



BNC2017

BETTER NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

Awards Results



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS – THE HEART OF THE MATTER

2017 SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*We would like to thank
all our award sponsors:*

Fort Frances Times

Hydro One Networks Inc.

Laurentian Publishing

Metro Creative Graphics

Metroland Media Southwestern Ontario Division

Northern News Services

O'Donnell, Robertson & Partners

Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario General Contractors Association

Ontario Journalism Educators Association

Ontario Power Generation

**YOUR COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER**

TABLE of CONTENTS

President's Message	p 4
---------------------------	-----

GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Class 1 - circ. 1,999 & under.....	p 6
Class 2 - circ. 2,000 - 3,499	p 7
Class 3 - circ. 3,500 - 6,499	p 8
Class 4 - circ. 6,500 - 12,499	p 9
Class 5 - circ. 12,500 - 22,499	p 10
Class 6 - circ. 22,500 - 44,999	p 11
Class 7 - circ. 45,000 & over	p 12
Class 8 - College & University	p 13

PREMIER AWARDS

Arts & Entertainment.....	p 15
Best Business & Finance Story	p 16
Education Writing	p 17
Best Editorial circ. 10,000+.....	p 18
Best Editorial circ. -9,999	p 19
Environment Ontario	p 20
Health & Wellness.....	p 21
Feature Writing circ. 10,000+.....	p 22
Feature Writing circ. -9,999.....	p 23
Heritage.....	p 24
Best Investigative News Story	p 25
Best News Story circ. 10,000+	p 26
Best News Story circ. -9,999	p 27
Best Feature/News Series circ. 10,000+.....	p 28
Best Feature/News Series circ. -9,999.....	p 29
Best Rural Story	p 30
Sports & Recreation Story	p 31
Best Headline Writing.....	p 32
Humour Columnist of the Year	p 33
Columnist of the Year	p 34
Reporter of the Year	p 35
Best Feature Photo	p 36
Best Photo Layout.....	p 37
Best Sports Photo	p 38
Best Spot News Photo	p 39

Best News Photo	p 40
Most Creative Grip and Grin Photo.....	p 41
Photographer of the Year.....	p 42
Cartoonist of the Year	p 43
Community Service.....	p 44
Best Vertical Product.....	p 45
Best Front Page circ. 10,000+	p 46
Best Front Page circ. -9,999.....	p 47
Special Section circ. 10,000+	p 48
Special Section circ. -9,999	p 49
Best Sports Section.....	p 50
Best Creative Ad	p 51
In House Promotion	p 52
Local Retail Layout	p 53
Original Ad Idea	p 54
Use of Process Colour	p 55
Best Community Website/Webportal circ. 10,000+.....	p 56
Best Community Website/Webportal circ. -9,999.....	p 57
Online Special Project/Event/Breaking News Coverage.....	p 58
Multimedia Online/Best Online Experience for a Story...	p 59

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Student Feature Writing.....	p 61
Student News Writing	p 62
Student Photography.....	p 63
Best College/University Newspaper Website.....	p 64
Newspaper Toolbox.....	p 65
2017 IBC Community Award.....	p 66
Insurance Bureau of Canada	p 67
General Excellence Judge Scoresheets	p 68
General Excellence Judge Scoresheets	p 69
Ontario Power Generation.....	p 70

...the heart of the matter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's Spring again, and time to honour the wonderful work of Ontario's weekly community newspapers. And it's another great crop: one look at the entries and you will agree that Ontario's Community newspapers have some very talented staff.

In October, publishers, editors, reporters, photographers and designers diligently filtered through thousands of stories, photographs and ads to submit over 1,700 entries in the 2017 Better Newspapers Competition. Then the wait began. Nominations were sent to judges all over the country, who read and re-read each submission before making their decisions in January. On Valentine's Day, the OCNA announced the finalists in each category. The OCNA member winners were finally recognized for their hard work during the annual Spring Convention and BNC Awards Gala on Friday, April 20.

As always, we would like to thank all of those in the industry who have helped make this awards program a success.

A great big thank you to all our judges, who, despite many other commitments, volunteer their time to examine countless entries on their evenings and weekends. Without them, we would not have the opportunity to honour the best work in our industry.

Another thank you to our sponsors for their generous support. They have once again enabled us to highlight the great accomplishments of our members.

Congratulations to all the winners of the 2017 OCNA Better Newspapers Competition.

Ray Stanton
President
Ontario Community Newspapers Association

A hand is holding the left edge of an open newspaper. The newspaper is laid out on a rustic wooden table. In the top right corner, a white cup filled with dark coffee is visible. The text 'General Excellence Awards' is written in a blue, elegant script across the middle of the newspaper's pages. The newspaper's text is mostly illegible due to the angle and focus.

General Excellence Awards



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 1

CIRCULATION 1,999 & UNDER

11 ENTRIES



1

MINDEN TIMES

Consistently excellent photography and two strong editorials put the Minden Times on top. A variety of community news and colourful, eye-catching ads only added to its score. The August editorial could have been trite, but the line, "Canada has been good to me. Canada was tailor-made for me," show the author acknowledged he is writing from a place of privilege. A shout-out for the excellent photography, and whoever created the house ad: "Where are you getting YOUR news?"



2

LISTOWEL BANNER

The Banner does a great job of covering the community. It is a small paper with a HUGE variety of sports: darts, hockey, figure skating, softball, karate and baseball were all there. The news stories are intertwined with features on people in the community. Also includes strong photography and an easy to read layout. Keep up the good work!



3

KINCARDINE INDEPENDENT

This newspaper has a lot of news, some good features, and it is laid out so it is easy to read. The Independent also has a lot of sports with big pictures. A good front page with the nameplate at the top makes a statement. The Independent would benefit from having locally written editorials on the opinion page. Overall, this is a newspaper that covers its communities well.

HONOURABLE MENTION

NEW HAMBURG INDEPENDENT – High points for community news. There is not as much as other papers, but what is there is consistently well-done and well presented. Editorial page varied between editions. The August edition editorial redeemed it with a short, sweet and genuine 'rah rah community' editorial. A community paper needs that from time to time! Despite turnover in newsroom staff between editions, the writers obviously understand and care for the community and that's a consistent vibe across both judged editions.

THE HERALD SERVING THAMESVILLE, DRESDEN AND BOTHWELL – Another little paper with a huge variety of sports news: Lawn bowling, rugby, soccer, raceway, hockey, football, baseball... a little taste of each. The Water Wells First group is obviously keeping the newsroom busy... but the newsroom needs to do a bit more legwork.

GENERAL COMMENT

For the most part, newspapers in this class are publishing important news to their communities. Certain articles could be more thoroughly researched and have additional voices. Everyone could use fewer 'Local' in headlines... If it's in the community newspaper, it ought to be local! You don't need to tell us. And please, please include names in photo cutlines. If you are close enough to get a photo, you are close enough to get names! Municipal council news featured heavily, but quality varied widely. Too many papers are recounting meetings blow-by-blow, basically printing meeting minutes, without offering any value-added analysis or news judgment. Overall a lot of good papers! Congratulations.

Judges

Laura Button

Editor

The Mountaineer Publishing Co.
Rocky Mountain House, AB



Roger Knox

Reporter/Photographer
The Morning Star
Vernon, BC



Rob Vogt

Editor

Clareholm Local Press
Clareholm, AB



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 2

CIRCULATION 2,000 - 3,499

8 ENTRIES



1

HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

An impressive publication from start to finish. So many good stories, and the writers do a great job of going beyond reporting the news to illuminating what it means to the community. Strong writing from editor and columnists along with lots of other elements make these pages an engaging read. A great clean layout make for a very readable publication with a good flow page to page. Photography was crisp & clear throughout exhibiting good control and use of light and composition. Best looking classified pages in the class. Local ad content and advertising features are well designed and there's a lot of it; it's easy to see the community chooses this publication to advertise. The use of colour, even on classified pages, helps advertisers stand out. An attractive paper overall.



2

PARRY SOUND NORTH STAR

An attractive paper with good stories, compelling photos, and a crisp design. A variety of news provides useful information and engaging stories about local people and issues. Excellent front pages with great photos. Use of colour and greyscale are excellent in both advertising and editorial, and print quality stands out. A good looking paper!



3

FORT FRANCES TIMES

Lively front pages with stories of local interest make for a lively read. Good teasers help to draw the reader into the paper. The Editorial page goes above and beyond with a local editorial, a column from the publisher and regular local columnists. There is lots of community oriented editorial content and photos. The advertising features have good impact, and well-designed local ads round out the paper.

GENERAL COMMENT

This year's class, though small in both circulations and total entries, was a delight to judge. We all hear about how the journalism industry is struggling, but there were many examples of solid writing, good people features and the like. A large range in degrees of balance, in visual appeal and informative editorial content was apparent in the papers presented. Most papers understood the importance of good municipal political reporting. However, sports coverage did not gain as much strength in terms of coverage. Yes, it's a pain to send people to live events, but the merits – better (action) images, and more "we were there" colour will not only sell papers but, possibly reprints. A few depended on small font sizing in order to meet the needs of content when readers may be better served with less verbiage and more focused editorial coverage. In contrast others gave more column inches to fewer stories and were much more readable. All in all, this class told me that the craft of grass-roots, small-community journalism is alive and well. Keep it up!

Judges

Valerie Durnin

Group Publisher
Humboldt Journal, Tisdale
Recorder, Flin Flon Reminder
Humboldt, SK



Vern Faulkner

Former Editor
The Saint Croix Courier/
Courier Weekend
St. Stephen, NB



Grant Harris

Publisher/Sales Manager
Smithers Interior News
Smithers, BC



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 3

CIRCULATION 3,500 - 6,499

7 ENTRIES



1

EGANVILLE LEADER

The Eganville Leader comes out on top for its obvious commitment to covering its community. Front pages were full of informative and important local news stories. Adequate space was given to cover those stories thoroughly. It was great to see an almost full page feature on sisters reconnecting with their First Nations heritage on page 2 of one issue, complete with bright, vibrant photos. Coverage of community events is impressive. It was impressive enough to see a full two-page spread on a cultural event in one issue, and absolutely astounding to see an entire 12 page broadsheet section to cover a community event. This is obviously a newspaper in tune with its community! Great job!



2

NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH

The Nunavut News/North was big and bold in both photos and headlines, and it works. Great presentation! The paper has a great mix of hard news and features, making it a must read in their community.



3

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, TOWN CRIER

The Town Crier gives us a very attractive, easy-to-follow layout. It includes strong editorial content, with community focused stories. It offers a strong sports section and good photography. Well done.

GENERAL COMMENT

An exceptional lot of newspapers! High scores across the board. While each may have a slightly different style, each delivers an impressive product. Each is amazingly consistent throughout their paper in writing, photography and layout. Papers may decide on a style but then must adhere to it. They do! The only two criticisms to make are that all photos must include cutlines which identify the people, if possible. Also, some papers strayed from modularity slightly which cost them a few points and positions. Overall, writing is very good. Different judges would place any of the top five in first to fifth. A great team effort by all entries.

Judges

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



Emily Distephano
Reporter
Carman Valley Leader,
Carman, MB



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



GENERAL EXCELLENCE * CLASS 4

CIRCULATION 6,500 - 12,499

11 ENTRIES



1

HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

The Highlander has a definite look and feel, which helps promote its brand. All of the stories are relevant to the community, and are well-researched and written. It's evident that the reporters are out on the beat engaging with readers and subjects and taking photos. This is what sets it apart – a vital community source. The editorial / opinion pages are super strong. Including distinct voices sets individual newspapers apart – they reflect what the community is all about. We all know how much reporters hate doing streeters (our own reporters groan as soon as I suggest it), but this is the kind of content that really engages people. The amount of advertising would make any small paper envious – the ads are well-designed, and well-placed. They enhance without interfering. Above all, seeing a small town paper publish 44 pages is encouraging for others. We may all be struggling with the digital revolution, but The Highlander is proving that print is alive and well.



2

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, THE LEADER

Readers of Niagara This Week The Leader should feel well-served by this newspaper. It had a diverse mix of stories and photos that reflect life in the communities it serves. The crisp, clear pictures tell a story and the strong advertising base reflects the position of leadership and trust it holds within the community and should ensure its future for a long time to come. Keep up the good work.



3

BRACEBRIDGE EXAMINER

The Bracebridge Examiner is a solid paper which gives its readers good value for the money. The paper has excellent community coverage and works hard to present a strong overview of the news in its region, week after week. This consistency makes the Examiner a paper worth reading.

GENERAL COMMENT

This group of newspapers was strong overall and it was hard to pick the top three winners. A testament to the strong commitment to the communities they serve.

****SPONSORED BY: METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS**

Judges

John Arendt
Editor
Summerland Review
Summerland, BC



Andy Walker
Editor
Island Farmer
Montague, PEI



Melanie Scott
Editor
Low Down to Hull and Back News
Wakefield, QC



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 5

CIRCULATION 12,500 - 22,499

14 ENTRIES



1

DUNDAS STAR NEWS

The Dundas Star News scored consistently well across the board. Advertising was laid out nicely and the stories had a solid hierarchy in terms of impact to the reader and importance to the community. A good flow of news and ads along with well-done local content.



2

ORANGEVILLE BANNER

The Banner was a close second-place finisher. It has good production values, is nicely presented and easy to read. The paper features strong headlines with good use of photos and there are plenty of people in those pictures. An excellent editorial page with a good variety of reader letters. Plenty of well-produced ads, a strong classified section and loads of community news make this paper a benefit to the region it serves.



3

STITTSVILLE NEWS

The Stittsville News presented a clean and colourful front page with good reproduction. The news and ad presentation showed a thoughtful display with a good ratio of news versus ad content. They presented great editorial and the Opinion pages were all locally relevant. The sports coverage was also good along with well-presented classified. The paper provided an easy reading experience and it was evident that some thought was put into the paper content overall.

HONOURABLE MENTION

ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER – The Elmira-Woolwich Observer presented clean with large photos, great headline sizes and good local content. Predominantly a black and white paper, it was still an easy read. The cartoon could have been stronger, and there was a large amount of world opinion rather than local on the editorial pages.

GENERAL COMMENT

A strong group of newspapers in this category. Most had excellent editorial pages, with well-written and thought out commentaries and opinions. Virtually every entry had plenty of comprehensive local coverage. Good advertising, strong photography and production rounded them out. However, with the exception of a couple of titles, there was very little emphasis put on local sports and athletes. If there is any way to retain and build readership with young people, it's done by publishing quality sports stories and photos.

Judges

Susan Attiana
Publisher
The Local Weekly
Sunshine Coast, BC



Terry Jensen
Publisher
Clark's Crossing Gazette
Warman, SK



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



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 6

CIRCULATION 22,500 - 44,999

21 ENTRIES



SARNIA JOURNAL

The Sarnia Journal is more than deserving of a first-place finish, standing head and shoulders above the competition. The Journal included 100 percent localized, community content in all areas of coverage – from news, to opinion pages, to sports – while also finding ways to localize regional or national stories to make them relevant and engaging to the Sarnia readership, and creating strong local features in addition to news. A comprehensive sports section and good use of photography added to the product, creating numerous “refrigerator moments,” where readers will save clippings from the paper, which is hugely important in ensuring a community newspaper’s continued relevance.



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

Brightly written and colourfully presented, Sudbury’s Northern Life is a gorgeous little paper. Its colour-coded sections make it easy to navigate and the use of heavy-bond white paper on outside pages serves to make the paper feel significant. Beyond its impressive presentation, Northern Life is full of the mix of news, comment, sports, life and entertainment coverage that can still make community newspapers seem to be the lifeblood of their communities. It’s clear the staff at the Sudbury Northern Life understands its readership.



