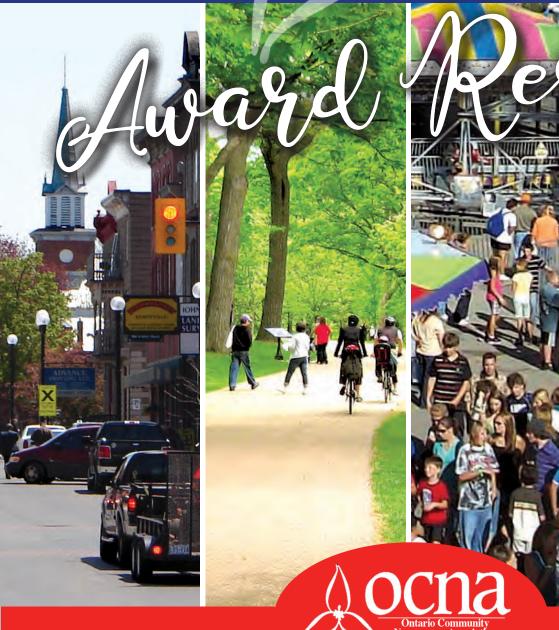


BETTER NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

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YOUR COMMUNITY ... YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

2018 SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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YOUR COMMUNITY ...

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your community newspaper



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the passing of yet another year, the Better Newspapers Competition is once again honouring excellent work by Ontario's weekly community newspapers. The competition provides the members of OCNA an opportunity to showcase their accomplishments and highlight their hard work, which goes into each and every edition of their newspaper.

The awards program journey begins in October, with many a newspaper staff going through hundreds of stories, photos and ads to submit their best work in any one of the sixty categories. Those entries are then sent off to our judges from all over the country, who begin critiquing and marking, coming up with the best of those submitted. The results are then released, but the wait is not over. Those results are merely an alphabetical list of the finalists. The wait continues until now, when the final results are announced at the BNC Awards Gala and Dinner Friday April 5th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Vaughan.

A review of last year's program resulted in just a few changes to this year's contest. We have again separated the Best Rural Story and the Best Feature Photo categories into two, divided by circulation, over and under 10,000. From the original ONLINE Special Project/Event/Breaking News Coverage, we have also created two categories – ONLINE Special Initiative and ONLINE Breaking News Coverage.

As always, we would like to extend a very special thank you to our volunteer judges who, after a full day at their own paper, spend countless hours reading and re-reading your entries. As usual, they are to be commended for their hard work and dedication to making the community newspaper industry the best it can be. Without their time & dedication to this competition, it would not exist. A huge thank you to all of you!

We must not forget our sponsors, who make this competition possible through their generous donations. Thank you for allowing OCNA to highlight the accomplishments of Ontario's community newspapers!

One final thank you to the staff of Ontario's weekly community newspapers. Your dedication to holding our newspapers to the highest standards feed our communities knowledge and allow them to flourish.

Congratulations to all our finalists for a job well done!

Ray Stanton President Ontario Community Newspapers Association





GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 1 CIRCULATION 1,999 & UNDER

12 ENTRIES



THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

When a local newspaper is put together by a handful of dedicated bright lights, it shows. The publisher has her finger on the pulse, being photographer, journalist, editorialist and probably so much other uncredited work. This paper contains a great balance of local news, community events, and sports and a good editorial page with substantial reader feedback - a sign of community involvement indicative of a great paper. Very enjoyable read. Good advertising designs are well integrated with the paper's content. Bravo!

The Herald 📢

THE HERALD SERVING THAMESVILLE, DRESDEN AND BOTHWELL

Another excellent community newspaper capturing a comprehensive round-up of local news stories, wellbalanced with the lighter side of community life. The readers are spoiled with great leads and unique editorials by an editorialist who has earned her chops. Confidence in design is a benefit to advertisers. Well done.



NORTH RENFREW TIMES

This was a very enjoyable paper to read and judging by the number of letters to the editor, the community is deeply involved in the paper and its content. Great photos. Some 'giant cheques' but I appreciate that the photographer makes an effort to get action shots and not just people staring at the camera. Great front pages and comprehensive sports sections.

Judges

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

Editor, Co-Publisher/

Bulletin d'Aylmer, The

West Quebec Post,

Journal du Pontiac, Pontiac & Gatineau, QC

Lily Ryan

Owner

ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION





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

GENERAL COMMENT

Amid all the reports of struggling print media, Ontario readers are lucky to have so many quality community newspapers ignoring the naysayers and carrying on reporting local news and community events. Fads may come and go but quality work endures, and it shows in the winners' publications.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 2 CIRCULATION 2,000 - 3,499

8 ENTRIES



HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

The Haliburton County Echo excels. It's got all the news people need to know but it also explores the human element. A front page feature on one of Canada's first couples to die together under the new assisted dying legislation is respectfully and lovingly told, as was the profile about a beloved local icon who died. The editorial pages reflect this diversity with lots of original content as well as a forum for readers' views. Darren Lum's sports photography rivals that of much bigger papers.

Fort Frances Times





FORT FRANCES TIMES

The Fort Frances Times is a lively read, its reporters adept at getting the telling quote. The community is given its voice and its athletes' efforts are honoured. It's one of the few papers with a vibrant classified section and it pays attention to captivating photography. Wonderful job!



WINCHESTER PRESS

The Winchester Press had a good look and feel. It was easy to read and was certainly worthy of a third place finish. It manages to come across as a mix of small town and big city. Production quality was excellent and there were plenty of good people photos. The newspaper was very strong on community news and had an excellent sports section. The region should be pleased it has such a strong newspaper.

GENERAL COMMENT

This group was a small one, but they were good newspapers. Excellent content, good production values and plenty of community news were common among them all. Some had excellent sports sections, great photography and a nice selection of well-produced ads. We all need to know what our local governments are up to. It's helpful to be told what new services are available and how we can spend our week. But the newspapers who can go beyond the "official" news are the ones that best capture the truest sense of community.



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

Manfred Tempelmayr

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

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





GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 3 CIRCULATION 3,500 - 6,499

4 ENTRIES



NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH

The Nunavut News/North has what the other papers in this category missed: stories about people. It impressed with its comprehensive news and features, and its stories about people. It doesn't shy away from serious issues facing the community and has an unblinking gaze when bad things happen. What sets this paper apart is its dynamic design (in two languages) and use of lively photographs.



EGANVILLE LEADER

These are four newspapers which serve their communities well. High Scores indicate a job well

done across the board. Having judged many newspapers over the years, we are generally disappointed with editorials. Not this group, which found the courage to write on local issues,

All newspapers had features on local people, or at least stories which included the impact on

local people. Again, well done! The only criticism is there was not a single outstanding photo

in all the entries including front pages. Nothing to grab the attention of the reader. However, as editors, we know first-hand that some weeks there will not be a terrific photo. Sometimes you just have to be lucky to be in the right place at the right time. Otherwise, the product that all four

take stands against local politicians, and contribute ideas and solutions to local issues.

The Eganville Leader has the feel of a community paper from several decades ago. I don't mean it is dated or tired. Rather, it acts as if it is a locally-owned community paper and not part of a larger chain. This one was a lot of fun to read and gives a good sense of who lives in the community and what is happening in the lives of its readers.



GENERAL COMMENT

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, ADVANCE

The Niagara-on-the-Lake edition of Niagara This Week is a great paper, with good editorial content and photography and a strong sports section. While there is value in providing news about the actions of governments and organizations, filling a newspaper with those stories does not give a true sense of what's important to readers. This paper relied a bit too heavily on bureaucratic reporting.

Judges

John Arendt Editor Summerland Review Summerland, BC



Chris Clegg Editor The South Peace News High Prairie, AB

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



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publish is very, very good.

.....ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION

GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 4 CIRCULATION 6,500 - 12,499

15 ENTRIES



HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

The Highlander was the clear winner. It was such a clean, well-designed, well laid-out paper. Had excellent photography, a good mix of news, opinion, editorial pages, features, sports and arts - everything a good community newspaper should have. Love the page heads, and the headline fonts are easy to read; What a great job of covering the community; LOVE the way they include the community youth in their pages. One of the few downfalls was the grip and grins in sports. Get some action shots of the kids curling instead of receiving their awards! Still, excellent job! This paper seems to be thriving!



NIAGARA THIS WEEK, THE LEADER

Niagara This Week, The Leader is an excellent news product. Great photography, feature stories, nice mix of police, community, council, education and political news. It has substantial advertising content indicating good buy in from the communities. The paper includes good local columnists and excellent editorial pages. Everything a community newspaper should be. Well done!!



NIAGARA THIS WEEK, FORT ERIE POST

Niagara This Week, Fort Erie Post was only just edged out of second place. Another excellent news product, with great photography. What a fantastic front page photo in the April edition. The strongest front photo of all the entries. And James Culic writes a terrific column. Congratulations!

GENERAL COMMENT

ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION

The effects of corporate conglomeration are very much evident in a large part of rural Ontario... sadly. The same stories, columns, letters and editorials were read in so many different papers that judging this category became very challenging. In some of the smaller publications, finding local news coverage among the advertising was equally challenging. I yearned for the days of not so long ago that each paper offered me a unique and expansive view into the communities they represent. That being said, the top papers in this class overcame some of that with good investigative pieces, lots of great community columns, and good photographs. Congratulations to all!

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Judges

Roger Knox Reporter/Photographer The Morning Star Vernon, BC

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



Rob Voqt Editor Claresholm Local Press Claresholm, AB



GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 5 CIRCULATION 12,500 - 22,499

10 ENTRIES



DUNDAS STAR NEWS

The Dundas Star News front page had good clean crisp headlines and photographs, and the ads do not interfere with the stories. The editorial and community news sections spoke on local subjects and were well written and qualified by outside sources. This paper was well laid out with great headlines, photography and ad placement. However, photographers were not always identified, and some ads were a little difficult to read (too crowded). The local features were great stories, sports were well covered and presented and the production quality was great. Overall a wonderful product.



NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

The Northumberland News came in a strong second. The well-chosen front page photos and stories grab your attention and make you want to read more. A good variety of community stories fill the pages of a paper chock full of ads and supplements. A bigger sports section would be nice, but beggars can't be choosers. Well done!



ANCASTER NEWS

The Ancaster News greets the reader with interesting front page content and photos and pleases them inside with a good variety of community oriented stories, columns and photos. The news and features were well written and appear to do a good job of reflecting the community it serves. The paper has plenty of ads both display and classified which bodes well for its long-term future. It may be a tight paper, but it has something for everyone.

