15, starting her career right in Langley – at the then Langley Advance. While she has also worked for newspapers in Abbotsford, Mission, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, and Kamloops, she has a strong passion for sharing stories about the people in her hometown of Langley. Needless to say, she was excited to return to the local team in 2006, as a reporter. And she has since taken over the leadership role in the newsroom, as editor. She's said to awake every day excited about what new challenges will befall this evolving industry and moreover what exciting stories she and the team will find and share within their community.

PREMIER AWARD

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

11 ENTRIES



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

Disturbing story handled deftly and quickly, with on-scene reporting, compelling photos and video providing comprehensive overall coverage.



BURLINGTON POST

Quick response, detailed reporting and solid multimedia components equal excellent coverage of tragic shooting.



CALEDON ENTERPRISE

Wonderful example of a newsroom with limited resources nonetheless being a leader in terms of keeping community abreast of a breaking situation.

GENERAL COMMENT

A wide variety of superior examples of breaking news coverage, particularly displaying the resourcefulness of small newsrooms and their ability to be the primary source of community information. Many entries were deserving of accolades, though the top two entries did set themselves apart, with in-depth reporting for the winning entry offering the slightest of margins at the top.

Judges

Peter McCully

Group Publisher,
Parksville Qualicum Beach News, Vancouver Island Free Daily,
Alberni Valley News, Westerly News; Black Press,
Vancouver Island, BC



Peter McCully is Group Publisher for several titles on Vancouver Island, including the Parksville Qualicum Beach News. Peter has been a broadcaster and publisher on both of Canada's coasts. He is an amateur photographer and has served as bass drummer for several Scottish Pipe Bands.

Philip Wolf

Managing Editor,
Vancouver Island Free Daily,
Parksville, BC



Philip Wolf is the managing editor for the Vancouver Island Free Daily. He previously served as managing editor for the Nanaimo Daily News and began his career in community newspapers with the Cowichan Valley Citizen. He likes short walks on the beach and Lucky Lager in a can.

PREMIER AWARD

BREAKING NEWS VIDEO

4 ENTRIES



CALEDON ENTERPRISE

Kudos for seeing the drone footage on Twitter and reaching out to get hold of the video to share with your readers. Obviously, a devastating disaster, and there are so many residents in the area that would want to know how their home was impacted. This offers them answers, even if they're not answers they would have wanted. Strong news impact. Well done.



BRACEBRIDGE EXAMINER

Nice strong narrative and given that it made print almost a week later (I suspect from the dates) they did a nice job at looking at the impact the fire was expected to have. Also, good photos, and like the video with some voices of people talking in the background. Appreciate that the reporter went to a few different spots to get footage and photos, didn't just hunker down in one location when arriving at the scene. Unless I somehow missed it, I think there should have been a brief mention of the other fire the same day. While the reporter was on #2, so likely, were the firefighters – so that context would have been appreciated. Overall, nice coverage of the fire, but I expect the original story probably would have fit better in the category for "breaking news."



PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK

I don't know if it was expected that this woman would be showing up and showing off her breasts, or not, but I think you did a good job of capturing, editing, and displaying it. I also appreciate the photo and story that accompanied. It's a good solid package. Respect the lead up that showed the debate, and the inclusion of the exchange as the woman walks away. Hard call, but the inclusion of the warning on the video is also appreciated in any postings by a small community newspaper.

GENERAL COMMENT

The breaking news video category had several compelling entries. But getting hold of drone footage, which I hope the media industry will do much more of moving forward, allowed a very different – but much appreciated, I'm sure – glimpse at a traumatic situation unfolding in Bolton. Having survived the wildfires of 2003 in the B.C. Interior, and knowing what it was like to "not know" for days if you had a home to return to, I would have greatly appreciated someone using this technology to help educate and inform. I think grabbing onto this footage and augmenting that with information for those impacted directly and indirectly was invaluable. Adding some narrative, and someone talking more about what happened and what to expect would have enhanced it even more. But kudos. Award winning, in my view.

