

BNC 2021

BETTER NEWSPAPERS
COMPETITION

*Award
Results*



CELEBRATING THE BEST OF ONTARIO'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS



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Hydro One

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Ontario Journalism Educators Association

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*We would like to thank all our
award sponsors*

RECOGNIZING THE HARD WORK & DEDICATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another challenging year has gone by. The warm weather is upon us, and so too are the Ontario Community Newspapers Association's Better Newspapers Competition Results. It is wonderful to see that even with our lives still in pandemic chaos, we shoot for the stars and shine brightly! Now it is time to honour the great work of Ontario's weekly community newspapers.

The pandemic has made this year another difficult one, with many offices still closed and staff working from home. And although times seem brighter, with restrictions starting to lift, we again will announce the award winners virtually. We will gather together in smaller groups to celebrate the accomplishments of our peers. With the pandemic constantly changing, we hope to soon join together with our peers to celebrate once again.

Over 1,450 entries were received this year. Publishers, editors, reporters, photographers, designers and others spent countless hours sifting through thousands of articles, photographs and ads to submit the best entries. From the entries submitted, you will see Ontario's community newspapers have some very talented staff.

We would like to express our appreciation to our volunteer judges. Without them, our Awards program would not materialize. These individuals spend their days at the office, editing, publishing or designing, then donate their time and expertise to help choose the best of the best in Ontario's weekly community newspapers. We thank you!

We must also thank our category sponsors for their generous support, making it possible to reward those who truly deserve it!

And even though we are again unable to celebrate together, Ontario Power Generation, our Gold Awards Gala sponsor, continue their support, so a huge thank you to them as well.

And last but certainly not least, many thanks to the newspaper staff for their hard work and dedication. It will soon be time to begin the process of entering the 2022 Better Newspapers Competition, but until then, let's celebrate the excellence of Ontario's weekly community newspapers.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Alicia McCutcheon
President
Ontario Community Newspapers Association

General Excellence



GENERAL EXCELLENCE | CLASS 1

CIRCULATION 1,999 & UNDER

13 ENTRIES



1

THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

The Independent Serving Petrolia & Central Lambton emerged as the top newspaper in this class. This paper is filled with strong hard news stories along with interesting features. Good looking ads and strong photos are packaged in a great design. This is a great read from start to finish.



2

HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

From Page 1 throughout, the Haliburton County Echo is a great newspaper, filled with a solid mix of hard news and feature stories, supplemented by strong photography, engaging opinion pages and quality design. Lots of effective, attractive ads complete the package.



3

THE HERALD SERVING THAMESVILLE, DRESDEN AND BOTHWELL

The Herald Serving Thamesville, Dresden and Bothwell starts with an attractive, newsy front page and continues that commitment to strong journalism and excellent layout and design throughout the paper. The Herald is chock full of news, along with a local editorial, providing its readers with a full package of information. Informative and attractive ads round out the package.

HONOURABLE MENTION

DEEP RIVER NORTH RENFREW TIMES – The Deep River North Renfrew Times earned honourable mention with a strong performance. The paper is filled with an interesting mix of news stories, features items and a local editorial, along with strong photos that are given prominent display. Solid design, including nice-looking ads, complete this solid newspaper.

GENERAL COMMENT

There is great work being done by the newspapers in Class 1. Although small in circulation numbers, these papers are mighty in terms of engaging content. Subscribers and readers are getting full value from these newspapers, particularly in these trying times in the newspaper business. Although challenged by changing advertising practices and the COVID-19 pandemic, the newspapers in Class 1 continued to serve their communities well.

Judges

Krisi Marples

Editor,
Saint Croix Courier,
St. Stephen, NB



Frank McTighe

Editor & Publisher,
The Macleod Gazette,
Fort Macleod, AB



GENERAL EXCELLENCE | CLASS 2 & 3

CIRCULATION 2,000 - 6,499

9 ENTRIES



1

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

Choosing a winner in this category felt a little bit like splitting hairs. Metroland Media has done a great job of developing a modern, punchy, and clean format across its chain that is backed up by solid community journalism, informed opinion, excellent photography, a broad variety of content and consistency in editorial and advertising flow. Several Metroland papers were in the running, but in the end, Niagara This Week, Niagara-on-the-Lake Advance edged out the others with its consistency across all areas of the judging criteria and doing it just a little bit better.



2

VANKLEEK HILL REVIEW

The Vankleek Hill Review is simply an impressive all-around publication. Clean, uncluttered, and modern with great community-focus and quality content, it competed in every aspect of the judging criteria, but was edged out by a mere points. I would be hard-pressed to recommend any major improvements to this paper. A number of slight tweaks could have put it over the top.



3

EGANVILLE LEADER

What the Eganville Leader lacks in modern design and layout elements, it makes up for with solid journalism, informed opinion, and outstanding community focus. The modularity throughout the paper made it was easy to read and follow. It competed well across the editorial spectrum, but lost points for design and presentation, both in editorial and advertising. From an editorial perspective, content remains king, but the other elements can't be ignored. Easily a potential winner in this category with a modern facelift.

GENERAL COMMENT

For some time, those of us in the community newspaper business have faced a lot of challenges and having to do more with less has only been exacerbated by the past two years of the pandemic. The entries in the Class 2 & 3 category showed that despite the challenges, small markets in Ontario are being well-served. Congratulations to the winners and all the papers in this group. Keep up the good work.

Judges

Thom Barker
Regional Editor,
Northwest BC,
Black Press Media, BC



Chris Clegg
Editor,
South Peace News,
High Prairie, AB



Rob Vogt
Editor,
Claresholm Local Press,
Claresholm, AB



GENERAL EXCELLENCE | CLASS 4

CIRCULATION 6,500 - 12,499

19 ENTRIES



1

HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

The Highlander is a very impressive paper, with strong front-page photos and relevant, well-written stories. The bright, well-cropped photos are a pleasure to see. The strong, locally relevant editorial and opinion pages and interesting and diverse community content make this a complete package.



2

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, FORT ERIE POST

The Niagara This Week, Fort Erie Post contains really well-written stories with a well-rounded mix of hard facts and "human" elements. They have some great ledes and a dynamic layout which includes a healthy mix of ads and special features.



3

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT

The Niagara-on-the-Lake, The Lake Report was a pleasure to read. The front page stories are locally relevant, interesting and the photos are well-considered to draw people in. The stories are diverse, interesting and there are a lot of them! A strong opinion section rounds out the publication.

HONOURABLE MENTION

VOICE OF PELHAM – The Voice of Pelham is a good paper. Beautifully laid out, with a strong opinion section and interesting and important local stories. There was a good mix of soft news, hard news, and in-depth features. It's one shortfall was it's lack of art coverage.

GENERAL COMMENT

Looking at the entries in this category, it is clear these newspapers are doing good work for the communities they serve. Writers made an effort to make stories interesting, rather than just fact regurgitation, and to get and incorporate photos, despite the pandemic pushing reporters into the virtual sphere. It is very impressive to see the large amount of advertising and shows just how hard everyone works to make each paper a great product. While winning is nice, being a voice for the community, holding those in office accountable and getting readers positive feedback on that cute, neat story is more important. The support of the community means a lot, and it's apparent each of these papers has that. Keep up the great work.

Judges

Bronwyn Beairst

Editor,
The Coast Reporter,
Sechelt, BC



Laura Blackwell

Publisher,
Burns Lake District News &
Houston Today,
Burns Lake, BC



Pat Healey

Publisher,
The Laker News,
Enfield, NS



GENERAL EXCELLENCE | CLASS 5

CIRCULATION 12,500 - 22,499

10 ENTRIES



1

ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER

The Elmira-Woolwich Observer presents a thorough round-up of the news of the community with an interesting and lively read. With a generous news hole, the paper presents a variety of content covering the many sectors of the community. It's Editorial and Op-Ed pages are lively and topical and allow the writing to exude character.



2

ANCASTER NEWS

The Ancaster News provides a strong community news package, leads with a local story, and is well supported by advertisers.



3

ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN

The Orangeville Citizen scored well in writing, with plenty of news coverage. Advertising design was bright and vivid, and the ad content was strong.

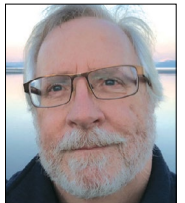
GENERAL COMMENT

Generally, the newspapers in this group did a good job of presenting their respective communities. It's a good feeling to read a local paper and get a sense of what's going on in the area. Many of the newspapers are within densely populated regions that are comprised of several communities and also several newspapers. So, it's not surprising to see the same content in more than one newspaper. Unfortunately, the downside of this is that editorials are not necessarily local and there is little local arts or sports coverage. Even a modicum of sports and the odd local editorial would really brighten this group up. The writing, production values and presentation in these papers are all good and there's no shortage of advertising content.

Judges

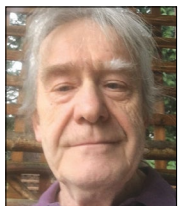
Alistair Taylor

Editor,
Campbell River Mirror,
Campbell River, BC



Manfred Tempelmayr

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



Jules Xavier

Editor,
Shilo Stag,
CFB Shilo, MB



GENERAL EXCELLENCE | CLASS 6

CIRCULATION 22,500 - 44,999

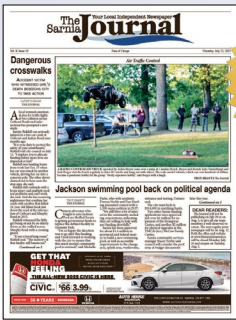
14 ENTRIES



1

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

An all-news front page made the Fergus Wellington Advertiser a standout in its class from the get go. The newspaper packed in more community news than any other in this category. Great use of space allows features and photos to breathe, and a strong op-ed and letters section adds punch to the news package. It's impressive to see such a robust classifieds section and diversity of advertising. Would like to see strong consideration given to building a dedicated weekly sports section, but overall, a great representation of the community, teamwork, and a model for all community papers to learn from.



2

SARNIA JOURNAL

A clean design keeps the Sarnia Journal a breezy and fun read for news about civic and community happenings, business, local history, sports and arts. The listings and weekly trivia are an added bonus, and they highlight their excellent photography well. The feature dedicated to sharing the stories of local lives lost to Covid-19 adds a compassionate touch to the overall impact of the news.



3

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, NIAGARA FALLS

A robust breadth of news, editorial, and advertising makes clear that the Niagara This Week, Niagara Falls is a well read and supported newspaper. Strong columns, community contributions and a good use of photos with a lot of community faces make this a well-read paper.

HONOURABLE MENTION

GRIMSBY LINCOLN NEWS – The Grimsby Lincoln News deserved an honourable mention as a well-rounded newspaper. It was strong on community news, had attractive front pages and its opinion pages were among the best in the category.

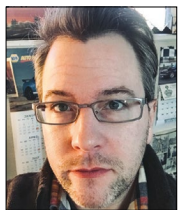
GENERAL COMMENT

We live in interesting times, and the newspapers in this category did a worthy job covering it all. Arts and sports sections seemed to suffer a little this year, but that's understandable in an era of COVID cancellations. These papers told their communities' stories admirably, and shared important information. Each newspaper has proven to be indispensable to the communities they serve, and certainly they were much-anticipated on their readers' doorsteps every week.

Judges

Matt Preprost

Managing Editor,
Alaska Highway News,
Fort St. John, BC



Greg Sakaki

Managing Editor,
Nanaimo News Bulletin,
Nanaimo, BC



Raissa Tetanish

Editor,
Pictou Advocate,
Pictou, NS



GENERAL EXCELLENCE | CLASS 7

CIRCULATION 45,000 & OVER

6 ENTRIES



1

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, ST. CATHARINES

With powerful images, strong content, colourful advertising and a well-rounded overall newspaper, Niagara This Week, St. Catharines stood out in this category as the strongest product. From the get-go, the front page draws the reader in and with a wide breadth of coverage in local stories, features, local editorial and opinion, letters to the editor and well-placed advertising, the overall product keeps the reader informed and wanting to read from front to back.



2

HAMILTON MOUNTAIN NEWS

In a crowded media market such as the Hamilton, Toronto and Niagara area, the Hamilton Mountain News has clearly worked hard to successfully separate itself from other competition. From the first to the final page, the Mountain News produces a strong overall product for readers to enhance their knowledge of the ongoing in the community. The stories in the paper are written with local readers in mind, while the advertising is tastefully completed and content such as news, features, editorial and opinion are well done.



3

BARRIE ADVANCE

When a reader picks up a newspaper, they should feel confident they can turn the pages to find stories of interest. The Barrie Advance succeeds in providing a wide span of coverage for the community in an aesthetically pleasing product with good advertising placement and a mixture of news coverage that is important to locals.

HONOURABLE MENTION

BURLINGTON POST – The Burlington Post has a long history of reporting locally important issues in the community and the future remains bright for readers of the product. The Post is able to cover the large community, with a blend of local news, opinion pieces and well-placed advertising. Readers can rest assured the product they pick up is well completed and thoughtfully produced.

GENERAL COMMENT

This category was incredibly difficult to judge with all newspapers providing strong content for their readers. From editorial content to advertising and photography, it's clear to see the pride the staff take in producing impressive products for readers and the community they represent. What separated the newspapers from one another is the little things such as going the extra mile on local content, slightly stronger photography than others, more eye-popping presentations for both editorial and advertising and providing arts and entertainment, features, and sports content. The core mission for any media outlet is to always report local and relevant issues in the community they cover. In this regard, all the newspapers in this category are succeeding. Judging is admittedly always subjective, but the newspapers in this category were unequivocally well done all around.

Judges

Rob Brown

Managing Editor,
Dawson Creek Mirror,
Dawson Creek, BC



Greg Colgan

Editor,
Rocky Mountain Outlook,
Canmore, AB



Andy Walker

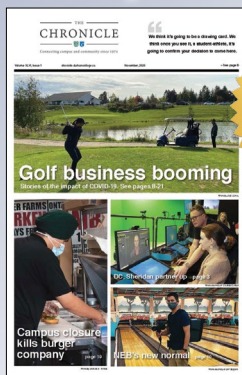
Editor,
Island Farm,
Montague, PEI



GENERAL EXCELLENCE | CLASS 8

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY

4 ENTRIES



1

DURHAM COLLEGE – THE CHRONICLE

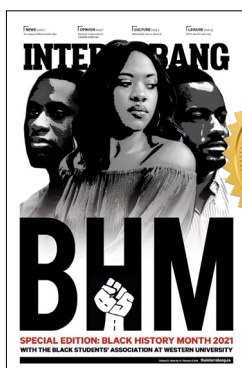
The Chronicle is clearly in a category of its own. Great layout – bright and fresh, excellent photography, plenty of news and features. The students had a pulse on their community – both on and off campus. Congratulations! Well done!



2

HUMBER COLLEGE – ET CETERA

Well written stories, strong photography, and a neat, clean, and attractive layout. The front page layouts draw readers to the inside stories.



3

FANSHAWE COLLEGE – INTERROBANG

In depth stories, excellent illustrations, and good photography. Included a wide range of stories.

HONOURABLE MENTION

LOYALIST COLLEGE – PIONEER - An attractive and nicely laid out publication with excellent photography. This publication would have scored higher with editorial/opinion, sports, and advertising content.

GENERAL COMMENT

Although the number of entries in this category was fewer than previous years, the articles were very well written. The challenge, of course, will be to attract these talented young writers to seek out positions in community newspapers.

Judge

Gerald Tracey
Publisher
Eganville Leader
Eganville, ON



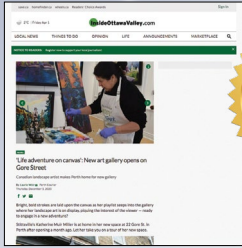
Gerald Tracey grew up in a newspaper family and began working at his father's newspaper, The Eganville Leader, while attending elementary school. His father passed away when he was 15. Gerald made the decision to join his older brother in the business after returning to high school to complete his Grade 13. Twenty minutes into his final year, he walked out of his class, returned to the office, and 51 years later, is the publisher of one of the most successful independent community newspapers in Canada.

Premier Awards



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

45 ENTRIES



1

PERTH COURIER – LAURIE WEIR

This piece really challenges the temptation to dismiss 'just another gallery opening' with the human dimension. Hearing the story behind the work and getting to know the significance of the painting for Muir Miller really makes a difference here. Also, great use of photos.



2

WALKERTON HERALD TIMES – COLIN BURROWES

This is a great example of how an A&E story can go beyond the traditional boundaries of the category to address serious and systemic issues.



3

MANOTICK MESSENGER – SKYLER FRASER & JEFF MORRIS

This piece was surprisingly compelling. A well-crafted mix of recollection, description of the projects that have been inspired by what happened, and reflection on where the discussion has fallen short so far.

HONOURABLE MENTION

FORT FRANCES TIMES – KEN KELLAR – It's a nice feel-good story, and one that gives people a clear sense of how they can be helpful. Well written and enjoyable.

GUELPH MERCURY TRIBUNE – JONATHAN DUNCAN – It's different, but I really like the first-person, present tense narrative here. There is a mystery, it is still happening, and the reader has wandered into the middle of it. It's not the kind of writing I would expect to encounter in a newspaper, but the story of seeking the story is very relatable as a writer.

GENERAL COMMENT

What an interesting category in a time when there are so many unexpected challenges in the world of arts and culture. There are many different ways that people are working to adapt their creativity to fit into new and shifting constraints. Despite the sometimes all-encompassing nature of the pandemic, there were also a number of stories that stood out by virtue of their ability to address other social or societal issues while also celebrating the arts.

Judge

Gordon Lambie

Associate Editor,
The Record,
Sherbrooke, QC



Gordon Lambie is the Associate Editor and Senior Writer for The Record in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Having started writing for the paper as a youth columnist, he has now been reporting on all aspects of life in the Eastern Townships for close to 10 years while also helping to coordinate and oversee the work of fellow writers and correspondents. He has also previously served as Editor of the Townships Sun magazine and has written for Life in Quebec and the Telegraph-Journal in Saint-John, New Brunswick.