WATERLOO CHRONICLE

The Waterloo Chronicle was one of a few contenders for the third-place nod, but took the lead due to its dedication to localized community coverage – something seen amongst most submissions this year, but which stood out for the Chronicle. Editorial commitment to creating local features is to be commended, while photography composition and layout add to the overall visual draw of the Chronicle. The opinion pages are localized, as well, although points were lost due to the limited number of Letters to the Editor printed, and a lack of reader engagement either through social media or other submitted inclusions. In today’s newspaper landscape, the importance of reader engagement cannot be overstated. Still, editorials are concise, clean and community-oriented. Another area that was nice to see was the Chronicle’s proper use of constrained space. It would be nice to see more space allocated to editorial content, but the existing holes are well-utilized, and layout styles avoid tombstoning despite a lack of available lineage.

GENERAL COMMENT

This is always a difficult but enjoyable category to judge. However, I found the discrepancies between first and last place much wider this year. The industry is always changing, and some papers have adjusted to those changes more than others. The newspapers that scored the highest were those that put the most importance on community – not only in news coverage, but also in developing interesting features; creating heavily-localized opinion pages, including community-centered columns and editorials, Letters to the Editor, and some use of social media interaction; and intensive sports sections. The combination of these areas are what turn readers into supporters, and that’s what keeps community newspapers going in today’s landscape. Additionally, clean layout is a must for graphic design-centric readership used to clean online design. Many newspapers have adjusted to create engaging layout – and, specifically, front pages – but that doesn’t hold true for all submissions. While a redesign is a lot of work, it would be highly beneficial to many community newspapers who have hung onto their layout styles for far too long. With those constructive notes in mind, it was a pleasure to see successes in all submissions this year, with an overall heightened focus specifically placed on community news coverage.

****SPONSORED BY: NORTHERN NEWS SERVICES**

Judges

Dale Bass

Associate Editor
Kamloops This Week
Kamloops, BC



John Kendle

Managing Editor
Canstar Community News
Winnipeg, MB



Ben Proulx

Editor
Sherwood Park News
Sherwood Park, AB



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 7

CIRCULATION 45,000 & OVER

14 ENTRIES



1

HAMILTON MOUNTAIN NEWS

An informative and enjoyable read from start to finish. The Hamilton Mountain News delve a little further into their bigger news stories, looking for some different angles on how they impact their community. The use of the bathers' photo with the water quality piece was perfect. Gorgeous Dieppe feature! The editorial and staff columns are very interesting, strong, and there's a very nice clean layout to the page. There was good use of coloured pullouts for sidebars and smaller news pieces. The headlines were clean and easy to read. Sports coverage was a point of strength - a section to be proud of. Out of all the papers, these sports photos were the best by far. Great action shots! Overall a great paper. Keep up the great work!



2

OSHAWA THIS WEEK

Effective headlines and a good use of photography made for two impressive front pages. Despite their dramatic differences, I was drawn into both stories thanks to the information presented. The Community News section dives right in, offering insight into local issues and giving enough space to stories requiring more context. The stories were a good mix of briefs and multi-source stories. It was the paper's biggest strength and had the edge on all the other entrants. The sports section was also a standout. While the tendency for this category was to dummy tight, OTW made sure to create some breathing room with its presentation. The design makes sense and was consistent throughout, creating a cohesive package.



3

ETOBICOKE GUARDIAN

The covers set a strong tone for the rest of the paper. Great photography and a clean page one layout draw the reader in. The use of graphic elements and/or multiple photos on the feature pages back up the promise of the front page. Elsewhere inside, the headlines are dynamic, speaking clearly to the varied issues and interests of the community, and the stories are well written. The paper scored highly for how it was packaged, including photography and advertising design, but a lack of a sports section hurt the overall score.

HONOURABLE MENTION

SCARBOROUGH MIRROR – Scarborough Mirror deserves an honourable mention for their strong front pages, with cover photos that made you want to pick up each edition and read further. And each of the stories they teased to - well worth the read. In each case, while the front pages were dynamic, so too were their page 3s. Thankfully, the front page stories didn't turn to page 3, leaving a nice space for more news stories or features to catch the reader's attention. Well done.

GENERAL COMMENT

Overall we were impressed with the depth of community coverage offered by the Class 7 entries. The majority contained a comprehensive offering of bylined news, ranging from hard news to human interest. Areas for improvement continue to be the lack of features – it's a missed opportunity to present news and issues-based stories in a more compelling way via visuals and graphics. Many of the papers also lacked a true sense of flow and organization, making it hard for the reader to know where to find things and have a consistent reader experience. We also encourage the papers to go back to a model of writing their own editorials. The papers that did felt like they had a stronger connection to their community than the ones that ran canned "Our View" editorials. All newspapers scored well with advertising content and design, with plenty of local advertising. It's good to see some newspapers still have grocery stores advertising with them.

Judges

Kelsey Klassen
Digital Editor
Vancouver Courier
Vancouver, BC



Bill Phillips
Publisher
Prince George Daily News
Prince George, BC



Roxanne Hooper
Editor
Langley Advance
Langley, BC



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 8

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY

5 ENTRIES



1

HUMBER COLLEGE, ETCETERA

First and foremost, a newspaper is a visual offering. As such, the orderliness evident on its side of the proposition significantly influences not only reader willingness to engage but reader ability to consume the content on offer. Et Cetera missed the mark on some layout standards - such as failing to give page elements room to breathe, permitting truncated legs and ... uh-oh ... continuing a story into a column beyond the width staked out by the headline - but on the whole presented itself uncluttered and in the proud tradition of better newspapers. As such, its impressive array of community, campus and social topics were able to be more fully appreciated for the intelligent way in which they were covered.



2

LOYALIST COLLEGE, THE PIONEER

The Pioneer's approach to newspaper publishing can be summed up in three words: "Does. News. Differently." You could be forgiven for thinking, instead: "Does. Community. Differently." Or even: "Does. News. Vividly." Not satisfied to stop at reflecting life on campus, it reaches out into the city around it, and then a step further into the world beyond that, to capture breathtaking vignettes of moments once upon a Canadian time. A product of a photojournalism perspective, the paper's departure from the traditional categorized presentation left it ineligible to collect points in every area in play in this competition, or it would have given Et Cetera a serious run for top honours. But as it is, with extravagantly delicious imagery commandeering the senses on every page and dragging even the most reluctant reader into the accompanying story, it is a tantalizing glimpse into a possible future for those of us preoccupied with where journalism should go next.



3

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE, ALGONQUIN TIMES

Algonquin Times has the strength of its editorial staff to thank for its third-place finish. Colour-challenged pages come across as an artifact of a bygone era these days, and the abundance of grey pages conspired with some printing shortcomings and a handful of design and layout miscues to work against a very plugged in editorial effort. High marks to an able editorial team for being on top of a diverse array of topics surrounding campus life, as well as outside influences affecting it.

GENERAL COMMENT

This category provides a snapshot of where the community newspaper industry is today and where it might be heading. The student journalists who populated and directed the course of the five college and university newspapers represented in this competition did so using existing technology and existing methodologies, for the most part. But their own set of ideas and values, new today but perhaps the norm tomorrow, were imprinted upon every page. The winning entry – Humber College's Et Cetera - demonstrated the enduring value of producing a trustworthy vehicle, which lends itself directly to consumable content. Theirs was made even more appetizing by complimentary accoutrements such as a matter-of-fact approach to colour and modest graphic stylings. Second-place entry – The Pioneer of Loyalist College - mated philosophy with mechanics to spectacularly turn our notion of community journalism on its head. It underscored the old saw that a thousand words can be encapsulated by a gripping picture. Third-place finisher – Algonquin Times – reminded us that, at the end of the day, our strength lies in reporting and the vision of the newsroom.

Judge

Dan Hoddinott

An award-winning newsman and editor (OCNA, ACNA, CCNA), Dan Hoddinott (www.danhoddinott.ca) brings insight gleaned from 40+ years in Canadian community journalism to bear on critical issues facing newspapers today. He has parlayed his extensive newsroom, newspaper production and publishing experience into the creation and design of educational tools for reporter development. The textbook "Community Journalism In Changing Times: A Reporter's Handbook" is his latest creation.



*Premier
Swards*

N E W S

PREMIER AWARDS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

61 ENTRIES



1

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, TOWN CRIER

A personal story about the late Canadian jazz great Oscar Peterson, featuring an interview with his wife Kelly. From the poignant opening anecdote about a beloved piano in the Peterson home, we are pulled into this story. Detailed and well-structured, Scott Rosts' piece is timely, informative and a great read.



2

MANOTICK MESSENGER

Talk about a "good get" for an interview. Manotick native and professional dancer Diedre Barnes offers an insider's look at performing with Britney Spears in Las Vegas and being on tour with Justin Bieber. Jeff Morris' story follows Barnes home as she spends time with a group of young girls at the studio where she learned to dance growing up. Interviews with the subject's former dance instructors really make this story strong.



3

OTTAWA WEST NEWS

The commitment of artists to their art is always inspirational. Melissa Murray provides this comprehensive, well-structured portrait of copper artist Barbara Barkley that both informs and enlightens. The photographs provide a perfect visual balance to the writing.

HONOURABLE MENTION

OSHAWA THIS WEEK – An accomplished 89-year-old abstract painter, with a new exhibition, is the compelling subject of this strong story by Mike Ruta.

LISTOWEL BANNER – Dan McNee provides an entertaining Q+A interview with one of the creators of Crave-TV's show 'Letterkenny.'

PORT PERRY STAR – Entertainment meets business in this fascinating profile of the owner of a movie poster restoration business. Well done Chris Hall.

GENERAL COMMENT

A diverse range of reporting, news and features. Some stories could benefit from more feature elements like anecdotes to illustrate points, more colourful descriptive writing and additional interviews. However, the calibre of this category shows that arts and entertainment coverage flourishes at OCNA publications.

Judge

Scott Whalen

Photojournalism Program, Loyalist College

Scott Whalen was a full-time news and feature reporter and editor for community and daily newspapers for a decade. For the last 20 years, he has taught reporting and writing in Loyalist College's photojournalism program.



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST BUSINESS & FINANCE STORY

67 ENTRIES



1

HALIBURTON COUNTY LIFE

Very nice feature. Well-written and researched by Robert Mackenzie. Just a few quibbles: did the reporter try to contact the other resort owner? Also, a few more details would have been nice: how many guests does she have now compared with, say, five years ago? Where do her visitors come from? What impact have the recent changes to her business model had on her revenues?



2

OTTAWA HILL TIMES

Marco Vigliotti gives us a well-written and researched piece, with a wide range of sources.



3

BURKS FALLS ALMAGUIN NEWS

Well-written and researched. It would have been nice to get a few more concrete numbers from businesses affected by the lack of sledders—what percentage are their revenues and customer visits down? But overall a very good story by Andrew Mendler.

GENERAL COMMENT

Overall, the stories shed light on a wide range of community business stories. My major criticism is many of the stories lacked details about elements such as companies' overall business models, funding, revenues, sales projections, business challenges, etc., as well as context about their industries. Those types of details are what separate exceptional stories from good ones.

Judge

David Sali

Editor, Print Content, Ottawa Business Journal

The print editor of the Ottawa Business Journal since 2014, David Sali is a 25-year veteran of the newspaper industry. Before joining OBJ, David began his journalism career as a reporter and editor at several community newspapers in Ottawa's east end. He then spent a dozen years as a copy editor at the Ottawa Sun, where he worked in news, sports, entertainment and business. When he's not writing or talking about business, David can often be found at a curling rink in winter or on the tennis court in summer. The rest of the time the Saskatchewan native eats, sleeps and breathes Roughrider football.



PREMIER AWARDS

EDUCATION WRITING

64 ENTRIES



1

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

Sheri Shefa's story about how educators grapple with teaching the Jewish states more controversial issues is the first-place winner. Shefa dove deeply into her topic, quoting seven different individuals from across the country in a long but easy to read and impeccably written piece.



2

OTTAWA SOUTH NEWS

This story about driver training for paramedics wins second spot. Erin McCracken mixed the immediacy of a ride-along with the inside scoop on safe driving practices for paramedics (and the rest of us) for a compelling read from start to finish, plus several photos and a video component.



3

ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER

Whitney Neilson's feature on the state of cursive writing was fascinating and beautifully presented, exploring a subject many people wonder about.

GENERAL COMMENT

This category had so many entries that could have been top-three finalists. The quality of writing and editing was high overall, and extra effort put into layout and photography made several submissions pop. A number of stories were about accommodation reviews or school closures, which had significant impact on communities. However, even the best reporting of an emotional school board meeting cannot satisfy the research, initiative and layout/design requirements of winning entries for this competition.

Judge

Gail Sjuberg

Editor, Driftwood Gulf Islands Media, 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 25 years. She is also the editor of Driftwood Publishing Ltd.'s magazine called Aqua-Gulf Islands Living and the Gulf Islander tourist guide, and has been a judge for numerous community newspaper competitions. Since 2013 she has also been the chair of the Salt Spring Literacy Society, which offers free adult and family literacy services on Salt Spring Island.



****SPONSORED BY: ONTARIO JOURNALISM EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST EDITORIAL ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+

35 ENTRIES



1

SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

Giving up an adopted son to the guardianship of the province, so that he can receive the medical care he needs, seems like something from the distant past. Not so. This editorial pleads for a more up-to-date approach for children who need intensive help, and in particular for adopted children. Not all need intensive help, but they all certainly benefit from the permanent love and care provided by a family.



2

WHITBY THIS WEEK

This detailed explanation of why police disciplinary measures were not implemented for more than four months makes for sad reading. It's a powerful indictment of a system which should be working to keep citizens safe and police accountable for their actions, even when off-duty.



3

WATERLOO CHRONICLE

Opposition to a Muslim prayer centre is more than NIMBYism, this editorial says. It uses facts about nearby shopping centres, high schools and churches to make its point – the opposition is at least partially driven by fear of Islam and its practitioners. This is an appeal for people to set aside their prejudices. It shouldn't be necessary, but it was in this case.

HONOURABLE MENTION

SARNIA JOURNAL – A city council passing a 5-4 motion against free speech is certainly worthy of condemnation. The article is well-illustrated with a photo illustration of a man with a megaphone, and blank speech balloons indicating that his words have been censored. This is a good way to draw casual readers' attention to a very important topic.

WATERDOWN FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW – This editorial starts out in story form – drawing the reader in. It then outlines how the loss of a job or other circumstance can lead to genuine poverty. Its title "Child poverty is family poverty" is powerful, as is its message. Congratulations to the Metroland reporters who worked on the child poverty series, and to the Flamborough Review for publishing this powerful editorial, which helped draw more attention to the series. Child poverty is an issue in all parts of the country, and it's one that can be solved.

GENERAL COMMENT

This was a challenging but very interesting category to judge. Having written hundreds of editorials in the course of my career, I enjoyed the different approaches used by editorial writers to make their points. All were well-written, but the top eight stood out, and picking the top three was difficult. It was good to see all 35 entrants putting considerable energy into editorials and using solid facts to make their cases. These are powerful statements, making the case for responsible commentary and against one-sided "fake news."