Judge

Roxanne Hooper
Editor,
Langley Advance Times,
Langley, BC



Roxanne Hooper has been in the newspaper industry since age 15, starting her career right in Langley – at the then Langley Advance. While she has also worked for newspapers in Abbotsford, Mission, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, and Kamloops, she has a strong passion for sharing stories about the people in her hometown of Langley. Needless to say, she was excited to return to the local team in 2006, as a reporter. And she has since taken over the leadership role in the newsroom, as editor. She's said to awake every day excited about what new challenges will befall this evolving industry and moreover what exciting stories she and the team will find and share within their community.

College University Awards



COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY AWARDS

STUDENT FEATURE WRITING

17 ENTRIES



ALGONQUIN COLLEGE | JESSICA ALBERGA

This is a very well written story no matter where the career started and ended. It is supported by many comments from co-workers and people in the community. The subject matter reflects on a generation plus of news talent leaving the industry. A bit more research on current ratings/viewership compared to 40 years ago, would have been an interesting added touch. An enjoyable story.



CENTENNIAL COLLEGE | AMARRA SHAKIRA MOHAMED

As fellow journalists who respond to many tragedies, we can relate to what First Responders experience on the job. It has to be difficult to put one's emotions aside to deal with tragic incidents, particularly in those rare, but occasional times when paramedics know the individuals they are providing care to. A good insight into a subject matter that has only begun to be talked about. Good flow to story.



CENTENNIAL COLLEGE | MARGARYTA IGNATENKO

An excellent subject matter written with a lot of research that went beyond simple statistics. The subject matter is timely given Ontario's commitment to an Accessible Ontario by 2025.

HONOURABLE MENTION

FANSHAWE COLLEGE | ANGELA MCINNES & EMMA FAIRGRIEVE – The writer tackles a controversial subject objectively. A bit more background research would have strengthened the article.

GENERAL COMMENT

This category shows a wide breadth of subject matter and interests from our next generation of journalists. With an attention to detail and focus on research into a variety of topics, it demonstrates the great potential for the future of journalism in Ontario.

Judge

Gerald Tracey
 Publisher,
 Eganville Leader,
 Eganville, ON



Gerald Tracey is publisher of The Eganville Leader. He entered the family business full time in 1973. He and his wife, Wanda, a retired teacher, have two grown children. Outside his duties at the Leader, Gerald is involved in housing developments, has chaired and spear-headed many fundraising campaigns and is currently president of the Eganville and Area Long-Term Care Committee, which owns and operates a 36 unit assisted living complex for seniors. He is also chair of the board at Hospice Renfrew, a six-bed facility serving Renfrew County.

Sponsored by: Ontario General Contractors Association

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY AWARDS

STUDENT NEWS WRITING

18 ENTRIES



HUMBER COLLEGE | PATRICK SIMPSON

Excellent subject matter and many voices! It seems this will affect many students. There are some sticky parts that could have used an edit. Be cautious of overusing 'said.'



UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | HARLEEN KAUR DHILLON

Lede should be clear and engaging. Great subject. Clearly of importance to the student community.



UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | VARUN VENKATARAMANAN

The most relevant subject matter of the nominees. Very informative. Lede could be more direct and understandable. Overuse of the word "report." Cannot see anywhere where Accommod8u was contacted to tell their side of the story – opening the piece up to bias and even legal action. Sources seem to be only report and reddit.

GENERAL COMMENT

It's exciting to see such great work from young journalists starting out in the career. I expect we'll be reading their work soon as they bring their enthusiasm for shining light in dark corners to issues across the province.

Judge

Pamela Steel

Managing Editor,
Parry Sound-Muskoka,
Torstar Corporation
Community Brands,
ON



Pamela Steel is the managing editor for Torstar communities in Parry Sound and Muskoka. "We often see young journalists begin their careers in our newsrooms and celebrate the ethics and heart they bring to their calling."

Sponsored by: Ontario Journalism Educators Association

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY AWARDS

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY

15 ENTRIES



1

LOYALIST COLLEGE | GAGANDEEP SARANGAL

This lovely feature photo captures the moment beautifully – the concentration on both the firefighter and child's face while she watches in excitement. Clear – good lighting and the framing is tight. Nicely done!



2

LOYALIST COLLEGE | ANDREJ IVANOV

The expression on JJ's face pulls you in and then you see where he is and wonder what has this little guy got to smile about. Definitely a photo which would draw people into the story. The lighting and sharpness are not great, but composition is lovely.