Sponsored by: *Midwestern Newspapers*

BEST BUSINESS & FINANCE STORY

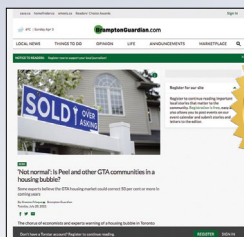
62 ENTRIES



1

BRACEBRIDGE EXAMINER – MARY BETH HARTILL

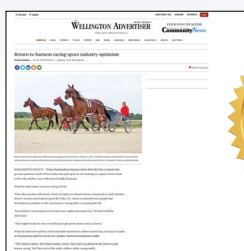
A timely well-written story that covers all the bases. Interviews with business owners who are directly impacted as well as municipal and health authorities all help bring this story to life. Well done.



2

BRAMPTON GUARDIAN – GRAEME FRISQUE

A clearly-written and comprehensive outline of the issue, with plenty of hard data in the form of easily-readable graphs (prepared by the writer) and knowledgeable quotes from experts. Takes what some might consider a boring topic and breathes life into a very readable and accessible article. Great job.



3

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER – JORDAN SNOBELEN

A well-researched, logically-structured, and concisely written article that includes interviews with six knowledgeable sources. The article pulled the reader in with a great lead paragraph and kept up the interest by filling in the details and widening the context of the story as it went along. Great job.

HONOURABLE MENTION

ARNPRIOR CHRONICLE-GUIDE – DEREK DUNN – A solid piece of reporting that shows initiative and balance in telling the story of employees in a stressful and uncertain situation. The quotes from the employee whose identity is protected are well-chosen.

STONEY CREEK NEWS – RICHARD LEITNER – A very well-written and researched story that explains the issue clearly in plain language. A great lead paragraph that pulls the reader in, with plenty of good quotes from several knowledgeable sources, including business people, a chamber of commerce spokesperson and a federal MP. Great job.

GENERAL COMMENT

With 62 entries, judging this category was a challenging task. The quality of writing was very good overall, and the range of issues covered was quite broad. However, the pieces that rose to the top were a cut above the others; combining good photography, a newshound's instinct for the relevant facts, and exceptional writing and editing skills that put all the pieces together in an accessible, logical and clearly-articulated story. Many articles focused on the human connections that are so important in making locally-owned and operated businesses such a vital part of every community. There was not much separating the first, second and third-place winners, and those that earned Honourable Mention.

Judge

Terry Pugh

Senior Reporter/
Photographer,
The Clark's Crossing Gazette,
Warman, SK



Terry Pugh began writing for the University of Saskatchewan student newspaper, The Sheaf, in 1976 and later served as editor of that publication before moving on to become a reporter at the Biggar Independent. From 1981 to 1994 he was editor of a monthly newspaper published by a national farm organization. He has contributed to several community newspapers and regional magazines in western Canada as a freelance journalist, and for the past twelve years has been the senior reporter at The Clark's Crossing Gazette, an award-winning independently-owned community newspaper in Warman, near Saskatoon.

BEST EDITORIAL circ. 10,000+

15 ENTRIES



1

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER – CHRIS DAPONTE

Well written. This gives background, develops the issue, and uses statistics to back up arguments. Never lead with a quote. Unless, of course, it's a strong quote, and this one is. Good job!



2

NORTH WELLINGTON COMMUNITY NEWS – PAT RAFTIS

Good topic, and very timely. Well argued - although the people sharing the memes probably won't consider anyone's logic or facts!



3

ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER – STEVE KANNON

Good background information to catch the reader up on what has happened and what is at stake. A well developed and smooth read.

HONOURABLE MENTION

BRAMPTON GUARDIAN – ROGER BELGRAVE – Good editorial. Well stated arguments and development.

GENERAL COMMENT

There were some great editorials here, and the majority of them are of the same high quality. It made it very difficult to choose. A great editorial evokes a reader to have a response, whether it is an emotional one, or one that makes the reader think. They don't have to agree with you, but if you can make them ponder a topic and what is at stake, your work is done! We want the conversation, the thoughts, the impact on our readers and on our communities. Well done everyone!

Judge

Sheena Read

Freelance Journalist,
Alberta



Sheena Read has lived in southern Alberta for most of her career, writing about the issues of her communities and connecting with as many people as possible. She continues that work with contract communications and promotions.

BEST EDITORIAL circ. -9,999

26 ENTRIES



1

EGANVILLE LEADER

I think the outrage was - and still is - something we have to give voice to. Good building of your arguments and good examples used to back up your position.



2

MINDEN TIMES – CHAD INGRAM

Well written and developed. Good use of examples. Good background inclusion as part of your editorial development. This editorial rated highly on my first evaluation, but it stuck in my head. In the end, it was elevated because it did what editorials are supposed to make you do: think about the topic.



3

BURKS FALLS ALMAGUIN NEWS – PAMELA STEEL

Good lead, strong examples, and heart-breaking situations. This is well-written, with a call to action and solutions at the end. This is a good editorial.

HONOURABLE MENTION

SMITHS FALLS RECORD NEWS – HOLLIE PRATT-CAMPBELL – Well written with good development and good points to develop your editorial. Good call to action.

GENERAL COMMENT

The best editorials should make the reader think. Build your arguments, use statistics to back up your lead. Ensure your lead is strong - just as you would in any news article, then build it from there. By building your argument and developing your editorial, you should be able to accomplish that goal of making the reader think and perhaps evoking an emotional response. However, your development needs to be controlled. These community newspapers speak for the community and to the community, and the people they write about will probably be living there for a long time. We need to remember the legacy of our words and of our newspapers. I hope they outlast us in only the best of ways.

Judge

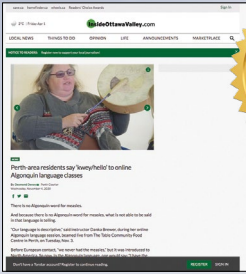
Sheena Read
Freelance Journalist,
Alberta



Sheena Read has lived in southern Alberta for most of her career, writing about the issues of her communities and connecting with as many people as possible. She continues that work with contract communications and promotions.

EDUCATION WRITING

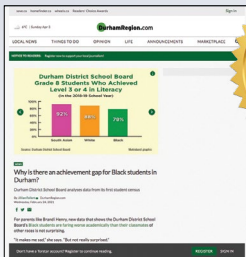
48 ENTRIES



1

PERTH COURIER – DESMOND DEVOY

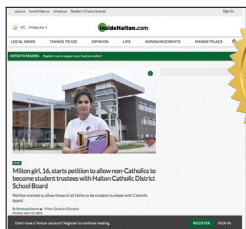
Excellent read, and great to highlight a class that starts with language and provides a gateway into Indigenous history and culture in a very personal and approachable way.



2

AJAX PICKERING NEWS ADVERTISER – JILLIAN FOLLERT

This is a very important topic. Highlighting this study and recording the Black experience in school is a great way to help educators understand the impact of systemic racism on students.



3

MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION – BAMBANG SADEWO

Well-written article. Great to hear about students fighting for an inclusive environment.

HONOURABLE MENTION

BARRHAVEN INDEPENDENT – JEFF MORRIS – Great project to feature - bringing community members into the classroom. This is an article that can inspire other teachers and encourage community leaders to share their experience with younger generations.

NEWMARKET ERA/AURORA BANNER – LISA QUEEN – This was an uplifting story. Great demonstration of how one person speaking up can create positive change.

GENERAL COMMENT

Every article in this category was a pleasure to read. Not only does this body of work provide a record of the challenges faced by educators, parents, and students during a pandemic, but the variety of topics covered also point to important conversations happening in communities today about equity, diversity, and inclusion. Congratulations everyone on a job well done.

Sponsored by: Ontario Journalism Educators Association

Judge

Matthew McCully

Managing Editor,
Sherbrooke Record,
Sherbrooke, QC



Matthew McCully is the Managing Editor of the daily newspaper The Sherbrooke Record as well as the weekly Brome County News, serving the English population of the Eastern Townships in Quebec. Also working as a journalist, McCully has been covering the public meetings of the Eastern Townships School Board for close to a decade and has written extensively on issues related to education.

ENVIRONMENT ONTARIO

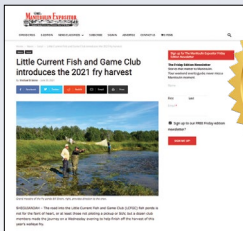
56 ENTRIES



1

PARRY SOUND NORTH STAR – STEPHANNIE JOHNSON

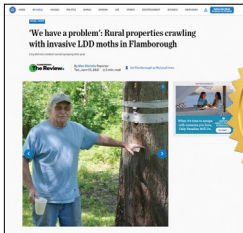
Exceptional piece of environmental journalism. In-depth research leading up to what the community achieved in the end. The story brings together different angles and demonstrates the collaboration, which led to a successful program.



2

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR – MIKE ERSKINE

This is a good example of community journalism with an environmental focus. It gave us an outline of the issue/activity, stating its current status from what it was before.



3

WATERDOWN FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW – MAC CHRISTIE

Enjoyed reading this entry, especially because it was a prevalent issue and was reported by different publications, quite a few being entries in this category. Well researched and good insights from a range of voices.

HONOURABLE MENTION

KINCARDINE INDEPENDENT – TAMMY SCHNEIDER – Great story. Would have been more insightful to add more voices and perhaps a local arborist.

GENERAL COMMENT

This year's entries under Environment are a true testament to community journalism and local talent despite the pandemic. What was evident while going through more than 50 stories in this category, was the research and effort all reporters and journalists had put in to dig deeper and see how the issue impacted their communities. Selecting only three winners was a daunting task, but I enjoyed the process and I hope our journalist tribe continues to grow.

Judge

Moush John

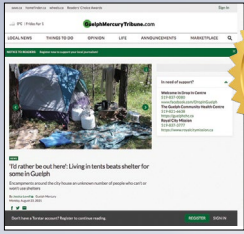
Managing Editor,
The Tofield Mercury,
Tofield, AB



Moush John is the Managing Editor of The Tofield Mercury, a weekly community newspaper based out of Alberta. Her editing/publishing career of more than 20 years spans the UK, Middle East, and Canada. She is also an accomplished photographer and creative designer, running her own visual communications studio.

FEATURE WRITING circ. 10,000+

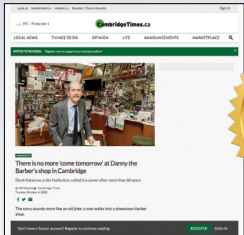
40 ENTRIES



1

GUELPH MERCURY TRIBUNE – JESSICA LOVELL

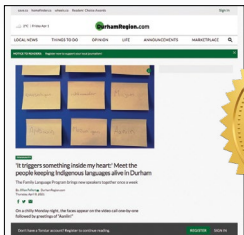
Well researched and well written. This thoughtful look at the homeless population is informative and interesting to read.



2

CAMBRIDGE TIMES – BILL DOUCET

Excellent writing. Compelling from start to finish.



3

OSHAWA THIS WEEK – JILLIAN FOLLERT

Very informative. Well researched and well written. Interesting to learn all the different stories within the article.

HONOURABLE MENTION

NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS – NATALIE HAMILTON – Great job personalizing the need for affordable housing, particularly during the pandemic.

GENERAL COMMENT

The entries in this category covered a great range of topics that were fascinating to read. The writers showcased an impressive amount of research and attention to detail in many of the stories, which added to the appeal.

Judge

Jennifer McFee

Reporter/Photographer,
Stonewall Teulon Tribune,
Stonewall, MB



Jennifer McFee is a reporter with the Stonewall Teulon Tribune newspaper in Manitoba.

Sponsored by: O'Donnell, Robertson & Partners

FEATURE WRITING circ. -9,999

34 ENTRIES



1

VOICE OF PELHAM – DAVE BURKET & HELEN TRAN

All the hard work that went into this piece really shines through. That includes gaining the trust of the subjects to speak so openly, creating an appropriate tone, going back and forth in time in the narrative and clearly showing the impacts of drinking and driving and traumatic brain injuries. An exceptional piece of journalism.



2

HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO – SUE TIFFIN

Threading of so many different sources and super solid writing made this in memoriam feature stand out.



3

HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER – SAM GILLET & LYELCA RODRIGUES

The writing in this story is exceptional and made for a captivating read.

GENERAL COMMENT

I was pleased to read so many great entries in this category. They ranged from features about people who had died or experienced tremendous loss, to stories that detailed positive community campaigns or personal passions. As always, the best stories used multiple sources and extra care was obvious in the writing and editing of them.

Judge

Gail Sjuberg

Editor,
Gulf Islands Driftwood &
Aqua-Gulf Islands Living Magazine,
Salt Spring Island, BC

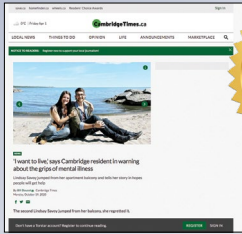


Gail Sjuberg has been the editor of the award-winning Gulf Islands Driftwood newspaper in B.C. since 2003 and in the community newspaper business for more than 30 years. She is also the editor of the Driftwood's Aqua - Gulf Islands Living magazine and other company publications. She has been a judge for numerous community newspaper competitions over the years.

Sponsored by: O'Donnell, Robertson & Partners

HEALTH & WELLNESS

62 ENTRIES



1

CAMBRIDGE TIMES – BILL DOUCET

Bill Doucet was blessed to find a woman who was willing to be open about her mental health and suicide attempts. The woman's honesty gives the story its impact; Doucet's writing turns it into a very compelling read. The story is told with ebbs and flows, weaving narrative with information seamlessly, earning him the first-place standing.



2

GLANBROOK GAZETTE – TAMARA BOTTING

The communications team of Cystic Fibrosis Canada has to be applauded. More than half a dozen entries were about attempts to get a 'miracle' drug for CF approved in Canada. The story by Tamara Botting rose to the top because of the straightforward way she lets two sisters provide the emotional impact of the story, supporting their narrative with a nice flow of information. She got extra points for reaching out to Health Canada about the approval process to earn second place.



3

HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO – SUE TIFFIN

Sue Tiffin's story about the positive impact that robocats can have on the mental wellbeing of residents in seniors' homes was interesting in its own right. But what makes her story an even better read is the parallel journey of the woman who is raising money to buy the furry friends for local care homes. Tiffin gave her readers no choice but to care, earning her the third-place finish.

GENERAL COMMENT

The purpose of many features is to make people care about the subject. To do that, readers have to identify with the people they are reading about, even though they might not have shared the same experience.

Judge

Martha Perkins

Retired Journalist of 30 years,
Ontario and BC



Martha Perkins is a retired newspaper editor who has helmed award winning community newspapers in Ontario's cottage country and British Columbia's Lower Mainland.

HERITAGE

53 ENTRIES



1

EGANVILLE LEADER – JOHANNA ZOMERS

Johanna Zomers did an exemplary job in finding people to share insightful and entertaining stories about a local institution. These stories gave shape to the past, making it less ethereal. The ghosts took shape as readers were transported to a different world. It was a sidebar that gave the Leader's entry the single point needed to attain first place.



2

HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO – SUE TIFFIN

Sue Tiffin was a very close second. Only a single point separated first and second place. The story gives you a sense of the sacrifices the Agnew family made to ensure the village had a store and they had a livelihood. Lovely!



3

VOICE OF PELHAM – DAVE BURKET & DON RICKERS

Third place goes to Don Rickers. His research into why local furniture makers and hardware stores often had a double life as funeral providers brought past and present together. He used that research as a springboard to explore the factors that inform today's funeral trends, showing that history is rarely static.

HONOURABLE MENTION

VANKLEEK HILL REVIEW – LOUISE SPROULE – Honourable mention goes to Louise Sproule. Her story about a local mural project has an unexpected twist at the end that explores the idea of leaving history in the past.

GENERAL COMMENT

When it comes to hard news stories, the "Just the facts, ma'am" approach still applies. But with feature categories such as heritage, a narrative approach is much more effective. History is all about story telling; it's how history remains relevant. Too many writers of this year's submissions didn't make the switch from reporters to storytellers. Those who did captured this reader's full attention.

Judge

Martha Perkins

Retired Journalist of 30 years,
Ontario and BC

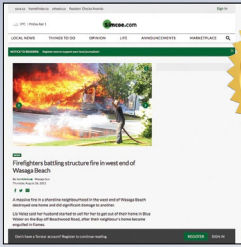


Martha Perkins is a retired newspaper editor who has helmed award winning community newspapers in Ontario's cottage country and British Columbia's Lower Mainland.

Sponsored by: Fort Frances Times

BEST NEWS STORY circ. 10,000+

31 ENTRIES



1

WASAGA/STAYNER SUN – IAN ADAMS

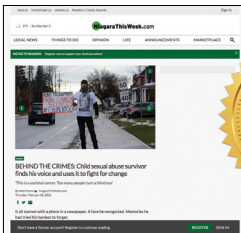
On scene video and photography upped the 'initiative' score on this one. It also appears the journalist took the time to do a final write through to incorporate colour and comments from the scene to create an engaging read even months later.



2

SARNIA JOURNAL – CATHY DOBSON

Concise writing while incorporating the research can be daunting. The writer did this well, recognizing and conveying the myriad values to the community.



3

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, WELLAND – NICK FEARNES

The writer takes a fundraising and awareness campaign to the next level with multiple sources and research. The narrative-style makes for a smooth read while conveying its importance to readers.

GENERAL COMMENT

The breadth of topics made this category supremely challenging to judge. All the journalists represented here did an amazing job showing their knowledge of, and commitment to, their communities. Stories with on-scene photos and video in particular provided insight to the level of initiative of these community reporters.