GENERAL COMMENT

Ontario is extremely well served by its community newspapers. The level of professionalism is high and the continued support from advertisers clearly demonstrates that the strong local news presented on these pages has value. Community newspapers work best when readers see themselves and their community throughout its pages and there is plenty of evidence of that happening here. While most newspapers do the best possible job with the resources at their disposal, there is always room for improvement. Limit the number of fonts used on a page to create cleaner layouts. Try to find space for letters or for a small sports section. In all, very impressed, and we tip our hats to all involved.



Susan Attiana Publisher The Local Weekly Sunshine Coast, BC



Anthony Bonaparte





Andy Walker Editor Island Farm Montague, PEI



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.... ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION

GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 6 CIRCULATION 22,500 - 44,999

18 ENTRIES



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

Sudbury Northern Life stands out in a crowded field with tremendous depth of coverage of the community, presented effectively. Plenty of news coverage and photography give the impression that every aspect of the community is covered, with consistent and attractive design in both editorial and advertising and an absolute juggernaut of a classifieds section, which reinforces the relevance of this publication to its community. A solid editorial page is another reason this paper took top spot – a strong editorial based on one of the top news stories of the week adds depth to the coverage of the community. Well done all around.



FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

The Fergus Wellington Advertiser looks and feels like a throwback to a bygone era of newspapering – in a good way. Front pages with a total lack of advertising and a broadsheet-style story presentation in a long tab format set the tone for a meaty, in-depth look at the community, making up for a certain greyness from a lack of photography. It is an opus to what community newspapers used to be - and celebrated 50 years of publishing with an incredible in paper feature. Strong community news coverage and good use of photography fill the pages. The editorial pages feature a selection of opinion-based commentary and letters to the editor. I enjoyed the Split Decision feature that pits two sides of an issue against each other. It was enjoyable to have both sides of an argument presented next to each other.



SARNIA JOURNAL

A solid delivery of community news by the Sarnia Journal. The variety of stories – from news to arts to sports – ensured most reader interests and passions were addressed in a tastefully presented package, what we like to call a newspaper. A solid editorial page and letters section shows a community engaged on the issues through the coverage of this newsroom.

> Sponsored by: Northern News Services



Tanya Foubert Editor & Multimedia Journalist Rocky Mountain Outlook Canmore, AB



Jim Mosher Freelance Editor & Journalist Winnipeg Beach Winnipeg, MB

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





GENERAL COMMENT

There are stellar newspapers in this category. The writers, design artists and publishers who strive for excellence deserve our thanks for soldiering-on in a highly competitive market. There were a number of things that distinguished the winners, among them use of eye-catching photos to bring a wellwritten story an added dimension of tension, news value and reader interest; strong editorials; wide community news; and effective advertising design. It was an honour to judge this category. The task was onerous. Those of us who have lived and breathed community journalism for decades know all too well the pain of finishing out of the running. We wonder about what often appears an annual rotation of winners. Is this fix in? Not here. Congratulations to all. Strive to improve your papers where necessary. It's all about the readers, not the annual accolades that may pass us over.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 7 CIRCULATION 45,000 & OVER



7 ENTRIES

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, ST. CATHARINES

Niagara This Week, St. Catharines edition edged out the others because of its wide variety of stories and ads. The front page and editorial/op-ed pages were well done, and there was lots of community news and feature stories. Advertising was strong and many local events were promoted through a series of innovative ad programs.



BURLINGTON POST

The Burlington Post had a good variety of stories, and some strong local features. It placed second on the basis of the features and an attention to detail in all areas. It too has a strong advertising base and excelled in providing its readers excellent community news coverage.



OAKVILLE BEAVER

Excellent front page photos and attention to local detail, local people and local issues – especially in its sports and arts sections - make the Oakville Banner a worthwhile weekly read.

GENERAL COMMENT

This was a challenging category to judge. There are just seven entrants. All have circulations exceeding 45,000. All are in larger urban areas, most of which are part of the Greater Toronto region. All are owned by Metroland and all have a very similar look with a dominant green flag. Front pages, editorial, op-ed, sections, classifieds, etc. are almost carbon copies of each other. All depend on regional copy to help fill the many editorial holes and this is generally well used. Local stories do not appear to be shunted aside for more regional material, which is important. Because of these factors, judging had to concentrate on the very few things that were noticeably different among the seven. I'm sure all these newspapers have challenges in keeping abreast of their fast growing communities, but it would be nice to see a wider variety of sports coverage aimed at a broader audience. Most was geared to junior hockey teams – always important - but more sports features would be welcome. Overall, all seven newspapers serve their communities very well. With the print editions and their websites, they should be the first source of local news in all these communities. Each of the entrants fights the good fight to retain its local character and reflect the interests of its readers. Congratulations to all the staff members for their hard work in keeping their neighbours well-informed.

Judges

Frank Bucholtz Freelance writer and blogger, Former Editor (1998-2015) Langley Times Langley, BC



John Kendle Managing Editor Canstar Community News Winnipeg, MB



Jules Xavier Editor CFB Shilo Stag CFB Shilo, MB



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GENERAL EXCELLENCE CLASS 8 COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY

6 ENTRIES



ALGONQUIN COLLEGE - ALGONQUIN TIMES

• Our winner! Love the focus on local content, pertinent to Algonquin College readers. Well done! It is the strength of local content, despite technical problems, that makes this paper a winner.



NIAGARA COLLEGE - NIAGARA NEWS

Strong second place finish. Overall a very good newspaper. Features are its strongest suit along with its sports coverage. Very good modular layout.



HUMBER COLLEGE - ET CETERA

Dynamic, visual front page. In general, excellent leads and solid content about the Humber College community and the issues, people and events making the news.

GENERAL COMMENT

It was inspiring to have the honour of judging the work of the next generation of journalists. The energy, insight and sheer talent in these pages is something to celebrate!

Judge

Pamela Steel Managing Editor Metroland Media Muskoka & Parry Sound, ON



Pamela Steel is the managing editor for Torstar Communities'

eight newspapers and three websites in Parry Sound, Muskoka and Almaguin. Almaguin News, Parry Sound North Star, Parry Sound Beacon Star, Huntsville Forester, Bracebridge Examiner, Gravenhurst Banner, Muskokan, muskokaregion.com, parrysound.com and northbaynipissingnews.com



Sponsored by: Star Metroland Media, Southwestern Ontario Division

PREMIER AWARDS **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

48 ENTRIES



ORILLIA TODAY

Frank Matys gave us the most well-rounded, arts-based tale of the submissions. Art, presentation, story ideas, layout and photography were all strong. It encourages readers to gets artsy themselves. Few stories did this.



BARRHAVEN INDEPENDENT

Great set up and use of image. Detractions from keeping this the top story of the year include the lack of byline and little use of in-house photographers. This could be sourced more certainly as well to give it the gold instead of silver.



GRIMSBY LINCOLN NEWS

A slice of life story with great placement and art – however the main picture is confusingly busy. A job well done by Luke Edwards.

HONOURABLE MENTION

NORTH RENFREW TIMES – Vance Gutzman gives us an arresting image and headline. Great use of less is more. Had this one only had a short impactful story with it - it may have placed.

Judge



Rob Brown Managing Editor Dawson Creek Mirror Dawson Creek, BC

Rob Brown is an award-winning journalist and photographer and has been working for newspapers since 1998. He has a couple nods for news story of the year, a pair for photography, another for arts, community engagement, and more adding up to 20 plus. He is a 2005 Alberta Centennial Citizen of the Year and the 2017 Culture Ambassador for northern British Columbia. He is a published poet, playwright, and screenwriter. He is single-handedly responsible for the current dinner theatre resurgence in the Peace region and specifically, Fort St. John.

GENERAL COMMENT

Arts is such a mix – it must have all the elements of news and sports to catch attention come this time of year. The bar for arts cannot be a variation on the story "something artsy that happened and we covered it". The story must be as engaging and dramatic as a sports tale and should be as angular and informative as a news piece. To say nothing of photographic support and general ambience adding to a truly artistic package. This is before breaking down the write at hand.

PREMIER AWARDS BEST BUSINESS & FINANCE STORY

46 ENTRIES



AYLMER EXPRESS

Nice piece by Craig Bradford. I think the Broken Bridge Burger anecdote should have been up much higher – it's a great illustration of a business turning a negative into a positive and could have almost been the lead to really draw readers in. The story featured a good cross-section of sources, but the reporter should have tried to get a comment from the town as well regarding signage, etc.



ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER

Well-written story by Ali Wilson. I would have liked a few more details about how the construction has affected her business – for example, by what percentage have her sales fallen? I also would have liked to have heard from another affected business or two – to me, the story relies a bit too much on one voice.



BEACH – EAST YORK NEIGHBOURHOOD VOICE

This is a solid story by David Nickle, with a good variety of sources. It would have been even better if it would have looked at some of the potential solutions, but I understand that is in the second part.

HONOURABLE MENTION

PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK – This is a pretty good story by Taylor Clysdale, with a nice variety of sources and perspectives. I think the lead could have been stronger – it would have been great to talk to specific students and find out what is making the downtown attractive to them – and the story could have done a bit more to explore the problems the area still faces. All in all, though, quite well done.

GENERAL COMMENT

Overall, the calibre of writing in this category was solid, although many of the entries read like quasi-promotional material for new businesses and commercial developments. I would've liked to have seen more digging for concrete facts and financial details as well as a broader range of perspectives – too many of these stories relied on one source.

Judge

David Sali Editor, Print Content Ottawa Business Journal Ottawa, ON



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 easts, sleeps and breathes Roughrider football.

PREMIER AWARDS EDUCATION WRITING

44 ENTRIES



WHITBY THIS WEEK

Outstanding piece by Parvaneh Pessian. Well written, highly informative, information dense, beautifully stitched together and extremely relevant to the community. Well done.



CAMBRIDGE TIMES

Excellent! Great reporting by Lisa Rutledge on an obscure issue with huge impact. Well done. Good background info, tight writing, highly informative.



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

Very timely piece, very well written and obviously a lot of thought and research involved. Well done Lila Sarick.

Sponsored by: Ontario Journalism Educators Association

HONOURABLE MENTION

NEW LISKEARD TEMISKAMING SPEAKER – Diane Johnston gave us excellent writing and a richly detailed story.