Judge

Frank Bucholtz

Freelance writer and blogger, Former editor (1998-2015) Langley Times, Langley, BC

Frank Bucholtz retired as editor of The Langley (B.C.) Times in 2015. He continues to write regular columns for The Times and several other B.C. newspapers. He also posts regularly on his blog, Frankly Speaking (www.frankbucholtz.blogspot.ca). He spent almost 40 years working in the community newspaper industry and remains very committed to the industry. He believes its role in keeping democracy robust is critical, and advocates on its behalf frequently,



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST EDITORIAL ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

25 ENTRIES



BURKS FALLS ALMAGUIN NEWS

Excellent editorial that is fearless, uses data to underscore its point and leaves the reader no doubt where the writer stands. It's a pleasure to see such bold and emphatic writing in our rural papers. Here's how it opens: "Governance in Almaguin Highlands does not come cheap. It took our reporter months to gather the data and tally the numbers, and the end result was staggering. Seventeen municipalities across the region paid 89 councillors a total of \$956,241 in 2016. The mayors, reeves and councillors - who each averaged \$10,744 in salaries and reimbursed expenses – oversee a combined population of 28,359." Do you want to read more? I do.



NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH

Fearless editorials should have an emphatic opening and the Nunavut News/North doesn't mince words from the beginning. I love the bold statement that opens this editorial: "Education Minister Paul Quassa, a well-respected leader and negotiator of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement - appears intent on throwing his reputation out the window for all the wrong reasons. His fight to push through Bill 37, which will cancel any targets to have Nunavut's high school students speaking Inuktitut upon graduation, is opposed in the legislative assembly and in many other quarters." I can only imagine the kind of tensions such words could create in the community, but they are frank and provocative, two ingredients in a great piece of commentary



EAST GWILLIMBURY EXPRESS

Well done. Strong opening, with the point bolstered by a re-statement of the facts, followed by an unequivocal ending.

GENERAL COMMENT

Few of the entries in this category made an argument or offered a bouquet in the first paragraph. Most opened with a ponderous, indirect style that would cause readers to turn the page out of frustration. This is often because editorials are the last piece the editor writes on production day, and very little thought is given to being courageous or provocative before then. Small communities are not bereft of problems or accomplishments that need criticism or support, and there's nothing wrong with taking a stand, if not to provoke a response, then to offer kudos to the heroes. The winners did this, and left no doubt in the readers' mind what side of an issue the writer supports.

Judge

Joe Banks

Journalism Coordinator, Algonquin College, Ottawa, ON

Joe Banks has been an Ontario rural and suburban community newspaper journalist, editor, publisher, and general manager for nearly 40 years, and has been with Algonquin College as a full-time professor and coordinator of the journalism program since 2000. In March 2000, Banks' career in the community newspaper industry was capped when he was named by OCNA as one of 50 industry individuals who has made a major contribution to Ontario's community newspaper industry since OCNA's founding in 1950.



PREMIER AWARDS

ENVIRONMENT ONTARIO

61 ENTRIES



1

NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH

Nunavut News/North reporter John McFadden captured the celebration after the citizens of the hamlet of Clyde River won a Supreme Court challenge of seismic testing in Arctic waters. The court ruled that the National Energy Board erred when it allowed an oil exploration consortium to conduct seismic testing in Arctic waters. Such testing has been linked to the deaths of aquatic animals and plankton, a major food source. The paper's coverage spanned four pages, including a front-page photo of the jubilant Clyde River mayor under the headline "Seismic Victory". The Supreme Court decision hinged on the duty to consult Indigenous peoples. McFadden's main piece was strongly written and well researched.



2

WASAGA/STAYNER SUN

Ian Adams writes about a Great Lakes micro-plastics sampling project that found large volumes of the plastics in the waters of Lake Huron. Most of the plastics found are single-use household plastics. "We wash minuscule bits of plastic down the drain every day," as David Sweetnam told Adams for his piece. What's clear from Adams's piece is that people have a role to play in reducing the load of plastics in our waterways.



3

NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

Volunteers pitched in to move 40 turtle nests in early August 2017, as we learn in Karen Longwell's piece. Habitat loss and road mortalities threatened to expunge the turtles. This story points to the often flawed way we manage our infrastructure and the manner we build it – without paying due attention to the animals that may be affected by a road, a bridge or a stormwater drain.

GENERAL COMMENT

It's heartening to know the environment is getting more attention in community newspapers. That's due to strong writing, research and commitment at smaller newspapers across the country. There was so much good environmental writing, I found myself hard-pressed judging this category. The breadth of topics covered by entrants was truly impressive – from flooding to habitat loss to human encroachment on wildlife areas to industrial contamination of our soils and waters. Depressing. But the writers who submitted their pieces often found a way to present solutions that usually tracked back to 'all of us'. As journalists, we have to take up the pen to ensure we all do what we can to protect our common inheritance – this 'little blue planet third from the sun'.

Judge

Jim Mosher

Writer-Editor, Interlake Enterprise, Gimli, MB

Jim Mosher has been writing for community newspapers more than 30 years. He is currently a freelance writer-editor, working principally for the Interlake Enterprise Community Newspaper in Manitoba. He lives in Winnipeg Beach, near the shores of Lake Winnipeg.



PREMIER AWARDS

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

73 ENTRIES



1

BARRHAVEN INDEPENDENT

The newshook - the passing of a private member's bill leading to the creation of a compassionate and catastrophic care plan for Ontario patients with exceptional circumstances - was the jumping-off point for a story guaranteed to melt the hardest of hearts. Jeff Morris puts a face on the need for the bill by introducing us to a Barrhaven family that has been struggling to cope with the financial burden of treatment and medications for two young sons with cancer. The story is well told and the cover photo of the mom and two boys is captivating. In terms of design, I'd suggest running your lead headline larger. Also, reading the turn was a labour of love - too grey. Instead of six legs of text, you could have used four for improved readability. Even better, throw in another picture of the boys.



2

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

The blend of research and compelling personal anecdotes in this story makes for a fascinating, and educational, read. Sheri Shefa has turned to a wide array of sources and woven everything together seamlessly. The layout is interrupted by an awkwardly placed ad on the first page and I caution my students against using quote-start leads, as was the case here, but overall a most impressive entry.



3

COLLINGWOOD CONNECTION

With so much in the news over the last couple of years about tragedies involving the police and people with mental illness, this is an important story for communities across the province. It starts, as the best news features usually do, by zeroing in on the personal - John Edwards introduces us to the father of a man who died after being subdued with a stun gun by an OPP officer. It then pulls back to provide details about the formation of a new mental health response team, and then ends - again, as most good news feature stories do - by returning to the personal source. Well done.

GENERAL COMMENT

Once again, there was a rich and varied array of entries in this category. The stories looked at everything from fitness to PTSD to addiction, all topics of great relevance to the communities involved. It was an honour to read so many compelling tales about people overcoming adversity, wellness initiatives and organizations coming together to support those in need. Congratulations to all those who entered in this category - you made it difficult to narrow it down to just four winning stories.

Judge

Lindy Oughtred

Journalism Professor, Centennial College, ON

Lindy Oughtred is a former community newspaper reporter and editor who worked for publications in Oakville, Brampton and Mississauga. She specialized in feature and column writing and won several OCNA and CCNA awards for her stories and designs. Now a full-time journalism professor at Centennial College's East York campus, she teaches courses in design and interviewing techniques, supervises the senior multiplatform magazine course and field placements and is an editor with the East York Observer and torontoobserver.ca, the journalism program's print and online publications. In her spare time, she works as a freelance fact-checker and copy editor for several mass-market magazines and as an interviewing and design coach.



PREMIER AWARDS

FEATURE WRITING ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+

64 ENTRIES



OSHAWA THIS WEEK

A significant investment by Jeff Mitchell into telling the story of quiet Ken and through that narrative a look into larger issue of homelessness and how every person on the street has a story, usually one that is tragic and painful and has led them to where they are. A harrowing tale that invokes sympathy in the reader and reveals a life story of a man who nobody would have known if not for this feature.



WATERLOO CHRONICLE

Tough subject matter for a human interest feature, but Samantha Beattie does a really good job beginning with the personal narrative of someone who experienced rape and how it affected their life in a university setting. Backed up by interviews with university officials, experts on the issue and context through what other institutions do and policy frameworks.



BURLINGTON POST

Kathy Yanchus gives us a great human interest story about community grassroots initiatives and a look back at the history of recycling for the local area, which is also a story about a movement that inspired change on a larger scale. Good use of historical details, interviews, quotes, and attention to details throughout. The reader is engaged and inspired through this feature. The one way this story could have been better is the inclusion of more details around recycling amounts over time.

GENERAL COMMENT

A lot of engaging subject matter in this category, but the standouts were the ones where journalists took the time to invest in their interviews, sourcing multiple voices to speak to the story, research into the issue/subject they were writing about, and the narrative they wove with their words. One-source stories do not meet the journalistic merit this category and judge is looking for.

Judge

Tanya Foubert

Multimedia Journalist, Rocky Mountain Outlook, Canmore, AB

Tanya Foubert has spent the last 11 years as a multimedia journalist at the Rocky Mountain Outlook in Canmore and Banff, AB — with a brief stint as editor of the Whistler Question. She enjoys her role as a reporter at a community newspaper in the dynamic news environment that is the Rocky Mountains and was awarded first place in the 2014 CCNA and AWNA competitions for Best News Story for her coverage of the 2013 flood in the Bow Valley. In her spare time you can find her doing yoga, playing roller derby, and walking her Frenchton Coco on-leash and outside the local wildlife corridors.



****SPONSORED BY: O'DONNELL, ROBERTSON & PARTNERS**

PREMIER AWARDS

FEATURE WRITING ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

31 ENTRIES



1

MINDEN TIMES

Well told by Chad Ingram, with great pictures! Love the historical bit contrasted to feelings of today. Reader gets a warm and cozy feeling for Mr. Russell and an appreciation for his bravery.



2

NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH

This was an absolutely thrilling read! Derek Neary's story captured the drama of the event beautifully. Well done!



3

HALDIMAND PRESS

Heart-breaking story that was well told by Kaitlyn Clark. Great layout - loved the use of so many photos.

HONOURABLE MENTION

NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER – Diane Johnston gave us a newsy, interesting story. Would be of interest to the entire community.

GENERAL COMMENT

The feature stories this year were all excellent submissions; it was difficult to pick just three top stories. The scores were, for the most part, very close in points. Sometimes, the tipping point was in favour of a great layout or attention to art, but ALL writers should be proud of what they submitted.

Judge

Jackie Jardine

Editor, Pictou Advocate, Pictou, NS

Jackie Jardine is the editor of The Advocate, Pictou County's weekly newspaper. She has been in the newspaper business for almost three decades. She enjoys reading, travelling, socializing and volunteering in her community. When not at work she can be found hooking – rugs, that is!



****SPONSORED BY: O'DONNELL, ROBERTSON & PARTNERS**

PREMIER AWARDS

HERITAGE

72 ENTRIES



1

KITCHENER POST

The top three are all set apart by excellent use of images available. Bill Jackson's storytelling is engaging and keeps the reader going once turned to the grey second page.



2

BARRIE ADVANCE

Vimy was a popular topic in this category. Chris Simon's story stood out because of excellent images, clean layout and an interesting sidebar alongside a smooth read.



3

COLLINGWOOD CONNECTION

Good use of archival images, clean writing and excellent headlines make John Edwards' stand out.

GENERAL COMMENT

A challenging category. The competition featured a variety of interesting stories. Some were well-written with disappointing layout, lead or headlines. However, overall, it appears interest in heritage is alive and well among the community papers.

Judge

Christine van Reeuyk

Multimedia Journalist, Oak Bay News, Victoria, BC

Christine van Reeuyk is an award-winning multi-media journalist for Black Press who began her career in Port Hardy B.C. in 2002.

She has worked as a multi-media journalist and editor for Black Press papers across Vancouver Island including the Peninsula News Review, Goldstream News Gazette, Saanich News and the Oak Bay News for more than two years.



****SPONSORED BY: FORT FRANCES TIMES**

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST INVESTIGATIVE NEWS STORY

37 ENTRIES



1

GUELPH MERCURY TRIBUNE

Excellent researching and reporting. Taking a national crisis and localizing it is what community news is all about, and this story exemplifies that beautifully. Chris Seto could teach a lot to other journalists about the need to dig deep to get at the heart of an issue. I can't laud this story enough.



2

VOICE OF PELHAM

Superb job in terms of research with pertinent and revealing quotes – the reader gets the whole story, especially with the inclusion of the Q&A with Hummel. The fact that The Voice was the only outlet to delve into this issue speaks volumes about its staff and a dedication to excellent journalism.



3

HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

Mark Arike gives us, quite simply, excellent reporting. It's thorough, engaging, and beautifully presented and fits the category perfectly.

HONOURABLE MENTION

WHITBY THIS WEEK – Fabulous reporting by Parvaneh Pessian, excellent research with an abundance of good quotes. This is investigative reporting at its best.

GENERAL COMMENT

Many submissions were excellent journalism: well-researched, delivered a local angle, and compelling. Several entries simply did not fit the category – true investigative journalism demands that the reporter go much deeper than anyone else to get the story and to find sources who might not otherwise want to talk about the issue at hand. Shorts, briefs, and straight news are not investigative journalism; rather, the concept is to develop a feature that looks at the story from every angle without editorializing. All in all, the pieces that rated highly were superb examples.

Judge

Melanie Scott

Editor, Low Down to Hull and Back News, Wakefield, QC

Melanie Scott is the editor of the Low Down to Hull & Back News, a weekly community paper based in Wakefield. She has written for dozens of publications in Canada and abroad. She has managed to embarrass herself by insulting Bill Bryson and George Clooney – not at the same time – and was almost proposed to by Stephen Pinker. Her motorcycle (a Kawasaki Ninja) is her passion and she has biked in Jamaica, Cuba, Myanmar, Viet Nam, and through the Alps in a rainstorm. She is on a mission to ensure the survival of the semi colon.



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST NEWS STORY ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+

63 ENTRIES



1

MISSISSAUGA NEWS

Strong story in this category that displays quality reporting of a sensitive subject and initiative to find such a gripping angle to what could be a regular labour dispute, lack of services provided type story. The reporting is backed up by thought into the artwork and front page placement, and full page story inside. Anybody who reads this story would be drawn in and engaged with the issue through the narrative Roger Belgrave has presented.



2

BURLINGTON POST

Great breaking news coverage of a church arson. Full package story including great photography elements. John Blike has a strong lede and then gets right into the reaction from the church pastor - instead of focusing first on the fire response. That really brings this story above others in this category that leave reaction until the end of the story. The research into the church's history also sets this story apart from other breaking news coverage. A bit of a challenge to have the story turn three times.



3

GUELPH MERCURY TRIBUNE

Great news story by Jessica Lovell about a public health scare in the community and how it was handled. Well done in researching and explaining the regulations and governing bodies involved in these types of situations, as well as comment from those affected.

GENERAL COMMENT

It would be worth the time to understand thoroughly the category description as many stories submitted did not meet the criteria of being breaking news. Take the time to polish breaking news, so when it is submitted for awards, points are not lost for small and avoidable errors. More than once, the lede was buried and the story would have improved greatly from a reorganization of the elements already present. The top entries not only included quality reporting, but were well-presented packages.

Judge

Tanya Foubert

Multimedia Journalist, Rocky Mountain Outlook, Canmore, AB

Tanya Foubert has spent the last 11 years as a multimedia journalist at the Rocky Mountain Outlook in Canmore and Banff, AB – with a brief stint as editor of the Whistler Question. She enjoys her role as a reporter at a community newspaper in the dynamic news environment that is the Rocky Mountains and was awarded first place in the 2014 CCNA and AWWA competitions for Best News Story for her coverage of the 2013 flood in the Bow Valley. In her spare time you can find her doing yoga, playing roller derby, and walking her Frenchton Coco on-leash and outside the local wildlife corridors.