Sponsored by: Hydro One

Judge

Christine van Reeuyk

Senior Journalist,
Oak Bay News,
Oak Bay, BC



After finishing journalism school in 2002, Christine van Reeuyk returned home to Vancouver Island to embark on a career. She has since worked in newsrooms from Victoria to Port Hardy and back again. A multi award winner on the provincial and national level, Christine has worked as editor of Black Press papers across Greater Victoria and now serves the community of Oak Bay.

BEST NEWS STORY circ. -9,999

34 ENTRIES



1

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR – WARREN SCHLOTE

This series of stories on the death of OPP Const. Marc Hovingh provided a complete, well-written explanation of the incident which led to his death, which occurred while he was responding to a complaint while on duty. The Expositor went far beyond that, also writing about his significant role in a tight-knit community. The newspaper also assisted his family in gathering information about him for a memorial album. All of this is local journalism at its best.



2

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE LOCAL

An incident involving the impounding of 150 dogs from a home on a quiet street in Niagara-On-The-Lake shocked the community, neighbours and the landlord who owned the home. While official information was negligible and sketchy, the Local dug out a lot of important details and was able to inform the community. The newspaper staff did a far better job in sharing important knowledge, which should have been public, than officials did. This was a wonderful example of doing what local journalists can do best.



3

VOICE OF PELHAM – DAVE BURKET & DON RICKERS

The way the community came together after the tragic death of Earl Clapp was heartwarming, and The Voice reflected that very well through words and photos. This was a significant and important community event and was particularly important for his grieving family. Another example of stellar local journalism.

HONOURABLE MENTION

BURKS FALLS ALMAGUIN NEWS – This story has a lot of good information and was undoubtedly well-read, given its importance. Good initial and follow-up work.

EAST GWILLIMBURY EXPRESS – JEREMY GRIMALDI – The explosive news after 36 years that the murderer of his younger sister had been identified was a very emotional moment for Kenney Jessop. This story outlines the details.

GENERAL COMMENT

A wide variety of news stories were entered in this category. Most of them are good solid entries, with reporters reflecting important events in their communities and providing the details that members of the community crave. The top three were just a bit above the others. It is good to see that local journalism is alive and well at a time when the community newspaper industry is under significant stress.

Sponsored by: Hydro One

Judge

Frank Bucholtz

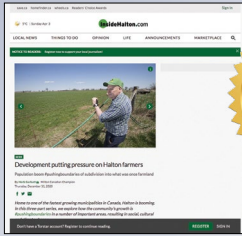
Columnist,
Black Press Media and
Retired Editor,
Langley Times,
Langley, BC



Frank Bucholtz is a retired community newspaper editor, and a freelance writer and blogger with more than 40 years of media experience. He worked for community newspapers in Surrey, Langley, White Rock and other parts of the B.C. Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley from 1978 until retiring in 2015, and continues to write a column for the Surrey Now-Leader, Peace Arch News and Cloverdale Reporter in B.C. He served as editor of the Langley Times from 1999 to 2015 and the Surrey Leader from 1986 to 1993. He has judged various categories in the annual OCNA awards for the past nine years. He also serves as a judge with the Jack Webster Foundation, which presents annual awards to B.C. journalists in all media. He is a past winner of journalism awards from both the CCNA and the BCYCNA.

BEST RURAL STORY circ. 10,000+

20 ENTRIES



1

MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION – HERB GARBUTT

Everyone should read Herb Garbutt's story about development pressures. His straightforward but descriptive language allows him to lead readers through a complex issue in a way that is both easy to understand and informative. Usually, you'd lose readers when you got to the sentence "Recently a committee was formed" but Garbutt avoids going into the bureaucratic weeds and keeps his focus on what readers will care about. It's a well deserved first-place finish.



2

HALDIMAND COUNTY, THE SACHEM – TARA LINDEMANN

Tara Lindemann earned second place by taking the time to transform what could have been a cursory council report into a story about people whose experiences reveal the deeper impact of the council's decision. The layout allowed her to add in some of the background elements that could have bogged down the story.



3

WATERDOWN FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW – JULIA LOVETT-SQUIRES

Julia Lovett-Squires gave breadth to her feature about the often-unrecognized role that women play on family farms by interviewing three women who each provide a different perspective. By strategically choosing these women, Lovett-Squires is able to introduce new elements while keeping her easygoing narrative style for a third-place finish.

GENERAL COMMENT

There were several entries that had a very nice flow, using personal stories to introduce the subject and then adding background information to fully explore the issue. Communities are being very well served even in these days of tighter news holes and diminishing attention spans.

Judge

Martha Perkins

Retired Journalist of 30 years,
Ontario and BC



Martha Perkins is a retired newspaper editor who has helped award winning community newspapers in Ontario's cottage country and British Columbia's Lower Mainland.

Sponsored by: Ontario Federation of Agriculture

BEST RURAL STORY circ. -9,999

36 ENTRIES



1

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT – DON REYNOLDS & JILL TROYER

Excellent feature - just the right number of images - to explain an important grape harvest in Niagara. We learn about the process, the impact of the weather and the people who bring their expertise.



2

BARRHAVEN INDEPENDENT – JEFF MORRIS

Very interesting take on an international story with lots of local interest. Not an easy piece to prepare - well done.



3

AYLMER EXPRESS – JODI CLAYTON & VERONICA REINER

The vagaries of farming - oh my goodness. Thankfully they persevered after two tornadoes! A good look at the plight and potential success of a farm couple.

HONOURABLE MENTION

GRAVENHURST BANNER – SARAH LAW – We've heard across Canada that there is a shortage of vets - a good illustration of the problem deserving of an honourable mention.

SMITHS FALLS RECORD NEWS – EVELYN HARFORD – A first person look at the housing crisis in one small town - luckily this one had a happy ending. A good solid story.

VOICE OF PELHAM – MICHAEL RUEHLE – This is a very unique story and deserves an honourable mention for an unexpectedly fascinating memoir piece.

GENERAL COMMENT

What a collection of great rural stories - I enjoyed the reading. Some fascinating people profiled. The theme of clashes between rural and urban forces was sadly a common one. Our changing weather and the endless pandemic were frequent topics deserving of coverage. Most stories in this category were well crafted and presented, but single voice representation and poor visuals sometimes reduced the point count. The overall winner stood out on all fronts.

Judge

Wendy Elliott

Columnist,
Valley Journal Advertiser,
Annapolis Valley, NS

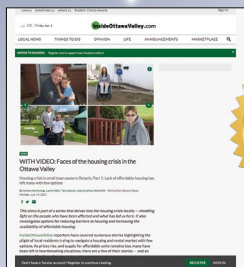


An OCNA judge for several years, Wendy Elliott was a reporter and editor in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia for 40 years. She won regional and national newspaper awards and is currently a columnist with the Valley Journal Advertiser.

Sponsored by: Ontario Federation of Agriculture

BEST FEATURE/NEWS SERIES circ. 10,000+

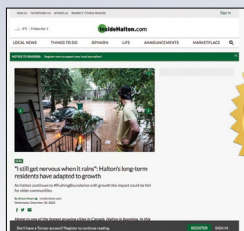
22 ENTRIES



1

SMITHS FALLS RECORD NEWS – LAURIE WEIR, EVELYN HARFORD, TARA GESNER, JONATHAN MULVIHILL

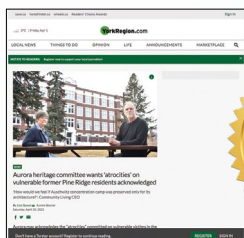
It is apparent a lot of planning and research went into creating this series. The videos - although a bit lengthy in some instances - added another dimension to the project showing the personal impacts of the housing crisis. Several journalists successfully collaborated on this project.



2

BURLINGTON POST – HERB GARBUTT, BRYAN MYERS, BAMBANG SADEWO

This was a strong contender for first place. The writing was clear and well-researched, and the topics were varied enough to be of interest to any reader. The piece on the farmland was exceptional, and relatable across Canada. Well done to all the writers.



3

NEWMARKET ERA/AURORA BANNER – LISA QUEEN

This writer chose to highlight the plight of victims of abuse, who wanted the history of that past acknowledged as part of a heritage building designation. The feature series created awareness and garnered a support community for the victims.

GENERAL COMMENT

There was no shortage of quality writing in this category. It was difficult to judge because so many of the entries tackled the same problem – the housing crisis. That being said, a series on the housing crisis did capture first place thanks to depth of research, quality of writing and overall impact on the community. Congratulations to all the nominees for their exceptional efforts.

Judge

Monica Lamb-Yorski

Senior Reporter,
Williams Lake Tribune,
Williams Lake, B.C.



Monica Lamb-Yorski has been a journalist since 2001. She started her newspaper career as a freelancer with the Prince Rupert Daily News, when the youngest of her six children was two. For the last 10 years she has been a reporter at the Williams Lake Tribune and continues to enjoy the challenge and privilege of working at a community newspaper. This is her first time judging for the OCNA.

Sponsored by: Hydro One

BEST FEATURE/NEWS SERIES circ. -9,999

23 ENTRIES



1

BARRHAVEN INDEPENDENT – JEFF MORRIS

Feature writing is about detail and storytelling. It draws the reader into the piece. It makes one “feel” and become part of the story. This series was everything feature writing is about. I smiled and I cried. I felt part of these pieces.



2

BARRY'S BAY, THE VALLEY GAZETTE – KATRINA BOGUSKI

Very deeply researched with writing that flowed and carried the reader through. Articles segued together like well-fitting puzzle pieces. I loved the strength in the paragraph “Big dreams galvanize communities. Petty factions rip them apart. We need more big dreams brought to fruition by small contributions made by many people...”



3

LISTOWEL BANNER – COLIN BURROWES

This series was relevant and insightful to the issues in the community. The writing introduced me to the subjects, who I was able to get to know and understand. Adding human experiences and emotions create a deeper understanding of real-time situations for others.

HONOURABLE MENTION

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT – RICHARD HARLEY, ELIZABETH MASSON, EVAN SAUNDERS

– The writing flowed and kept me reading. I enjoyed learning about the historical aspect of the property and the efforts of the community to protect this landmark. Photos of the features and buildings of the property would have increased the visual aspect of such a detailed series.

GENERAL COMMENT

Ontario journalists excelled at feature and news writing during 2020-2021. Not one article I read in the features and news series was not relevant to the community for which it was written. I was happy to see the passion of dedicated journalists bringing into focus issues in society that we sometimes don't have visuals of, such as homelessness, drug use, mental health issues, political circumstances, health, and history. I loved feeling part of the story when writers captured the audience with emotion plus the opportunity to get to know the subject and story matter.

Judge

K-J Millar

Journalist,

Prince Rupert Northern View &
Haida Gwaii Observer,
Prince Rupert, BC

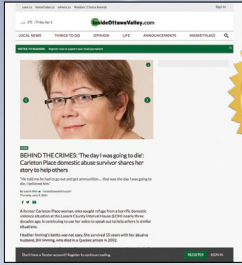


K-J Millar is a multi-media journalist whose specialty is feature writing and covering housing issues. She loves meeting people to capture their stories in ink and images. A title award winner in photography, she got her start in the media (pre-internet, when T-line was still a thing) in New Zealand working as a radio broadcaster, news editor, and photographer. Her career has gone full circle around the globe after working in law, housing and communications. She is currently a newsroom leader in the North Coast of B.C.

Sponsored by: Hydro One

BEST INVESTIGATIVE NEWS STORY

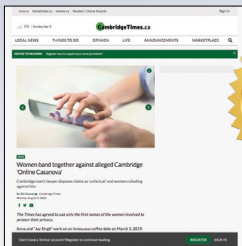
26 ENTRIES



1

PERTH COURIER – LAURIE WEIR

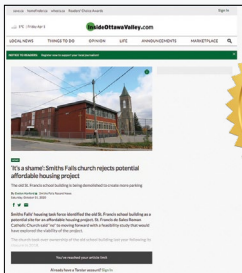
An excellent example of investigative reporting. This reporter dug in and did a lot of work and came up with an excellent article. Great job!



2

CAMBRIDGE TIMES – BILL DOUCET

An excellent article that obviously involved a lot of work by the reporter.



3

SMITHS FALLS RECORD NEWS – EVELYN HARFORD

Great article that details how, in one sad case, parking took priority over people.

GENERAL COMMENT

Investigative journalism is an important function of the media in Canada and in any democracy. Investigative journalism increases transparency, holds authorities to account, and shines a light on dark corners not always visible to the public. There were many excellent entries in this category that did exactly what investigative journalism should do - through hard work and research bring facts to public attention that otherwise remain hidden. Others were on the right track but could have used more time and resources to conduct a thorough investigation. I commend all those journalists and publications that continue to dedicate time and resources to investigative journalism at a time in which resources are strained. Investigative reporting is one area in which print media can excel.

Judge

Kevin Weedmark

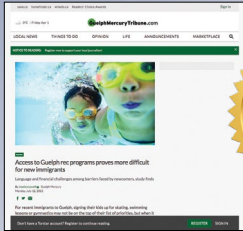
Editor and Publisher,
The World-Spectator,
Moosomin, SK



Kevin Weedmark is editor of the community newspaper World-Spectator, of the agricultural publication Ag News, and of the regional publication Plain and Valley. He started work as a reporter at the World-Spectator in Moosomin in 1988, after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Regina. He was appointed editor in 1990 and purchased the company in 2002. He won the Canadian International Development Agency's Award for Excellence in Writing on International Co-operation twice, and twice won the Media Human Rights Award presented by the League for Human Rights of B'nai B'rith Canada. One of the awards was presented for "Freedom of Speech vs. Freedom from Hatred," which examined the relationship between the right to free speech and laws against hate speech in Canada. The other for an investigation into the history of the Ku Klux Klan in Saskatchewan.

SPORTS & RECREATION STORY

41 ENTRIES



1

GUELPH MERCURY TRIBUNE – JESSICA LOVELL

Excellent story! Makes me wish I'd done something similar for my paper! Well done!



2

THE HALDIMAND PRESS – MIKE RENZELLA

Terrific story! Very well written! Nice bits of historical and new information on how the family is still getting juniors into the sport.



3

LISTOWEL BANNER – DAN MCNEE

Fantastic job by the group and nice job by the reporter to capture it with terrific writing. Made me want to sign up!

GENERAL COMMENT

Lots of great reading for this judge! The top three, however, stood out for their quality of writing and sticking to the judging criteria. There were many great features that were just that - features. We have this same issue in our province. Perhaps there should be a new category - Sports Feature. Still, was a pleasure to judge this category!

Judge

Roger Knox

Multimedia Journalist,
The Morning Star,
Vernon, BC



Roger Knox just celebrated his 25th year with Black Press in British Columbia on Feb. 3. The former radio sportscaster started his newspaper career in Quesnel on Feb. 3, 1997. He has also done stints in Fort St. James, Vanderhoof and Salmon Arm. Roger is currently a senior multi-media journalist with the Morning Star/Black Press Media, based in his hometown of Vernon.

BEST HEADLINE WRITING

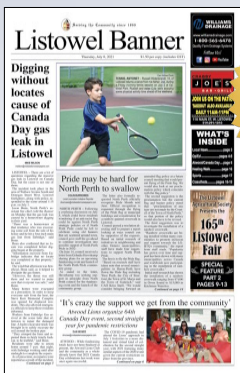
21 ENTRIES



1

WALKERTON HERALD TIMES

Definitely some entertaining and creative headlines here that make a reader pause and even smile.



2

LISTOWEL BANNER

Like the plays on words and using them to convey different meanings.



3

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT – RICHARD HARLEY & KEVIN MACLEAN

Well thought-out headlines with some creative font pairing.

HONOURABLE MENTION

NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER – STEVEN LAROCQUE – Everyone loves a good play on words.

GENERAL COMMENT

Congratulations to the winners! Your headlines drew my attention and entertained me!

Judge

Danielle Gordon-Broome

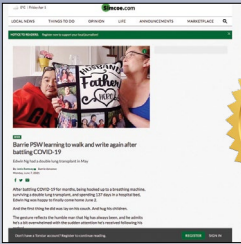
Editor,
Swan Valley Star and Times,
Swan River, MB



Danielle Gordon-Broome is the editor for the Swan Valley Star and Times in Swan River, Manitoba - a position she has held for the past seven years. On top of her editorial duties, she is also head of the company's social media and video management department, handles the newspaper's layout and design, and frequently acts as a graphic designer.

BEST COVID-19 COVERAGE

65 ENTRIES



1

BARRIE ADVANCE – JANIS RAMSAY & CHRIS SIMON

Shares the emotion while bringing a variety of sources with factual information into play.



2

THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON – HEATHER WRIGHT & ALEX KURIAL

Great detail and well written stories. These articles offer emotion. A delight to read.



3

AYLMER EXPRESS – BRETT HUESTON & VERONICA REINER

Stories about the victim of COVID and the anti-vaxx stickers bring an emotional response. Great job getting this information out to your community.

HONOURABLE MENTION

CARLETON PLACE/ALMONTE CANADIAN GAZETTE – ASHLEY KULP – Great use of multiple sources.

GENERAL COMMENT

As a group these stories were a pleasure to judge, but also difficult to rank. The best stories brought with them multiple sources and valuable information but also showed the emotion involved in this topic. Hat's off to all the journalists who keep their readers informed on this valuable topic.

Judge

Greg Vandermeulen

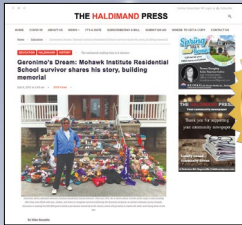
Editor,
The Carillon,
Steinbach, MB



Greg Vandermeulen has reported for and edited community newspapers in Manitoba for 24 years. He is currently the editor of The Carillon, a Steinbach based weekly broadsheet.

DIVERSITY COVERAGE

64 ENTRIES



1

THE HALDIMAND PRESS – MIKE RENZELLA

Amazing photos and great quality of writing. The detailed quotes and framing of the story truly demonstrate Geronimo's personal experience. Great relevancy to the community as the story embraces the experience of one individual and connects it to a larger issue - Canada's history of residential schools.