Judge

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



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

GENERAL COMMENT

There is some amazing reporting on education issues being done in Ontario's community market. Even if it's just responding to a request from a school or teacher for a bit of good news coverage, it is always so welcome to see this vital piece of society getting the attention it does. It deserves more! My challenge to you in 2019. Some of you had to dig deep, some of you tackled controversial subjects, and some of you had to try to cover nasty local politics as it plays out at the school board level.

PREMIER AWARDS BEST EDITORIAL ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+

22 ENTRIES



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

A great topic with strong views and well developed. A good background that is well-explained. This one has a wow factor that makes the reader think.



STONEY CREEK NEWS

Good background information that sets the tone for the editorial. This gives the reader a good insight as to the community concern – and perhaps outrage. It also outlines solutions and actions.



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

A well-developed argument. This uses facts and quotes to develop the editorial. It's concise and well laid out.

HONOURABLE MENTION

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER – Good editorial that is strongly stated and yet tactfully written for the position your paper has found itself in.

GENERAL COMMENT

It's extremely sad to see fewer submissions as we lose so many newspapers that once were such a strong part of our journalist community. That being said the submissions entered are absolutely fantastic. Each year the decisions become harder and harder as the quality of the entries increases. These editorials offer a sharp contrast to stock editorials that don't focus on individual communities and issues and show the importance of a community voice and value of the role of the media. Editorials are so incredibly important. They are our way to reach out and voice our opinions and call our communities to action. They are designed to make the reader think about the issue – they don't have to always agree with us. It's also interesting to note how many of these editorials dealt with issues facing media, and the effect of increasing communications technology on our communities and society.

Judge



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

Alberta

Sheena Read

Freelance lournalist

PREMIER AWARDS BEST EDITORIAL ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

21 ENTRIES



EGANVILLE LEADER

It takes guts in a small town to face an issue like this head-on, without apology. While the opinion is strong to be sure, it's backed up with evidence and example. Excellent.





THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

Straightforward, pointed and fearless.



VOICE OF PELHAM

A thorough examination of a serious problem that also makes direct recommendations. Lots of courage here.

HONOURABLE MENTION

BARRHAVEN INDEPENDENT – Well-paced local reflection on a national story that would have resonated deeply with readers.

GENERAL COMMENT

It's wonderful to see that local issues are still being spotlighted on the editorial pages of community newspapers. The winners in this category all showed courage and these pieces must have generated discussions (also probably a few phone calls!). Overall the entries are strong, and brightly penned. In some cases, the submissions were closer to columns than editorials.

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 ENVIRONMENT ONTARIO





OSHAWA EXPRESS

Inspiring work by Joel Wittnebel. Well written, interesting, well documented. Perfect. Well done.



SMITHS FALLS RECORD NEWS

What an impactful and important story by Evelyn Harford. This is what community news should be. Well done.



HAMILTON/BURLINGTON BAY OBSERVER

Really interesting. Well written and well researched by Denis Gibbons. Well told. Good job.

HONOURABLE MENTION

KAWARTHA LAKES THIS WEEK – Very well written. Bill Hodgins made me feel like I was there with them.

GENERAL COMMENT

It is always humbling and somewhat overwhelming to sit down and go through all the stories written by my brothers and sisters in Ontario. So much great work being done. Every story I read was worthy of praise in one way or another. Those that stood out, that earned first, second, third or honourable mention, had gone above and beyond telling the story to dig deeper into the issues. It is heartening to know so many journalists – and their editors – are making sure their time is spent on stories about the environment, especially considering our click-obsessed, time-crunched reality these days. Genuine kudos to all those who entered their work. Well done.

Judge



Jennifer Thuncher Editor The Squamish Chief Squamish, BC

Jennifer Thuncher is the editor and reporter at the weekly paper, The Squamish Chief in Squamish B.C. She never has enough time for coffee.

20 2018 | BNC Awards Results

PREMIER AWARDS HEALTH AND WELLNESS

58 ENTRIES



MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION

The lovely and tightly written lead immediately puts a face to an uplifting piece about the benefits of dance for those living with Parkinson's disease. Steve LeBlanc balances information about the physical and emotional rewards of dance with lively quotes from a number of sources. The accompanying photo and video are the icing on the cake. Well done.



BEACH – EAST YORK NEIGHBOURHOOD VOICE

There were many stories about cancer survivors in this year's round of entries, but this one stood out both for its positivity and its exceptional main character. Helena Kirk was only 12 years old when the story was written but had already undergone numerous rounds of chemotherapy in her almost nine year struggle with leukemia. Right now, though, she's concentrating on helping other young cancer patients gain access to better treatment and more funding. Bambang Sadewo deftly captures Helena's feisty determination to advocate for others. A well-organized and uplifting read.



PERTH COURIER

While my preference would have been a feature-style lead for this story, the rest of the piece is told well. It's a great mix of strong quotes from a variety of sources and helpful medical information. In fact, Laurie Weir includes a map at the end of the story showing the location of public AEDs (automated external defibrillators) in Lanark County as well as links to various training programs. This is a story that could potentially save lives.

HONOURABLE MENTION

NIAGARA THIS WEEK, NIAGARA FALLS – This story profiles a unique community paramedic program that relieves some of the pressure on hospital emergency services by offering everything from wellness visits to blood pressure checks to vulnerable seniors. Paul Forsyth starts by introducing us to one of the seniors – Victor – whose life was changed for the better by the program and weaves his story throughout the piece, which also includes interviews with the paramedic team and statistics about the emotional and financial toll of not coming up with an alternative way of helping vulnerable seniors. One recommendation in terms of design (and this applies to several submissions this year): limit turns to one per story. Most readers won't stick with a piece that jumps from page to page to page.

GENERAL COMMENT

As always, it was an honour to judge the entries in this category. The subjects ranged from the opioid crisis to dementia to flesh-eating disease – there was even one story on the dog flu. Congratulations to all those who made submissions – they are proof that community journalism is still alive and well.



Journalism Professor Centennial College Toronto, 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 torontoobserver.ca, the journalism program's online publication. 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. 41 ENTRIES

PREMIER AWARDS FEATURE WRITING ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

Paul Lungen synthesized the results of several interviews, masterfully merging heartfelt personal experiences with scientific and historical information. The originality of the topic and amount of work required to pull everything together from the various sources boosted this entry into the top spot.



BURLINGTON POST

Tim Whitnell combined the life story of a 90 year old man with some Avro Arrow history. It may not have been as original a topic as the winning one about DNA, but it was superbly researched, crafted and presented.



DUNDAS STAR NEWS

Debra Downey's story about a couples' journey to be comfortable with their respective genders and their relationship was educational, sensitively written and a compelling read.

GENERAL COMMENT

Every journalist can write a decent story based on an interview with an individual who has had an interesting experience. But feature stories that really stand out are those that include information and anecdotes from multiple sources and weave everything into a coherent, easy to read article. Several entries in this category stood out, while many did not.

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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.

PREMIER AWARDS FEATURE WRITING ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

26 ENTRIES



HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

A well written, well researched article that touches not just on a couple but also on a sensitive issue with just the right touch. Extremely well done by Sue Tiffin.



VOICE OF PELHAM

Samuel Piccolo's story really brought Dorothy to life. Very detailed and well written.



EAST GWILLIMBURY EXPRESS

Lisa Queen gives us an open and honest take on a topic that isn't comfortable to do so with. Well done.

HONOURABLE MENTION

AYLMER EXPRESS – Nice reflection on an amazing career. Side piece with Dr. Sinclair's wife was a nice touch. Well done Craig Bradford.

GENERAL COMMENT

This was a pleasure to judge. There were so many worthwhile articles that were clearly written by those who show a true love for their craft.

Sponsored by: O'Donnell, Robertson & Partners

Judge

Trent Allen Editor Opasquia Times The Pas, MB



Trent Allen is the editor for the Opasquia Times and has spent 13 years in the industry, the first three years as a reporter before assuming the role of editor. Currently focused primary 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 HERITAGE

Sponsored by: Fort Frances Times

51 ENTRIES



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

This very detailed and extensively-researched story by Michael Fraiman offers a very good explanation of a significant war orphan program - who were the people involved, what were their experiences, where many ended up and how it was paid for. This type of story is essential in understanding important details of history, so that we can all learn from the past.



SMITHS FALLS RECORD NEWS

A very interesting story - involving lots of research, education and diligence. The involvement of many people made the inclusion of the names of two Canadian soldiers of primarily Sikh background on the town cenotaph, and it is very well-documented in this story by Evelyn Harford.



NIAGARA THIS WEEK, ST. CATHARINES

This story of a memorial (promised in 1932 but not delivered until 2017) to workers who lost their lives in construction of the Welland Canal is a heritage story at its best - members of the community remembering those who made a major economic project possible and pushing to have them recognized in a formal and meaningful way. Credit is due to all who participated, and to Melinda Cheevers and Niagara This Week for a full account of how the memorial finally came to fruition.

HONOURABLE MENTION

HAMILTON/BURLINGTON BAY OBSERVER – The story of the achievements of Phil Edwards, as an Olympian and as a human being, is inspiring. He blazed many a trail. Well-done by John Best.

HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO – This well-researched article reports on an aspect of heritage which is often overlooked because the physical evidence is minimal – the occupation and use of an area of land by aboriginal people in the days before European contact. Jenn Watt's story contained some very fascinating information. It likely served to whet the appetite of many readers for more information about the archaeology of the area.

EGANVILLE LEADER – This is a very detailed and interesting story, written by Bruce McIntyre, from a firsthand participant who survived two major disasters. It tells the story of a train disaster that is likely largely forgotten today and does so from an intensely human perspective.

GENERAL COMMENT

The 51 entries in this category covered a huge range of topics from aboriginal use of the land to the nuclear age. They show the broad range of interests and activities which form part of heritage preservation and awareness. The top three entries and honourable mentions stood out in this very crowded category. The first-place winner was the best researched and detailed, but many others told extremely vital stories. All entries are important reminders to their communities of the great value of heritage. Where we have come from has a lot to do with where we will go in the future.

Judge

Frank Bucholtz Freelance writer and blogger, Former Editor (1998-2015) Langley Times Langley, BC



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

PREMIER AWARDS BEST INVESTIGATIVE NEWS STORY



Independent

SCARBOROUGH MIRROR

Did you know that 61 per cent of all gun homicides in Toronto go unsolved? I didn't and that sobering statistic got my attention before the team at the Scarborough Mirror laid out what they could in detail, bringing in the stories of the victims and their families to put faces on the numbers. This entry stood out among the submissions, revealing the deep frustration of police in grappling with the scourge of shooting crime in Toronto, and the deep and sad grief the families of the victims carry with them every day. Let's hope this cry for attention leads to a time when shooting crimes will be on the decline. Until then, may reporting teams like the one at the Mirror be enabled to carry on their important work now and into the future.

THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

Here's a headline you don't see in a small Ontario community newspaper every day: 'Petrolia's CAO cashes in on town's storage needs.' Reporter Heather Wright was steadfast in her investigation and used exclusively-sought documents, persistent questioning of town councillors – most of whom didn't want to say much as the facts came to light – and damning quotations of the mayor who clearly didn't want it to get to a full council meeting any time soon. The result? The CAO resigned, a councillor was investigated for conduct and ultimately, the entire council but one incumbent was tossed out by the ultimate arbiters of public officials – the voters. Of all the entries, this story most illustrates the importance of watchdog journalism, the skill of local media, and how its courageous and objective reportage affects ordinary people. It shows why journalism matters today more than ever.



VOICE OF PELHAM

Residents of a seniors only apartment building approached the newspaper in a last ditch effort to call public attention to, and preferably stop, harassment they alleged they were suffering directly or indirectly through building mismanagement. There is a follow up story, "Pelham Non-Profit Housing cancels Annual General Meeting," dated May 2, 2018. Since the pieces ran, there has been a change of tenant association leadership, and various tenants are pursuing separate legal avenues of recourse. Great investigative reporting by Samuel Piccolo and David Burket.

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 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.

GENERAL COMMENT

True investigative journalism should be recognized by publishers, editors and reporters as a process. Freedom of information requests, data acquisition and the careful cultivation of sources enables a single person to do amazing work these days – but over a longer period. The winning entries in this class clearly took the time and energy to produce deep impactful stories of major interest to the communities they serve. Further, they had the potential to shift operations and even public policy, possibly saving lives and improving basic things like living conditions for the under-represented voices in their communities. **38 ENTRIES**

PREMIER AWARDS BEST NEWS STORY ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

This article was a cut above the other entries. Ran Csillag's writing was slick – it read really well and showed evidence of strong research which was seamlessly included. The article flowed smoothly with excellent quotes and a range of voices.



KITCHENER POST

Well-crafted article written by Bill Jackson. A Good lead. It transitioned well from a feature lead into a news story. A range of voices were presented well.



ETOBICOKE GUARDIAN

The lead draws in the reader and then Cynthia Reason provides further research and interviews to round out the story - make it informative. The article not only spotlights a problem but touches on solutions. A topic that is relevant and concerning in many communities.

HONOURABLE MENTION

RICHMOND HILL/THORNHILL LIBERAL – Some great research and lots of interviewing went into this piece and there are some strong quotes to show for it. Kim Zarzour endeavoured to get both sides of the story with an issue where that's a challenging thing to do.

GENERAL COMMENT

The majority of entries in this category were impressive. Most were thorough and well-written and ticked all the boxes to be strong news stories, but there were a few entries that exceeded that and felt like they were award-worthy. Some of the best entries in this category featured good storytelling to go along with strong reporting and research.

Judge



Greg Sakaki Editor Nanaimo News Bulletin Nanaimo, B.C.

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

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PREMIER AWARDS BEST NEWS STORY ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

22 ENTRIES



MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

 $^{\scriptscriptstyle{ar{\wedge}}}$ This is a difficult topic handled well by Robin Burridge, and with compassion.





Well researched. Well laid out. Well written. Well done Terry Myers.



THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

Good local interest piece. Heather Wright has a great writing style.

GENERAL COMMENT

The category was filled with excellent local stories, running the gamut of possible topics for community interest. There were some incredibly strong contenders, and the final decision was tough. Overall, I'd like to see fewer buried leads, and there were several places articles could have been made far more engaging. News doesn't need to be dry. Start with quotes, use humour where possible, and always ensure the impact or link to the community is at the forefront of the story.

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Judge





Krisi Marples is heading into her 8th year as an editor with various publications within the Advocate Media and Publishing family and is currently at The Saint Croix Courier/Courier Weekend in St. Stephen, New Brunswick. Originally from Ontario, Marples lived in several parts of Canada and the UK, before calling NB home. In the little spare time afforded her between publishing two papers weekly, Marples spends time with her horses, dogs, and husband, enjoying hikes around the province. **18 ENTRIES**

PREMIER AWARDS BEST RURAL STORY ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+



SMITHS FALLS RECORD NEWS

Any story that highlights the concerns and experiences of people we haven't historically seen represented is important. This one did a particularly good job of that, and Evelyn Harford let the voices of the people involved in Smiths Falls' first Pride parade speak for themselves.



WATERDOWN FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW

This is the kind of story community newspapers exist for. Mac Christie did a good job of fleshing out the situation and getting as many voices as possible on the record.



WASAGA/STAYNER SUN

Ian Adams wrote a solid story about a family making an interesting choice for their land that ties into something every farming community in this country is or will be facing. Good writing, good context, good topic.

HONOURABLE MENTION

STONEY CREEK NEWS – This story has plenty of voices, a solid structure, and I came away feeling like I had a grasp on the situation. Really solid work by Mike Pearson on an important matter for this community.

GUELPH MERCURY TRIBUNE - It's a story about a pig re-finding his family. What's not to love here? Great job Graeme McNaughton.

GENERAL COMMENT

There were some strong entries in this category, covering topics ranging from land development and new approaches to agriculture, to a community's first Pride parade. It's so important to amplify voices in rural Canada, especially the ones we don't often hear, and this group of reporters did a fine job at that

Judge

Sarah Ladik Editor The Central Voice Grand Falls-Windsor, NL

Sarah Ladik is an editor for SaltWire in Newfoundland and Labrador and has made a career in small community papers and the stories they can help tell.

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PREMIER AWARDS BEST RURAL STORY ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

22 ENTRIES



BLYTH/BRUSSELS CITIZEN

Lisa B. Pot's story really stood out from the others due to the engaging writing and in-depth research featuring many voices. The importance of the issue to the community was amply demonstrated with the perspective of the key organizations, police and volunteers, while starting the story with the first-hand vignette of encountering homelessness brought the reader right into the issue in a fresh way. Some nice photos, too. Well done.



HUNTSVILLE FORESTER

Alison Brownlee uses a vivid personal story to demonstrate the importance of a much-needed rural service to good effect. The use of multiple sources and factual data backs up the personal experience nicely for a well-rounded exploration of health services in the rural environment.



KINCARDINE INDEPENDENT

Very strong writing by Barb McKay makes a complex issue easier to understand for the average reader. It would have been even stronger with one or two more sources, but overall this story contained a lot of information as well as the perspective of some of those most impacted.

Sponsored by: Ontario Federation of Agriculture

HONOURABLE MENTION

UXBRIDGE TIMES-JOURNAL – Moya Dillon gives us strong writing and interesting content throughout this piece making it a pleasure to read. It perhaps lacks just a little more context from outside the perspective of the interview subjects to demonstrate the scope of the issue.

GENERAL COMMENT

Rural reporting can cover a vast variety of stories, from social issues and lack of services to the ongoing importance of farming in many small communities. The most sureflooted entries to the category this year engaged the reader with the voices of the people who are most deeply involved in the issues in focus and backed up their observations with a healthy dose of data and context. Clear and technically efficient writing, creative juxtapositions and strong images helped propel the winners to the top.

Judge



Elizabeth Nolan Reporter Driftwood Gulf Islands Media Salt Spring Island, BC

Elizabeth Nolan is the winner of 11 Canadian Community Newspaper Awards and BC & Yukon Community News Media Association awards, including seven in first place. In 2018, she was a finalist for the Jack Webster Award for Community News Reporting. Elizabeth has been a full-time staff writer with the Gulf Islands Driftwood on Salt Spring Island, B.C. since 2010.

PREMIER AWARDS

29 ENTRIES BEST FEATURE NEWS SERIES ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+



OSHAWA EXPRESS

Bravo! This series touches all the buttons of excellence. Difficult topic. Hard to find firsthand information and excellent writing, together with a very thoughtful layout, makes Joel Wittnebel's four-part effort a winner.





Tara Gesner's very thorough look at a small town melt down at the hands of the current mayor.



SCARBOROUGH MIRROR

Kudos Mike Adler for staying attached to the East Side Motel. This story deserved to be told and you went the distance.

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HONOURABLE MENTION

AJAX PICKERING NEWS ADVERTISER – Kristen Calis tells us the tragic story about lads gone missing. Remarkable that nothing concrete has been found since. Begs all the questions asked. BARRIE ADVANCE – Wow! What a mess of politics! You almost have to live in Barrie to pick up the subtleties. Good work by Chris Simon and Frank Matys.

STONEY CREEK NEWS – An NDP MPP staffer points out the harassment he's received on the job. Good job by Kevin Werner of carving out his concerns.

GENERAL COMMENT

It is always a challenge for reporters to go after a solid series of stories on any issue. The pressure to produce daily is often grinding. Strong themes emerged from this year's judging. Certainly, political leadership at all levels was important for news coverage this year throughout the province of Ontario. The trafficking of women by pimps is a topic that has emerged from the shadows and rightly so. Not an easy story angle to go after, but well worth tackling. The third strong issue that community newspaper reporters were highlighting in 2018 was eviction and poverty - again an important discussion for the well-being of any community. All very readable work.

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. She's won some regional and national newspaper awards. Currently she is a columnist with the Valley Journal Advertiser and a Wolfville town council member.

PREMIER AWARDS BEST FEATURE NEWS SERIES ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

20 ENTRIES



NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH

Important story and one of public interest at a local and larger provincial and national level. The alienation of those who suffered the Eskimo Experiment and the fact that their numbers are smaller, is significant. This piece written by Michele LeTourneau brings attention to the case. I would have liked to hear more about some of the others.



HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

This is a very important story and it has been well researched and told by Lisa Gervais and Mark Arike. It would be great to have more voices from the parent community to demonstrate how involved parents are in addressing the problem. Also, more details about the kind of bullying on social media and in person, would help to illustrate the range of the problem. This is a difficult story to write because the school board is notoriously difficult to report on. Well done.



MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

These stories reflect personal experiences, which are important matters of public interest and have value because two of them involve requests to life publication bans. Alicia McCutcheon gives us important stories to reflect a cultural change in our ability to discuss sexual assault and rape.

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GENERAL COMMENT

The range of stories and work submitted for this category reflects the power of local publications and demonstrates the important role all these publications play in telling important stories about the communities they report on. Although not every publication can receive an award, there were many entries with award-winning potential. Reporters and writers did an excellent job going deeper into stories about budgeting decisions at the municipal level, the integration of refugee families, the impact of a natural gas project on a local community, and community activism against over development, just to highlight a few. The range of stories and work submitted for this category reflects the power of local publications and demonstrates the important role all these publications play in telling important stories about the communities they report on.