3

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE | RYAN MACEACHERN

Sharp, crisp sports shot. Nice capture!

HONOURABLE MENTION

HUMBER COLLEGE | PAIGE MCGOWAN – You were in a great spot to capture this! Good shot. The reason this doesn't place in the top three is lighting – arena lighting is incredibly difficult...this photo loses impact because the colour and light are off.

GENERAL COMMENT

The top three photos in the category capture a moment beautifully, whether it is a turn at the fire hose, a light moment in a tough situation or a split-second breath of a swimmer. Good work by all. Overall, I would encourage young photographers to study the work of a photojournalist they love, particularly looking at different angles they use and how their photos tell the story in one shot.

Judge

Heather Wright

Publisher,

The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton & The Herald Serving Thamesville, Dresden and Bothwell, ON



Heather Wright is the publisher of The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton and The Herald Serving Thamesville, Dresden and Bothwell in southwestern Ontario. Heather has worked in radio, community weekly news and daily newspapers over her 30 year career.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY AWARDS

BEST COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

7 ENTRIES



ALGONQUIN COLLEGE | ALGONQUINTIMES.CA

Great hyper local content on the Algonquin Times website! For a student at Algonquin, this is a great resource to know what is in the news on campus. The content is well written and informative. The Times' social media pages are current and have a clear strategy for regular posts. I liked how the Times is also using Snapchat, which is a great platform to reach younger audiences. The website uses technology really well – it was the only one that had a visible “coverage request” button – however I would have liked to have seen more embedded photos, videos or polls to help drive engagement. Overall, a great website for a student at Algonquin College to visit on a regular basis. Congrats to the team at AC – keep up the great work!



DURHAM COLLEGE | CHRONICLE.DURHAMCOLLEGE.CA

The Durham College Chronicle website was a pleasure to view. The simple design makes navigation easy and is also very friendly on mobile devices. The editorial content is very solid and well-rounded; lots of news from campus, the community and pop culture. As a student, I could definitely see this website being one that I would regularly visit. I especially liked the feature series that were done. One area that could be improved is the use of embedded photos, social media posts or videos in the stories. Embedding those features increases engagement and keeps readers on your page longer. The Twitter account is up to date, however the other social media pages either appear to be forgotten or not updated in quite some time. Overall, a great website. The students at DC should be proud of their work.



UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | UWIMPRINT.CA

Imprint's website is wonderful. The website is easy to navigate both on desktop and mobile devices. The content is a nice mix of school news, city news and general interest items. The website also uses photos and graphics very well. It would be nice to see more video content on the website. Some sections featured old content. Perhaps merging some categories would be helpful in ensuring that all sections of the website are current and fresh. Also, some of the sections can be excused as at the time of judging, students were just returning from a break. There is definitely a social media strategy in place for Facebook and Twitter, however when viewing the Instagram and YouTube accounts, the content on those pages were out of date. Overall, if I were a student at UW, I would definitely use this website as a source for news. Kudos to the staff at Imprint for creating engaging content and curating a well-designed website.

HONOURABLE MENTION

HUMBER COLLEGE | HUMBERETC.CA – A very pleasing design at humberetc.ca; looks good on both laptop and mobile. The editorial content is well written, and the topics of the stories are diverse in subject matter. There is a lot of good, hyper local content here. Lots of embedded photos in the stories, which is great in increasing engagement, however I would have liked to see some additional graphics or video embedded to help support stories. Another thing I liked about this website is the ability to view the print product online. Social media is an area that needs improvement; I was only able to find a Twitter account, which is rarely used. Overall, this website has great content that the student journalists should be proud of. Keep up the good work.

GENERAL COMMENT

Talk about a difficult decision! The eight websites in this category were all unique – no two websites looked the same or had the same stories. All of the websites were very well designed, featured well-written content and diverse subject matter. There was only one point separating first and second place, and 10 points separating first from eighth. The one item across the board that the websites lost points on was social media – social media is one of the major ways to drive eyeballs to your website! Overall, these websites were a pleasure to visit and read. If there is one takeaway, it's that the talent coming through our colleges and universities is top notch! Congratulations to all of the entries!