2

WINGHAM ADVANCE TIMES – CORY BILYEA

Strong pictures and good use of quotes. Stories carry a wide range of topics that focus on diverse communities - Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) residents. Great amount of detail presented.



3

WATERDOWN FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW – MAC CHRISTIE & JULIA LOVETT-SQUIRES

Great data/statistics and good quality of writing in these stories. Also, great job of moving the stories forward. Pictures used helped to bring a face to a name and strengthened the real issues/news of the stories.

HONOURABLE MENTION

CALEDON ENTERPRISE – STEVE CORNWELL – Great statistics and sources used. Would like to hear directly from a minority to get their perspective of the current issue. Good quality of writing and quotes used help support the overall story.

MANOTICK MESSENGER – JEFF MORRIS – Great story. Good quality of writing and strong pictures used. Good use of a variety of sources.

SMITHS FALLS RECORD NEWS – EVELYN HARFORD – Great story and follow-up. Good quality of writing as well. Relevant issue to the community. Quotes demonstrate a local face to a broader problem..

GENERAL COMMENT

Stories submitted for the Diversity Coverage demonstrated great examples of precise storytelling on how marginalized groups continue to face racism and discrimination in local communities. Great quotes and strong colorful photos were used throughout the entries submitted. Stories submitted focused on Indigenous communities, BIPOC, LGBTQ2SA+, and people with disabilities.

Judge

Sierra D'Souza Butts

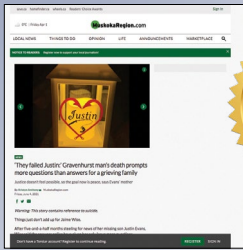
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter,
The World-Spectator,
Moosomin, SK



Sierra D'Souza Butts is a recent journalism graduate, and currently works as the Local Journalism Initiative Reporter at The World-Spectator. With her strong passion for journalism and sociology, Sierra enjoys meeting new people and hearing their opinions on social issues and social change. She's happy to have a platform to share other people's stories and excited to learn more about the field.

BEST POLICE/COURT STORY OR SERIES

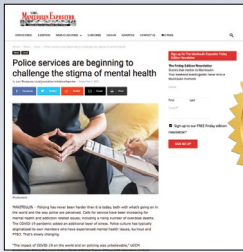
54 ENTRIES



1

GRAVENHURST BANNER – KRISTYN ANTHONY

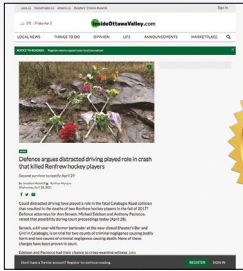
Good research and investigative piece on a story that even I heard about.



2

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR – LORI THOMPSON

A very hot topic these days with police and mental health. Good job detailing the challenges.



3

PERTH COURIER – DESMOND DEVOY

Very well written piece on the topic of sexual assault.

HONOURABLE MENTION

RENFREW MERCURY – JONATHAN MULVIHILL – A well written piece on a tragic topic.

VOICE OF PELHAM – DAVE BURKET & DON RICKERS – Such a sad story written well.

GENERAL COMMENT

There were a lot of good pieces in this category. The investigative journalism in this section is second to none. The journalists should all be proud of their work regarding police wrong doings; court cases; and hate crimes. I specifically enjoyed the hate crime and behind the crime pieces. Well done all.

Judge

Pat Healey
Publisher,
The Laker News,
Enfield, NS



Pat Healey is a community journalist who runs his own news website, The Laker News in Enfield, N.S. He covers a wide area stretching from Fall River in the HRM to Stewiacke and out to Kennetcook in East Hants. He opened up his news website on March 30, 2020, just a couple months after the two papers (The Weekly Press and The Laker) he had worked at for 12 years were closed down by their media owner. Pat is all about the community and keeping them informed. He is known everywhere he goes in his communities. He lives in Enfield, where his apartment has become a work from home office, along with his mom and his little furball assistant, Asha the Cat.

BEST GUEST/FREELANCE COLUMN

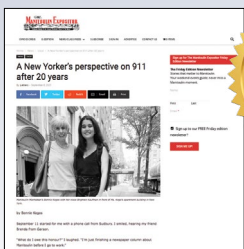
15 ENTRIES



1

DEEP RIVER NORTH RENFREW TIMES – JENNA WALSH

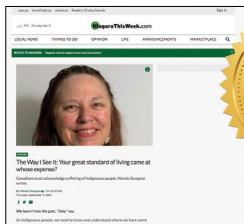
I didn't expect this column to affect me as deeply as it did. This is a captivating piece about some of the far-reaching effects of Canada's residential schools. The column is presented well and provided information few readers had likely seen earlier.



2

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR – BONNIE KOGOS

A compelling and riveting account of being in New York during the 9/11 attacks 20 years ago. When I started reading this column, I couldn't stop. The personal connections to this horrific event were what made the piece so captivating.



3

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, FORT ERIE POST – WENDY STURGEON

I appreciated the approach in this column. It's a strong call to action but presented with respect to all involved. The author is able to call out some bad behaviour without coming across as hateful. This is not easy to accomplish.

HONOURABLE MENTION

DUNDAS STAR NEWS – SHANE PENNELLS – A column about the discovery of Indigenous graves at a former residential school carries a lot of weight when it is written by an Indigenous columnist. This column is highly personal and effective as a result.

GENERAL COMMENT

The submissions in the Best Guest/Freelance Column category were difficult to judge. Writing was strong, topics were timely, and each entry was highly readable and compelling. Writing a guest column is a difficult task, especially when it is something done occasionally, but the writers met the challenges admirably. The columns which stood out the most were the ones where readers shared some of their own thoughts and feelings. At times, these columns became extremely personal and intimate as a result.

Judge

John Arendt
Editor,
Summerland Review,
Summerland, BC



John Arendt is the editor of the Summerland Review in British Columbia. He has been working as a journalist for more than 30 years.

HUMOUR COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

12 ENTRIES

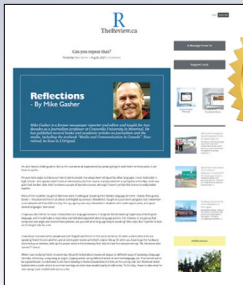


1



HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO – STEVE GALEA

Excellent columns. Very funny and tightly written. Steve knows how to tie in good ledes and well-crafted wraps. I enjoyed reading these.



2



VANKLEEK HILL REVIEW – MIKE GASHER

Well-written columns that make one smile - and think. They have a natural flow to them, an ease that comes with Mike's experience.



3



NIAGARA THIS WEEK, THE LEADER – JAMES CULIC

James does well to invite readers into his life, in a way that a reader can return to the column each week and feel like they are part of a group of friends catching up. Well written and funny.

GENERAL COMMENT

I thought the columnists who entered the Humour category all have healthy funny bones. Some of the best, in my opinion, focused on events and issues and situations to which most readers can relate. Human foibles and the ability to practice self-deprecation are crucial and many columnists in this category managed to do just that. Tighter writing is better than longer, rambling missives and one can see the entries that rose to the top, in my estimation, were indeed the more crisp of the lot. Stephen King, in his seminal book *On Writing*, suggests writers finish the first draft, read it over, perhaps share it with another person, take a break, then return to the piece and consider cutting it by at least 10 per cent. Killing our darlings is hard, but essential.

Judge

Chris Foulds

Editor,
Kamloops This Week,
Kamloops, BC



Christopher Foulds is editor of Kamloops This Week, a newspaper and website published in Kamloops, B.C., a city of 98,000 in the province's Interior. Foulds has been editor since 2005 and spent 13 years before that as assistant editor and reporter at the Abbotsford News. Foulds won the Columnist of the Year Award in the 2021 BCYCNA Ma Murray Awards, was a finalist in the same category in 2020 and was a finalist in the 2021 Webster Awards for columnist of the year.

COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

31 ENTRIES

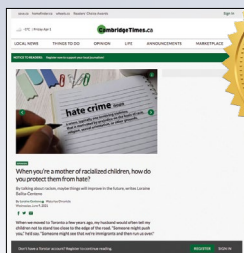


1

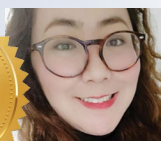


THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON – HEATHER WRIGHT

The columns from Heather were a great mixture of personal storytelling and a focus on local community issues. They not only had a column many can relate to with the death of a loved one, but also held an MPP to account and discussed an important local political issue. The writing was to the point and strong, while clearly giving an opinion and informing the reader on the issue. Local readers crave columns they can relate to and have an impact and meaning on their lives. With her writing, Heather achieved this much to the fortune of readers.



2



CAMBRIDGE TIMES – LORAIN CENTENO

For decades, the voices of people of colour in media were either lacking or non-existing. The landscape was far too often dominated - and largely still is - by white men. While more attention is needed to hear from people with different life experiences, Loraine gives readers a glimpse of what it could look like. Her columns address a number of concerns she herself has experienced as someone who came to Canada from the Philippines and being a longtime Canadian. Her columns mixed an informative storytelling range of personal anecdotes and expert opinions and left the reader thinking of the different life experiences for a person of colour in a largely white country. Columns such as these are invaluable in better identifying the path forward in diversity and not simply relying on long held stereotypes.



3



UXBRIDGE COSMOS – TED BARRIS

As a longtime and well-known journalist and author, Ted has an inquisitive mind and an informative writing style that is easy to follow for readers and draws them in. His columns strike a wide range of knowledge from the importance of music, the impact of COVID-19 and the sudden decline of bat populations in Ontario and other nearby regions. They all featured chords of humour but were also serious at times and added a personal element and highly regarded expertise. Ted's writing is relatable for both a local audience and others who may discover his columns.

HONOURABLE MENTION

MISSISSAUGA NEWS – JOHN STEWART – There's little doubt John Stewart knows the city of Mississauga inside and out. His columns vary from longtime mayor Hazel McCallion, the renaming of Dundas Street and a personal column on his 40 years of marriage to a journalist and columnist. Through his craft, Stewart entices the reader through his writing and mixing of a strong knowledge of the community. He is also unafraid to take a stance on issues that are likely to earn backlash. As a columnist, readers are fortunate to be able to have a page to turn to and a website to open with Stewart's words.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE LOCAL – JANE ANDRES – In a series of columns, Jane Andres writes on the lives of migrant workers in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Her columns cover a wide spectrum of the impact and importance they have on the community. The columns range from looking at the life of a longtime worker who passed away, to the connections made between the workers in the community. All too often migrant workers are seen and not heard. These columns give a voice to the impact they have.

GENERAL COMMENT

The submissions for columnist of the year were incredibly strong and show the width of writing talent throughout the province. The columnists frequently wrote about issues that mattered within their own communities showing an understanding of the importance of highlighting local concerns and priorities. The writing was well crafted, took stances, was serious, funny at times, had a breadth of historical knowledge of each community, and mixed in expertise when needed. In all corners of Ontario readers are fortunate to be able to open their newspapers and websites and rely on quality writing in their communities.

Judge

Greg Colgan

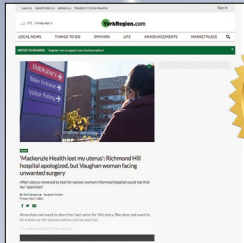
Editor,
Rocky Mountain
Outlook,
Canmore, AB



Greg Colgan is the editor of the Rocky Mountain Outlook based in Canmore and Banff, Alberta. He has been a journalist since 2009, having covered courts, crime, sports, and municipal councils before becoming an editor. He is from southwestern Ontario.

REPORTER OF THE YEAR – STEPHEN SHAW AWARD

17 ENTRIES

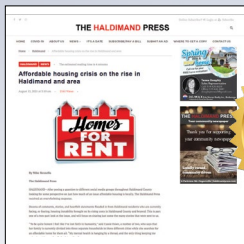


1



RICHMOND HILL/THORNHILL LIBERAL – KIM ZARZOUR

Lost my uterus – a great story and handling of tale. Covid wakeup call - good opening to the series. Workplace violence - story of the year candidate. The 'No Nonsense' is all over these stories. News! Perhaps some variety in the mix of stories, however all the writing is strong and impactful to both local readers and readers with no stake in the community at all. Great work.

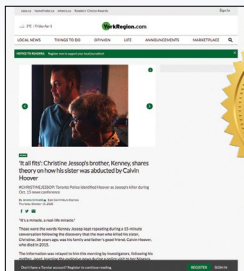


2



THE HALDIMAND PRESS – MIKE RENZELLA

Different angle on the covid coverage - strong. Making the stories your own - good stuff. Local and powerful. Great work across the stories.



3



MARKHAM ECONOMIST & SUN – JEREMY GRIMALDI

Abduction reveal is a great story - perhaps less mystery and more fallout quotes for harder hitting and less drama. Fentanyl addict - strong local impact on larger problem - kudos. Healthy Markham man also a strong slice of COVID 19 coverage - good work here.

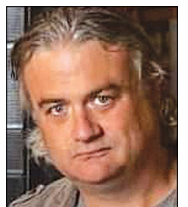
GENERAL COMMENT

This was a tight quality race amongst the top three – the judge found himself going back 4/5 rounds to determine first and second place. Four points separated first place from eighth place. Only 10 points separated the entire 15 in the field. Fantastic investigative work that is more than just the standard rank and file – making global stories local, and making local stories have that global connection.

Judge

Rob Brown

Managing Editor,
The Mirror,
Dawson Creek, BC



Rob Brown, 43, has been managing editor of the Dawson Creek Mirror for seven years and was British Columbia's 2019 News Media Canada Quill recipient for 20 plus years in journalism. In 2020 he and daughter Blake appeared in and helped produce a music video with Huey Lewis and the News. In 2021 he kept on writing - interviewing Genesis guitarist and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's Steve Hackett, and world-renowned singer songwriter Paul Carrack. He's currently co-writing a song with a touring member of Pink Floyd and has a full-length action-comedy film coming out this year. Busy, busy.

Sponsored by: Ontario Power Generation

BEST FEATURE PHOTO circ. 10,000+

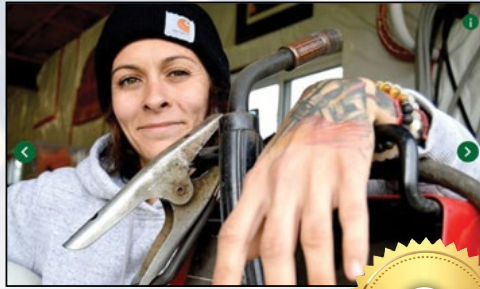
14 ENTRIES



1

HAMILTON MOUNTAIN NEWS – MARK NEWMAN

Delightful almost found photo - except that it so nicely illustrated the opening of Covid restrictions. Love it because the image made me smile imagining the joy displayed by the two women and one pooch!



2

ORANGEVILLE BANNER – ALEXANDRA HECK

A fabulous feature photo backing up the story on three women who've embraced trades work. Well done!



3

SARNIA JOURNAL – RONNY D'HAENE

WOW! This is a terrific shot.

HONOURABLE MENTION

CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS – MARC BENOIT – Fine capture at sunrise of a unique ceremony. The smudging in the background and sky really add to the image.

GENERAL COMMENT

Sometimes a reporter will have a solid story and a ho hum image. On other occasions marvelous photos will turn up and have no editorial connection. So, this category had to be carefully weighed. The winner in this category exudes super energy and connects to a topical story on both counts. Well done!

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 regional and national newspaper awards and is currently a columnist with the Valley Journal Advertiser.

BEST FEATURE PHOTO circ. -9,999

24 ENTRIES



1



2



3

WILMOT POST – LISA HAGEN

Well done for the Halloween edition!

THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON – HEATHER WRIGHT, ALEX KURIAL, CATHY DOBSON

I was trying to guess what Christmas JOY was about!! Very nice photo!

MINDEN TIMES – DARREN LUM

Thank you for going inside the igloo! Never been inside an igloo before!

GENERAL COMMENT

Lots of great photos here but the top three stood out for sure. I am however, disappointed by the lack of cutlines, especially with online stories-photos. Cutlines provide a lot of valuable information for the reader.

Judge

Roger Knox

Multimedia Journalist,
The Morning Star,
Vernon, BC



Roger Knox just celebrated his 25th year with Black Press in British Columbia on Feb. 3. The former radio sportscaster started his newspaper career in Quesnel on Feb. 3, 1997. He has also done stints in Fort St. James, Vanderhoof and Salmon Arm. Roger is currently a senior multi-media journalist with the Morning Star/Black Press Media, based in his hometown of Vernon.

BEST PHOTO LAYOUT

28 ENTRIES



WINGHAM ADVANCE TIMES – CORY BILYEA & KELSEY BENT

This spread is surely framed on many walls in Wingham - a beautiful and thorough photographic storytelling of a subject close to any community's heart. Picture choice and layout are excellent.



SARNIA JOURNAL – RONNY D'HAENE & GEORGE MATHEWSON

Calendar quality photographs and a pleasing layout.



NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT – RICHARD HARLEY & JILL TROYER

Looks delicious and a concept that could be easily replicated in any foodie market (with almost any food).

GENERAL COMMENT

If a picture is worth a thousand words, there is a library living in this category. Every entry tells a story through photography, easily accessible to all readers. The standouts are the result of good ideas and great composition.

Judge

Andrea DeMeer
Publisher,
Similkameen Spotlight,
Princeton, BC



Andrea DeMeer has 35 years' experience in the newspaper industry and is the recipient of numerous national and provincial awards. She is publisher of the Similkameen Spotlight, Black Press, in Princeton.

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

17 ENTRIES



1

NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER – STEVEN LAROCQUE

An impressive photo on many levels. Steven Larocque's winning entry combined artistic creativity and a decent level of photographic skill. Well done.



2

DEEP RIVER NORTH RENFREW TIMES – VANCE GUTZMAN

This photo by Vance Gutzman grabs you from the moment you see it and doesn't let go. There are few things more Canadian than a perfectly-framed shot of a young child playing hockey under a blue sky on an outdoor rink. Congratulations.