Judge



Sonya Fatah Assistant Professor Ryerson School of Journalism Toronto, ON

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

46 ENTRIES

PREMIER AWARDS SPORT & RECREATION STORY



BARRHAVEN INDEPENDENT

Very well-written piece by Jeff Morris about an important local issue. This piece has broader appeal as well, since it addresses something that is fairly systemic across many types of sports. Props for well-done interviews, a good lede and citing specific examples. Suggestions for improvement: Writing could be tighter. Watch erroneous use of the word 'that.' Break up quotes and paragraphs a bit more.



SARNIA JOURNAL

Tara Jeffrey gives us a story with an impact. Suggestion for improvement: Be consistent with name use (for instance – it can be confusing if you call Peyton by her last name in one paragraph but also call Paul by the same last name in another).



DUNDAS STAR NEWS

Overall very well written by Craig Campbell on an important local topic. Suggestion for improvement: This article buries the impact of the current situation in a lengthy third paragraph. Having that right up under the lede would help.

HONOURABLE MENTION

NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH – Including the part about maintenance was a nice touch. Wellwritten local story by Derek Neary with a broader appeal. Suggestion for improvement: Any snowmobiling experience that stands out to these riders would help bring this article home to readers.

GENERAL COMMENT

A diverse spread of topics by talented writers helped to make this category a pleasure to judge. My major criticism is that many of these stories lacked good presentation. We sadly live in a time of increasingly short attention spans, and book-like paragraphs and quotes ensure articles reach fewer people than they otherwise might.

Judge

April Hudson Editor St. Albert Gazette St. Albert, AB



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

PREMIER AWARDS BEST HEADLINE WRITING

14 ENTRIES



SARNIA JOURNAL

Some great headlines here. Not pteroble at all, that Jurassic review headline reminds me of bad dad jokes (being that I am a dad who likes bad jokes, I hope to use it one of these days). That being said, these headlines are fun, get the reader involved and have some humour to them. Well done.



PERTH COURIER

Oh dear. Urine, 50 Shades of Brown?!?!?! A great set of headlines to spark some conversation and to get people reading. Is it bad to admit I enjoyed reading about paint and pee?



GUELPH MERCURY TRIBUNE

Humour can be found in serious stories but also, these creative headlines are able to delve into serious subjects while giving the reader a picturesque headline. These were a joy to read and be inspired by.

GENERAL COMMENT

Puns are punny and then topical headlines make you laugh, or think, while giving a reader an understanding of what the topic is about. It was these, and having fun with the written word, that had me laughing but also kept me reading. Deck headlines are also good, but this is about headline writing. Great stuff.

Judge

Jeff Heyden-Kaye Editor Ponoka News/Bashaw Star Ponoka, AB



Jeffrey Heyden-Kaye is the editor for Ponoka News and Bashaw Star. Jeff is trained as a photographer and started out as a reporter with Ponoka News in 2011 and has worked in the news industry since then, receiving photographic and writing awards with the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association and the Canadian Community Newspaper Awards.

ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION

PREMIER AWARDS HUMOUR COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

10 ENTRIES



NORTH RENFREW TIMES | VANCE GUTZMAN

Tears of laughter combined with tears of sadness. These are heartwarming stories because they come from the heart and yet I couldn't stop myself from snorting or laughing out loud. Punching dad in the nose, indeed.



MANOTICK MESSENGER | JEFF MORRIS

These are a joy to read. A Fish Called Panda takes the gluten-free cake for funny columns. These were all a joy to read with each line bringing a new experience for the reader. Thanks!



UXBRIDGE COSMOS | LISHA VAN NIEUWENHOVE

There are some great moments in these pieces that are very personal but take a lighthearted personal look at oneself and life. Fun to read and I couldn't believe my eyes reading: "He was starkers, save his socks and dress shoes." Brilliant.

Judge



Editor Ponoka News/Bashaw Star Ponoka, AB

Jeff Heyden-Kaye

Jeffrey Heyden-Kaye is the editor for Ponoka News and Bashaw Star. Jeff is trained as a photographer and started out as a reporter with Ponoka News in 2011 and has worked in the news industry since then, receiving photographic and writing awards with the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association and the Canadian Community Newspaper Awards.

GENERAL COMMENT

We need more humour in our lives and this category is great to see and read. It's difficult to judge such excellent writing but the standouts were ones that took the idea of humour and ran away with it. They had me laughing and thinking throughout and that's what makes a humour column stand out.

PREMIER AWARDS COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

23 ENTRIES



VANKLEEK HILL REVIEW | JACQUIE SEVERS

Twin Perks is such a great read with a mom dealing with twins and the ups and downs and eyes rolling back in their heads from eating too much. Great to have this perspective in the newspaper. I would recommend that if the column continues, to submit it to the humour competition as well.



NIAGARA THIS WEEK, FORT ERIE POST | JAMES CULIC

Great pieces in this series. The writer hits a nerve or an emotion or a laugh in every single column. That lighthouse issue really IS ludicrous, and I was up in arms about it. Well done.



MANOTICK MESSENGER | JEFF MORRIS

Well written stories in these columns. A joy to read and worth the time to consider what is being written. Well done.

Judge



Editor Ponoka News/Bashaw Star Ponoka, AB

Jeff Heyden-Kaye

Jeffrey Heyden-Kaye is the editor for Ponoka News and Bashaw Star. Jeff is trained as a photographer and started out as a reporter with Ponoka News in 2011 and has worked in the news industry since then, receiving photographic and writing awards with the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association and the Canadian Community Newspaper Awards.

GENERAL COMMENT

The top three columnist submissions in this category stood out for their research, complex discussions and willingness to "go there" and take on a contentious topic. It doesn't always have to be that way with columns, but these were the ones that made me agree with their opinion and had me change my mind, and in some cases want to write a letter to the editor.

PREMIER AWARDS REPORTER OF THE YEAR

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12 ENTRIES

NEWMARKET ERA/AURORA BANNER | LISA QUEEN

Lisa Queen certainly has a nose for news. With little to go on each time, she ended up crafting three stories that must surely have rocked her community. The best example of that was taking a small reference in a story on predator priests in Pennsylvania and using it to expose a little-known facility in her community that was being used to "launder" priests. Well done. Lisa.



RICHMOND HILL/THORNHILL LIBERAL | KIM ZARZOUR

Kim Zarzour takes readers on a journey that few writers have the skills to offer. Not only does she seek out compelling storylines and build trust with sources, but she weaves their tales in a way that immerses readers into a story. Her hard-hitting, but tasteful handling of the horse tragedy in Stouffville was exceptional.



PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK | TODD VANDONK

Todd Vandonk did a masterful job of giving Peterborough readers a glimpse of the underbelly of their community through his series. Rather than focus on those who commit the crimes, he was able to tell the often-heartbreaking stories of their victims with compassion and clarity.

HONOURABLE MENTION

MARKHAM ECONOMIST & SUN | JEREMY GRIMALDI – Jeremy Grimaldi goes far deeper than just superficial reporting on crime and courts. He goes behind the headlines to unearth stories, including an eye-opening piece on how there's a trend toward stiffer sentences for first-time drunk drivers.

GENERAL COMMENT

After reading through all the entries, it became clear this category was a two-reporter race, both of whom produced outstanding work. Lisa Queen's industrious reporting ultimately won out, but Kim Zarzour's storytelling is equally exceptional. To become Reporter of the Year, you can't just cover your beats well, you must get behind the scenes and then you must tell the stories you uncover in a compelling fashion. There was evidence of this from many of the entrants but the top two took it to an entirely different level.

Judge

Ted Murphy Editor Delta Optimist Ladner, BC

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

PREMIER AWARDS BEST PHOTO LAYOUT

34 ENTRIES



FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

Riverfest Elora 2018 – Great job to Jaime Myslik, Chris Daponte and Jacqueline Furfaro. One of the best photo layouts I've seen. Quality of photography, layout and design received top scores.



AJAX PICKERING NEWS ADVERTISER

Awesome time at OFSSA – Ryan Pfeiffer – Awesome time! Awesome photos! Great layout. Missed first place as one pic could have benefited from tighter cropping.



MIDLAND/PENETANGUISHENE MIRROR

Sainte-Marie among the Hurons welcomes 2,000 students – Great content by Gisele Winton-Sarvis. Compelling layout with lots of white space and sharp photos.

HONOURABLE MENTION

VOICE OF PELHAM – Amazing, Fabulous, Remarkable – Excellent job on a difficult photo shoot. Obviously, a great deal of time and effort went into this feature by David Burket and Don Rickers, and I'm sure your readers appreciated it.

ALEXANDRIA GLENGARRY NEWS – Why everyone loves the games – Loved those photos! Great shooting by Tara MacDonald.

GENERAL COMMENT

It's not always easy working for community newspapers (read understaffed and underpaid). From what I can see staff are giving it their all - in order to provide subscribers with the best possible product.

Judge

Carol Farnalls Former Publisher Barrhead Leader

Barrhead, AB



After over 30 years in the community newspaper industry, Carol Farnalls retired and relocated to B.C. from Alberta. Now semi-retired, although no longer with the industry, she remains a huge fan of community newspapers and their dedicated teams.

PREMIER AWARDS BEST FEATURE PHOTO ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+

30 ENTRIES

This Week. 🛓

CULLEN PARK REVIVAL

WHITBY THIS WEEK

So many really great decisions were made to create this image! The positioning of the subject relative to the sun creates a fascinating play of light and shadow. The shutter speed freezes the water droplets and hair to illustrate movement. The position of the camera at water level. The choice of lens focal length and aperture. I could go on. This is a beautifully rendered photograph with arresting impact. Full marks to Ryan Pfeiffer. Well done!



ETOBICOKE GUARDIAN

A family portrait with wonderful spontaneity. Justin Greaves gets a good capture of the moment and it is technically well rendered.



NIAGARA THIS WEEK, FORT ERIE POST

A fine, well-composed image. Excellent placement of subjects in frame, and the elements in the frame are well balanced. Captures action and stands on its own to tell a story. Well done James Culic! Main subjects would stand out from background more by selecting larger aperture to create shallower depth of field.