Judge

Mike Wilson

Editor,
Listowel Banner,
Listowel Independent Plus,
Walkerton Herald-Times &
Wingham Advance Times,
Ontario



Mike Wilson is the editor of Midwestern Newspapers' three paid weekly papers – the Listowel Banner, Walkerton Herald-Times and Wingham Advance Times – and the Independent Plus, a free weekly paper serving Huron and Perth counties. Mike began his career in journalism as a freelancer for the Palmerston Observer, and later the Minto Express, before becoming the editor of the Mount Forest Confederate in 2015. He became editor of the Listowel Banner and Wingham Advance Times in 2017, and the Walkerton Herald-Times in 2019.

2019 COMMUNITY AWARD IN MEMORY OF MARY KNOWLES

Gerald Tracey, Publisher, The Eganville Leader

The Community Award in Memory of Mary Knowles recognizes energetic, dedicated and giving newspaper professionals with strong connections to their community. Gerald Tracey, Publisher of The Eganville Leader, and this year's community award recipient, meets all those criteria, and more!

After completing grade 12, he immersed himself in The Eganville Leader, a family business, which at the time was still printed on hot metal linotypes and a flatbed press. It was an eight-page publication with a weekly print run of 2,800.

Gerald became the sole owner of the 118-year-old paper once his brother Ron, after 51 years, retired in 2007. Today, it is one of the leading community newspapers in Canada and is known as the paper of record in Renfrew County. The broadsheet publication averages 22 pages weekly with a print run of 6,000 which increases to 6,600 in the summer months.

In 2002 he published a book titled "Reflections of A Century" to commemorate the 100th anniversary of The Eganville Leader. Over 9,000 books were purchased, and more than \$150,000 from the proceeds were donated to health facilities and civic projects in communities served by the newspaper.

But it must be known that Gerald is no stranger to raising funds for various organizations within his community. Some may say he's an expert.

Between 1988 and 1991, he chaired the Eganville Centennial Committee, which saw the development of an \$800,000 community park and a week-long celebration that attracted 40,000 visitors. In 1994 he ensured The Eganville Leader was involved in promoting, supporting and documenting every aspect of the International Plowing Match held in Renfrew County. It ended up being the most successful event in the organization's history, with \$500,000 in surplus revenues donated to establish the Renfrew County 911 emergency system. He also chaired a fundraising committee that raised more than \$3 million to build a 36-apartment assisted living complex for seniors in Eganville.

Gerald has helped two separate church congregations raise funds to help rebuild parts of their church that had been

destroyed by fire. He has served on the board of directors of Mackay Manor, an alcohol recovery centre for men in Renfrew, for nine years – three as chair.

He helped raise \$180,000 for the Madawaska Valley Hospice, a two-bed facility in Barry's Bay, and is currently serving his third year, second as chair, of the board of Hospice Renfrew, a rural hospice that provides end-of-life care to about 70 people each year. Under his leadership the board has had success in getting the attention of the province to increase funding to the hospice to ensure it is sustainable and will continue to provide an invaluable service for many years to come.

In addition to his long list of community involvements – not to mention his dedication to both the OCNA and CNRIE boards over the years - Gerald continues to give back to others as the go-to person in the community for many people searching for historical information. He willingly dedicates several hours to searching old files.

He and his wife, Wanda, have two children and one granddaughter. He is fiercely proud of his community and although he and Wanda enjoy travelling, both agree there is no place better than home in Renfrew County.

He is an industry and community leader, which is why the Ontario Community Newspapers Foundation (OCNF) is proud to recognize Gerald Tracey with the 2019 Community Award in Memory of Mary Knowles.

The Community Award in Memory of Mary Knowles is coordinated by the Ontario Community Newspapers Foundation. We are committed to recognizing dedicated newspaper employees who are constantly making a difference within their communities. Mary Knowles was a dedicated newspaper employee and active community member who died from breast cancer in 1996.