****SPONSORED BY: HYDRO ONE NETWORKS INC.**

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST NEWS STORY ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

31 ENTRIES



MANOTICK MESSENGER

What a story!! Jeff Morris gives us great research, obviously, and a subject of great importance to the community. Only the layout and lack of clear, staff-taken pictures distracted from the tale, but the solid story overcame those flaws. Well done!!



NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH

Interesting and important story by John McFadden. Well written, researched and laid out. Love that the paper is also in Inuktitut. Great job. Keep up the good work.



BROCKVILLE RECORDER AND TIMES

Great reporting and research by Sabrina Bedford.

HONOURABLE MENTION

AYLMER EXPRESS – A very important story that is well written and researched by Craig Bradford. The layout of the paper is very distracting, however, which created a loss of points for layout.

EGANVILLE LEADER – Gerald Tracey's writing and photos are great for this story. The layout is clear and crisp.

GENERAL COMMENT

It sounds cliché, but it was truly an honour to judge the 2017 OCNA BNC Awards. What struck me was that while we are bombarded with doom and gloom news of papers going under across this country, the newspapers that remain are turning out solid journalism – in the face of it all. These papers, each and every one, are clearly vital to their communities. Their staff, likely under-resourced, head out each day to cover the latest flood or to ask residents how they feel about the latest developments at municipal council. Ontario is lucky to have so many hard-working journalists and editors churning out informative and entertaining papers of record. Congrats to all of the candidates this year. Your work is important. Keep fighting the good fight.

Judge

Jennifer Thuncher

Editor/Reporter, 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. Before coming to The Chief, she worked at CBC Radio One in Vancouver and as a freelance journalist for several Glacier papers including the Whistler Question, Pique Newsmagazine, the Burnaby Now, The New Westminster Record and the Vancouver Courier. She had careers as an English instructor, administrative assistant and ice-cream scooper before journalism. She first came to Squamish in 1979 and moved there for good in 2014.



****SPONSORED BY: HYDRO ONE NETWORKS INC.**

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST FEATURE/NEWS SERIES ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+

38 ENTRIES



1

MISSISSAUGA NEWS

"Food Inspection Series" by Roger Belgrave. Any time any reporter thinks to check health-inspection reports is a good day. To talk an inspector into letting them tag along had my attention. Foiling for more information was the move that sealed the deal on a well-researched and written series of stories.



2

OTTAWA HILL TIMES

"Sexual Harassment on the Hill" by Chelsea Nash. A good solid package on a topical subject.



3

BRAMPTON GUARDIAN

"Examining the Opioid Crisis in Peel" by Radhika Panjwani. Yes, every paper is doing opioid-crisis stories – or, unfortunately, will be – but this series really was about the people it is impacting and not the numbers themselves. I loved the first three paragraphs of Zach's story. By the time I had read the first four, I wanted to turn the page.

HONOURABLE MENTION

OTTAWA EAST NEWS – "New Edinburgh Says Sewer Project Stinks" series by Michelle Nash Baker. Great lede. Obvious, but punchy. As someone who doesn't live there, I felt I truly understood exactly what was going on from the clear writing. And the package didn't just stick with the stink but brought in real people, from the politician/apologist to the people affected.

GENERAL COMMENT

When judging feature/news series, I look for something that involves a bit more work by the reporter than sitting through meetings and reporting what happened. Yes, many of the submitted articles expanded beyond that to bring in other information, but not many really said to me this was exceptional work that went beyond what I would expect from a reporter. The top ranking entries did go above and beyond to bring the reader a more informative and compelling series.

Judge

Dale Bass

Associate Editor, Kamloops This Week, Kamloops, BC

Dale Bass spent 25 years as a reporter and editor at The London Free Press before retiring and moving to B.C., where she rejoined the news business at Kamloops This Week as associate editor. Bass is chair of the board of the Canadian Association of Journalists and a member of the Unifor Media Council journalism advisory group.



****SPONSORED BY: HYDRO ONE NETWORKS INC.**

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST FEATURE/NEWS SERIES ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

18 ENTRIES



NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH

"Search for peace" by Michelle LeTourneau, offered some powerful and illuminating anecdotes, focusing on people, in addition to the informative historical background, which made for compelling reading.



PARRY SOUND NORTH STAR

Stephannie Johnson's "A Day on the life of Parry Sound OPP" took a unique approach to an oft-done idea, drawing readers in with compelling writing as well as intriguing personal tales.



HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

"State of emergency declared in Minden" was a terrific effort by Lisa Gervais & Mark Arike, chronicling a community's effort in dealing with floods. Nicely covered from a variety of angles, providing both personal details from those involved as well as needed information for community residents. Also well-supplemented with compelling photos.

GENERAL COMMENT

An interesting set of entries made for some difficult judging. In the end, what set apart the winning entries was not just the storytelling but the ability to go beyond the story and be more than simply informative. One thing that set the winners apart was their presentation. A key category in the judging process, some of the entries, while providing solid information, were slightly lacking in terms of appealing layout. Overall, excellent work by all.

Judges

Peter McCully

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

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



Philip Wolf

Managing Editor, Vancouver Island Free Daily, Parksville, BC

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

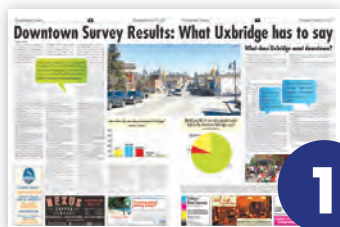


****SPONSORED BY: HYDRO ONE NETWORKS INC.**

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST RURAL STORY

60 ENTRIES



UXBRIDGE COSMOS

Excellent use of graphics. This is a well-presented package from Roger Varley that gives residents a voice in how their community, or at least a part of it, should develop in the future.



WATERDOWN FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW

A strong package with lots of extra elements, detailing a local effort to improve safety for members of the community who can benefit from some extra guidance and support. Great job Brenda Jefferies.



CALEDON ENTERPRISE

Very well-researched. Matthew Strader's piece effectively communicates the potent effects a significant property sale can have on a community.

GENERAL COMMENT

This year's entries offered a great look at the wide range of stories there are to be found in rural areas. The entries which tended to score higher are those which demonstrated the ways in which members of the community take an active role in the development or improvement of their community, or the ways in which a single change to a community can have major implications for its future.

Judge

Darren Ridgley

Deputy Editor, Canstar Community News, Winnipeg, MB

Darren Ridgley is the deputy editor for Canstar Community News, which publishes six weekly community newspapers in Winnipeg and the surrounding area.



****SPONSORED BY: ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE**

PREMIER AWARDS

SPORTS AND RECREATION STORY

63 ENTRIES



1

NEW HAMBURG INDEPENDENT

Ian Hunter gives us a wonderfully written piece. Photo of the 'Field of Dreams' itself would have aided the reader in visualizing it. Layout should never cover the information at the top of the page.



2

OSHAWA EXPRESS

Joel Witnebel gives us an in depth step-by-step focus on the growth of a program. A joy to read. Cutlines and giving the championship trophy photo more prominence among the few drawbacks.



3

GEORGINA ADVOCATE

John Cudmore offers us good coverage of a topic that is often overlooked. Less would have been more with the photos.

GENERAL COMMENT

This category was a pleasure to judge. There was rarely a sub-par article submitted and it leaves me confident the future of sports journalism is in sound hands.

Judge

Trent Allen

Editor, Opasquia Times, The Pas, MB

Trent Allen is the editor for the Opasquia Times and has spent 12 years in the industry, the first three years as a reporter before assuming the role of editor. Currently focused primarily on municipal politics, Allen has spent stints in the past covering virtually all topics, including sports, community events, features and as a news reporter.



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST HEADLINE WRITING

20 ENTRIES



1

NEW HAMBURG INDEPENDENT

The Blue Moon headline was really one you couldn't pass up – it's a perfect fit!



2

HALDIMAND PRESS

It looks like someone has some fun in writing the heads! Some of these are groaners – like Unfor-goatable. But that will make the audience read the article, not make them turn the page. Tick Talk is a great headline. It's also good to see that photo heads are being treated with just as much importance as story heads. Well done!



3

GLANBROOK GAZETTE

The goat yoga headline is a groaner! It will make people smile! The All I Want for Christmas is a great head with a great standalone. It immediately forces the reader to look at the photo longer to see what it's in reference to. And the banking headline catches attention – probably more so for credit union users, since it probably instils some fear!

GENERAL COMMENT

We're living in unusual times for media, and the pressure to capture the audience is bigger, and the timeframe to do it shorter. We're facing growing competition from social media and click bait headlines and fake news and advertising in electronic versions. That has changed how we read our print news as well. The bottom line is that the headline is what markets your article, and unless you have a stunning photo to accompany it, this is what the reader will use as the determination of if he reads the article. Marketing and promoting your information is caught in a few brief words. We need to be concise. We need to break rules as a response to the changing of how we perceive words and information now. It's complicated, and we need to be adaptive. We need to make sure that we capture the reader's eye and attention as quickly as possible. Don't make it difficult. Don't bog headlines down with extra words, or complicated words that will stop the brain and divert the attention from travelling along to the article. That being said, if you have a one- or two-word head that can capture and carry the article, do it. Usually this is best done with an action word. It's interesting to note that we are seeing an evolution in entries – from strictly headlines for articles, to more standalone photo heads, and now heads that need to go with articles and video clips. It's a changing world. The submissions were all good, and the top place winners were all very close in the strength of their headlines. It shows a level of excellence that we need to keep in our media.

Judge

Sheena Read

Freelance Journalist,

Sheena Read has been a photojournalist and editor, and communications specialist in Alberta for a lengthy career, and is now doing contract communications and promotions.



PREMIER AWARDS

HUMOUR COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

18 ENTRIES



HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO | STEVE GALEA

Galea has an engaging voice and his narratives are genuinely funny. He has a satisfying knack for self-deprecation that makes him feel like the slightly kooky “guy next door.”



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS | DAVID LEVINE

Satire at its finest!



NIAGARA THIS WEEK, FORT ERIE POST | JAMES CULIC

Consistently this writer uses humor adeptly to introduce serious thoughts and arguments. Well done.

GENERAL COMMENT

This writers in this category represent a broad spectrum of styles – and they all have courage. Humour is one of toughest genres. (Perhaps everyone feels that way about his or her own genre.) The top three entrants are each quite different in voice, but the polish to their craft – which can only come from experience – is shared. Humour writing is not comedy writing and a column is not a stand-up script for late night television. More than one submitter seems to have that mixed up. Free speech trumps all, but stereotypes, misogyny and thinly veiled racism does not put one at the top of this class.

Judge

Andrea DeMeer

Publisher/Editor, Similkameen Spotlight, Princeton, BC

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



PREMIER AWARDS

COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

32 ENTRIES



DUNDAS STAR NEWS | GORDON CAMERON

Beautiful writing and insight, strong but gently expressed opinions and demonstrated depth and breadth of intelligently supported interests – politics, sports, humanity, introspection. Well done.



THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON | HEATHER WRIGHT

A very fine voice of small town journalism – which is the finest profession available. Sparsely written, gets to the heart very quickly and spares the superfluous adjectives and flowery prose. She knows her readers.



MINDEN TIMES | JIM POLING

Love this guy. He has a wonderful, folksy take on affairs both global and domestic, and a whimsical sense of humour that translates well. Clean, well-written and timely, he'd be the first thing I turn to in the local paper.

GENERAL COMMENT

This was an incredibly difficult category to judge, given the parameters of quality of writing, imagination and reader appeal. So much from which to choose – a veritable buffet of well-chosen prose, well-crafted sentences, well-researched and delivered ideas. Makes my heart very happy that the world of community journalism still sustains and nurtures such scribes. Given that the category is so subjective, almost any one of these submissions could have found themselves in the top three, or 10, but the three on the podium wrote words that stayed with me long after I'd finished and painted pictures of life and experience that make their stories leap from the page. Thank you.

Judge

Carol Picard

Founder & Former Editor, Rocky Mountain Outlook, Canmore, AB

Carol Picard is the retired editor and founder of the weekly Rocky Mountain Outlook. With 30 years of daily and weekly print journalism behind her, she has won numerous awards for her columns and editorials, in addition to numerous awards for the Outlook itself.



PREMIER AWARDS

REPORTER OF THE YEAR ~ STEPHEN SHAW AWARD

16 ENTRIES



1



MANOTICK MESSENGER | JEFF MORRIS

Jeff Morris has done some impressive work here. The investigation into the jaw bone that was found was first rate because Jeff took it several steps further than he might have. True investigative journalism. Bravo!



2



PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK | TODD VANDONK

Excellent reporting that goes well beyond the court beat. Kudos. These aren't one-off stories. Vandonk obviously takes a long term interest.



3



RICHMOND HILL/THORNHILL LIBERAL | KIM ZARZOUR

Solid work here on three varied topics of importance - the caregiver story is back in the news again. Zarzour isn't afraid to ask tough questions.

HONOURABLE MENTION

- BURLINGTON POST | TIM WHITNELL** – Not easy interviews - wow. A woman who fought suicide and the parents of a dead teen. Good work!
- NORFOLK NEWS | JEFF TRIBE** – Knows his tobacco harvest all too well this guy Jeff – great perspective. He spent time at that community dinner and reported well on a talk given by a former addict.
- SCARBOROUGH MIRROR | MIKE ADLER** – Not easy stories to snag in my opinion. Mike Adler knows how to follow unusual leads and explore unique life histories.
- MISSISSAUGA NEWS | ROGER BELGRAVE** – Two in-depth stories about evictions from public housing and elected representatives with hefty travel expenses.

GENERAL COMMENT

What a marvellous category this one was to judge. There certainly was some impressive work tackled by the reporters. This category called for all the entrants to take their stories several steps further than an average, rushed reporter might have been able to do. They often interviewed individuals who we don't normally see in the pages of community newspapers. True investigative journalism requires going beyond the minimum expectations and checking for unexpected outcomes. None of the reporters in this line-up was afraid to ask tough questions, which made it extremely difficult to pick the winners. Kudos to all.

Judge

Wendy Elliott

Columnist, Valley Journal Advertiser, Annapolis Valley, NS

Wendy Elliott was a reporter and editor in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia for 40 years. The winner of a number of regional and national awards, she continues as a columnist with the Valley Journal Advertiser.



****SPONSORED BY: ONTARIO POWER GENERATION**

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST FEATURE PHOTO

66 ENTRIES



THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

I love Heather Wright's photo for its rich colours, its perfect framing and lighting, and the story it tells. Further, the photo is used perfectly.



OAKVILLE BEAVER

The lighting in Nikki Wesley's photo is magnificent, making this stark clean – if not wholly original – image worthy of notice.



OTTAWA WEST NEWS

Nevil Hunt's lead photo on this page is striking and subtle at the same time. It's used well, except for the intrusive and unnecessary use of text over the image

HONOURABLE MENTION

WHITBY THIS WEEK – Ryan Pfeiffer's photo tells a little story about the enthusiasm of fans at a high school volleyball game and the focus on the faces makes it.

THE HERALD SERVING THAMESVILLE, DRESDEN AND BOTHWELL – This is one of my favourite fireworks photos ever but a) it's a fireworks photo and b) it is used terribly – it's such a striking image. Marianne Vanderspek's photo should be run as large as possible.

GENERAL COMMENT

There were quite a few top quality entries in this category, as well as a number that had lacked originality or focus. The winning photos are framed well, lit well and used well – quality work.

Judge

Richard Dal Monte

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

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



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST PHOTO LAYOUT

56 ENTRIES



OTTAWA WEST NEWS

Nevil Hunt gives us excellent quality photos – imagery, action shots and superb layout with the use of white space. To get a photo layout to stand out in 56 entries it must be exceptional and this layout was. Congratulations on a great job!