HONOURABLE MENTION

GENERAL COMMENT

This year's category entries displayed a wide-variation in content and in how the photographers approached their subjects. The level of creativity and talent presented was again a welcome experience. As is always the case, there were images that stood out from the others and while, for me, choosing the first place selection was relatively easy, selecting the second, third and honourable mention placements was a real challenge because of how well overall they were executed and demonstrated. Proof – once again – that there is plenty of really-outstanding talent in Canada's smaller community news markets. Photojournalism requires technical skill and artistic talent combined with a reporter's eye for an image that can stand on its own to tell a story and draw the reader to the written story the photograph supports with visual illustration. Feature photography can sometimes allow for more preparation time than, say, what is allowed for spot news or sports shooting, but in all cases the photographer must be ready - combining his or her skills and experience to recognize and be ready for the decisive moment that will reveal the photograph that will capture the import of that fraction of a second and present it to the reader. The entrants in this category all expressed that ability that is the hallmark of good photojournalism. Well done.

Judge

Chris Bush Photographer Nanaimo News Bulletin Nanaimo, BC



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

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PREMIER AWARDS BEST FEATURE PHOTO ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

16 ENTRIES



VANKLEEK HILL REVIEW

This photo by Cedric Bertrand topped what I consider to be a 'feature' photo! Excellent exposure, great idea. Certainly, most deserving of first place. Congratulations!





Great observation on the part of Steven Larocque of what was happening around the Canada Day celebrations. Great exposure. Congratulations!



KINCARDINE INDEPENDENT

Good work on the part of Tammy Schneider to see this amongst much happenings and to be able to capture a well exposed action shot. Congratulations.

GENERAL COMMENT

A lot of the photos entered in this year's 'Best Feature Photo' lacked the 'feature' concept. Most were just covering news. However, the winners did take on the challenge of creating some every day activities to make it much more than just news. First place was a great photo that drew every eye to it, followed by the superb quality photos of the young man jumping through the garden sprinkler and jumping off the pier. Congratulations to all for great work.

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 and she credits all her knowledge of newspapering to her attendance at almost all community newspaper functions throughout her 38 years.

PREMIER AWARDS BEST SPORTS PHOTO

39 ENTRIES



ORLEANS STAR

Mike Beasley of the Orleans Star scored the highest because of his rugby action capture having impact and high sports value. The three female rugby players about to collide in the mud and falling rain offer facial expressions, gritty ambience and determination in their eyes, as well as body language.





Ryan Pfeiffer's frisbee action offered expression between the two combatants, peak action was captured. And a nice use of depth of field too.





THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

Depth of field was also used to help with the impact of Bruce Smith's hurdler floating over the hurdle en route to the finish line. The eyes, and strain in the face provided impact.

Judge

Jules Xavier Editor CFB Shilo Stag CFB Shilo, MB



HONOURABLE MENTION

FORT FRANCES TIMES – Jamie Mountain's soccer header capture offered the viewer an impactful action shot from the pitch, with the expression of the opponent adding to the overall impact as the leaping player takes the ball off the forehead.

GENERAL COMMENT

Impact and sports value were the difference in finishing first among 39 entries, with second to fourth close based on a single scoring point amongst the three entries. Plenty of basic sports photos were offered up, but they lacked impact and passion in drawing the reader to that page. The facial expressions bring the sports ACTION to life in a one-dimensional capture. Play your sports action big, whether colour or black and white for them to have impact on the page. Think about composition when shooting sports ... fill the frame and capture the peak action. Some sports are played vertically, so take the photo in that format and do not crop it on your sports pages (basketball for example). Having left mainstream media in 2012 to pursue a job with the

Canadian Armed Forces, 60-year-old Jules Xavier landed the editor's job with the 71-year-old award-winning Stag newspaper located at CFB Shilo, an army training base in southern Manitoba. Lots of fun covering the artillery and infantry soldiers in action here. Looking back on his journalism career, Xavier was hired as a reporter with the Brampton Guardian in 1984, while enrolled at Humber College. His initial interest in journalism was piqued while at York University, where he was sports editor of the campus newspaper, Excalibur. He's worked all over the country, with stints at Timmins Daily Press as its sports editor, as well as five years working for the Timmins Times and Telemedia's Q92/CKGB as a news announcer and city hall radio reporter. Then it was off to Western Canada, where he worked as a sports editor and later editor of the award-winning Times Advertiser. After brief stops in Quesnel, BC, and Westlock, AB, Xavier headed to old stomping grounds from his youth growing up on Vancouver Island when his father was with the RCAF. He wore two hats with the Comox Valley Record, as its assistant and entertainment/business editors, but also saw time on the sports desk and in the photo studio as community newspapers drew on staff with multiple talents. After 35-plus years in the media, he's found his niche working for the Canadian Armed Forces. Looking back on his love of newspapers, it came when he read his first copy of the CFB Comox Totem Times, then delivered the Kingston Whig Standard while in junior high living at CFB Kingston, ON.

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PREMIER AWARDS BEST SPOT NEWS PHOTO

26 ENTRIES



THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

A dramatic shot of the moment fire service volunteers, firefighters and paramedics, working together, lift a vehicular accident victim from the ditch to a waiting stretcher and ambulance. Heather Wright made sure to get to the right place at the right time for this winning photo. Congratulations!





EGANVILLE LEADER

The scope and scale of the fire, as well as the destruction it caused, was well captured by Bruce McIntyre. A shot like this definitely gets our attention and makes you want to read further to get the details. Bravo!



HALDIMAND COUNTY, THE SACHEM

Of the many fire shots to choose from, this one stood out because Tamara Botting was apparently on the scene and in the heat of the action before the fire trucks arrived. A great photo that one does not see every day. Well done!

GENERAL COMMENT

Outstanding group of photos and a hard category to judge because the quality of most of the shots were so high. Great job everyone.

Sponsored by: Star Metroland Media, Southwestern Ontario Division

Judge

Anthony Bonaparte Associate Editor The Suburban Saint Laurent, Quebec

For the past 12 years, Anthony Bonaparte has been the associate editor, the arts & life editor and special section editor at The Suburban, Quebec's largest English weekly newspaper. During his more than 20 years in the industry, Anthony has won numerous Quebec Community Newspaper Association awards (QCNA) as well as a North American (SNA/IWA) and Canadian (CCNA) award for his writing, editing, and the editorial cartoons created under his pen name, Napoleon.

PREMIER AWARDS BEST NEWS PHOTO



38 ENTRIES

OSHAWA THIS WEEK

A very dramatic photo of a dramatic moment that not only grabs your attention but tugs at your heart. The candid framing by Sabrina Byrnes adds intimacy as well as a certain voyeuristic aspect to the shot. Great work!



NORTH YORK MIRROR

The photo says it all. A sad and reflective moment well captured by Justin Greaves. Nicely done!



BRAMPTON GUARDIAN

These types of photos can easily be perceived in many different ways - from schmaltzy and tacky to overly cliched to awkward and clumsy. I'm not sure exactly where this photo by Riziero Vertolli lands, since it may be all of the above, but kept me looking. Good job!

Judge





For the past 12 years, Anthony Bonaparte has been the associate editor, the arts & life editor and special section editor at The Suburban, Quebec's largest English weekly newspaper. During his more than 20 years in the industry, Anthony has won numerous Quebec Community Newspaper Association awards (QCNA) as well as a North American (SNA/LWA) and Canadian (CCNA) award for his writing, editing, and the editorial cartoons created under his pen name, Napoleon.

GENERAL COMMENT

Great collection of photos featuring a nice variety of events. Many fine photographers filled this category. Well done.

ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION

PREMIER AWARDS MOST CREATIVE GRIP AND GRIN PHOTO

9 ENTRIES



BURLINGTON POST

Love this idea, taken by Nikki Wesley. It certainly got people to look and read because who has ever seen a librarian with her feet up reading at work! Very good idea and I like the composition of the entire photo.



CAMBRIDGE TIMES

This was a superb idea with obvious participants totally brought into it which sometimes is a struggle for photographers. Great work by Bill Doucet!



PERTH COURIER

A very good idea. Action is important compared to stagnant. Good work by Desmond Devoy!

GENERAL COMMENT

The first place photo impressed this judge because of the thought put to the background. Excellently choreographed photo for the simple subject of retirement. Second place was granted to the Harvest Moon Shine as the photographer put a great deal of thought with outfits, location, subject matter and the action captured. I'm sure tempted to do a closeup but in my opinion, it had more impact in this case shooting it further back. Third place could have only been better if all the balls were coming towards the camera! It takes thought and pre-planning for grip and grins and then it takes the ability to talk those in the photo to co-operate. Good job to all the photographers.

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 and she credits all her knowledge of newspapering to her attendance at almost all community newspaper functions throughout her 38 years.

PREMIER AWARDS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

4 ENTRIES







OSHAWA THIS WEEK | RYAN PFEIFFER

Ryan Pfeiffer's photos really stand out. He knows where to be and when to be there. Good use of his gear, clean composition – great stuff! Feature: Wonderful use of colour & composition. The photo has a very natural flow and feel about it. Community: Pure humanity, capturing one of life's beautiful moments. Spot: A low angle used in this photo helps to place the subject into the situation. At this point we don't know how serious things are or could get. Sports: It's not difficult to get a couple of good track and field shots but to get a page of great ones takes talent. News: Great lighting really accentuated the subject capturing a very punchy image.

AJAX PICKERING NEWS ADVERTISER | SABRINA BYRNES

Sabrina Byrnes shows great passion in her work, with lots of emotion captured in her photography. Feature: Great images that really get you to study the subjects. Good use of a long lens to blur out the background Community: Good timing to capture a mothers' reaction and emotion. Spot: A good use of backlighting helps to accentuate the water spray of the fire fighters. Sports: Good timing as both horses are captured in mid-air. Crisp and sharp. The jockey's facial expression really adds to the feel of the image. News: The sadness of the subject is reflected in the compassionate portrayal of a grieving mother. Events such as these must be treated carefully as not to take advantage of the subject while still telling the story at hand, this photo does that very well.

THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON | HEATHER WRIGHT

Heather Wright's photos show a variety of subjects photographed in a variety of ways, using different lenses and shooting at various vantage points helping to accentuate what she is trying to capture. Feature: Positioning gives the viewer the perspective of the girls, a great way to tell the story. Community: The facial expression of the girl tells it all, a nice tight shot captures the moment beautifully. Spot: A lot captured here, a good overall view of a tense scene. Sports: Good emotion and a clean background are the strengths in this shot. News: A good strong image to tell the story.