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2019 OCNA HALL OF FAME



Joanne Burghardt
Director of Content, Torstar Corporation Community Brands

Joanne first walked into the Oshawa This Week newsroom 39 years ago as an intern. One month later, she was hired as a reporter, and five years into her career, she was appointed Community Editor. She was promoted again and spent 25 years as Metroland Durham Region's division Editor-in-Chief. Under her leadership, journalists, photographers, and newspapers in both Durham and Northumberland received some 600 awards for excellence in writing and photography from provincial, national and North American industry associations. In 2018, she was appointed as Director of Content for Metroland. In this role she mentors a group of 25 senior editors and oversees the content strategy for more than 70 newspapers and 25 websites.



Arthur (Art) Carr
Publisher, Palmerston Observer

In the late 1920's, Art joined the staff of the Sudbury Star, but claimed they "wouldn't let me play around and learn to be a linotype operator and I thought they were standing in my path of progress and I quit." He moved to the Sudbury Journal. While various accounts of the timeline differ slightly, Art arrived in Palmerston sometime between 1934 and 1938, joining the Palmerston Observer as a reporter. He eventually bought the Observer, using funds he had raised from a local businessman. He is considered one of the pioneers of offset printing in the weekly newspaper industry and laid claim to making the Palmerston Observer the first Ontario newspaper printed by offset lithography in 1958. He retired in 1977 and sold the paper to Laverne Long, who remained at the helm until the sale of the paper to Metroland in 2000.



Jim Cumming
Publisher, Fort Frances Times Ltd.

Jim Cumming was born with ink flowing through his veins. His father, grandfather, grandmother and several aunts and uncles all worked in the newspaper industry, from Ontario through to Saskatchewan. Sure enough, Jim followed in the footsteps of his relatives and began working as a newspaper carrier for the Fort Frances Times, which his family owned and operated. In the 80s, Jim and his siblings, Don and Linda, purchased the Rainy River Record. Together, they transitioned it to desktop publishing, buying some of the first MAC computers for production. They always believed keeping up with technology was important. In fact, shortly after Jim took on the role of Publisher of the Fort Frances Times in 1995, his first major task involved launching the newspaper's website. The first online archives date back to 1997, when most people were not even connecting online.



Rick McCutcheon
Publisher Emeritus, Manitoulin Publishing Co. Ltd – The Manitoulin Expositor

Rick's love for the newspaper industry began in 1967, after answering an ad he spotted in the Globe and Mail looking for a reporter at the Gore Bay Recorder on Manitoulin Island. When asked if he could type, Rick replied 'yes' and quickly purchased a typewriter to learn. He was hired and made the move from North of Toronto, where he was born and raised. In 1968, he took on the editor role for Northern Ontario's oldest continuously published newspaper in nearby Little Current, the Manitoulin Expositor, established in 1879. By 1970, he had purchased the paper. In 1982, the Manitoulin Expositor received the Michener Award for public service journalism and was the first newspaper in Ontario to do so. In the spring of 2000, Rick purchased the Gore Bay Recorder (now named the Manitoulin West Recorder), coming full circle to where it all began.



Jean Morrison
Publisher, Napanee Beaver and Picton Gazette

Jean (nee Bier) Morrison was an integral, active and admired leader in the community newspaper business for many years. Born in New Hamburg, she was a teacher by trade. After graduating from the University of Western, she taught mathematics at Napanee District Secondary School before marrying newspaper Editor, Earl Morrison. The couple bought the Napanee Beaver in 1953 and became pillars in the Lennox & Addington community. In 1977, they expanded and purchased Canada's oldest community newspaper, the Picton Gazette. But tragedy struck the Morrison family one year later when Earl passed away unexpectedly. Jean became one of the few female publishers of a multi-newspaper chain in Canada and set the highest of standards for journalism and advertising excellence.

INAUGURAL INDUCTEES



Rixon Rafter
Owner, The Arthur Enterprise News

Born in 1885, Rixon lived to become recognized as a pioneer in weekly newspapers, despite losing his eyesight as a youth. With an intense love of journalism, and a degree from Queen's University, he purchased a weekly newspaper, the Arthur Enterprise News (then known as the Arthur Enterprise) in 1908. He had a printer to do the mechanical work in the shop, but Rixon dedicated himself to gathering news, writing editorials, and securing advertisers. It is rumored that on many occasions, Rixon wrote entire columns and reported council meeting proceedings without taking down a single memo. His mind and memory were the only notebook he needed. He retired after 45 years of devoted service to the community.