TORONTO BLOOR WEST-PARKDALE VILLAGER

These photos and the layout stood out above the rest just due to the sizing and sharpness of each photo and especially the thought behind the choosing of each photo. Great job and great photos. Congratulations to Justin Greaves.



NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH

Suburb story telling in photos by Navalik Tologanak. Recognizing it would be a difficult layout but it was close to first place in my mind and I thought a bigger variety of sizes and tighter cropping may have given it that little extra for first place. Congratulations!

GENERAL COMMENT

A large number of entries in this category with few who were creative enough to stand out among the others. Use of macro close-ups, cut-outs, and white space are just some of the design ideas to put into use. All the entries were good. I was able to weed it down to 30 from the 56 and then down to 20. Fortissimo, Ottawa West News, stood out among the pack with exceptional imagination in shooting the primary photo and good interesting shots for their other smaller photos. Great Job! Second place, Toronto Bloor West-Parkdale Villager, and third place, Nunavut News/North, both made excellent use of close-ups, cropping, varying sizes of photos and the content of each photo. Keep in mind that good photo layouts should span a maximum of two pages, utilizing the centre spread as the best option when two pages are used.

Judge

Joyce Webster

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

Joyce Webster purchased the newspaper when it was a 1,000 paid circulation publication for the town of Coronation, AB and has grown it to a regional newspaper covering East Central Alberta with a circulation of over 27,000, as well as online. Webster has attended many seminars over the years and served on both the AWNA Board and the CCNA Board learning as she went. The newspaper has won many awards over the years and she credits all her knowledge of newspapering to her attendance at almost all community newspaper functions throughout her 36 years.



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST SPORTS PHOTO

58 ENTRIES



NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER

This photo by Sue Nielson was outstanding in all areas. Composition near perfect. Crop excellent. The catching of the facial expression with sharp focus nailed it.



SARNIA JOURNAL

Excellent photo of action and expression. Colour seems a tad off though, keeping it out of top spot. Great work by Bruce Smith.



AJAX PICKERING NEWS ADVERTISER

A good crop and composition combined with great timing are a hallmark of this photo. Only the slightest difference left this photo by Ron Pietroniro in third.

HONOURABLE MENTION

CAMBRIDGE TIMES – Better crop along with improved horizontal level keep this out photo by Bill Doucet out of the top 3. Love the timing and focus.

OTTAWA EAST NEWS – Another excellent photo that was just out of the top 3. Great composition by Jake Davies with the pole and athlete, only slight issue is the crop might be too tight.

GRIMSBY LINCOLN NEWS – A wonderful photo by Stephen Leithwood that catches that perfect moment and facial expression, though a better crop at the top along with getting the feet would have added to better design score.

GENERAL COMMENT

The category was generally filled with good to excellent entries, yet many seemed to either lack of sufficient use of appropriate brightness and sharpness or a wrong focal point causing blurriness. The top 3 and honourable mentions all exhibited exceptional composition, with the placings determined by slight differences.

Judge

Jordie Dwyer

Reporter/Photographer, Ponoka News, Ponoka, AB

Jordie Dwyer is award-winning sports photographer and has worked in various capacities in the community newspaper business for more than two decades.



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

40 ENTRIES



1

MINDEN TIMES

Darren Lum gives us an excellent photo that was well used to tell a piece of the story of a flood's effects.



2

SARNIA JOURNAL

A dramatic photo by Glenn Ogilvie that captured a heated moment during a political protest.



3

BURLINGTON POST

Fire shots can be quite standard but this one by Graham Paine is dramatic and the colours are like those in a painting.

GENERAL COMMENT

Thanks to the photographers for their efforts to get spot news photos. The winners stood out among the rest. A note to future entrants: Please read the criteria as a number of entries clearly did not belong in this category.

Judge

Richard Dal Monte

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

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



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST NEWS PHOTO

38 ENTRIES



1

OTTAWA WEST NEWS

Outstanding photos. Clearly the photographer Nevil Hunt has been around and knew to capture the best in the most creative way.



2

OTTAWA HILL TIMES

Andrew Mead gives us a dynamic photo of a moment that changed history with the election of such a minority community representative.



3

DUNDAS STAR NEWS

High impact photo of youth who are clearly making a difference. Good use of perspective by Craig Campbell.

HONOURABLE MENTION

OTTAWA SOUTH NEWS – These photos, with the background context provided here, make for a great entry by Erin McCracken.

AYLMER EXPRESS – Gutsy photo, gutsy publisher, gutsy parent. Craig Bradford's photo adds so much to the story – going on record!

GENERAL COMMENT

Anyone can snap a picture, right? But the professionalism involved in selecting the magic blend of emotion, relevance to a news article, cropping, lighting, and the maturity of the image to draw readers right into the scene is what makes a winning entry. Congratulations! So many of the nominations fit the bill. Ontario weekly newspaper readers are a lucky bunch. There are ample top photographers contributing to the news.

Judge

Lily Ryan

Editor, Co-Publisher/Owner, Bulletin d'Aylmer, The West Quebec Post, Journal du Pontiac, Gatineau, QC

My sisters and I joke that we grew up under the fax machine at the Pontiac Journal, in Fort-Coulonge. Growing up in a family newspaper is a vibrant place, one that has kept me in the newsroom. I worked in virtually every post along the way, from the dark room, to the police report, to pasting up with the wax machine, even sales and collections. After exploring the world and completing two undergraduate degrees at McGill University, I spent five years as editor of the Pontiac Journal and then took a few years off to start a family. Now, I work as editor of the West Quebec Post and of the third newspaper run by my family, the Bulletin d'Aylmer. I am co-owner/publisher of these three wonderful newspapers.



PREMIER AWARDS

MOST CREATIVE GRIP AND GRIN PHOTO

15 ENTRIES



1

CARLETON PLACE/ALMONTE CANADIAN GAZETTE

What a boring topic. A great action photo by Desmond Devoy to go with it. Kudos to the person who thought of this idea.



2

BELLEVILLE NEWS

I love this photo by Stephen Petrick, wouldn't any Mom? Super idea, and I like it even better because the children weren't standing at attention. The concept was a terrific attention grabber!



3

NEWMARKET ERA/AURORA BANNER

This entry by Mike Barrett might have fallen down in points except for the ingenuity of putting the sunglasses on everyone. Very subtle but very effective touch.

GENERAL COMMENT

I found all entries in this category were very strong. Good job! I had seen a few of these ideas prior to judging so some may have lost a couple points there but all in all I'd be proud to have any one of these grip & grins in my newspaper. I gave extra points for action shots which were both evident in my first and second choice. I choose the solar share panels third because of the subtle creativity of everyone wearing sunglasses!

Judge

Joyce Webster

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

Joyce Webster purchased the newspaper when it was a 1000 paid circulation publication for the town of Coronation, AB and has grown it to a regional newspaper covering East Central Alberta with a circulation of over 27,000, as well as online. Webster has attended many seminars over the years and served on both the AWWA Board and the CCNA Board learning as she went. The newspaper has won many awards over the years and she credits all her knowledge of newspapering to her attendance at almost all community newspaper functions throughout her 36 years.



PREMIER AWARDS

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

10 ENTRIES



1



PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK | LANCE ANDERSON

Very impressed that Lance Anderson had no trouble getting up close to a fist fight in order to get the shot. That takes both guts and commitment to the craft. As an editor, I love this trait in photographers.



2



MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION | GRAHAM PAINE

Exceptional use of available lighting give these photos an added depth. The timing of the shots indicates that Graham Paine has a skill and patience level acquired through years of taking pictures. Nicely done.



3



AJAX PICKERING NEWS ADVERTISER | SABRINA BYRNES

Sabrina Byrnes is wonderfully adept at capturing emotion in her photos, indicating an understanding that the shot has to convey the feeling of the story, not just a split-second visual.

HONOURABLE MENTION

THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON | HEATHER WRIGHT – Heather Wright is not just capturing images but is able to tell most of the story with visuals alone – a necessary trait for success. Great work.

GENERAL COMMENT

Judging this category is an experience always fraught with enjoyment and trepidation in that the work submitted is consistently of the highest caliber. Deciding on a single first-place winner means the pool of talented photographers may not get the recognition they deserve. In the end, my decisions were based on how hard the photographer had to work, how much they had to incorporate creative thinking, and how they used their respective years of accumulated skills to get the money shot. As always, I'm left thinking the Ontario readers are a privileged bunch to have these professionals contributing to their community newspapers.

Judge

Carmen Marie Fabio

Editor in chief, Your Local Journal, Vaudreuil-Dorion, QC

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



PREMIER AWARDS

CARTOONIST OF THE YEAR

6 ENTRIES



1

CAMBRIDGE TIMES | C.A. GREY

This work is at a consistent level and is not dumbed down. Great attention to detail. Whimsical style of artwork is an added bonus.



2

OTTAWA HILL TIMES | MICHAEL DE ADDER

Intelligent topics very well rendered. The Melissa McCarthy cartoon made me laugh out loud.



3

BRANT NEWS | DAVE MCCREARY

Great marriage of humour and intelligence. I have the feeling this cartoonist can adeptly tackle any topic.

HONOURABLE MENTION

STONEY CREEK NEWS | MIKE VUKOVICH – Great take on important issues. Another cartoonist who obviously has fun while addressing the topic at hand.

GENERAL COMMENT

Artistic ability is really secondary to the capacity of the cartoonist to grasp the issues affecting the community, translate them into an accessible and relevant image, and have the intellectual competence to convey the lighter side of the situation. All the cartoonists are to be commended for having the fortitude to tackle this job, and we're all pleased that they do. Bravo.

Judge

Carmen Marie Fabio

Editor in chief, Your Local Journal, Vaudreuil-Dorion, QC

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



PREMIER AWARDS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

8 ENTRIES



BARRIE ADVANCE | PROJECT LIFESAVER

The Barrie Advance entry stands apart from the crowd thanks to strong research, writing and photography, combined with a collective effort that went above and beyond the usual role of a newspaper. Advance staff formed community partnerships to help ensure a vital service was put in place in Barrie, potentially saving the lives of local seniors and others with dementia. Their commitment to Project Lifesaver is underscored by a pledge of ongoing support for the program. Reporter Sara Carson followed the story for several months, approaching it from a number of angles. The paper's clean design helps draw her audience in, but Carson's engaging storytelling keeps them reading until the end.



HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER | SAVING LOCAL YWCA SHELTER

If not for a few lines dug out of a council document by Highlander editor Lisa Gervais, Haliburton County might have found itself without a place for local women and their children to seek shelter from abuse. Instead, Gervais and the rest of the Highlander staff brought the issue to the forefront through their continued coverage and made repeated calls on the paper's editorial page for the county to fund the vital service. Strong personal commitment to the issue by news staff, combined with the paper's collaboration on a fundraising campaign make this entry stand out for its service to the community. Although the paper received and printed a letter from a woman who had suffered abuse at the hands of her partner, its coverage would have benefited greatly from an interview with someone who had used the shelter and could speak from personal experience about its value.



AYLMER EXPRESS | AYLMEER LIBRARY PUBLIC FORUM

In the age of technology, it would be easy to overlook the value of the public library. However, when Aylmer Express staff learned the local council was planning to move the community's library from its downtown core to the outskirts of town without public consultation, they took the initiative to ensure residents' views were heard by organizing and hosting a community meeting. Staff clearly dedicated significant time and energy to the cause and the feedback from readers indicates their efforts were well placed. An effort to better delineate between reporting and advocacy and a cleaner overall design would have helped this entry move up.

GENERAL COMMENT

What the top three entries in this category have in common is that in each case, newspaper staff saw an urgent need in their community and rather than simply report about it and move on, they took steps to remedy the situation. In addition to raising awareness, they hosted public meetings and formed community partnerships to raise funds, all while keeping the issue front and centre for readers by offering continuing coverage and taking a strong editorial stance.

Judge

Brenda Anderson

Editor, Langley Times, Langley, BC

Brenda Anderson is editor of the Langley Times in Langley, B.C. She began her career in the community newspaper industry in 1997.



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST VERTICAL PRODUCT

42 ENTRIES



1

CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS | CORNWALL LIVING 2017

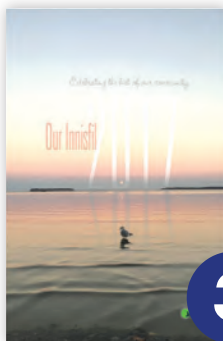
Diverse topics. Photos were very good quality and worked well with the content. Polished look, while the stories were hyper local.



2

OTTAWA HILL TIMES | POWER & INFLUENCE – SUMMER 2017

Theme is strong throughout. Layout very structured. Interesting stories and good variety of topics makes for an audience that is also diverse. Striking cover.



3

INNISFIL JOURNAL | OUR INNISFIL

Loved the profiles and use of space and layout. Warming and community involved feel. Definitely feels like summer reading this. Font and headlines could be bolder, but makes the ads pop.

HONOURABLE MENTION

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS | CANADA 150 – An exceptional amount of content – very impressive. The amount of work and effort is noticeable. Varied advertisers and the ads do not overpower the pages. Layout is lean, space is well used. What a project!

GENERAL COMMENT

What an exciting and diverse category to judge! It's astonishing the array of topics, and different demographics that these publications reach. From farmers, to hospitals to luxury products and country trails - it was a delight to see and read what Ontario is doing. Lots of team effort, hard work and edits – it's obvious these are well planned, and challenging publications. Although varied in formats and themes, it's clear that there is a common thread – engaging with heart, to the local communities that you serve.

Judge

Sophia Ryan

Sophia Ryan, Operations Manager, Bulletin d'Aylmer, The West Quebec Post, Journal du Pontiac, Gatineau, QC

Sophia Ryan, co-owner of three weekly newspapers in West Quebec, is the Operations Director there. Winner of the Lindsay Crysler Outstanding Achievement Award, the Quebec Community Newspaper Association's highest award, Ms Ryan is hands-on in the day-to-day operation of her newspapers as well as steering the papers through the last decade's dynamic newspaper changes. She is project manager on special publications, advertising director and has a proven record of local news publishing.



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST FRONT PAGE ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+

46 ENTRIES



NEWMARKET ERA/AURORA BANNER

Engaging photos used for all three front page stories. Solid layout and a clean, uncluttered look.



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

I love the clean look with just the right amount of white space throughout the page. Headlines are prominent and pull the reader in. Teasers at the bottom of the page add to the appeal for the reader.



OSHAWA THIS WEEK

Terrific hard news story on the front with an appropriate layout around the map. Only real change may have been a shorter, snappier headline but the content of the story balanced that off in scoring.

HONOURABLE MENTION

AJAX PICKERING NEWS ADVERTISER – Nicely put together front page. Photos combined with content sinks its hooks, leaving the reader wanting more. Nice looking front page!

MARKHAM ECONOMIST & SUN – Creatively shot front page photo played up big as it should be. Clean layout. Not much I would change here other than maybe left justifying the subhead under the photo headline.

GENERAL COMMENT

Overall, there were many good entries in this class and I found it tough to separate the top six or seven in terms of points as all of them had very unique qualities. I found a couple of layout issues that seemed to be rather consistent across most of the titles including the lack of hairline borders around photos in some titles and some spacing issues between elements (ie. photos and their respective cutlines) in others. Overall, the typography in the vast majority of the entries was very good and basic design elements were incorporated nicely to make the pages attractive and worthy of interest to readers. Big photos and well-written headlines play well together on front pages and is an important hook to the reader. Nearly all the entries in this class did an excellent job of this and provided plenty of impact. Nicely done!