HONOURABLE MENTION

ORLEANS STAR I FRED SHERWIN – Fred Sherwin's photographs are clean, well composed and visually interesting. Feature: A simple portrait with the elements needed make for a clean image. Community: The excitement of the little boy says it all. Right place and right time awarded Fred with a very expressive image. Spot: A clean composition and good facial expression help to make the photo pop. Sports: A nice tight shot that shows intense emotion on the face of the rugby player. News: Good composition leads you into the story. That's the strength of this photo.

GENERAL COMMENT

This year's entries are a great selection of high-quality images. Strengths include good use of composition, colour, angle and subject matter. Congratulations to all who entered. Your photography enhances and helps your publications to shine.

Judge

Mike Wakefield Photographer North Shore News North Vancouver, BC



Mike Wakefield graduated from Emily Carr University majoring in photography and sculpture, and for the past 34 years has worked full time as a photographer for the North Shore News, specializing in many subjects including editorial, food, fashion, portraiture and products. He has published photographs in the North Shore News, Look Magazine, Vancouver Sun, Province Newspaper, Globe & Mail, New York Times, Readers' Digest, Fine Woodworking, Georgia Straight and the Knowledge Network. Mike has won awards with both the Suburban Newspapers of America and the British Columbia and Yukon Community Newspaper Association and was a 2011 FANS (Fund for the Arts on the North Shore) recipient.

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. ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION

PREMIER AWARDS CARTOONIST OF THE YEAR

4 ENTRIES



ANCASTER NEWS | MIKE VUKOVICH

Mike Vukovich's cartoons are very well drawn with a clean design that is eye catching and easy for the reader to interpret. His concepts are clear and unambiguous with a wry, sardonic sense of humour.





ORLEANS STAR | SARAH CHAPLIN

Sarah Chaplin combines a spare style with good draftsmanship for clear communication of the message.





CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS | JAMES LAPIERRE

James Lapierre uses a natural hand-drawn style as a vehicle for his humourous messages.

Judge



Bruce MacKinnon Editorial Cartoonist The Chronicle Herald Halifax, NS

For more than 30 years, Bruce MacKinnon has been the editorial cartoonist for the Halifax Chronicle Herald. Over his career he has won numerous regional, national and international awards. His work has been published and exhibited all over the world and is part of the permanent collections of the National Archives of Canada, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and the St. FXU Art Gallery. He is a member of the Order of Nova Scotia and the Order of Canada.

GENERAL COMMENT

This year's entries exhibited some good drawing styles and clever comments on local issues. Clean design, originality and solid messages on relevant issues determined the best entries.

PREMIER AWARDS COMMUNITY SERVICE

5 ENTRIES



The Waterdown Review

100 YEARS

UXBRIDGE COSMOS

13 WAYS TO KILL YOUR COMMUNITY – This is a great topic, and you've done a lot of work in covering it and presenting it to your community. Your information covered a wide base of interviews with community members and council, as well as information from Doug Griffiths. You supported it well through your articles, editorials and ads. You made this a topic that applied to every single person living in your community, showing the good and the not-so-good.

WATERDOWN FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW

100TH ANNIVERSARY – I like that the Review actually hosted the debate. That's a great outreach to the community and engages government with the residents. The 100 Year edition was well done. It has a good review of the paper's history in the community, and the stories are nicely organized with community involvement, showing a dedication that hasn't changed, even if journalism styles have.



AYLMER EXPRESS

3 PORT TOUR – This is a great example of being involved in the community and helping to organize events and promote them. This has been a well-rounded submission, but the follow-up article could perhaps have been a little more organized – it presumes everyone knows what is being discussed and doesn't give some of the basic information needed for those who haven't read the other articles. I think that you need to promote the cause more in terms of who is receiving the funds. What are the funds going to, what specifically will they be used for, who is affected? Good photos and involvement shown.

GENERAL COMMENT

When we look at the change in newspapers – the disappearance of so many of our newspaper friends – it becomes more important than ever for us to be committed to our community. If we're committed, they'll commit back, and that will keep us being an integral part of the community and help keep that community vibrant and connected. Sometimes in our years of training we're told that we shouldn't be involved in our community because it ruins our objectivity. That's just not true. It never has been, and never will be. We need to be a part of the community in order to do our jobs, and to ensure our commitment to the people we serve. It's what will keep us - and our communities – alive.

Judge

Sheena Read Freelance Journalist Alberta



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

PREMIER AWARDS BEST VERTICAL PRODUCT

30 ENTRIES



HAMILTON MOUNTAIN NEWS

REDISCOVER HAMILTON COMMUNITY GUIDE – This is a high standard community guide. It provides good information, is well designed, has a substantial amount of advertising and very creatively uses a front gate fold to provide added premium positions at the front of the magazine.



HUNTSVILLE FORESTER

MUSKOKA LIFE – The largest and most professional magazine of the entries, beautifully designed with great information. However, you are 16 pages in before getting to the contents pages and some might have given up before that. There are times you're not sure whether you are reading advertising or editorial copy.



FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

VISIT ELORA AND FERGUS – GRAND AND GORGEOUS – A new way to produce a tourism booklet. Partnering with a local B & B organization, Grand and Gorgeous was indeed that through both content and design.

GENERAL COMMENT

Overall the entries in this category were great additions to the newspapers that produced them. In general, they were all very relative to their community and the content was much the same. Although there were a few creative publications - the design is mainly where the verticals stood out from one another. Many beautiful magazines made judging difficult. More information on the revenue/profitability of the verticals would have been helpful in the decision-making process. Congratulations to you all. There is a lot of outstanding work being done.



Dave Hamilton General Manager Delta Optimist Ladner, BC



Dave Hamilton is General Manager at the Delta Optimist, a community newspaper in British Columbia owned by Glacier Media. He has been working with Glacier since 1989 starting in sales, moving to sales manager and eventually GM. His newspaper career began as a summer hire doing paste-up and ad layout in Terrace BC where he spent seven years going from production to sales to publisher. He has had experience in all aspects of the newspaper industry including writing, taking photos, ad design and layout, sales and even inserting flyers. "My love for community and for newspapers plus a competitive nature to strive to be the best have been a great combination in this life-long career."

PREMIER AWARDS BEST FRONT PAGE ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+

27 ENTRIES



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

I loved everything about this front page: killer photo used well (I wasn't even too bothered by the banner inset on the photo), simple but strong layout. When I opened this page, I said "wow" aloud.



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

A solid front page. Good, clean design that works even in the absence of a dramatic photo. Great use of white space.



NIAGARA THIS WEEK, ST. CATHARINES

I looked at all of the Metroland papers with the same basic design, but this was perhaps the best use of the very cramped space. I might have killed the teasers on the right side and used Steve Henschel's wonderful photo larger.

HONOURABLE MENTION NIAGARA THIS WEEK, FORT ERIE POST CALEDON ENTERPRISE

GENERAL COMMENT

Many of the entries featured the same basic design, which, while modular, is cramped and overloaded with small ads. Even the best photos and layout are competing with these elements. I don't believe this is the staff and papers' best face forward. A handful made the most of the situation. The papers that stood out featured great photography and/or strong, clean design.

> Sponsored by: Laurentian Publishing

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 FRONT PAGE ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

20 ENTRIES





Wow! The photo of the fire is fantastic! It definitely draws the readers' attention, no doubt about it. It would have been beneficial to have the story started on the front page as well, but the story about the mobile college was informative. Excellent decision to run the photo over the entire front page columns. I had no hesitation when giving this one top marks.



EGANVILLE LEADER

Both photos on this front page were fantastic, particularly the bottom photo of the fires. To see firefighters silhouetted fighting the flames was a real bonus to the reader. I would have run the first photo above the fold and the crash photo (which has no human face in it like the fire photo) below. Fantastic effort!



Plenty of points of entry on this front page and a couple of great articles. Photography is beautiful.

Sponsored by: Laurentian Publishing

Judge Jackie Jardine



GENERAL COMMENT

It was an absolute delight to read and judge all of the entries in the Best Front Page category this year. All 20 submissions were outstanding and difficult to rank based on their appeal and relevance to the reader, layout/design, content, photography and more. It is evident these newspapers work hard to present the best stories, photos and more to their community. Keep up the excellent work!

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!

Editor

Pictou Advocate Pictou, NS

22 ENTRIES

PREMIER AWARDS SPECIAL SECTION ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+



FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS – Very nice section! A great community keepsake. Loved the focus on each department of the paper. Very well presented. Congratulations!



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CELEBRATIONS – Very well put together. Nice clean professional section. Well done.



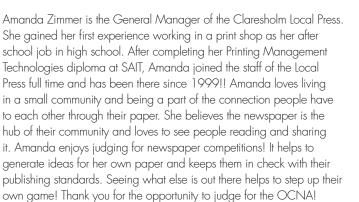
ALLISTON HERALD

POTATO FESTIVAL – Excellent! Very easy to read. Sounds like a fun festival! Great photos to support the short stories make readers want to attend!

Judge



Amanda Zimmer General Manager Claresholm Local Press Claresholm, AB



GENERAL COMMENT

Great sections. Excellent representation of our industry. Keep up the good work!

PREMIER AWARDS SPECIAL SECTION ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

14 ENTRIES



NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH

OPPORTUNITIES NORTH – The sheer amount of editorial content in this special section was exciting to see and to read. Lots of detail on every sector of the local economy, and where it's all headed. Strong photography and graphic design, complete with graphs and pie charts, complemented the section which was printed on high grade stock.





IRISH EDITION – Everyone loves a special section that is based on an original idea. Folks who read the Irish Edition have enjoyed 7 annual editions. Fun backed up with good stories photos and graphic design.



WINCHESTER PRESS

130 YEARS OF STORIES – When you have a horn, toot it. Rich with community history and great stories, the staff of the Press have put together a strong section for the readers, with strong graphic elements presented on a high-grade stock. Well done.

Judge

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



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

GENERAL COMMENT

It's always an interesting category to judge to see what original ideas might become special publications. The offerings are as diverse as the ideas and topics. The challenge is to find a unique perspective on a tried and true feature and complement it with strong layout and presentation. Some entries were able to accomplish both those tasks.

PREMIER AWARDS BEST SPORTS SECTION

FORT FRANCES TIMES

Reporter-generated local content, features, quality of writing and action photography were the difference in scoring the Fort Frances Times first among the 18 best sports section entries. The sports coverage was good, but hockey heavy. Include more people stories, and less scoring summaries. How was the game won, no matter what the sport, and include more action photos. Overall – great sport sections!