Richard (Rick) Shaver
Publisher, Cornwall Seaway News, icimédias

Rick Shaver started his newspaper career in 1978 after graduating from St. Lawrence College in Cornwall. His first seven years were spent in sales with daily papers in Cornwall, Kirkland Lake and Brampton. In 1985 he opened the Cornwall Seaway News where he has devoted an additional 35 years. Initially, the paper had a total of eight employees. Today, the Cornwall Seaway News has a full editorial department with an editor, reporter, cartoonist, 21 local monthly columnists, plus a bevy of freelancers, a sales team of five, a production department and additional office staff. In addition to the weekly newspaper, the Cornwall Seaway News also produces and distributes seven magazines, a website, a number of social media accounts and a weekly podcast.



Donald George Spearman
Managing Editor, Leader Publications Ltd.

Born and raised in Dresden, Donald George (Gummer) Spearman was hired in 1939, at the age of 17, as a reporter for the Dresden News, where he was eventually promoted to editor. In the late 1950s, he spotted an advertisement in the London Free Press, placed by businessmen in Huron County looking for someone to start and run a community newspaper. The business group agreed to support the paper (called the Hensall Observer) with sufficient advertising for at least a year. Donald jumped at the opportunity. Unfortunately, ads dwindled, and the fortunes of the Observer declined. He returned to Dresden and operated a printing plant called the Observer Press before getting hired as managing editor of Leader Publications in the 70s. Donald retired from the business in 1986 but continued to write a weekly column until his passing in 1994.



Charles (Charlie) Whipp
Publisher/Editor, The Petrolia Advertiser-Topic

A long-time newspaperman, Charlie was most recognized for his weekly editorials. He usually wrote three per issue! And they explored all topics and included everything from municipal matters to medieval engineering. He worked for the London Free Press and the Windsor Star for several years in the early 1950s. He then moved on to editor and publisher of the Advertiser-Topic in Petrolia, taking on the role as owner from 1962 until 1979. The Petrolia paper was not only one of the few community newspapers with its own press, but it was the first weekly to move from hot type into the new field of cold typesetting, a precursor to computerized newspapering.

The Hall of Fame Award recognizes and celebrates individuals who have made exemplary contributions to Ontario's community newspapers. Inductees are respected community news professionals who have remained passionate about the industry throughout challenges, opportunities, and changes. They are leaders who have helped community newspapers adapt and grow.

To see the full synopsis of each of our inductees, please go to [OCNA's Hall of Fame](#).



GENERAL EXCELLENCE

CLASS 1 (CIRC. 1,999 & UNDER)														
NEWSPAPER	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	Production Quality	TOTAL	RANK
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	50	975	
Burks Falls Almaguin News	122	131	89	84	74	70	75	16	42	16	17	42	778	1
Barrys Bay, The Valley Gazette	100	135	80	80	68	88	88	18	38	18	16	45	774	2
Blyth/Brussels Citizen	108	125	91	68	82	82	72	20	43	18	19	42	770	3
Kincardine Independent	118	131	71	81	75	81	73	21	38	20	17	40	766	4
Minden Times	114	118	81	81	77	81	80	23	43	15	9	42	764	5
Parry Sound North Star	123	123	88	83	80	67	73	17	33	6	17	43	753	6
The Independent Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton	114	115	80	85	80	80	82	21	25	18	8	42	750	7
The Herald Serving Thamesville, Dresden and Bothwell	120	123	77	78	73	80	78	19	30	13	14	42	747	8
Deep River North Renfrew Times	110	115	74	78	82	75	75	18	33	20	17	42	739	9
Listowel Banner	113	118	73	75	77	73	73	22	35	23	15	40	737	10
New Hamburg Independent	107	108	77	72	65	77	77	18	38	11	8	37	695	11
Wingham Advance Times	105	103	82	73	65	73	73	17	33	10	18	37	689	12
Walkerton Herald Times	107	115	65	72	72	78	73	18	28	11	10	38	687	13