Judge

Terry Jenson

Publisher/Owner, Clark's Crossing Gazette

Terry Jenson is the publisher and owner of the Clark's Crossing Gazette in Warman, SK, is the current president of the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association and a former director of the Canadian Community Newspapers Association. He has spent his entire 24-year career in the industry as an independent publisher of both paid and controlled circulation newspapers. In the few hours he spends outside the office, he is a husband to Angela and a father of two very busy and active children. Besides newspapers, his interests include playing golf, coaching minor hockey, aviation, fishing and politics.



****SPONSORED BY: LAURENTIAN PUBLISHING**

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST FRONT PAGE ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

27 ENTRIES



1

BURKS FALLS ALMAGUIN NEWS

Dynamic variety of topics, images and ads.



2

HALDIMAND PRESS

Dynamic front page that mixes news and entertainment. The writing needs improvement to be a first place winner.



3

NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH

What a front page! The photo speaks for a community's victory. The teasers along the bottom provide additional content, varied and interesting.

HONOURABLE MENTION

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR – Strong articles with top-notch writing. The photo is fascinating, and accompanies the over-all theme well. With the lack of advertising on the front page, my vote is for this to be an honourable mention rather than place in top three as I know it is very important to the bottom line to capitalize the front page advertising space.

GENERAL COMMENT

The nominations in this category were a feast for the senses. Ontario communities have clearly been busy. The front pages of OCNA's membership show this, in high-definition. While trends in layout, photo cropping, font treatment and picture size do change over the years, the underlying quality of reader appeal remains the primary concern. The newspapers in this category are working hard to keep up with the trends while ensuring quality of content and readership loyalty. Keep up the good work!

Judge

Lily Ryan

Editor, Co-Publisher/Owner, Bulletin d'Aylmer, The West Quebec Post, Journal du Pontiac, Gatineau, QC

My sisters and I joke that we grew up under the fax machine at the Pontiac Journal, in Fort-Coulonge. Growing up in a family newspaper is a vibrant place, one that has kept me in the newsroom. I worked in virtually every post along the way, from the dark room, to the police report, to pasting up with the wax machine, even sales and collections. After exploring the world and completing two undergraduate degrees at McGill University, I spent five years as editor of the Pontiac Journal and then took a few years off to start a family. Now, I work as editor of the West Quebec Post and of the third newspaper run by my family, the Bulletin d'Aylmer. I am co-owner/publisher of these three wonderful newspapers



****SPONSORED BY: LAURENTIAN PUBLISHING**

PREMIER AWARDS

SPECIAL SECTION ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+

35 ENTRIES



1

PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK | CREATIVE KIDS

We just loved this supplement. Well thought out, original, creative and well presented. Having the students design the ads was brilliant. Just perfect!



2

SARNIA JOURNAL | SARNIA 1867: A SPECIAL CANADA DAY FEATURE

This is an excellent supplement. Interesting content to captivate the readers' attention. Perfect balance of editorial and photos, with an easy to follow layout and design. The addition of the historical photos adds the perfect final touch to this supplement. Nice balance of advertising, great community support. Well done!



3

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER | CANADA 150

Nicely presented and designed. Absolutely loved the front page banner as well as the historical image of The News-Record on the bottom of the front page. Another nice touch is the Canadian flag on the back page. Very clean look, nice choice of fonts. Very informative feature "150 Things To Do in Centre Wellington". A little light on advertising, but the ads that were present were wonderfully designed. Well done, we really liked this supplement.

HONOURABLE MENTION

GUELPH MERCURY TRIBUNE | CANADA 150 SUPPLEMENT – Nicely presented and packed little supplement. Excellent choice of fonts. Good balance of photos and editorial. Very clean presentation. Well done!

GENERAL COMMENT

Reviewing and judging the dozens of entries from member newspapers for the 2017 OCNA awards was not an easy task. The content of these special sections and commemorative issues, proudly displayed the many hours of hard work, dedication and creativity put into them by the editorial, production and advertising staff. The publications put on display the many different cultures and communities that exist across the province of Ontario, while at the same time, delivering important information to the readers. The judging was particularly challenging, because there were so many quality products. In the end, it was hard to narrow it down to just 4 winners. The real champions here are the various villages, towns and cities, who were so well represented by their respective papers. The support from local businesses and organizations was strong. This should be a clear message to all of us, that print media is alive and well in Ontario and across Canada.

Judge

Oliver Sutton

Associate Publisher, The Suburban, Saint Laurent, QC

British born Oliver Sutton was raised in South Africa and emigrated to Canada in 1990, where he studied advertising at Sheridan College in Toronto. He began his career at The Suburban 23 years ago as a part-time graphic designer rising to Assistant Director of production. He then went on to become Creative Director of the magazine division, producing Wall to Wall, Money & Wealth and Smart Wedding. He rejoined The Suburban's production department after the restructuring of the company. He became Associate Publisher 2 years ago. Part of his responsibilities at the paper was to research, design, create and co-ordinate the development of thesuburban.com.



PREMIER AWARDS

SPECIAL SECTION ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

14 ENTRIES



1

MITCHELL ADVOCATE | MITCHELL HAWKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Awesome section! Great way to recognize the anniversary of the hockey team. Ads support the section well. Love the glossy booklet. Makes a great keepsake.



2

EGANVILLE LEADER | HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Great section! Love the layout and bright colours. Love the connection from the local perspective. Good job!



3

PARRY SOUND BEACON STAR | PARRY SOUND & AREA PROGRESS

Love the timeline across the top. Great ads, good review, great section!

GENERAL COMMENT

This class drew a lot of variety and creativity. When judging, I looked at which sections would have generated the most revenue as well as the ones that looked the best, and attracted the most attention. I enjoyed reading the stories included in the sections and also based my judging on the local connections through the editorial content. You should all be proud of the sections you have published.

Judge

Amanda Zimmer

General Manager, Claresholm Local Press, Claresholm, AB

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



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST SPORTS SECTION

26 ENTRIES



1

WHITBY THIS WEEK

This is a sweet-looking package with excellent layout, making particular use of a dominant page image and consistency in elements, including subheds. Photos are high-quality and well used. Multiple columnists are another plus. Content is dominated by hockey coverage (understanding this is a major junior market) and may lack the variety of local elements of some competing titles.



2

ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER

Large section with mix of game coverage, news/features and even an outdoors column. Stats page with pics is a good way to handle the sometimes pesky realm of minor hockey. Generally good writing and photography, and strong layout (beware mixing multiple photo packages in a single page – hard for reader's eye to know where to go). But good, solid overall section.



3

HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

Superior photography and use/placement of photos highlight this section. Lots of game coverage of multiple sports/activities, though mixing in more features, a column, briefs and/or scoreboard could well push this title to the top of the standings. Of course, then you might have to give up some of those nifty pics. Very nice overall section, particularly the layout and look.

HONOURABLE MENTION

NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER – This section is large and chock-full of a variety of local content, including submitted columns, briefs and extensive scoreboard. Writing is solid. Photography is mixed, but use of photos ranges from creative (on cover) to well-placed and sized inside. Watch out for clutter and try to keep it modular when down to those inside pages, but overall very good section.

GENERAL COMMENT

The Best Sports Section category was challenging to judge, because all the publications entered offered at least one strong area – and often more – within the criteria for the classification. In the end it came down to who could put those elements into play most effectively, which makes the exercise necessarily subjective. Congratulations to the winners, but based on these entries, there is a lot of talent and a passion for quality, local sports coverage throughout the province.

Judge

J.R. Rardon

Editor, Parksville Qualicum Beach News, Parksville, BC

J.R. Rardon is an award-winning sportswriter and photographer with 30 years of experience – the first 18 spent in the sports departments of U.S. dailies including the (Portland) Oregonian, the Anchorage Daily News and the Seattle Times. He relocated to Canada with his family in 2006 and has worked for three community newspapers in B.C. Rardon is currently editor of the Parksville Qualicum Beach News on Vancouver Island.



****SPONSORED BY: METROLAND MEDIA, SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO DIVISION**

PREMIER AWARDS

BEST CREATIVE AD

27 ENTRIES



1

DRAYTON COMMUNITY NEWS

The ad by Alicia Rosa is very appealing to the eye but it had room to add more elements of the exhibition. Great use of colour scheme.



2

CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS

This ad is missing 2 things – a better photo where the people look happy and a 30th anniversary promotional offer. Other than that it has a great visual impact and is well written.



3

MARKHAM ECONOMIST & SUN

Nice ad but it has too much information, making the ad cluttered. By separating the name of the business with the offer, visually it creates a division between the business and the offer.

HONOURABLE MENTION

RENFREW MERCURY – Very interesting concept using drawings. Maybe one drawing was enough.

GENERAL COMMENT

This year's entries included some very good work. Three very important suggestions to keep in mind in your design. Don't use colour letters if they are too small as they can get lost in the ad. It is very important to close cut items to keep things looking neat. Do not overwhelm the ad with too much information. Remember we are the professionals, so don't be afraid to make suggestions to your client to get them the ad design that will work best for them. Congratulations to the winners!

Judge

George Guzman

Co-Publisher, Newsfirst Multimedia Publications, Laval News, North Shore News, Park-Extension News & The Greek Canadian News, Laval, QC

George Styl Guzman is a second generation publisher. He started in the business helping his father Stylianos in his Greek Community paper DRASSIS. At the age of 16 he did his first interview with the former Quebec Premier Rene Levesque a week after his election. At the age of 20 he lost his father, and became the youngest publisher in community newspapers. He enhanced his career as a co-host in Greek Radio, and producer of his own TV Greek community program in cable with more than 600 hours of original programming. In 1993 he brought his friend George Bakoyannis in the field. Together they co-publish four community Newspapers: The Laval News, Park Extension News, The North Shore News and The Greek Canadian News.



PREMIER AWARDS IN HOUSE PROMOTION

21 ENTRIES



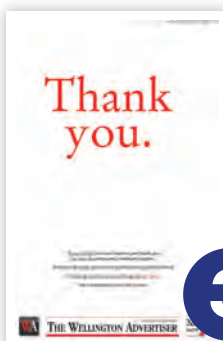
AYLMER EXPRESS

Love the image and the way Renee Hueston tied the theme of the ad into the winning photo. Otherwise, the ad is a little busy and I feel there are too many black boxes used. Other elements could have been used to divide the space. This ad was selected as the winner because of the creativity, originality and imagery.



BURLINGTON POST

Love how clean and simple the text and graphics are. Easy to read and draws attention. This ad by Scott MacDonald was selected second place because of the professionalism and high design quality.



FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

Clean, attention-grabbing ad. Good use of white space. Eye-catching in its simplicity. This ad by Helen Michel is selected as third place because it is the perfect example of using white space and simplicity to draw attention.

HONOURABLE MENTION

CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS – Nice, clean ads and big, eye catching imagery. This was a very close third, especially since it was styled very similarly. Job well done by Colleen Parette and Kim Froats.

GENERAL COMMENT

Overall the quality of each of the entries was very good and each was unique in their own way. I was very impressed with the skill of the ad designers in many of the pieces provided. Great ideas and a job well done.

Judge

Danielle Gordon-Broom

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

Danielle Gordon-Broom has been the editor of the Swan Valley Star and Times since 2012. On top of running the newsroom, she also uses her background in graphic design to create award winning in-house and client requested advertisements.



PREMIER AWARDS

LOCAL RETAIL LAYOUT

25 ENTRIES



1

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

Very cute visual. Well laid out. I'd stop on this page for sure. Great work Kendra Edwards.



2

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

BOLD! By Helen Michel



3

RENFREW MERCURY

That was a fun concept.

GENERAL COMMENT

Continue to push your clients to get their ads noticed on the page. It's a crowded environment at times, but you have an audience that wants their local news, and wants to get to know their local businesses too.

Judge

Wayne Aubert

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

Wayne Aubert is a Professor in the Advertising and Marketing Communications Management program at Mohawk College and Course Director with ICA (Institute of Communication Agencies).

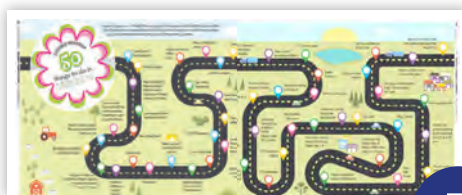


****SPONSORED BY: METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS**

PREMIER AWARDS

ORIGINAL AD IDEA

25 ENTRIES



1

MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION

Love the concept of the "things to do" summer road map. This ad demonstrates a perfect balance of creativity with the ability to communicate the message clearly.



2

DRAYTON COMMUNITY NEWS

This ad stands out on the page. The colours are vibrant, but the ad is not too busy. The message is clear. Good choice of fonts! A blend of current font trends with classic. Great work Alicia Roza!



3

WATERDOWN FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW

Good amount of work placed into the Artfest design. From the cover page's strong impact to the layout of artist information, this ad demonstrates strong communication to the audience. Sometimes less is often more...a bit busy at times, but understandable given the nature of the ad. Good job team!

HONOURABLE MENTION

HALDIMAND PRESS – Good choice of colours. Created impact.

BURLINGTON POST – Good use of layout. Clear communication of ad. Good colour choices. Suggestion: avoid such a large drop shadow. Otherwise great ad.

GENERAL COMMENT

A vast range of advertising submissions to choose from. Good submissions throughout Ontario.

Judge

Sabreena Mohamed

Graphics Department, Your Local Journal, Vaudreuil-Dorion

Sabreena Mohamed is a designer and illustrator based in Montreal with an interest in marketing and fashion. Before completing her BFA in Computation Arts, she studied Marketing and Publication Design. Coming from a Fine Arts background, she has experimented with numerous mediums and worked in diverse disciplines including illustration, painting, computer animation and interactive installations. She has spent the last four years working as the art director/graphic designer for a Quebec community newspaper, and is now the Creative Director for The Journal located in Vaudreuil-Dorion.



PREMIER AWARDS

USE OF PROCESS COLOUR

26 ENTRIES



1

CALEDON ENTERPRISE

The ad comes together well – the selection of the background image, the design and selection of colours. Janine Taylor's ad is cohesive and conveys a strong message.



2

HALDIMAND COUNTY, THE SACHEM

The use of colour in tandem with the strong visual immediately grabs the reader's eye. Joel Billingham and Paul Robertson have a lot of information to convey and it is presented in a logical manner. The layout is tight – it could stand a bit more space to separate the copy sections a bit more.



3

ALLISTON HERALD

Great tie in between the colour and graphic elements – gets the idea across in a bright and fun way. The ad is clean with enough room for each copy section – offer is easy to see.

GENERAL COMMENT

The use of process colour to enhance and support the layout and design of the submissions was creative and bold by all. It was a difficult choice. The finalists found that balance through using colour to further strengthen the message and pull the ads together. The result was striking work, which attracted the readers' eyes with cohesive messages.

Judge

Leslie Kellow-Hall

Leslie Kellow-Hall, VP, Management Director - Operations, fuelcontent, Markham, ON

Leslie has more than 32 years' experience in the marketing communications industry in the production and operations areas. Leslie has managed interactive and print studios, production management and operation departments in several major and boutique agencies. Leslie's experience spans the gamut of interactive, CRM and traditional mass advertising. Leslie is an instructor with the Institute of Communication Agencies and has taught the Certified Print Production Practitioner's course for 16 years. Leslie has sat on the Mohawk College Marketing Communication Advisory Board for six years.



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST COMMUNITY WEBSITE/WEBPORTAL ~
CIRCULATION 10,000+

15 ENTRIES



1

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER | WELLINGTONADVERTISER.COM

Great content. Something for everyone. Loved the Happy New Year Banner. Smart to have the "follow us" on Facebook button available to the right as you start to scroll. Would love to see the dates on the letters to the editors.