3

WILMOT POST – LISA HAGEN

The framing, the timing, and the composition make this photo a winner. Congratulations.

GENERAL COMMENT

A wonderful variety of photos covering an impressive variety of sports. It was a tough category to judge because nearly all of the submissions had what it took to be in the top three. Congratulations.

Judge

Anthony Bonaparte

Features Editor,
The Suburban,
Montreal, QC



For the past 16 years, Anthony Bonaparte has been the associate editor as well as the features editor at The Suburban, Quebec's largest English weekly newspaper. During his more than 20 years in the industry, Anthony has won numerous provincial (QCNA) as well as a North American (SNA/LMA) and Canadian (CCNA) awards for his writing, editing, and the editorial cartoons created under his pen name, Napoleon.

BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

27 ENTRIES



1

NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER – SUE NIELSEN

Firefighter saves feline from fire ... naturally captured, not posed with the firefighter smiling for the camera. Excellent - the photographer noticed the cat rescue and first aid, while at a house fire. Look 360 degrees as there's more to capture than just the burning, smoked-filled building. Kudos on this cat and his nine lives moment.



2

VOICE OF PELHAM – DON RICKERS

Emotional and impactful. This grieving family caught out on their front lawn as people drove by to offer their support following a heinous act.



3

AYLMER EXPRESS – ROB PERRY

Nice composition of this dairy farm massive fire. Earns those extra points by having all of the elements in place. People helping save the cows. Firefighter about to use an aerial spray on the already dangerous fire.

HONOURABLE MENTION

CAMBRIDGE TIMES - BILL DOUCET – Interesting arrest photo. Especially how it was taken by a staffer in his moving vehicle. As a passenger I hope, as we don't want drivers taking photos while also driving. He had one chance as he pointed his camera out the passenger's window while passing by the incident, and he nailed it.

GENERAL COMMENT

Many of the entries in this category bordered on being feature photos versus spot news. Remember to fill the frame, and cover your event in 360 degrees, especially after a fire or MVC scene. Flames are nice but put those flames in context with the fire you are covering. The top three photos did just that.

Judge

Jules Xavier
Editor,
Shilo Stag,
CFB Shilo, MB



It has been 38 years since editor Lorne Drury (now retired) offered him his first reporter job at the Brampton Guardian, and he is still going like the Energizer Bunny. A '59 baby, Xavier is still having fun at 63, so there's no thought of retirement just yet. Perhaps after the Stag celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2023. 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 2PPCLI and artillery 1RCHA soldiers. Xavier has been with the Stag for nine 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 school board or city council meetings.

Sponsored by: *Midwestern Newspapers*

BEST NEWS PHOTO

29 ENTRIES



1

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT – RICHARD HARLEY

What an interesting shot. The image is really well implemented. The expose and focus are practically perfect, but it's the choice of camera position - low with a clear sky background - and composition that really make it stand out. The tilt of the horizon and stance of the dog in the foreground lend the sense of energy and movement. The helicopter's rotor is stationary, but the door is open - again suggesting movement and that something is about to happen. This is an instance where the photographer took great advantage of a few simple elements in the scene to take a great photograph.



2

EGANVILLE LEADER – GERALD TRACEY

First off, this isn't a perfect photograph. The resolution is poor, and the overall image quality is soft. But this photo does what every news photo should do. It stands on its own to tell a story and does it exceptionally well. The photographer got in close to the action - a fully involved house fire - to capture the action of a firefighter battling the blaze and also provided a strong foreground of firefighters changing air cylinders, which says they'd been on this fire scene for some time. To boot, the flash fill on the foreground was perfectly balanced with the background lighting. As you look around the image you see the mailboxes, the Canadian flag, the snow, and other little details that tell the viewer this wasn't just any building, but a home that burned on a winter night. An overall very well executed news photograph, shot under difficult conditions.



3

WINGHAM ADVANCE TIMES – CORY BILYEA

This is another well executed news photograph that stands on its own to tell a story. The photo is technically well executed and well reproduced. The camera position is head-on to the subjects, which lends a sense of energy and confrontation and the choice of aperture setting that makes the subjects stand sharp against the background supports this. The cultural influences of clothing and regalia instantly suggest who these people are, and their expressions add to the sense of the people walking with purpose to something about to happen. It's a good, strong image - with an almost cinematic feel - that draws the reader to the story.

HONOURABLE MENTION

VOICE OF PELHAM – DON RICKERS – Oh, that expression. The expression on the town councilor lining up the throwing hatchet is what gives this photo the strong focal point that tells a story. Also, the expressions on some of the people standing in the background. This photo reminds me a bit of a National Geographic shot from about 40 years ago where a smiling auctioneer at a livestock auction holds open the lips of a cow to bare its teeth as if it's smiling too. People in the background have various amused expressions. The entire effect is as if the viewer has been let in on the joke. This is a well-timed, well exposed shot with excellent choices of composition, depth of field and timing.

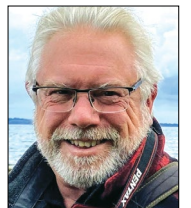
GENERAL COMMENT

The quality and variety of topics covered in this year's Best News Photo entries covered a wide spectrum and as always, there were many strong competitors. But again, there were those images that stood above the rest. To the photographers who honed their skills and brought them to the field to capture the top four winning images, I offer my sincerest congratulations.

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.

MOST CREATIVE GRIP & GRIN PHOTO

9 ENTRIES



1

OAKVILLE BEAVER – GRAHAM PAINE

This is a great example of a variation on the traditional Grip N Grin. It shows a presentation event, with a bit of a twist. There's emotion and a freshness to the photo that catches the reader's eye and conveys the story in one look. Good job!



2

PERTH COURIER – DESMOND DEVOY

Good photo! It's a great example of a Grip N Grin that puts an innovative approach to the presentation.



3

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT – JESSICA MAXWELL

This isn't really in keeping with a Grip N Grin, but it is a great photo that tells the story in an instant. It's very effective.

HONOURABLE MENTION

MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION - GRAHAM PAINE – This is a great shot. It tells the story in a moment. It shows emotion, and in this case, action. The photo could have been cropped a little tighter, but it tells a clear story.

GENERAL COMMENT

Grip and Grins can be the most boring of photo assignments or the absolute best. We have some great submissions here, and there are some wonderfully innovative ways to grab the reader's attention and make them note that these events have happened.

Judge

Sheena Read

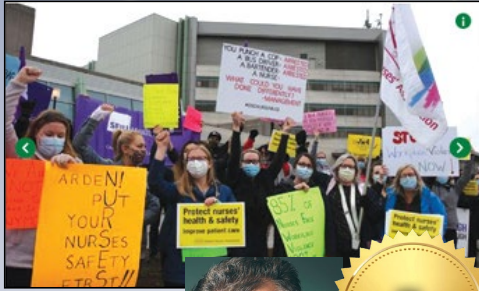
Freelance Journalist,
Alberta



Sheena Read has lived in southern Alberta for most of her career, writing about the issues of her communities and connecting with as many people as possible. She continues that work with contract communications and promotions.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

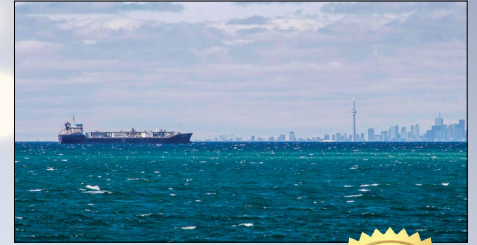
5 ENTRIES



1



2



3

RICHMOND HILL/ THORNHILL LIBERAL – STEVE SOMERVILLE

Each and every photo submitted by Steve Somerville is a winner. The woman in the window captures the COVID restrictions so well. The shot in the yoga studio is on another level. He brilliantly captures the solemn intimacy of the night vigil, as well as the innocence of the little protester who is just along for the ride. Congratulations.

OAKVILLE BEAVER – GRAHAM PAINE

Graham Paine surely has an eye for a great photo and the skills to take one - over and over again. Keep up the good work.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT – RICHARD HARLEY

In any other year, Richard Harley could have easily been named Photographer of the Year. His strong submissions are part of a surely great portfolio. Congratulations.

GENERAL COMMENT

Each and every photographer in this field has the talent to work for any publication in the country. Ontario community newspapers are well served. Congratulations to all.

Judge

Anthony Bonaparte

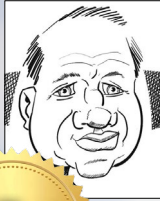
Features Editor,
The Suburban,
Montreal, QC



For the past 16 years, Anthony Bonaparte has been the associate editor as well as the features editor at The Suburban, Quebec's largest English weekly newspaper. During his more than 20 years in the industry, Anthony has won numerous provincial (QCNA) as well as a North American (SNA/LMA) and Canadian (CCNA) awards for his writing, editing, and the editorial cartoons created under his pen name, Napoleon.

CARTOONIST OF THE YEAR

4 ENTRIES



1

STONEY CREEK NEWS – MIKE VUKOVICH

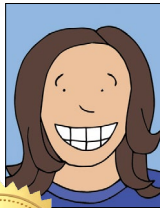
Cute, timely cartoons that put a smile on the readers faces. Congratulations.



2

ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER – SCOTT ARNOLD

Nicely done.



3

MINDEN TIMES – KIM WARK

Keep up the good work.

GENERAL COMMENT

I'm glad to see local newspapers giving local cartoonists a chance to grow and shine. Nicely done.

Judge

Anthony Bonaparte

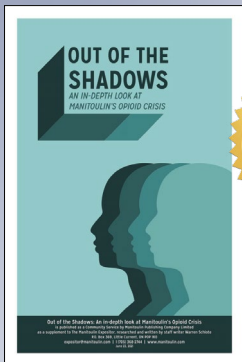
Features Editor,
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COMMUNITY SERVICE

7 ENTRIES



1

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR – OUT OF THE SHADOWS: MANITOULIN'S OPIOID CRISIS

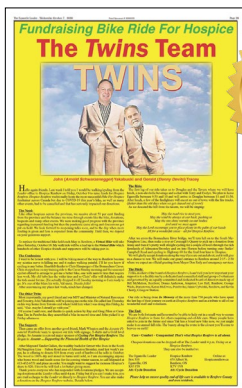
The Manitoulin Expositor's entry was a standout in this category. The research and content written by reporter Warren Schlote is commendable and the end result of a 20 page special section and supporting print and digital articles provides a very thorough examination of the opioid crisis on Manitoulin Island. A few community news media organizations in Canada have published similar pieces and all OCNA members should follow the Manitoulin Expositor's lead. Very well done.



2

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT – PANDEMIC HEROES

Ontario newspapers have gone above and beyond in these pandemic times to honour front line and essential workers. Many members submitted special sections and series on the topic, but The Lake Report lead the way with effective storytelling and appealing layout in its 1.5 week campaign. The large feature photographs played very well on the page and made this entry excel.



3

EGANVILLE LEADER – CYCLING FOR HOSPICE

When the local newspaper publisher teams up with the local MPP to raise \$40,000 for the Hospice Renfrew facility, it shows real leadership and commitment to the community. The two went on an epic cycling journey joined along the way by supporters and donors and the Eganville Leader did a fine job telling the story which in turn encouraged donations. Tough to beat a determined publisher with a cause!

GENERAL COMMENT

The top three winners made their mark in a very competitive category, and all made a difference in their community which is the heart of our business. Creative ideas, tackling difficult topics, and going above and beyond set them apart from the other entries. The final scores in this category were all very close. Very moving as many of the special sections featured salutes to front line workers and all were well done.

Judge

Penny Sakamoto

Group Publisher,
Black Press Media,
Greater Victoria, BC



Penny Sakamoto has just retired as Group Publisher for Black Press Media, based in Victoria, BC. She graduated from journalism school in Winnipeg and has spent her career in media in Canada and the U.S. She was president of the BCYCNA and served on its board and the CCNA board for many years. Penny was part of the Canadian launch team when Black Press purchased the Honolulu Star-Bulletin in 2001 and has consulted for major media companies throughout the United States and Canada. She was awarded the Silver Quill for distinguished service to the newspaper industry and the Jack Webster Award for Excellence in Journalism.

BEST FRONT PAGE circ. 10,000+

17 ENTRIES



1

ANCASTER NEWS

This is a powerful, impactful front page based almost entirely on the simple, tightly framed photo and the editor's decision to play it large - as it should be. Mike Pearson's story also grabs the reader, though it would have been better to turn the piece to the inside page at the paragraph break "...Brink knew something terrible had happened" - a cliffhanger. The one negative is something that's common on many Metroland front pages: the use of an overly large graphic to refer readers to the paper's website. I'm not saying not to tease the website, just try not to use up that much valuable front-page real estate to do it.



2

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

There's a lot to like in the Wellington Advertiser front page: a cohesive theme, clean typography, solid if simple layout, good stories - a great package overall. The photo is the weak link here and with a stronger one, this page would have placed first. That said, the page is a little grey and all that text could use some elements to break it up: a couple of subheads, a mugshot perhaps and definitely some sort of photo with the story across the bottom.



3

DUNDAS STAR NEWS

A pretty decent photo by Emily Nichols paired with a strong story by Craig Campbell combine for a solid front page here. The photo would have been better, however, cropped and framed differently - and with the redundant "Impacting Your Community" icon removed.

GENERAL COMMENT

It's always difficult to judge this category because so many of the editors are dealing with constraints beyond their control in the basic layout of their front pages. They'd do well to lose the "Impacting Your Community" icons and insist on much, much smaller website teasers. In both cases, that's valuable real estate that could be used for more of that story, another story, or a brief that could grab another print reader.

Judge

Richard Dal Monte

Freelance Editor and Writer;
former Editor,
The Tri-City News,
Colquitzam, B.C.



Richard Dal Monte is a freelance editor and writer who worked in community newspapers in B.C. for 34 years - the last 19 years as editor of The Tri-City News - before his termination during the early days of the pandemic. He has won more than 20 corporate, provincial, national and international journalism awards individually and as a team leader and is also the recipient of a News Media Canada Silver Quill Award. He now writes and edits for a variety of news organizations and university, corporate and non-profit clients.

BEST FRONT PAGE circ. -9,999

33 ENTRIES



1

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT

Boom! This front page knocked me back in my seat. The clear winner as soon as it popped up on my screen. Simple. Powerful. Extra powerful because it landed on Canada Day. Powerful because of the words of Karl Dockstader. It's a front that stops you, then makes you want to turn the page and read more. My one constructive criticism is that I would've rather seen an icon other than the stars that were used - perhaps leaves or handprints or shoes. Still, that picky point aside, this is one of the best community newspaper front pages I've ever seen - almost certainly better than anything I ever designed - and I was a community journalist for 34 years.



2

PARRY SOUND NORTH STAR

There's a lot going on this front page, but it never feels busy, which is quite an accomplishment. I would have used both the main and secondary photos larger, but I like the variety of stories.



3

VOICE OF PELHAM

There are better front pages in this contest but, thanks to Veronica MacDonald's great photo of avid reader Fergus and the editor's proper use the photo - I'll forgive popping the boy's head out the top of the frame - there are few as charming (or as likely to make you smile).

GENERAL COMMENT

The winner was a clear choice in this category and the second - and third-place finishers were strong. And there were plenty of entries where weak photography and design hurt what might have been strong pages.

Judge

Richard Dal Monte

Freelance Editor and Writer;
former Editor,
The Tri-City News,
Colquitlam, B.C.



Richard Dal Monte is a freelance editor and writer who worked in community newspapers in B.C. for 34 years – the last 19 years as editor of The Tri-City News – before his termination during the early days of the pandemic. He has won more than 20 corporate, provincial, national and international journalism awards individually and as a team leader and is also the recipient of a News Media Canada Silver Quill Award. He now writes and edits for a variety of news organizations and university, corporate and non-profit clients.

BEST VERTICAL PRODUCT

16 ENTRIES



1

HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER – HERE WITH COLIN AND JUSTIN

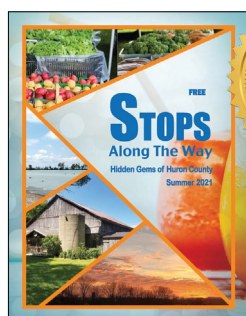
Beautiful design and layout. A joy to turn the pages. Some heartfelt editorial and light reading, too, complemented with excellence photography. A nice amount of advertising that didn't interfere with the flow of the articles. This is a magazine that people will want to pick up and read.



2

LISTOWEL INDEPENDENT PLUS – COUNTRY LIFE SPRING 2021

There's not much to not like about this information and adpacked publication. The articles were well-written, relevant to the community and interesting to me, someone who knows little about the community. The subjects tackled were wide-ranging, from mental health issues during COVID for those living on farms, a successful local interior designer, land and soil issues, education, and a really interesting unsolved local murder from the mid-1950s. As well, the ads all seem to be relevant to the readership. It's the kind of publication rarely seen these days. One you can sit down with a good cup of coffee and get some good reading done, put it down, and then go back a few times to get through it all. Bravo.



3

BLYTH/BRUSSELS CITIZEN – STOPS ALONG THE WAY - SUMMER 2021

Although this publication is not fancy, it fulfilled its mandate to inform tourists where they could "stop along the way", even during COVID. The layout is clean and easy to read, with all ads modular. The four-page advertising spread, A Taste of Huron County, had a nice shopping mall effect. A handy reference where small advertisers could be in the booklet, and shoppers could see it all in one place.

HONOURABLE MENTION

HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO - WELCOME TO HALIBURTON COUNTY 2021 –

This publication deserves an honourable mention for striving to be a great everything-in-one-place information and directory for newcomers and residents alike. Filled with practical information and staying power, this is a good vehicle for advertisers.

GENERAL COMMENT

It was a real joy looking through these entries and reading the articles. Whether it was a glossy magazine, newsprint tabloid or small booklet, each had something interesting to offer its community, or visitors to the community. The support from local advertisers was impressive, reaffirming my belief that print is still an important and valuable medium in today's electronic era.