CLASS 2 (CIRC. 2,000-3,499)														
NEWSPAPER	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	Production Quality	TOTAL	RANK
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	50	975	
Winchester Press	133	131	80	85	87	85	85	21	33	22	18	42	822	1
New Liskeard Temiskaming Speaker	125	128	78	85	80	87	84	22	37	23	21	40	810	2
Vankleek Hill Review	118	132	82	75	83	84	83	17	36	18	21	40	789	3
Fort Frances Times	119	128	77	82	83	83	82	20	30	22	16	41	783	4
Haliburton County Echo	122	122	72	82	82	82	82	21	32	22	21	41	781	5

CLASS 3 (CIRC. 3,500-6,499)														
NEWSPAPER	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	Production Quality	TOTAL	RANK
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	50	975	
Eganville Leader	133	130	88	62	63	90	85	22	40	20	17	42	792	1
Niagara This Week, Niagara-on-the-Lake Advance	100	115	68	70	68	82	77	17	33	0	15	37	682	2
Gravenhurst Banner	85	102	47	67	65	80	72	17	32	5	10	35	617	3

CLASS 4 (CIRC. 6,500-12,499)														
NEWSPAPER	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	Production Quality	TOTAL	RANK
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	50	975	
Niagara This Week, Fort Erie Post	127	123	74	75	75	81	79	20	31	13	21	39	758	1
Collingwood Connection	125	125	75	77	75	74	73	20	30	18	13	39	744	2
Haliburton, The Highlander	124	120	73	77	77	76	74	19	29	19	15	38	741	3
Niagara This Week, The Leader	122	122	74	74	71	77	76	21	29	10	20	38	734	4
Huntsville Forester	128	120	75	73	72	77	76	20	32	3	13	39	728	5
Voice of Pelham	119	118	77	76	73	76	73	17	35	15	10	38	727	6
Bracebridge Examiner	122	118	74	76	74	80	76	20	36	3	8	39	726	7
Innisfil Journal	122	120	70	76	74	77	75	22	27	8	11	40	722	8
Uxbridge Times-Journal	118	115	70	77	76	77	77	18	28	10	14	38	718	9
East Gwillimbury Express	115	116	73	70	72	78	76	18	32	11	19	37	717	10
Port Perry Star	121	116	73	73	76	76	74	20	25	9	16	36	715	11
Carleton Place/Almonte Canadian Gazette	116	121	78	74	71	74	73	20	31	9	11	36	714	12
Bradford West Gwillimbury Topic	114	114	71	74	74	77	76	18	33	8	11	38	708	13
Amprior Chronicle-Guide	119	120	73	73	68	74	73	18	25	8	11	36	698	14
Glanbrook Gazette	117	116	75	71	71	77	74	18	25	4	11	38	696	15
Smiths Falls Record News	113	116	71	72	71	75	73	22	25	8	15	34	695	16
Renfrew Mercury	118	116	73	71	68	74	73	18	25	10	12	36	694	17
Kempville Advance	119	122	40	75	77	76	74	22	27	8	8	39	687	18
Perth Courier	117	110	72	70	69	71	69	17	25	9	9	34	672	19
Kempville, North Grenville Times	115	113	61	64	62	71	69	14	25	8	9	33	644	20

JUDGE SCORESHEETS

CLASS 5 (CIRC. 12,500 - 22,499)														
NEWSPAPER	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	Production Quality	TOTAL	RANK
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	50	975	
Elmira-Woolwich Observer	137	140	93	87	82	83	87	23	42	23	23	45	865	1
Northumberland News	118	121	73	73	79	88	89	21	41	13	21	46	783	2
Stouffville Sun-Tribune	125	118	82	82	78	85	85	18	40	7	13	42	775	3
Wasaga/Stayner Sun	125	118	77	80	73	80	82	19	40	7	19	40	760	4
Waterdown Flamborough Review	123	118	85	78	78	78	77	18	37	12	13	40	757	5
Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror	115	122	70	68	87	78	72	20	42	13	18	43	748	6
Georgina Advocate	123	117	72	62	72	83	72	17	43	8	17	43	729	7
Dundas Star News	108	113	90	62	53	77	70	17	35	13	15	42	695	8
Ancaster News	107	112	90	63	52	77	70	17	36	12	13	38	687	9
Ottawa Community Voice, Stittsville & Richmond	108	112	70	65	68	72	75	15	37	12	10	35	679	10
Haldimand County, The Sagem	103	93	70	55	50	88	77	17	28	5	10	35	631	11