2

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS | CJNEWS.COM

Very interesting content. I truly got caught up reading so many articles. I had a bit of trouble selecting the articles in the "Supplement" section but went back and it was fine.



3

ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER | OBSERVERXTRA.COM

Loved "View From Here". May I suggest a link to Facebook. I enjoyed the content and the opening slider. I like the interactive nature of the Xtra Travel section.

HONOURABLE MENTION

BURLINGTON POST | BURLINGTONPOST.COM – Great content. Truly grasping community on many levels. Difficult to judge design given many contestants had the same template. Your full menu drop down is very extensive and very impressive.

GENERAL COMMENT

I enjoyed judging the contest very much. Working with an online publication myself I understand the effort required to stay relevant online. Readers can be drawn in quickly but lost just as quickly. It was very difficult to choose from the excellent contenders. Thanks for the honour of visiting all your publications this year.

Judge

Rhonda Massad

Founder, West Island Blog, Beaconsfield, QC

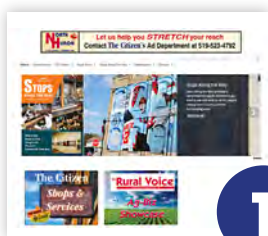
Born and raised on the island of Montreal, Rhonda Massad has lived in Beaconsfield for most of her life. The freelance writer is known for covering local news and events in the community. Her successful West Island Blog has enjoyed close to 5 million visits in three years. The community is at the root of Rhonda's passion for writing. Her focus is to unite the community and keep citizens connected through social media. She believes strength is garnered in a community that stands as one. As a freelance journalist, Rhonda has written news reports for various news publications such as: The Montreal Gazette, The Suburban Newspaper; West Island, Laval and Montreal editions, Global TV Montreal and The Montreal Times.



PREMIER AWARDS

BEST COMMUNITY WEBSITE/WEBPORTAL ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

8 ENTRIES



1

BLYTH/BRUSSELS CITIZEN | NORTHURON.ON.CA

Bright, colourful and clean. For a site that has many sections it is easy to navigate. I did like the use of displaying the front page in the top rotating slider. The typeface used is clean and easy to read. The site is dynamic and responsive to screen size and is therefore able to be viewed on different devices. There is a good use of pictures that illustrate the articles and add a visual appeal to the site. There are two areas that I believe could be improved. One is the mast head on the top. It looks like a banner ad and not your name. Be proud of your name, show it. The second is advertising. You have a great opportunity within the current design to have box ads along the right side of the site. This will give you extra revenue and also provide a service to your readers. Overall a nice site.



2

PARRY SOUND NORTH STAR | PARRYSOUND.COM

This site has a lot on it. Being part of a larger group does help the site with additional content however there is still a good amount of local content. The sections are clearly defined and easy to navigate. The site could benefit from a few additional pictures in some sections but overall a good site. There could be more ads on the site to help generate some additional revenue.



3

HUNTSVILLE FORESTER | MUSKOKAREGION.COM

Very similar to other Metroland sites. A lot of information, with good local content.

HONOURABLE MENTION

FORT FRANCES TIMES | FFTIMES.COM – Well-structured site. There are lots of choices of sections to choose from. The site is lacking pictures though. This effects the general look and feel of the site. Adding photos with the articles would dramatically improve the site.

GENERAL COMMENT

In today's digital world, it has become more and more important for community newspapers to both adapt with the times and embrace them as well. Having a web presence has not only become very important, but also an opportunity to reach more and more readers. Most community newspapers have started to welcome the change, and have developed some good sites that are not only easy to navigate, but most importantly have good content. Gone are the days that the newspaper website was just a business card with contact info and "how to advertise". The website has become the new edition to the newspaper. While judging this category, it was great to see some papers excelling at this opportunity, by filling their sites with great editorial, pictures and content. Let's hope that that more papers can do this, while generating additional revenue with online ad sales and pay walls. There is room for both print and digital in advertiser budgets, and local papers should be taking advantage of this.

Judge

Oliver Sutton

Associate Publisher, The Suburban, Saint Laurent, QC

British born Oliver Sutton was raised in South Africa and emigrated to Canada in 1990, where he studied advertising at Sheridan College in Toronto. He began his career at The Suburban 23 years ago as a part-time graphic designer rising to Assistant Director of production. He then went on to become Creative Director of the magazine division, producing Wall to Wall, Money & Wealth and Smart Wedding. He rejoined The Suburban's production department after the restructuring of the company. He became Associate Publisher 2 years ago. Part of his responsibilities at the paper was to research, design, create and co-ordinate the development of thesuburban.com.



PREMIER AWARDS

ONLINE SPECIAL PROJECT/EVENT/BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE

10 ENTRIES



1

BELLEVILLE NEWS

Coverage of OFSAA Track and Field Championships – This is a strong package for this submission and it covers an event of some significance at the local and provincial level. This was a great opportunity to develop some storytelling while also exploring multimedia components – video, audio and photo and using social media to develop a conversation/engagement among those participating and those watching the OFSAA events. Well executed. However, I would like to have read more about some of the challenges and larger issues for high school sports.



2

OTTAWA WEST NEWS

Coverage of Ottawa's 11th homicide – This multimedia piece explores key issues within a marginalized community. The piece also touches upon key issues facing this community – its relationship with the police and housing authorities. By spending more time with people at the scene and developing ties with the community, Erin McCracken was able to dig a little deeper and develop trust. While the video could have explored some of those angles, the photographs complement the piece well. And By the Numbers gives us a snapshot of the scale of the problem. This is the kind of story that inspires reporters to follow up and keep telling stories that matter.



3

OTTAWA HILL TIMES

Federal Conservative Leadership Race – A strong idea and the perfect kind of story for a specific digital project. Developing a Supporters list was a great way of building more transparency around candidate backing. A Candidate backgrounder was also a good idea. However, the digital architecture of the page could have been developed better to support the Hill Times' coverage. Some links were broken and some links led to articles while others just led to Twitter accounts. Readers want consistency and organizing the content to be more graphically engaging would have helped readers appreciate the content more.

GENERAL COMMENT

This category reflected a wide range of story subjects, as well as treatments. As a general recommendation a digital package should explore the larger elements of a story, as well as the practical impacts on the ground – whether it is a major local sports event, re-approaching a news story from a different angle or responding to a lack of diversity on a subject by investing more in reporting on it. Some packages were fuller illustrations of these efforts - across mediums - than others. A couple of the projects reflected the importance of local journalism on covering matters of public interest, which is at the heart and soul of our profession.

Judge

Sonja Fatah

Assistant Professor, Ryerson School of Journalism.

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



PREMIER AWARDS

MULTIMEDIA ONLINE/BEST ONLINE EXPERIENCE FOR A STORY

6 ENTRIES



HAMILTON MOUNTAIN NEWS

1



STONEY CREEK NEWS

Terrific teamwork by Mark Newman, Gord Bowes and Mike Pearson of both the Stoney Creek News and Hamilton Mountain News earned them top spot for both entries. Together they produced online stories of a local football games with photo carousels, numerous videos per story and related story links. Newman is a natural on camera, an obviously engaged and knowledgeable interviewer. His writing is equally captivating. Pearson's videos were nice and short, with steady camera work and good use of zoom. Bowes knows when to tightly crop, when to give a broader sense of the action. The slideshows really enhanced the coverage.



PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK

2

Second place goes to Lance Armstrong of Peterborough This Week. While there were shortcomings in his feature about three weddings at city hall, he put a lot of effort into presenting the couples' stories in an entertaining, visual way and must be commended for his photography. Those brides and grooms were very lucky to have him there.



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

3

There was so much promise in Sudbury Northern Life's video to accompany Heidi Ulrrichson's well-written feature about a Second World War vet. It was crying out for historical and personal photos as well as b-roll – shots of the vet puttering around at home, looking at photo albums, that sort of thing.

GENERAL COMMENT

Newspapers are facing some of the biggest challenges in the industry's history. Although community papers have been somewhat immune to the pressures posed by social media and the vast availability of instant news, they do have to inhabit this brave new world by embracing the ability to tell stories differently online. This year's winners are making that shift.

Judge

Martha Perkins

Editor-in-chief, Vancouver Courier, BC

Industry veteran Martha Perkins is the editor in chief for Glacier Media's Vancouver Courier. In the Lower Mainland, Perkins previously served as editor for the Westender, Bowen Island Undercurrent and North Shore Outlook. She also held an editor position at four weekly newspapers in Ontario's cottage country, including the Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times. Perkins has received more than 60 awards from Canada's regional and national newspaper associations, and was presented with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award in 2003 for her community contributions.





College & University Awards



COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY

STUDENT FEATURE WRITING

18 ENTRIES



1

DURHAM COLLEGE | TOBY VAN WESTON

Toby VanWeston brought a national crisis to the local level by highlighting the situation on the Scugog reserve. The result was an important, readable and interesting story. Good interviews, well researched and informative.



2

FANSHAWE COLLEGE | ANGELA MCINNES

In what could have been a convoluted and complicated story, Angela McInnes focused effectively on the issue of wait lists for sexual assault survivors in her community. A steady tone and well-built structure guided the reader.



3

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE | REBECCA ATKINSON

This piece delivers the narrative well, letting the subject tell his story. Rebecca Atkinson's story has local and general interest.

HONOURABLE MENTION

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | RAMONA LEITAO – An important piece by Ramona Leitao on how the university assists students who have survived sexual violence.

DURHAM COLLEGE | TRAVIS FORTNUM – Travis Fortnum's article on homophobia in professional hockey provided insight and perspective on the direction Canada's favourite sport is headed. Clearly written with plenty of interviews.

GENERAL COMMENT

This category featured work that showed great depth and skill from student journalists. Of particular note was the students' willingness to tackle difficult subjects in their communities, which they did with energy and creativity. The top entries combined strong writing and important subject matter with a foundation of research.

Judge

Jenn Watt

Managing Editor, Haliburton Echo, Minden Times, Bancroft This Week and County Life, Haliburton, ON

Jenn Watt is the managing editor of a group of newspapers in Ontario's cottage country covering Minden, Haliburton and Bancroft.



****SPONSORED BY: ONTARIO GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION**

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY

STUDENT NEWS WRITING

16 ENTRIES



1

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE | NICOLE MCCORMICK

An excellent start with the emotional hook, and anger tends to be the most effective of such hooks. Nicole McCormick gives us great quotes and decent flow. A few typos. Overall an engaging, informative and enjoyable read.



2

HUMBER COLLEGE | BRANDON RICHARD AUSTIN, TYLER BLOOMFIELD, ERIAN AMOR DE LOS REYES, KEN KELLAR, ALANA MACLEOD

A fine balance of detailed, engaging writing, with relevant graphic support. The sidebar of other "Ignites" was an excellent touch, allowing readers to infer, without the paper explicitly stating, that the entire affair was rather poorly executed, up to and including the new moniker.



3

FANSHAW COLLEGE | JESSICA THOMPSON

A reasonably well-rounded look at an incident and its aftermath. Well quoted, though the results from the March 14 Town Hall meeting could have been more elegantly summarized. Well supported graphically, particularly by the (oddly happy) tooth shot.

HONOURABLE MENTION

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE | DEVYN BARRIE – This entry may have finished in the top three, except for some typos that mar its otherwise workmanlike effort. The supporting photo suffers for having the poor woman's fingers cut off. Nonetheless, a solid story.

DURHAM COLLEGE | TRAVIS FORTNUM – Directly and vividly rendered. Well quoted & well photographed. A short but well-crafted story.

GENERAL COMMENT

Successful storytelling depends on the right words appearing in the right order, then ideally, being presented clearly on the page. Most of the entries in this category made a fair go of the former, and all succeeded in the latter. That is to say, there was a gratifying absence of design-for-design's sake. Layouts were minimalist, small-c conservative, and the better for it. Remembering that words are key to storytelling, including the telling of news, the increasing use of multimedia as an adjunct to news reporting is a worrisome trend. While infographics, charts, and plain old photographs have a long-established and demonstrable value in their support of text, video does not. This is particularly true for video that literally adds nothing to the reader's understanding of the issue being covered. Shorter attention spans and the increasing prevalence of web-based delivery will surely exert ever greater pressure on journalists to dumb-down their work via listicles and bite-size videos, but aspiring writers are still best served by honing their writing skills. A single, surgically precise paragraph is worth ten multimedia presentations whose contents are decorative at best. Each of the top entries, and the Honorable Mentions, demonstrated their authors' wordsmithing abilities in service of clarity and reader engagement. Any news organization would be wise to give serious consideration to taking these talents on board.

Judge

David Burket

Publisher, The Voice of Pelham, Pelham, ON

Dave Burket has worked in various media since the late 1970s, when he first had his eyes opened to what journalism could be at KPFA-FM, the Pacifica station in Berkeley, CA. He is currently the editor and publisher of the Voice of Pelham, a Niagara community weekly.



****SPONSORED BY: ONTARIO JOURNALISM EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY

13 ENTRIES



1

LOYALIST COLLEGE | VANESSA TIGNANELLI

The look Vanessa Tignanelli captured on the face of a New York voter speaks volume – how can this be? One photo capturing the feelings of many in the free world.



2

LOYALIST COLLEGE | NOAH PARK

A powerful image of sorrow. Well done!



3

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE | NICOLE MCCORMICK

Love the light in this photo and the way Nicole McCormick captured the way the singer is completely engrossed in what she is doing.

HONOURABLE MENTION

LOYALIST COLLEGE | YADER GUZMAN – A strong photo which pulls at our heart strings. I would have liked to see the father's eyes.

GENERAL COMMENT

Good news photography shows human emotion – the winners in this category show this in spades. Congratulations to all!

Judge

Heather Wright

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

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



COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY

BEST COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

5 ENTRIES



1

DURHAM COLLEGE | CHRONICLE.DURHAMCOLLEGE.CA

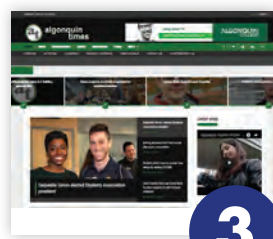
The Durham Chronicle website is very easy to use, and is just as easy on a tablet or mobile device. Navigation of the site is easy thanks to the navigation bar at the top of the page. The editorial content of the site features a variety of news from life at Durham and UOIT, as well as the community of Oshawa. As a student, this website would be a great resource for campus news. I especially like the use of video highlighted in the broadcast section. There were some minor spelling and grammar errors that could have easily been caught with a second look at the story prior to publishing. It's not the worst thing that could be wrong in a story, but very important also. The advertising content on the site is minimal, which makes for great viewing for the reader. The ads that are present on the website are great though, as they are targeted toward Durham College and UOIT students. It is also easy to find the rate card for interested advertisers. The website uses technology very well. I especially like the reader polls, which allows the Chronicle to get reader feedback. This is a great feature, along with the comments section, to get instant feedback. I would have liked to see more use of linking to stories and other documents throughout the stories where applicable, as it would encourage more page views. Overall this is a great site. The staff at the Chronicle are to be commended for producing a great product and a great online presence. Keep up the great work!



2

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | UWIMPRINT.CA

An easy website to navigate, and the design is easy on the eye. The editorial content is great. It is well written and there is a variety of stories covering school life, city and other areas. The one issue that I had was that while the content was great, there was a lot of stories from November 2017 showing up on the main pages at the time of judging in January 2018. I loved the content, but would love to see new content as well. Advertising on the website is present in the form of banner ads at the top. This is nice to see as it shows that advertisers like what you are doing, and it doesn't make the viewing experience for the reader unpleasant. I also like how you can find the rate card pretty easily. The coverage area of the product is great, as I mentioned before. A nice mix of school, city, sports, and other subjects of interest. I also liked the editorial cartoon in the opinion section. This website uses technology fairly well, with video, lots of photos, crosswords, etc. Great job by the staff of Imprint - you do a great job creating interesting content in all areas. Keep up the good work!