Judge

Marlene Eisner

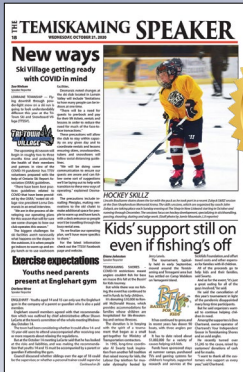
Editor,
NextHome New Home
and Condo Guide,
Toronto, ON



Marlene Eisner is an editor at NextHome New Home and Condo Guide, a bi-monthly national magazine with local editions published in the GTA, Ottawa, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. Before moving to Toronto in 2014, she lived in Montreal and worked as a reporter, associate editor, and editor-in-chief at the Suburban Newspaper (1994-2007) and was the editor-in-chief at the NDG Free Press (2011-2014). She has won nine awards for her writing, including two gold awards from the Parenting Publications of America Editorial Design Awards for Best News Feature (2002) and Best Column Review (2008), and first place in the Quebec Community Newspaper Association (QCNA) Awards for her column The Glass Ceiling (2006).

BEST SPORTS SECTION

9 ENTRIES



1

NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER

It was no contest in scoring - pun intended – the Temiskaming Speaker handily won first overall from the nine entries. It was nice to see sports stats used in the sports pages. Great action photos, in colour, add to the look.



2

HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

It's not about just hockey in a community, especially during the fall/winter when high school sports abound. The photos in these sections are action, not grip 'n grins. Some good reading when it comes to a former NHLer. But more sports features with colour would be nice.



3

EGANVILLE LEADER

These sections had some good local content. The action photos added extra points. Sports is about action, not headshots of people holding a trophy. Golfers golf, so cover them golfing. Happy to see some hockey and baseball action artwork. Good feature on the runner. Maybe have some photos of her running besides what was taken at special event.

GENERAL COMMENT

What has happened to sports coverage in Ontario's community newspapers? Such a shame sports is relegated to a few empty holes. Yes, the pandemic saw the cancellation of high school sports and minor hockey. But there's a way to cover sports, still, with the history of a communities' sports. Athlete/coach profiles, perhaps on how these individuals are dealing with a pandemic. Use action photos to illustrate your sports coverage. Too many newspapers rely on grip 'n grins. Cover the golf or curling action from the playing surface, not people holding trophies. Combine sports news with feature stories. Give your athletes a moment on the newsprint, not just your local politicians up front. Moreover, think about presentation with active headlines and creative prose. Sports journalism is fun, just like the athletes having fun doing their respective sports.

Judge

Jules Xavier

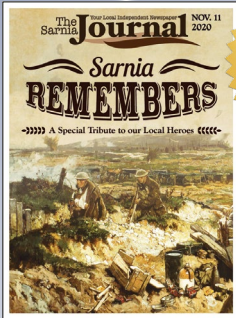
Editor,
Shilo Stag,
CFB Shilo, MB



It has been 38 years since editor Lorne Drury (now retired) offered him his first reporter job at the Brampton Guardian, and he is still going like the Energizer Bunny. A '59 baby, Xavier is still having fun at 63, so there's no thought of retirement just yet. Perhaps after the Stag celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2023. 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 2PPCLI and artillery 1RCHA soldiers. Xavier has been with the Stag for nine 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 school board or city council meetings.

SPECIAL SECTION circ. 10,000+

7 ENTRIES



1

SARNIA JOURNAL – SARNIA REMEMBERS: A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO OUR LOCAL HEROES

Overall, I thought this was one of the best Remembrance Day tributes I have seen. Easy-to-read stories of the locals who participated in the war that were compelling, relatable, and often made me cry. As well, a story was dedicated to a Black family who also served, plus addressed racial issues during the first world war, which I thought was refreshing. The newspaper did have the advantage of the editorial being written by a retired teacher and volunteers of the Sarnia War Remembrance Project.



2

CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS – CHRISTMAS AT HOME 2020

Christmas is a time when retailers and small local businesses make their money, so with Christmas 2020 in the midst of a lockdown, the end game could have been pretty grim. This ad book really was a boon to residents who wanted to shop local and to the local shops who needed the business. For me, the goal of promoting local shopping, giving advertisers a voice and a face, plus pointing shoppers to the online shopping of local businesses made this a fun-to-read holiday shopping guide that put money into the pockets of the newspaper and the business community.



3

ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER – OBSERVER 25TH ANNIVERSARY

I really liked the idea of this special section, celebrating 25 years as a quality community newspaper. Maintaining high journalistic standards and getting enough ad revenue is no easy accomplishment in these tough days of social media, unreliably sourced “news” and free online ads. To still be a main voice in the community reporting on local politics, people and events is to be applauded and celebrating 25 years and reminding readers of the importance of community newspapers with a special section is a great idea. Where the section lacked, in my opinion, was in the editorial. I think it would have been interesting to include some of the award winning stories, perhaps have small profiles on the staff, and profile some local advertisers who have been with the paper for many years, maybe offering them special ad rates to promote a product at let’s say 1995 prices, or 2004 prices, whenever they started advertising. This would have perhaps increased the revenue potential of the section, plus included an important part of the community – the small business owners and their families.

HONOURABLE MENTION

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER – REMEMBRANCE DAY – The inclusion of a tribute to the animals – dogs, pigeons, and horses – who played important roles during the first world war and the thousands who were injured or killed while helping humans, was touching and informative and deserves honourable mention.

GENERAL COMMENT

Although there weren’t many entries in the Special Section category, I was impressed with the effort put into each and every one. All of them were interesting to read, with relevant articles centered around the theme of the special section. Some themes were more original than others, but it was obvious the topics resonated with the community and with advertisers. Choosing the top three took a lot of thought and consideration and frankly, it was a close contest.

Judge

Marlene Eisner

Editor,

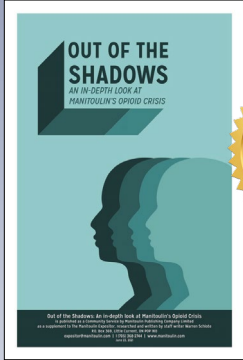
NextHome New Home and Condo Guide,
Toronto, ON



Marlene Eisner is an editor at NextHome New Home and Condo Guide, a bi-monthly national magazine with local editions published in the GTA, Ottawa, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. Before moving to Toronto in 2014, she lived in Montreal and worked as a reporter, associate editor, and editor-in-chief at the Suburban Newspaper (1994-2007) and was the editor-in-chief at the NDG Free Press (2011-2014). She has won nine awards for her writing, including two gold awards from the Parenting Publications of America Editorial Design Awards for Best News Feature (2002) and Best Column Review (2008), and first place in the Quebec Community Newspaper Association (QCNA) Awards for her column The Glass Ceiling (2006).

SPECIAL SECTION circ. -9,999

12 ENTRIES



1

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR – OUT OF THE SHADOWS: MANITOULIN'S OPIOID CRISIS

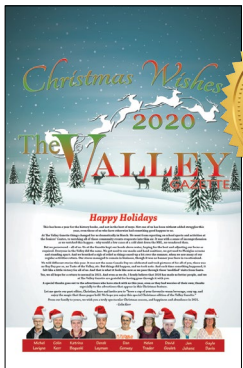
Great section! Well written, and well researched. Great job sharing information on this topic that seems to want to stay hidden. Great use of pull quotes, info graphics and charts to make the pages more dynamic when photos can't be used.



2

FORT FRANCES TIMES – 2021 AGRICULTURAL EDITION

Your description is bang on! This is a beautiful compilation of well written (and researched) stories and ads put together in a pleasing layout. Great work!



3

BARRY'S BAY, THE VALLEY GAZETTE – CHRISTMAS WISHES 2020

Love the personal stories, recipes, letters to Santa and the carols. A very well rounded section. Great ads. Love the page headers with the additional graphics.

GENERAL COMMENT

A lot of hard work and creativity went into these special sections. I love the use of graphics, pull quotes, backgrounds, etc. in with the editorial parts of the sections, and I love the use of graphic page headers to easily identify and fancy up the sections. Great work over all!

Judge

Amanda Zimmer

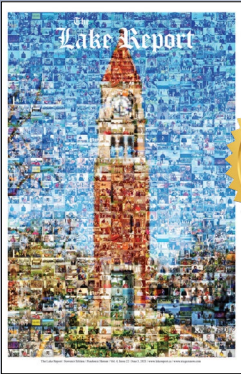
Publisher,
Claresholm Local Press,
Claresholm, AB



Amanda Zimmer is the publisher of the Claresholm Local Press and has been in the community newspaper business for over 20 years as a graphic designer. She gained her first experience working in a print shop as her after school job in high school. She completed her Printing Management Technologies diploma at SAIT. She is involved with many organizations within her community, such as the Claresholm & District Chamber of Commerce, the Welcoming Claresholm Committee, Skye-Anna Dance society board, and Summer Games Planning Committee. She is also on the AVNA board of directors. 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.

BEST FEATURE/UNIT PAGES

13 ENTRIES



1

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT – PANDEMIC HEROES

While it doesn't have ads in the classic sense, this piece ties together a multi-week ad campaign in a totally unique, compelling, and visually arresting way that stands head and shoulders above anything else in the category. Amazing!



2

AYLMER EXPRESS – THIS IS AYLMER, OUR HOMETOWN

A unique and excellent concept with clearly demonstrated community support. A bit crowded design but quantity has a quality of its own. Well done!



3

THE HALDIMAND PRESS – NURSES WEEK

Unique idea to start the editorial on front and turn inside but not quite clearly delineated enough to fully punch through. Good ads and editorial on inside pages with clean layout.

GENERAL COMMENT

A feature/unit page project has to do the heavy lifting of a special section in a much tighter space constraint of 2 to 4 pages. Those that excelled here did so by picking unique concepts and delivering them with clean design and demonstrating strong community support. Publishers need to remember that if a section isn't drawing advertiser support, it may be time to move on and try something new - look to the winners for some unique ideas to inspire you!

Judge

Tim Shoults

Operations Manager,
Aberdeen Publishing,
Kamloops, BC



Tim Shoults is Operations Manager of Aberdeen Publishing, which publishes Kamloops This Week and several other community newspapers across B.C. He has worked as a reporter, editor, publisher, regional manager and vice-president content with community and daily newspapers across Western Canada over the past 25 years. He serves his community on the boards of the Kamloops Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Kamloops and the Chris Rose Therapy Centre for Autism Foundation and serves his industry on the boards of the National News/Media Council of Canada and the BCYCNA. Tim has lived in Kamloops with his wife Laura and their two children since 2010.

BEST CREATIVE AD

13 ENTRIES



1

LISTOWEL BANNER

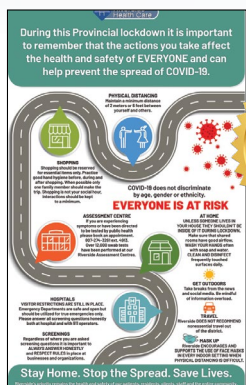
Great concept. Original and well executed. Clean design, visually appealing, great use of white space. Incorporating the business owner into the advertisement adds to the visual impact especially for those that would recognize him locally. Loved this ad and the thought behind it. Great work Listowel Banner!



2

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER – JACQUELINE FURFARO

Bold and beautiful! The Wellington Advertiser sure did create an ad that is out of this world! Great ad. Love that they included the employees faces as the astronauts. Makes it fun and recognizable for local readers. Excellent job Wellington Advertiser!



3

FORT FRANCES TIMES – SUSAN TAYLOR

Great concept. Original, creative, and well executed. Clean and clear design, visually appealing, great use of white space and vibrant colours. Loved this ad and the thought and art behind it. Nice work Fort Frances Times!

HONOURABLE MENTION

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT – This ad is great! Love the simplicity of it. This ad jumped off the page with its fun message and simple design. Good to see humour too!!!

NORTH WELLINGTON COMMUNITY NEWS – ALICIA ROZA – Colourful, cheerful and effective ad. I really like it although it lacks some originality considering the category it is in. Strong Visual Impact. Curious how the outlined subheadings reproduced on newsprint? Were they washed out? Still a very nice, informative ad.

GENERAL COMMENT

I was impressed by the visual impact and ad design of all the submissions in this category but the top three were excellent examples of originality and creativity. They were visually appealing and what brought them to the top were the actual elements of originality/creativity used. The top two both incorporated photographs of staff members of their local advertisers in the ads. This thoughtful design concept created a wonderful community connection and fun local spin. I would be interested in how many of the advertiser's customers mentioned seeing the ads. Incredible work by all OCNA member newspaper designers! Congratulations.

Judge

Andrea Hillo

Publisher and
Graphic Design,
Ontario



Andrea's design passion and creative thinking have afforded her the privilege of working with some of Canada's leading forces of art and culture, including artist Michael Dumas, author Roy MacGregor, artist/musician Mendelson Joe, and legendary naturalist/artist Robert Bateman. She is an award winning freelance graphic artist and independent book publisher who has owned her own community newspaper and is a past OCNA award winner, judge and member. Andrea has worked in the newspaper/publishing industry for over 30 years.

IN HOUSE PROMOTION

10 ENTRIES



1

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT – RICHARD HARLEY & KEVIN MACLEAN

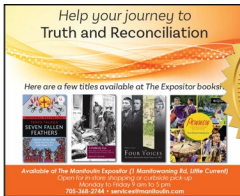
Wow! What a lot of work and creative design put into this promotion! The many photos are dizzying but what a concept to capture what many of us had seen on television and zoom meetings. Superb creativity! Another entry that has blown my socks off! Great job! Top marks for newspaper awareness on how much work throughout the year goes into a newspaper's job description. I have never before given 100 percent top marks in any entry but there is no room for improvement that I could see! Congratulations!



2

FORT FRANCES TIMES – LEANNE DONALDSON

Wow! This entry knocked my socks off! Congratulations to Leanne for her design and creative poetry! Kudos to the skill and time spent to put this all together. I don't think I've seen a better In-House promotion than this one in the many years I've been judging.



3

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR – KENDRA EDWARDS

Advertising of the newspaper's bookstore was very effective messaging with the heading, as well as the background to the heading. Simple, straight forward by having the covers of the books available that would garner immediate attention. Excellent work.

GENERAL COMMENT

Two entries in this category gained top marks for originality! Niagara-on-the-Lake was outstanding for the original idea and the work put into the layout to produce it! Fantastic! Fort Frances Times again got top points for originality and the layout as well as the idea itself. Congratulations to all who were involved in bringing these 2 ideas to fruition. Third place was a little harder to choose as all entries were good, but Manitoulin Expositor edged out the others. Well done to all.

Judge

Joyce Webster

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



Joyce Webster is the 41-year publisher/owner of the East Central Alberta community newspaper in Alberta and throughout those 41 years has attended many photography sessions at newspaper symposiums.

LOCAL RETAIL LAYOUT

8 ENTRIES



1

LISTOWEL BANNER

This ad has lots of "pull". Good product shots that will catch the eye of shoppers. Lots of thought and attention went into it.



2

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR – KENDRA EDWARDS

Nice typography and great colour choices that pop off the page. Very clean layout too.



3

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER – JACQUELINE FURFARO

Lots going on here! But the golfing team...nice touch.

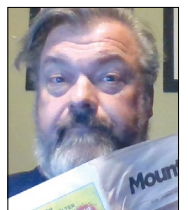
GENERAL COMMENT

Retail ads in a newspaper can be flyer-like or can build a brand. This year's submissions were on the flyer-layout vein for the most part but had some nice elements to get the reader to stop...review...and that pause may pique their interest.

Judge

Wayne Aubert

Professor,
Advertising and Marketing
Communications Management
Program, Mohawk College,
Hamilton, ON



Wayne is a Professor in the Advertising and Marketing Communications Management program at Mohawk College. He enjoys reading his weekly Hamilton Mountain News.

Sponsored by: Metro Creative Graphics

ORIGINAL AD IDEA

13 ENTRIES



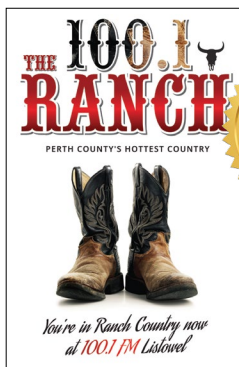
AYR NEWS – HELEN & MARK HALL

Loved these ads. Very creative to make the focus of the ad about the birds that use the product but still feature a product that relates. Well designed, written, and executed. ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT!



ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER – PAT MERLIHAN

It is great that they are promoting themselves so strongly. As newspapers, we often don't do this enough. Strong layout with a clear message.



NORTH WELLINGTON COMMUNITY NEWS – ALICIA ROZA

I love the simplicity of the ad while it still maintains some excitement with the fonts. The message is clear.

HONOURABLE MENTION

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER – JACQUELINE FURFARO – This is a neat concept, and these people must be beloved in the community to have inspired this. It's a bit hard to read in all the jumble and the layout is a bit overwhelming but that was a lot of messages to fit on the page so it's somewhat understandable.

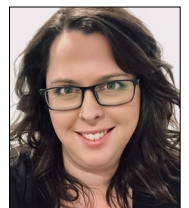
GENERAL COMMENT

An interesting category with some very different ideas and execution. Congratulations Ayr News - your ad idea was a cut above the rest.

Judge

Danielle Gordon-Broome

Editor,
Swan Valley Star and Times,
Swan River, MB



Danielle Gordon-Broome is the editor for the Swan Valley Star and Times in Swan River, Manitoba - a position she has held for the past seven years. On top of her editorial duties, she is also head of the company's social media and video management department, handles the newspaper's layout and design, and frequently acts as a graphic designer.

BEST USE OF COLOUR

12 ENTRIES



DEEP RIVER NORTH RENFREW TIMES – JANE BARKLEY

Good job with the use of colour. Putting the pink on the darker grey made the ad jump! Very good.