CLASS 6 (CIRC. 22,500 - 44,999)														
NEWSPAPER	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	Production Quality	TOTAL	RANK
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	50	975	
Fergus Wellington Advertiser	134	144	82	85	79	78	79	21	39	13	18	42	814	1
Sudbury Northern Life	139	134	81	87	80	81	78	20	37	13	17	42	809	2
Guelph Mercury Tribune	126	135	84	84	73	81	77	18	40	13	16	55	802	3
Whitby This Week	128	126	82	83	75	80	83	19	37	16	18	41	788	4
Clarington This Week	126	123	82	79	81	85	78	19	37	16	20	38	784	5
Sarnia Journal	130	127	67	79	77	80	78	15	39	18	18	42	770	6
Oshawa This Week	119	112	79	78	77	85	80	20	37	18	19	38	762	7
Cambridge Times	121	130	71	79	73	82	78	19	40	8	21	38	760	8
Cornwall Seaway News	124	124	75	76	73	76	79	17	36	13	15	37	745	9
Ottawa Community Voice, Kanata	120	123	79	79	68	78	80	13	37	18	9	38	742	10
Niagara This Week, Niagara Falls	120	122	70	78	72	85	80	19	42	0	14	39	741	11
Niagara This Week, Grimsby Lincoln News	117	127	72	75	73	86	78	19	39	3	15	36	740	12
Niagara This Week, Welland	118	121	70	78	70	82	80	20	40	5	17	38	739	13
Georgetown/Acton Independent & Free Press	119	120	77	77	73	81	79	16	38	8	12	38	738	14
Waterloo Chronicle	120	117	88	83	72	75	79	16	32	3	11	40	736	15
Milton Canadian Champion	125	117	72	73	79	83	78	16	34	2	17	37	733	16
Stoney Creek News	120	106	83	78	70	83	82	19	38	0	12	40	731	17
Listowel Independent Plus	116	123	84	73	65	73	75	17	37	3	11	37	714	18
Newmarket Era/Aurora Banner	111	111	65	72	70	82	80	19	35	7	16	39	707	19
Alliston Herald	113	115	68	73	72	83	78	18	37	3	8	36	704	20
Orillia Today	113	110	67	77	63	83	78	19	35	0	5	38	688	21

CLASS 7 (CIRC. 45,000 & OVER)														
NEWSPAPER	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	Production Quality	TOTAL	RANK
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	50	975	
Niagara This Week, St. Catharines	123	125	101	89	88	95	89	20	41	7	20	43	841	1
Oakville Beaver	122	123	99	85	85	88	88	20	37	7	17	42	813	2
Ajax Pickering News Advertiser	121	125	90	85	89	86	87	16	43	12	14	42	810	3
Burlington Post	118	117	96	85	84	90	88	20	42	5	18	42	805	4
Richmond Hill/Thornhill Liberal	115	123	96	85	90	86	88	16	41	4	17	42	803	5
Hamilton Mountain News	107	115	101	83	82	91	88	17	39	7	18	43	791	6
Scarborough Mirror	116	121	93	85	85	83	88	19	37	3	15	42	787	7
Barrie Advance	110	118	90	83	81	86	88	21	39	5	18	42	781	8
Etobicoke Guardian	107	114	91	85	88	85	88	20	40	3	14	42	777	9
North York Mirror	115	109	94	85	87	79	87	20	36	3	13	42	770	10

CLASS 8 (COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY)										
NEWSPAPER	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising	Local Features	Sports	TOTAL	RANK
	150	150	100	100	100	25	100	50	775	
Algonquin College Algonquin Times	125	150	85	50	50	25	100	45	630	1
Niagara College Niagara News	110	100	78	80	80	5	85	40	578	2
Humber College Et Cetera	120	123	60	65	70	5	90	40	573	3
University of Waterloo Imprint	100	100	75	75	80	20	85	35	570	4
Durham College The Chronicle	60	135	85	62	42	15	90	46	535	5
Loyalist College The Pioneer	125	100	0	75	100	0	50	40	490	6

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