3

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE | ALGONQUINTIMES.COM

Algonquin's website is very easy to navigate – it is easy to find different categories of stories without having to do too much work. The content is great. It is well written, and offers an amazing look into life at Algonquin College. As a student, I can see how this website would be engaging. The opinion pieces show that a lot of thought has gone into them. Advertising content is not very heavy, which is nice for the reader. I do like how you can easily place an ad with one click of the mouse. It shows that you are easy to reach for those interested in advertising. Technology is well used on this site, as there are multiple forms of media on the site. One suggestion I would make is to make better use of linking to other stories within an article. This is an easy way to encourage more page views on your site. You can also use this to link to external documents and websites if applicable. Overall I enjoyed reading the content produced by the staff of the Algonquin Times. Great job!

GENERAL COMMENT

This was a tough category to judge this year. All five entries produced a great product with compelling editorial content that made reading the entries enjoyable. It was great to see the variety of stories being published on these websites, and especially great to see the use to technology on all of them. This generation of journalists have really embraced all the avenues of media available to them, which made for great products to view. All of the journalists from the websites nominated should be proud of themselves for the work they have done in the past year. Keep up the great work in 2018!

Judge

Mike Wilson

Editor, Metroland Northwest Group, Listowel, ON

Mike Wilson is the Editor, Northwest Group for Metroland Media, which includes free weekly papers – the Arthur Enterprise News, Listowel Independent Plus, Minto Express and Mount Forest Confederate - along with two weekly paid papers – the Listowel Banner and Wingham Advance Times. Mike began his career in journalism as a freelancer for the Palmerston Observer, and later the Minto Express, before joining Metroland Media in March 2015 as editor of the Mount Forest Confederate. He later took on the position of Editor, Northwest Group in February 2017.



Try Newspaper
Toolbox
FREE
for 90 days

One subscription.
Dozens of tools.
**LIMITLESS AD DOLLARS
FOR THE TAKING.**

HERE'S WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO TOOLBOX:

- Ready-to-sell ads and ad campaigns that effortlessly convert prospects into clients;
- Special sections, themed pages, and reader contests that are indispensable in gaining repeat business;
- An interactive sales calendar to help you nail your sales strategy;
- Promotional material—including selling sheets—that enticingly highlight advertising opportunities for prospective advertisers;
- Web and print teasers that help you generate buzz for upcoming features;
- An extensive editorial library that will help you reach a wider audience;
- Revenue-generating horoscopes, crossword puzzles, Sudoku, recipes, and kids' pages;
- FREE quarterly sales planning webinars;
- Newsletters containing tips, tricks and money-making ideas from industry professionals;
- Ongoing support for the entire sales team;
- Access to thousands of archived money-making ideas for small and large markets.

To find out more about our unique offer,
contact us today at info@newspapertoolbox.com



Subscribe
today and get
your first
**3 MONTHS
FREE**



2017 Insurance Bureau of Canada Community Award in Memory of Mary Knowles

Sara Hershoff
Publisher, Creemore Echo



Not much happens in Creemore that isn't, in one form or another, supported by Sara Hershoff. As owner and publisher of the Creemore Echo, she is the go-to person for help or advice and contributes generously to the success of residents and businesses within her community.

Sara began working for the small independent community newspaper in 2001 and worked her way up the ranks to become publisher in 2011. She took ownership last year, committed to keeping the paper hyper local to best serve its readers and her community.

The newspaper, under her leadership, also holds an annual food and toy drive to support local charities. However, her selfless community contributions do not end here.

As event coordinator of The New Farm annual fundraiser, Sara has attracted people from all over the province and helped put Creemore on the culinary and cultural map. The small community event invites guests to enjoy fresh, local foods, and has raised over \$100,000 for Community Food Centres Canada and The Stop Community Food Centre. It has even attracted performances by The Tragically Hip and Sam Roberts. Attendees enjoy good food, good music and connect with like-minded people, creating a true sense of community.

Sara is the longest serving volunteer board member of the Purple Hills Art and Heritage Society, having joined in 2000. She helped initiate the Creemore Festival of Arts and is Chair of the Tea of History committee, which provides education programs to share heritage of the area.

Roughly ten years ago she joined the Avening Community Centre Board and is dedicated to making community halls relevant. She helped transform the Avening Community Centre into an extremely successful concert venue and implemented the SAvening Campaign, which promotes public awareness for the value of community halls. In addition, she is a founding member of Clearview's Small Halls Festival and helped to implement activities such as a permanent installation on the history of Avening, a Dog and Pony Show, a Day with Man Tracker, and other events designed to celebrate rural culture and engage the public with community halls.

Most recently Sara took on the role of Treasurer with the Business Improvement Area (BIA) and is busy volunteering the rest of her spare time to improve business in Creemore.

The president of one of the organizations Sara supports, reports that she "plays a vital role in the village of Creemore as a volunteer". Sara is an industry and community leader and contributor, which is why the Ontario Community Newspapers Foundation (OCNF) and the Insurance Bureau of Canada is proud to recognize her with the 2017 IBC Community Award in Memory of Mary Knowles.

The award is coordinated by the OCNF, with generous support of the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC). Together, we are committed to recognizing dedicated newspaper employees who are constantly making a difference within their communities. Mary Knowles was a dedicated newspaper employee and active community member who died from breast cancer in 1996.



Congratulations

TO




Sara Hershoff

PUBLISHER
CREEMORE ECHO
ON RECEIVING

***The 2017
Insurance Bureau of Canada
Community Award***

IN MEMORY OF MARY KNOWLES

Representing Canada's home, car and business insurers.

 @InsuranceBureau
 facebook.com/insurancebureau
 youtube.com/insurancebureau

ibc.ca
1-844-2ask-IBC
(1-844-227-5422)

CLASS 1 (CIRC. 1,999 & UNDER)

Newspaper	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Production Quality	Total	Rank
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	50	50	975	
Minden Times	126	129	73	75	78	81	82	22	32	30	41	769	1
Listowel Banner	114	129	60	69	83	78	77	23	36	44	41	754	2
Kincardine Independent	115	133	55	73	77	78	78	22	35	44	43	752	3
New Hamburg Independent	122	128	75	70	72	80	73	15	39	32	39	745	4
Thamesville Herald	110	123	75	78	69	74	77	20	33	39	45	744	5
Mitchell Advocate	110	127	71	70	79	80	71	18	41	41	32	740	6
Blyth/Brussels Citizen	118	109	80	65	70	79	80	19	46	29	41	737	7
Barrys Bay, The Valley Gazette	112	108	69	61	64	87	88	18	37	29	35	708	8
Deep River North Renfrew Times	113	117	70	60	76	77	70	16	31	34	42	706	9
Middlesex Banner	97	111	53	41	48	77	68	11	30	33	39	605	10
Wingham Advance Times	98	95	53	55	47	73	77	17	27	17	38	597	11

CLASS 2 (CIRC. 2,000-3,499)

Newspaper	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Production Quality	Total	Rank
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	50	50	975	
Haliburton County Echo	108	125	90	88	86	80	80	20	45	23	44	789	1
Parry Sound North Star	119	122	82	83	89	74	76	14	37	32	44	772	2
Fort Frances Times	106	101	86	74	82	73	73	16	38	42	41	732	3
Burks Falls Almaguin News	112	90	79	85	80	74	77	17	35	30	46	725	4
Haldimand Press	101	101	67	90	76	85	73	16	38	22	47	716	5
New Liskeard Temiskaming Speaker	90	106	81	55	73	72	65	21	42	39	41	685	6
Winchester Press	95	98	65	63	65	72	68	17	37	36	41	657	7
Ayr News	72	92	59	52	58	62	57	19	33	27	37	568	8

CLASS 3 (CIRC. 3,500-6,499)

Newspaper	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Production Quality	Total	Rank
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	50	50	975	
Eganville Leader	102	127	106	83	89	83	78	45	32	37	44	827	1
Nunavut News/North	92	130	105	89	88	80	76	43	34	44	41	821	2
Niagara This Week, Town Crier	82	117	104	80	81	76	77	45	28	39	36	766	3
Petrolia Lambton Independent	86	118	97	80	84	74	76	44	30	39	35	764	4
Gravenhurst Banner	81	104	93	73	75	72	74	41	27	33	34	706	5
Creemore Echo	80	107	82	70	73	70	71	40	21	21	34	669	6
Brock Citizen	60	97	70	56	59	67	70	42	14	11	29	575	7

CLASS 4 (CIRC. 6,500-12,499)

Newspaper	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Production Quality	Total	Rank
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	50	50	975	
Haliburton, The Highlander	127	128	77	84	83	77	77	20	38	35	35	781	1
Niagara this Week, The Leader	126	124	80	77	84	80	79	18	37	34	35	774	2
Bracebridge Examiner	118	123	78	77	73	80	82	19	35	32	33	750	3
East Gwillimbury Express	118	124	78	77	78	77	81	17	36	30	31	747	4
Huntsville Forester	121	120	78	76	76	79	80	16	31	29	32	738	5
Port Perry Star	120	119	80	74	72	74	74	18	31	32	30	724	6
Amprior Chronicle-Guide	112	122	75	69	73	73	76	19	35	34	28	716	7
Uxbridge Cosmos	115	111	79	79	72	77	77	17	34	0	39	700	8
Uxbridge TimesJournal	112	113	78	75	73	70	69	18	28	29	30	695	9
West Carleton Review	113	111	77	72	72	71	69	19	29	30	30	693	10
Glanbrook Gazette	98	94	59	59	57	71	72	17	26	29	26	608	11

CLASS 5 (CIRC. 12,500-22,499)

Newspaper	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Production Quality	Total	Rank
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	50	50	975	
Dundas Star News	128	127	82	85	81	83	82	18	38	39	41	804	1
Orangeville Banner	126	126	82	84	76	85	83	18	37	39	40	796	2
Stittsville News	123	126	76	80	77	84	80	20	37	40	39	792	3
Elmira-Woolwich Observer	120	130	78	80	76	78	78	20	37	42	39	778	4
Ancaster News	123	127	81	73	73	82	82	17	42	37	36	773	5

JUDGE SCORESHEETS

CLASS 5 (CIRC. 12,500-22,499).... cont'd

Newspaper	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Production Quality	Total	Rank
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	50	50	975	
Northumberland News	120	126	78	81	77	79	80	17	35	36	36	765	6
Renfrew Mercury	119	129	74	76	71	81	78	21	38	37	37	761	7
Niagara This Week, Fort Erie Post	113	126	74	74	70	81	76	22	36	36	33	741	8
Toronto Canadian Jewish News	129	118	66	77	71	72	74	15	32	27	40	721	9
Georgina Advocate	123	128	75	76	71	75	74	15	35	10	38	720	10
Stouffville Sun-Tribune	114	107	68	69	70	77	75	19	34	30	36	699	11
Waterdown Flamborough Review	113	113	71	68	66	74	74	18	33	35	33	698	12
Haldimand County, The Sachem	105	107	64	65	69	79	79	16	33	32	37	686	13
Ottawa Hill Times	130	107	80	79	66	56	60	15	25	0	40	658	14

CLASS 6 (CIRC. 22,500-44,999)


Newspaper	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Production Quality	Total	Rank
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	50	50	975	
Sarnia Journal	145	146	77	79	95	82	87	20	48	43	44	866	1
Sudbury Northern Life	145	143	83	83	87	82	87	24	45	40	45	864	2
Waterloo Chronicle	133	142	85	75	85	87	87	23	42	39	41	839	3
Niagara this Week, Niagara Falls	135	143	82	75	82	87	84	24	41	38	45	836	4
Newmarket Era/Aurora Banner	132	142	93	79	88	88	82	24	43	22	42	835	5
Guelph Mercury Tribune	126	131	80	86	82	93	88	24	43	39	41	833	6
Niagara This Week, Welland	129	136	79	73	81	87	79	24	42	40	42	812	7
Grimsby Lincoln News	132	134	81	77	80	83	83	22	41	34	40	807	8
Norfolk News	111	142	76	72	84	87	83	22	40	42	43	802	9
Fergus Wellington Advertiser	116	144	92	78	72	88	85	23	43	18	42	801	10
Milton Canadian Champion	114	136	77	71	77	88	88	23	41	42	41	798	11
Whitby This Week	124	137	73	71	75	87	87	23	41	40	39	797	12
Oshawa Express	120	136	77	71	73	86	86	23	43	40	38	793	13
Cambridge Times	110	140	77	78	62	87	87	23	43	44	41	792	14
Orleans Star	119	139	67	71	76	87	87	10	45	45	41	787	15
Stoney Creek News	128	137	73	69	72	82	80	23	45	36	35	780	16
Peterborough This Week	100	136	69	70	74	87	87	23	41	47	40	774	17
Clarington This Week	102	133	59	67	68	88	88	23	41	44	41	754	18
Kawartha Lakes This Week	102	125	55	63	72	87	87	23	40	26	37	717	19
Cornwall Seaway News	112	121	62	57	70	88	88	23	39	15	37	712	20
Listowel Independent Plus	101	127	52	60	70	80	80	23	36	44	35	708	21

CLASS 7 (CIRC. 45,000 & OVER)

Newspaper	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Production Quality	Total	Rank
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	50	50	975	
Hamilton Mountain News	114	131	90	71	83	85	81	19	43	43	37	797	1
Oshawa This Week	120	131	82	77	82	86	79	21	38	39	37	792	2
Elk Lake Guardian	124	128	77	79	79	84	83	20	41	2	42	759	3
Scarborough Mirror	125	128	77	79	85	82	84	20	40	2	35	757	4
Niagara this Week, St. Catharines	121	127	84	67	70	83	80	19	33	35	34	753	5
Brant News	110	124	80	67	80	88	81	16	36	37	33	752	6
Kitchener Post	112	124	87	73	73	78	78	16	33	39	37	750	7
Ajax Pickering News Advertiser	102	122	80	70	80	85	80	15	35	38	42	749	8
Barrie Advance	110	119	83	69	76	84	84	19	42	12	38	736	9
Oakville Beaver	117	125	62	68	76	80	80	20	33	35	38	734	10
Vaughan Citizen	120	119	76	76	80	78	81	17	34	5	37	723	11
Richmond Hill/Thornhill Liberal	122	113	78	72	76	80	80	18	36	0	38	713	12
Burlington Post	120	108	65	57	75	82	83	18	29	31	37	705	13
Markham Economist & Sun	115	117	78	70	68	82	76	19	35	10	33	703	14

CLASS 8 (COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY)

Newspaper	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content & Design	Local Features	Sports	Total	Rank
	150	150	100	100	100	25	100	50	775	
Humber College – ElCetera	130	125	80	90	75	0	80	40	620	1
Loyalist College – The Pioneer	125	135	0	85	95	0	95	25	560	2
Algonquin College – Algonquin Times	85	100	70	75	65	15	70	40	520	3
University of Waterloo – Imprint	75	90	65	75	60	15	50	35	465	4
Durham College – The Chronicle	50	80	60	50	50	15	70	40	415	5



Clean Air. Made in Ontario.

Power that's 99% free of
smog and carbon emissions.

Learn more at
MadeinOntario.opg.com

ONTARIO**POWER**
GENERATION



*Congratulations
to all the
2017
Better Newspapers
Competition
Award Winners!*