KINCARDINE INDEPENDENT

Beautiful colours tied in the potential of spring coming and made the ad an eye-catcher. Great job.



HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER – LYELCA RODRIGUES

The idea of the sign in the middle of the flowers showed good creativity and certainly made the ad look very appealing. Great job.

GENERAL COMMENT

This was a difficult category as all the entries made good use of colour. Deep River North Renfrew Times' idea to put the darker grey background behind the use of pink in the illustration and print was very creative. The large colourful illustration used by Kincardine Independent was well used to attract attention and lead people to think 'spring'. Haliburton Highlander's use of colours in the background and the lettering tied to the varying colours of the roses gave this an appealing look. Congratulations to all.

Judge

Joyce Webster

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



Joyce Webster is the 41-year publisher/owner of the East Central Alberta community newspaper in Alberta and throughout those 41 years has attended many photography sessions at newspaper symposiums.

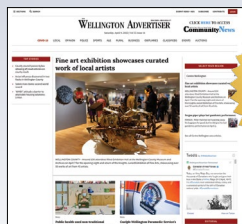
BEST COMMUNITY WEBSITE/WEBPORTAL circ. 10,000+

9 ENTRIES



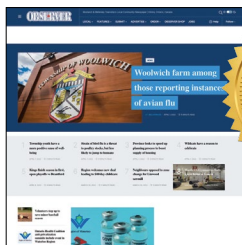
CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS – CORNWALLSEAWAYNEWS.COM

This website has a great aesthetic. It is easy to navigate and has a great mix of content. Super site overall.



FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER - WELLINGTONADVERTISER.COM

A great looking website that's easy to navigate, offers solid content and a super aesthetic.



ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER - OBSERVERXTRA.COM

A great look overall. It's simple to navigate with solid content.

GENERAL COMMENT

Some wonderful websites in this over 10,000 circulation category. Keep up the good work!

Judge

Krisi Marples

Editor,

Saint Croix Courier/Courier Weekend,
St. Stephen, NB

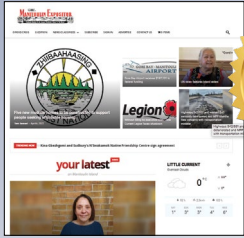


Krisi Marples is heading into her 12th year as an editor with various publications within the Advocate Media and Publishing family and is currently at The Saint Croix Courier/Courier Weekend in St. Stephen, New Brunswick. Originally from Ontario, Marples lived in several parts of Canada and the UK, before calling NB home. In the little spare time afforded her between publishing two papers weekly, Marples spends time with her horses, dogs, and husband, enjoying hikes around the province.

BEST COMMUNITY WEBSITE/WEBPORTAL

circ. -9,999

14 ENTRIES



1

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR – MANITOULIN.COM

What a great website. Love how only the article scrolls, while the weather and ads remain. This is a website design that other news websites should look to. Well done!



2

DEEP RIVER NORTH RENFREW TIMES – NORTHRENFREWTIMES.CA

This website is very sleek and smooth looking. Clicking links is easy to do. Other community news websites could learn some things on website design and its usage from navigating to this site.



3

LISTOWEL BANNER – MIDWESTERNNEWSPAPERS.COM

The look on the front isn't too busy and should be easily readable by the reader. It also has the Twitter box showing recent tweets, which I find something nice to have. Very smooth.

HONOURABLE MENTION

BLYTH/BRUSSELS CITIZEN – HURONCITIZEN.CA – Really sleek, smooth looking website with easy to click on stories. I don't see any advertisements on the front, but that is okay as some news websites feel too busy with ads. Well done job. (It's a design I wish I had for my news website).

THE HALDIMAND PRESS – HALDIMANDPRESS.COM – This news website has a quick to the point front page. However, as I enter this website, I am met with a popup asking me to subscribe. That would be better to have on the side rather than a popup. From my experience pop up ads are a turn off, or many may have pop up blockers so those would not be seen. Outside of that it has a quick to the point front page of a news website.

WILMOT POST – WILMOTPOST.CA – Nice and short front page which is a plus. Many community news websites I read are long and try to include something from each section. Seems easy to navigate and move about and find the stories one wants.

GENERAL COMMENT

There were a lot of nice, sleek, smooth looking websites keeping your communities informed. Some could use work; others should be promoted more so to highlight their respective areas. Other websites leave larger media organizations websites in their dust. Well done all.

Judge

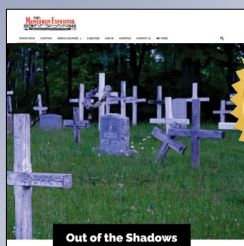
Pat Healey
Publisher,
The Laker News,
Enfield, NS



Pat Healey is a community journalist who runs his own news website, The Laker News in Enfield, N.S. He covers a wide area stretching from Fall River in the HRM to Stewiacke and out to Kennetcook in East Hants. He opened up his news website on March 30, 2020, just a couple months after the two papers (The Weekly Press and The Laker) he had worked at for 12 years were closed down by their media owner. Pat is all about the community and keeping them informed. He is known everywhere he goes in his communities. He lives in Enfield, where his apartment has become a work from home office, along with his mom and his little furball assistant, Asha the Cat.

ONLINE SPECIAL INITIATIVE

8 ENTRIES



1

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR – GIOVANNI CAPRIOTTI, DAVID PATTERSON, WARREN SCHLOTE

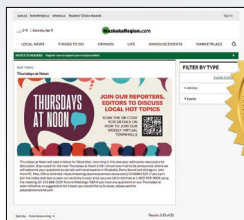
The Manitoulin Expositor lives up to its name with this heartbreaking and enlightening investigation of the opioid epidemic devastating its community. The depth of research and storytelling by Warren Schlote is first class, and the photography by Giovanni Capriotti to illustrate the story is superb. The digital presentation is exceptional. A must read. Outstanding work by all. Congratulations!



2

ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER – PAT MERLIHAN

Creative and excellent mix of digital and historical elements show the evolution of this young growing newspaper. Cheers to another prosperous 25 years and more for the Observer.



3

MUSKOKAREGION.COM – PAMELA STEEL

An excellent digital initiative and smart pandemic pivot that capitalizes on an obvious opportunity to enhance the ways in which a newspaper can engage with its community beyond the ordinary and grow its audience. A delightful selection of town hall topics and guests. The enthusiasm of the editor and town hall guests shines through.

HONOURABLE MENTION

PARRY SOUND NORTH STAR – A nice cross-section of reporting on the politics of human progress amid extraordinary feats of modern engineering. Sharp, informative design of digital map elements walk - er transit - readers through the feature. A well planned and executed digital project.

SCARBOROUGH MIRROR – DAN PEARCE, MIKE ADLER, TAMARA SHEPHARD, ANDREW PALAMARCHUK, DAVID NICKLE, JOANNA LAVOIE – A well-planned addition to the newspaper with a range of original and contributed content on a great variety of subjects including business, sport, environment, history, and culture. The continued growth of this news section will serve the whole of the Parry Sound community well into the future. All community newspapers can draw lessons from this initiative.

GENERAL COMMENT

An outstanding field of entries showcasing the craft and commitment of Ontario journalists. Each newsroom is congratulated for their efforts bringing these initiatives to life to educate and inspire their audiences and judges alike. Each has a lesson to offer the other on approaches to broadening coverage on all manner of topics, as well developing new forums to keep their newspaper at the heart of community discourse.

Judge

Matt Preprost

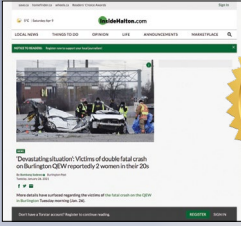
Managing Editor,
Alaska Highway News,
Fort St. John, BC



Matt Preprost is a Fort St. John writer and editor with 15 years of award-winning reporting experience in daily, weekly, and student newsrooms across Western Canada. He arrived in the Peace River country in 2013, covering the height of the last oil boom through to the start of Site C and LNG development in Northeast B.C. He has won eight provincial awards for his reporting and photography in Manitoba, and six awards in B.C. for his work with Alaska Highway News. Matt is an active volunteer and board director of the North Peace Historical Society, and member of the Fort St. John Rotary Club.

ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

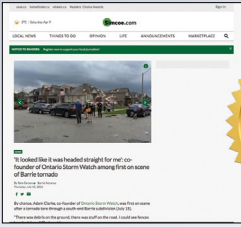
9 ENTRIES



1

BURLINGTON POST – GRAHAM PAINE, LOUIE ROSELLA, BAMBANG SADEWO

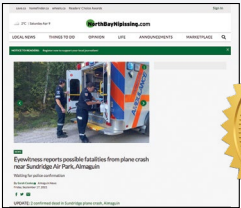
Great photos by Graham Paine (photographers make all the difference!) and important follow-up. All around great breaking news coverage. Well done!



2

BARRIE ADVANCE

Great all-around coverage! Well done to all on the team. First-person accounts were really powerful.



3

BURKS FALLS ALMAGUIN NEWS – SARAH COOKE

The hardest thing is to keep reporting when folks are telling you not to. Well done for your perseverance and drive to get this story out.

HONOURABLE MENTION

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, THE LAKE REPORT – RICHARD HARLEY – Great initiative and wonderful photos! So often the importance of on-the-spot photos is forgotten. Not in this case. Keep up the good work, Richard!

GENERAL COMMENT

The bread and butter of news “online breaking news” is in good hands by the looks of these entrants. As we know every newsroom is doing more with less these days, but dedicated journalists run to the scene over and over, even on their days off. What also stands out with these entrants is the importance of talented photographers to our newsrooms. Wherever possible, we need to hang on to them. Their images take us to the scene in ways nothing else can.

Judge

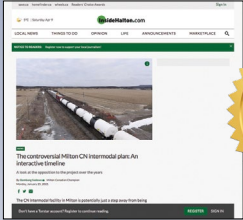
Jennifer Thuncher
Editor,
The Squamish Chief,
Squamish, BC



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.

MULTIMEDIA ONLINE/ BEST ONLINE EXPERIENCE FOR A STORY

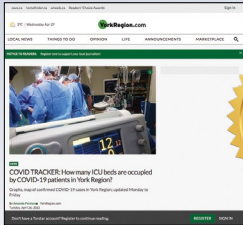
11 ENTRIES



1

MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION – BAMBANG SADEWO

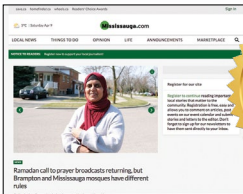
This timeline really adds value for readers. So often we carry on with stories year after year and the context gets lost. This is a really fantastic piece that makes sense of it all. Well done!



2

GEORGINA ADVOCATE – AMANDA PERSICO

Talk about "news you can use." Super helpful for readers. Easy to use and visually appealing. Well done.



3

MISSISSAUGA NEWS – JAMES CHAARANI & STEVE CORNWELL

The audio really adds to this important story. Well done. It was also a unique way to tackle this story and thus, stood out from the pack.

HONOURABLE MENTION

BRAMPTON GUARDIAN – CLARRIE FEINSTEIN – The timeline really adds to the understanding of this important story. Well done. It is clear this is a story the outlet has followed carefully and that serves its readers well.

GENERAL COMMENT

So much great work is being done by all of these news teams. Timelines add a lot of context for readers. Video maps and audio add tons of value to each story. These days, many of our readers are online and so getting and keeping their attention is more important than ever. These stories show that community news, despite its challenges, is full of talented folks doing fabulous work.

Judge

Jennifer Thuncher

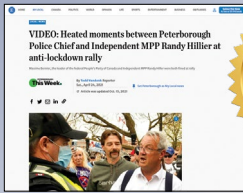
Editor,
The Squamish Chief,
Squamish, BC



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.

BREAKING NEWS VIDEO

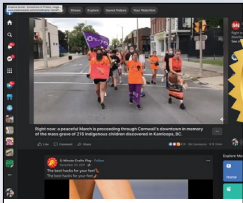
3 ENTRIES



1

PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK – TODD VANDONK

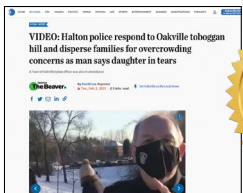
The journalist here made the effort to get multiple shots, interviews and spot news clips and edited it together using some compelling video clips. While I would have like to have seen some of the b-roll rolling over some of the dialogue instead intercut into the video to make it shorter, I feel like the bones of a good news story are all here and there is some very compelling content. At times the composition is compromised with the heads being chopped off, some of the audio wind is a major challenge, and one broll clip of Maxime Bernier is used twice in succession, but I see that a lot of time and effort went into getting these clips. A tighter edit into a shorter video could have made an excellent video but this is still a solid entry. Well done.



2

CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS – NICK SEEBRUCH

Walking backwards while shooting a parade is a challenging task at the best of times and this is a solid piece of news gathering visuals. I would have loved to have seen the videographer take a step or two camera left so we can see the entire length of the parade, instead of just the front. We got a glimpse of that length in the final few moments of the video, and I feel that visually showing that would have strengthened the visual storytelling of what is essentially a gathering where the number of people can make a strong impression. While the shakiness of the video changed the composition in moments, I felt like that is something that comes with the territory of a video such as this. Solid work.



3

OAKVILLE BEAVER – DAVID LEA

User generated content is a bigger and bigger part of the world of news and this video is a solid example of that. It is always challenging comparing different types of video and comparing UGC to content shot and edited is a challenge, but the video is solidly composed, establishes the location, and has good audio which is always a challenge. Well done.

GENERAL COMMENT

The transition for newsrooms to incorporate video storytelling into the news cycle has been a challenging one for some, but the work in this years' entries is proof that a great storyteller is a great storyteller, regardless of the medium. Congratulations to all the nominees.

Judge

Arnold Lim

Executive Producer
Black Press Video Networks,
Victoria, BC



Photo and video journalist Arnold Lim directed his first full-length feature film All-in Madonna which premiered at the Whistler Film Festival in 2020. He's been awarded a B.C. Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts grants for several films and been a film festival programmer for the Victoria Film Festival and Vancouver Asian Film Festival. The award-winning photo and video journalist from Victoria, BC, has worked for Black Press Media for 13 years. His IMDB can be found at https://www.imdb.com/name/nm6127508/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1

Powering community spirit

From all of us at OPG, we would like to extend our congratulations to the 2021 OCNA award nominees and recipients.

OPG is a proud partner of many community activities, initiatives and events across Ontario. As the province's largest clean energy generator and a climate change leader, we're dedicated to making Ontario the best place to live, work and play.



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ONTARIOPOWER
GENERATION

College & University Awards



STUDENT FEATURE WRITING

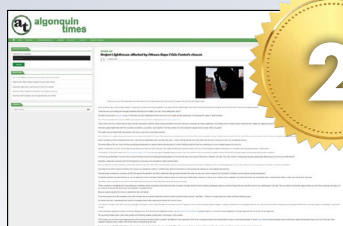
18 ENTRIES



1

DURHAM COLLEGE – ALLAYA SUE

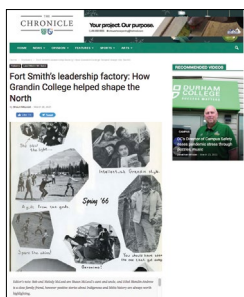
Allaya Sue's story reveals the lack of diversity in Canada's national winter sport and the obstacles girls and women who are Black, Indigenous, and/or people of colour must overcome if they choose to play. Interviews with players and their family members personalize the statistics. Eyeopening and important.



2

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE – MADALYN HOWITT

A thorough and thoughtful examination of what effect the closure of the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre would have on college students and the surrounding community. Madalyn Howitt balances the first-person accounts with pertinent information about the closure.



3

DURHAM COLLEGE – SHAUN MCLEOD

Shaun McLeod's writing is a pleasure to read. This piece was well structured and beautifully presented. Additional sources - particularly those able to provide cultural and historical context - could give this story extra depth.

GENERAL COMMENT

Entries in this category covered a wide range of important subject matter. These students aren't afraid of taking risks and trying new things. There were many strong contenders in this category. Well done, everyone!

Judge

Jenn Watt

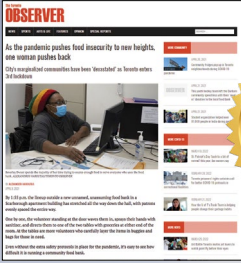
Former Managing Editor,
Haliburton County Echo &
Minden Times,
Haliburton, ON



Jenn Watt graduated from Ryerson University's journalism program in 2007. She spent the following years working in community journalism, mostly as managing editor of a group of newspapers in central Ontario including the Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times before leaving the industry in 2020.

STUDENT NEWS WRITING

18 ENTRIES



1

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE – ALEXANDER VAROUTAS

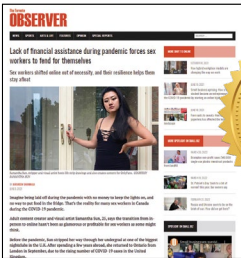
Very well done ! Only one item is missing - where/how to contribute to support the needy.



2

HUMBER COLLEGE – TYLER CHEESE

Well written - balanced - great use of pics taken by writer.



3

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE – ARSHEEN SHAMAILA

How people support themselves at non-legal jobs while at College, then losing their unique jobs due to Covid. Very well researched and written concerning this difficult subject.

HONOURABLE MENTION

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE - TAMARA CONDIE – Well written human interest story and how Algonquin College was able to help an alumni.

GENERAL COMMENT

The entries show a remarkable amount of talent which will enhance our profession when they graduate.

Sponsored by: Ontario Journalism Educators Association

Judge

Michael Wollock

Publisher,
Your Community Voice,
Ottawa, ON



Mike Wollock has been involved with newspapers for more than 50 years. His papers have won numerous awards over the decades from OCNA, CCNA and QCNA. He took over the family business of a small community newspaper in Montreal at the tender age of 24, and within 10 years he was able to grow the papers into Quebec's largest English community newspaper, the second largest in Quebec after the daily Gazette. Moving to Ottawa in 1988, he started seven community newspapers on his kitchen table, before retiring in 2005. Mike came out of retirement in 2019 to start three community newspapers after the closure of the local papers by Postmedia. He strongly believes that a vibrant community newspaper enhances the communities that they serve, and that there will always be a place for the local paper.

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY

9 ENTRIES



1

LOYALIST COLLEGE – ALEX LUPUL

Excellent layout. Very creative.
Excellent colour. You really draw the
viewer in.



2

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE – TAMARA CONDIE

Excellent way to capture the over subject
matter. Clear crisp photo.



3

LOYALIST COLLEGE – CASSIE WILLIAMSON

Excellent presentation and original concept.
Subject could have been clearer though.

GENERAL COMMENT

Great photos entered in this category. The future is bright for these
photographers!

Judge

Colleen Green

Owner/Publisher,
The Standard News,
Port Perry, ON



I began my career in publishing as a graphic designer in 1987. Eventually working my way up to Night Shift Production Manager at the Port Perry Star in 2000. In 2006 I went to work for the Scugog Standard newspaper, where I eventually became the General Manager. In 2016 I purchased the company and renamed it The Standard Newspaper. I have done everything from stuffing flyers, delivery, production, sales, photography, writing, managing and accounting. There isn't an area of newspaper publishing that I haven't done. I love this industry and the privilege it affords me to be a part of and promote my local community.

BEST COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

5 ENTRIES



1

FANSHAWE COLLEGE – THEINTERROBANG.CA

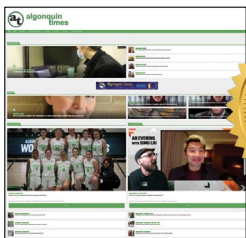
A shining example of what a newspaper website could and should be. Fast loading, great content, and easy navigation. The Interrobang shines in both mobile and desktop. Great use of advertising and call-outs throughout the website that does not overwhelm the user or take away from the content. Lots to like about The Interrobang! Keep up the fantastic work. This is a site I will come back to, if for nothing else but to read your fantastic downloadable print edition.



2

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE – TORONTOOBSERVER.CA

Very nice website that presents the user with a myriad of great content. The mobile website shines and scales very well to the phone. Easy to read fonts, menu and well placed multimedia content add to the appeal of The Toronto Observer. Well done!



3

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE – ALGONQUINTIMES.COM

Visually appealing website that presents the content very well. The layout of the site makes navigation easy with lots of engaging editorial content. I would like to see a bit more attention paid to the mobile version. It did feel like a bit of an afterthought. Very nice site and with a bit better mobile version, mainly on the articles, The Algonquin Times is right up with the best.

HONOURABLE MENTION

DURHAM COLLEGE - CHRONICLE.DURHAMCOLLEGE.CA – Thoroughly enjoyed the content put out by The Durham College Chronicle. The website has all the pieces in place to be a top competitor, it just lacks a bit of polish.

GENERAL COMMENT

Judging from the websites submitted and the content within them, the future is bright. Not a lot separated the top three and each shone in its own right. Well done to all that entered. Keep up the good work.

Judge

David Patterson
Production Manager,
Manitoulin Expositor,
Manitoulin, ON



David Patterson is the production manager of The Manitoulin Expositor and is in his 12th year at the paper. Before coming to The Manitoulin Expositor, Dave spent 20 plus years working as an internet security analyst and computer infrastructure consultant around the globe. Along with production duties, Dave is responsible for Manitoulin.com, fishmanitoulin.com and the flagship tourism website exploremanitoulin.com. Dave's websites have garnered both provincial and national awards including six first-place finishes.

2022 OCNA HALL



William Charles Cavell
President & Publisher, Iroquois Falls Enterprise
Awarded Posthumously

William (Bill) Charles Cavell began his over 72-year career in the newspaper business in a small way. Learning that his high school had no newspaper, Bill stepped in to fill the void with a mimeographed sheet that he sold to fellow students. Eager to "Get busy right away" after graduation, he got the job of night editor at the daily Owen Sound Sun Times. Needing a district reporter to cover southwestern Ontario, the Toronto Telegram liked what they saw in Bill when they interviewed, and he was hired. After a brief stint as editor of the Confederation Life Insurance Company magazine, and then reporting and selling ads at the Goderich Signal Star, Bill was given his first opportunity to run his own paper. A friend offered to print a weekly paper in the small town of Thedford. The entire family pitched in. After three years, he wanted a new challenge. It was Christmas 1963, when the brand-new Enterprise hit the streets of Iroquois Falls. He remained its publisher for 56 years. After moving to Ottawa in 1980, he continued to run the Enterprise long distance, with the help of very competent staff. Right up to the day of his death, Bill was still involved with the running of The Enterprise, a few hours before he died giving instructions to be relayed to his staff.



Wayne Green
Publisher, Northern Times of Kapuskasing and the Temiskaming Speaker of New Liskeard
Awarded Posthumously

Wayne Green began his newspaper career in 1951 at the age of 16 as an "apprentice printer" at the Temiskaming Printing Company (TPC) in New Liskeard, which printed the Temiskaming Speaker weekly newspaper. Eleven years later he oversaw all newspaper production at TPC. In September 1962 he was hired as the first managing editor and the first full-time employee at the new Northern Times newspaper in Kapuskasing. Over the years Wayne Green eventually became publisher of the Times, winning 98 awards in national, provincial, and regional competitions during his 33 years in charge. In 1968 he led the founding of The Tribune, a new weekly in Sturgeon Falls, and managed its operations until the paper was sold in 1973. After retiring in 1995 as the publisher of the Northern Times and general manager of the related Norweb Printing Company in Timmins, he continued to write a regular column for the Northern Times and began writing weekly columns for The Temiskaming Speaker until 2005. In 2013 he returned to produce occasional columns and articles for The Temiskaming Speaker. His last column for The Speaker appeared in the summer of 2017.



Ron Lenyk
Vice President, Newspaper Strategic Support, Torstar
Awarded Posthumously

Ron Lenyk started his career as a Sports Reporter for the Mississauga News in 1970 and was promoted to Sports Editor a year later. By June 1971, he was promoted to Editor, and in 1977 was named Publisher of the Brampton Guardian. Two days before his 32nd birthday, in April 1978, Ron was named Publisher of the Mississauga News. Under his direction, he helped transform the Mississauga news into one of North America's largest and most profitable papers, winning hundreds of awards at the local, provincial, national, and international levels. He took it from the dead-ball era (typewriters and typesetting) to the digital age and beyond. He was later named South Peel Regional Publisher and Vice President of Metroland Media Group. In 2009, Ron was named Vice President of Newspaper Strategic Support for Torstar Corporation. Ron retired from the newspaper business in 2011, continuing his devotion to his community.

The OCNA 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.

OF FAME INDUCTEES



Jack, John, Robin, and Jeff Morris
Editors and Publishers, Prescott Journal, Chesterville Record, Winchester Press, Eastern Ontario Agri-News, Tupper Lake (NY) Free Press, Gouverneur (NY) Tribune, Manotick Messenger, Barrhaven Independent, Russell Villager

Awarded Posthumously to Jack, John and Robin Morris

Jack Morris began his newspaper career at the Chesterville Record in the 1920s as a “printer’s devil” and spent 65 years in the community newspaper business. In 1947, he accepted a job as the editor of the Prescott Journal. He became a partner in 1949, and he became sole proprietor of the business in 1963. Jack sold his interests in the company to his sons, John and Robin, in 1976 and stepped back

from the day-to-day operations of the business, though he remained on staff as a reporter and columnist.

John Morris followed in the footsteps of his father. He had a similar passion for the community, and for the newspaper business. At the age of 15, he revived the school’s student newspaper, and he also worked for his father as the Prescott Journal’s high school sports reporter. In 1957, 21-year-old John Morris went to the bank to get a loan and bought the Kemptville Advance. He was editor and publisher of the Advance until 1964, when he sold it and joined his father at St. Lawrence Printing Company, publishers of the Prescott Journal and Cardinal News. In 1976, Morris purchased the Tupper Lake Free Press in Tupper Lake, NY, and then the Gouverneur (NY) Tribune in the late 1980s. He also partnered with his younger brother Robin to purchase the Chesterville Record, the newspaper where his father’s newspaper career began. While their newspaper company was growing and flourishing at that time, the two brothers purchased the Winchester Press in 1980. In 1986, John launched the Manotick Messenger with the help of his family, and from that newspaper spawned the Barrhaven Independent in 1990.

Robin Morris was often in the shadow cast by his father and his brother, who was nearly 15 years his senior. Like Jack and John, he had a strong passion for local history and an even stronger passion for journalism. While John and Jack were in Prescott, Robin spent much of the 1970s working in Chesterville and then Winchester. He launched the United Counties Agri-News and grew it into one of Eastern Canada’s largest and most successful rural agricultural newspapers. He returned to Prescott to be the editor of the Journal in the early 1980s. Robin also grew the family business by launching the Russell Villager, which operated for decades before merging with the Chesterville Record.

Jeff Morris began his career in community newspapers as a nine-year-old, working in the Prescott Journal mailroom after school and landing his first Wednesday afternoon paper route. He continued to work in the family newspaper business throughout high school and university. In 1986, while in his final year at Carleton, he joined the family business full-time and was involved in the launch of the Manotick Messenger. In the late 1980s, Jeff helped lay the groundwork for, and was involved in the 1990 launch of the Barrhaven Independent. He transitioned from journalism to marketing while leaving the family business for a time, continuing his editorial background as an NHL columnist for ESPN.com. Following the passing of his father John in 2004, he returned to work in the family business. He purchased the Manotick Messenger and Barrhaven Independent from his mother, Beth, in 2017, where he continues as publisher and editor today. He says the highlight of his newspaper career was being able to work through two bouts of bone marrow/plasma cancer. After a craniotomy and brain surgery, he was able to put a newspaper out four days later. In 2020, after a stem cell transplant, he produced and sent four editions of the Messenger and Independent to print from his bed at the Ottawa Cancer Centre. “If my father, my uncle and grandfather would be proud of me for anything, it would be that” he says. “Being a Morris means having a relentless work ethic and a thirst for excellence, and I learned that from all members of my family.”

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)	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	TOTAL	RANK
NEWSPAPER	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	925	
The Independent Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton	91	88	54	57	58	57	56	33	24	14	13	545	1
Haliburton County Echo	82	84	57	59	54	62	59	36	25	7	14	539	2
The Herald Serving Thamesville, Dresden and Bothwell	89	87	52	56	57	54	55	34	24	14	12	534	3
Deep River North Renfrew Times	85	79	53	58	59	55	57	34	26	11	13	530	4
Parry Sound North Star	87	83	52	56	56	56	57	34	24	10	12	527	5
Listowel Banner	89	76	55	55	55	55	55	33	25	11	12	521	6
Walkerton Herald Times	80	75	53	55	53	58	54	32	24	10	13	507	7
Blyth/Brussels Citizen	85	83	58	55	54	51	50	16	28	13	14	506	8
Kincardine Independent	82	71	52	55	53	54	56	33	24	12	13	505	9
Burks Falls Almaguin News	84	77	52	54	50	55	56	33	22	10	10	503	10
Wingham Advance Times	76	76	49	51	53	56	55	24	21	9	11	481	11
Lakefield Herald	80	69	51	54	50	49	50	30	22	9	12	476	12
Barry's Bay, The Valley Gazette	69	74	49	47	45	56	53	11	25	9	13	451	13

CLASS 2 - 3 (CIRC. 2,000-6,499)	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	TOTAL	RANK
NEWSPAPER	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	925	
Niagara This Week, Niagara-on-the-Lake Advance	115	133	89	92	86	93	92	22	41	5	21	789	1
Vankleek Hill Review	123	135	85	81	85	93	93	22	42	11	18	788	2
Eganville Leader	121	108	88	80	83	83	82	21	39	20	13	738	3
Gravenhurst Banner	127	113	62	89	76	86	86	22	39	16	14	730	4
New Liskeard Temiskaming Speaker	118	110	77	75	84	81	80	21	38	22	12	716	5
Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror	116	117	61	91	78	89	88	22	32	2	12	708	6
Fort Frances Times	114	112	64	78	78	83	85	21	36	18	14	703	7
Arnprior Chronicle-Guide	122	120	50	91	77	88	88	22	28	3	11	700	8
The Haldimand Press	115	110	54	78	81	87	85	21	41	6	10	686	9

CLASS 4 (CIRC. 6,500-12,499)	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	TOTAL	RANK
NEWSPAPER	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	925	
Haliburton, The Highlander	143	135	80	88	93	90	83	19	40	21	19	811	1
Niagara This Week, Fort Erie Post	120	120	87	90	85	88	89	19	47	13	17	775	2
Niagara-on-the-Lake, The Lake Report	125	125	87	87	88	88	88	3	43	12	17	763	3
Voice of Pelham	118	125	82	84	73	83	87	18	46	21	6	743	4
Bracebridge Examiner	110	125	75	90	82	82	83	21	42	15	7	732	5
Manotick Messenger	125	110	87	82	79	86	92	18	30	12	10	731	6
Niagara-on-the-Lake Local	112	128	79	79	80	88	88	8	40	10	18	730	7
Niagara This Week, The Leader	98	120	83	80	81	88	85	21	43	11	10	720	8
Renfrew Mercury	113	112	77	87	81	87	82	21	25	18	13	716	9
Smiths Falls Record News	127	113	73	90	77	78	80	19	22	10	9	698	10
Kemptville Advance	127	105	62	78	83	83	83	20	29	4	7	681	11
Collingwood Connection	98	110	68	75	83	87	83	22	40	9	5	680	12
Innisfil Journal	127	122	60	87	67	75	80	21	30	2	8	679	13
Carleton Place/Almonte Canadian Gazette	115	117	72	82	72	77	78	22	31	7	5	678	14
Glanbrook Gazette	107	106	77	80	72	88	72	17	32	5	3	659	15
Perth Courier	103	92	83	82	84	83	87	19	15	5	3	656	16
Uxbridge TimesJournal	130	113	47	85	66	82	85	17	18	4	8	656	16
Uxbridge Cosmos	118	117	77	78	62	72	75	18	18	10	9	654	18
Kemptville, North Grenville Times	110	113	62	60	70	77	73	8	32	5	7	617	19

JUDGE SCORESHEETS

CLASS 5 (CIRC. 12,500 - 22,499)	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	TOTAL	RANK
NEWSPAPER													
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	925	
Elmira-Woolwich Observer	106	130	82	75	57	72	66	16	32	10	15	661	1
Ancaster News	93	124	75	71	53	80	78	16	28	7	5	630	2
Orangeville Citizen	93	117	62	68	61	76	75	17	25	15	15	624	3
Dundas Star News	93	124	75	71	50	80	78	16	28	1	5	621	4
Ottawa Community Voice, Stittsville & Richmond	97	120	74	73	57	71	67	13	28	0	9	609	5
Wasaga/Stayner Sun	97	113	77	74	46	73	75	16	25	0	0	596	6
Haldimand County, The Sachem	86	123	71	69	45	78	73	16	29	0	0	590	7
Waterdown Flamborough Review	92	106	81	73	40	73	70	16	23	0	1	575	8
North Wellington Community News	106	125	32	67	47	66	59	9	23	0	6	540	9
Orangeville Banner	91	112	0	69	64	67	64	14	22	5	3	511	10

CLASS 6 (CIRC. 22,500 - 44,999)	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	TOTAL	RANK
NEWSPAPER													
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	925	
Fergus Wellington Advertiser	122	140	88	72	70	88	85	25	38	7	17	752	1
Sarnia Journal	120	118	75	82	87	72	80	13	37	20	20	724	2
Niagara This Week, Niagara Falls	107	118	78	77	78	89	80	21	39	5	8	700	4
Grimsby Lincoln News	111	116	81	77	76	81	80	37	31	5	2	697	3
Clarington This Week	115	115	72	75	77	88	83	22	30	8	8	693	5
Niagara This Week, Welland	110	116	75	75	80	87	80	19	35	5	5	687	6
Milton Canadian Champion	125	110	68	77	85	77	82	17	32	10	2	685	7
Listowel Independent Plus	115	113	80	77	77	69	78	17	31	12	8	677	8
Stoney Creek News	102	105	77	75	73	76	80	14	35	12	5	654	9
Orillia Today	115	98	60	77	80	81	85	16	28	3	0	643	10
Ottawa Community Voice, Kanata	102	103	75	70	75	71	80	6	27	14	12	635	11
Georgetown/Acton Independent & Free Press	115	100	68	77	75	70	77	15	27	3	0	627	12
Cornwall Seaway News	92	108	80	67	65	72	82	14	25	0	5	610	13
Alliston Herald	112	65	68	75	70	85	85	18	17	10	0	605	14

CLASS 7 (CIRC. 45,000 & OVER)	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Arts Coverage	TOTAL	RANK
NEWSPAPER													
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	25	25	975	
Niagara This Week, St. Catharines	129	122	85	88	82	87	89	22	42	11	14	771	1
Hamilton Mountain News	128	117	85	86	74	84	87	21	39	13	10	744	2
Barrie Advance	133	118	79	86	78	84	85	21	36	8	7	735	3
Burlington Post	127	114	75	83	80	85	84	21	36	6	9	720	4
Oakville Beaver	125	114	76	84	78	81	82	22	35	7	7	715	5
Ajax Pickering News Advertiser	117	110	67	81	68	82	78	20	33	7	7	670	6

CLASS 8 (COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY)	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op-Ed Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content & Design	Local Features	Sports	TOTAL	RANK
NEWSPAPER	150	150	100	100	100	25	100	50	775	
Durham College – The Chronicle	130	120	75	90	90	0	90	45	640	1
Humber College – Et Cetera	110	90	70	85	90	0	70	25	540	2
Fanshawe College – Interrobang	85	90	70	65	70	20	50	20	470	3
Loyalist College – Pioneer	110	90	0	90	90	0	80	0	460	4

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