WATERDOWN FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW

The Waterdown Flamborough Review did a great job of telling stories. Glad to see some feature writing, too. And remember, less is more, and white space is your friend. Use your team photos on the social media platforms, not your sports pages. Use action photos! Good leads and strong writing.

HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

It was great to see high school coverage in the Haliburton County Echo, and not just hockey. If you are promoting teams going to OFSSA or COSSA, then use action photos from previous games. Or go to a practice and the athletes practicing. Remember action vs passive photos make the best sports sections. Good work.

Judge

HONOURABLE MENTION

NUNAVUT NEWS/NORTH – Nunavut News offered up awesome artwork but needed to provide its readers with more story-telling from the trout fishing derby or the unique sporting events played in the far north.

GENERAL COMMENT

Sports is still an important component to community journalism and should be reflected in the pages of the community newspaper, and many of these submissions had limited sports coverage. A few papers were OHL heavy in coverage, with similar teams appearing in several papers instead of letting that section showcase what's happening in its own backyard. A reliance on hockey-heavy sports pages does not provide the overall sporting community, like what's happening on the high school sports beat or club sports scene? Some sports sections seem to be an afterthought based on space allocation. And there's a reliance on running team photos. Use these on your sport social media platforms, and have your coverage focus on the actual athletes and teams doing battle. And more features! Have fun with your sports sections, including the layout. White space is good, pull quotes, break up copy-heavy pages. Moreover, the quality of sports writing was absent on a lot of pages. Quotes at the bottom of the story that describe in detail how each goal or point was scored is lazy writing. Tell us how the team won by talking to the coaches and athletes. Let their insight add colour to the game.

Editor CFB Shilo Stag CFB Shilo, MB

Jules Xavier



Having left mainstream media in 2012 to pursue a job with the Canadian Armed Forces, 60-year-old Jules Xavier landed the editor's job

with the 71-year-old award-winning Stag newspaper located at CFB Shilo, an army training base in southern Manitoba. Lots of fun covering the artillery and infantry soldiers in action here. Looking back on his journalism career, Xavier was hired as a reporter with the Brampton Guardian in 1984, while enrolled at Humber College. His initial interest in journalism was piqued while at York University, where he was sports editor of the campus newspaper, Excalibur. He's worked all over the country, with stints at Timmins Daily Press as its sports editor, as well as five years working for the Timmins Times and Telemedia's Q92/CKGB as a news announcer and city hall radio reporter. Then it was off to Western Canada, where he worked as a sports editor and later editor of the award-winning Times Advertiser. After brief stops in Quesnel, BC, and Westlock, AB, Xavier headed to old stomping grounds from his youth growing up on Vancouver Island when his father was with the RCAF. He wore two hats with the Comox Valley Record, as its assistant and entertainment/business editors, but also saw time on the sports desk and in the photo studio as community newspapers drew on staff with multiple talents. After 35-plus years in the media, he's found his niche working for the Canadian Armed Forces. Looking back on his love of newspapers, it came when he read his first copy of the CFB Comox Totem Times, then delivered the Kingston Whig Standard while in junior high living at CFB Kingston, ON.

18 ENTRIES







PREMIER AWARDS BEST CREATIVE AD

24 ENTRIES







The story behind the creation of the ad shows how much thought and effort went into its creation. Good on you.



CALEDON ENTERPRISE BRIGHT! Nice layout too.

Judge

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



GENERAL COMMENT

For this category, entries really should be focused on original content in the layout. Top scoring submissions did that. The top three ads this year had either a strong visual impact on the page, or it was clear a lot of work went into creating the ad. Some tips for future entries – straight forward flyer style or car dealer lifts of existing materials are not going to get many points, and for heaven's sakes...do not submit an ad with a typo. Hard to believe it got approved, and that it ran...but also to submit to an award show? No, no, NO!

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

PREMIER AWARDS IN HOUSE PROMOTION



19 ENTRIES

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

Great use of spacing on page. The choice to not use a border draws the reader's eye in to a centreplaced ad. Also, the positioning within arts and entertainment editorial surround is perfect. The ad itself is well designed. Great use of spacing, image placement and sentence leading. Although multiple fonts are in use, they work well together and in concert with the movie choice – SPOTLIGHT. The ad feels almost like a movie ad, with reviews, in its design. Strong use of colour. The red encourages the reader to flow through the ad text and the slant to the red banner at the bottom ads some whimsy. Overall, great ad.

The Oshawa Express Well Written. Well Read.

www.oshawaexpress.ca



OSHAWA EXPRESS

Great ad. Strong use of moving quick imagery, interspersed with slightly longer text slides focusing on key aspects of the newspaper. Static masthead continues to maintain brand awareness through the short 15s spot. In-depth, local coverage comes out loud and clear. Great use of sound matching to the visuals and strong end slide directing people to the website. Possibly a bit too fast for all the text to be read. Consider removing one frame. ('Your Community Newspaper' and 'The City We Live In' are repetitive – choose one to aid in recall as the ad is very fast). I would have liked to know more about the placement of the ad. Focusing on geotargeting online impressions to Oshawa on relevant websites / suitable YouTube video pre-rolls would have only added to the credibility of the ad. Especially as one of the points was 'The City We Live In'.

THE INDEPENDENT SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

Striking ad that demands attention. Nice use of visuals to draw readers in to numbers and statistics. Concept is attractive, well designed and unique.

HONOURABLE MENTION

SCARBOROUGH MIRROR – Well-designed ad. Great us of colour and circle imagery to highlight the message. Clean design, crisp aerial photographic imagery of an urban setting, and the use of green strongly supports the message promoting the Urban Hero Winners. The ad is attention-grabbing and effective. The assumption I have is that this ad is within a larger publication which explains and extolls the virtue of the Urban Hero program. (Otherwise, if it's a stand-alone, the ad should explain what the program is or include a link for more info.)

GENERAL COMMENT

I enjoyed reviewing all the entries and seeing the creativity in the Ontario community newspaper industry. Entries submitted were unique and well-crafted, with their target audiences in mind. As well, many ads were designed for specific placement – choosing section or place on page in order to enhance their messages with a positive editorial surround. The people who work in the community newspaper industry (with their newspaper, digital and social products) continue to support and enhance the lives of the communities of Ontario in which they service and live. Well done!

Judge

Karen Kavanagh Coordinator, Advertising Algonquin College Ottawa, ON



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

PREMIER AWARDS LOCAL RETAIL LAYOUT

25 ENTRIES



FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

Now that's a car advertisement! Clean lay out, easy to read with plenty of information. Definitely an award winner.



CEDAR WINDS

KINCARDINE INDEPENDENT

Great campaign to promote local businesses. I can see why the advertisers were pleased. Great idea. Great looking ads and layout moved this feature into one of the top spots.

HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

This design really popped. Nice, clean layout. After reading the ad I wanted to build that home.

Sponsored by: Metro Creative Graphics

HONOURABLE MENTION

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR – Although placed on a very crowded page this ad owned the space.

NEWMARKET ERA/AURORA BANNER – Great looking grocery ad. Perhaps the line should have been after the price, so as to keep the product description and price together.

GENERAL COMMENT

Overall, this competition was difficult to judge as there were so many memorable entries. The community newspapers I looked at should be proud. In a tight market, they are doing a great job.

Judge

Carol Farnalls Former Publisher Barrhead Leader Barrhead, AB



After over 30 years in the community newspaper industry, Carol Farnalls retired and relocated to B.C. from Alberta. Now semi-retired, although no longer with the industry, she remains a huge fan of community newspapers and their dedicated teams.

22 ENTRIES

PREMIER AWARDS ORIGINAL AD IDEA

ANOTHER LAWYER

LEBOLAW Bram Lebo LLB 705-455-6355

JUST WHAT THIS TOWN NEEDS.



HALIBURTON, THE HIGHLANDER

Attention getting. A bit of a risk but I think it was worth it. Less is more.



GUELPH MERCURY TRIBUNE

Fun ad with fun elements. Someone had some fun with Photoshop and searching for Halloween fonts. That said the ad is still readable and gets attention. It is never easy when you must use so much of the ad for legal type.



THE HALDIMAND PRESS

An interesting read. Well-illustrated and colourful. Giving an advertiser the ability to tell their story is great for the advertiser and readers alike.

HONOURABLE MENTION

FERGUS WELLINGTON ADVERTISER – Nice, clean and readable. Maybe a picture or two of the products they sell would help identify the store.

GENERAL COMMENT

Taking what a client wants and turning it into a work of art that will get the readers' attention is not easy. The graphic design teams on these community newspapers do it every day and for that they should be applauded. We all know that not all clients are easy and sometimes you must follow what the client wants even when we know it will not lead to the best design or best ad. It was not an easy task to judge as there were some good and interesting ads. I was pleased to see some great designs and different ideas while looking through all the entries. Community newspapers have a great future in the hands of talented designers showcased in these entries.

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 BEST USE OF COLOUR

22 ENTRIES



CORNWALL SEAWAY NEWS

The use of the yellow against the black & white imagery ties the ad together nicely. The headline stands out beautifully and is clearly connected to the logo. The image is strong and fulfills the sense of the headline. The use of black & white for the ad makes it stand out on the page.



MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

The use of the coloured background and graphic elements help to pull the ad together. There is a lot of information in the ad which is easily navigated by the reader. Despite the heavy information the ad feels spacious.



WATERDOWN FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW

The visual perfectly aligns with the offer and is nicely set off by use of the green header and base. The heart shape icon containing the offer makes the offer easily seen and navigable – it is a bit hard against the background image.

HONOURABLE MENTION

EAST GWILLIMBURY EXPRESS – The visual clearly supports the focus of the ad. The use of the red type nicely ties the logo into the visual. Pulling the background back to allow the type to stand out works nicely and gives strength to the message.

GENERAL COMMENT

Using colour to attract the readers' eyes, and helping them to navigate the information, is key to strong ad design. This year's winners clearly demonstrate this – including how using black and white as part of the colour palette can create strong and impactful messages. This year's submissions were very strong and made it a difficult task to select out winners. All participants are to be commended on their submissions.

Judge

Leslie Kellow-Hall VP, Management Director – Operations Fuelcontent Toronto ON



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

10 ENTRIES

PREMIER AWARDS BEST COMMUNITY WEBSITE/WEBPORTAL ~ CIRCULATION 10,000+



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE | SUDBURY.COM

This is a clean, easy to navigate website, packed with news and information. I appreciate the links to the print edition, as well as local radio and traffic. There is plenty of current content. The site has everything you need to discover Sudbury, right here at your fingertips. Well done.



FERGUS WELLINGTON **ADVERTISER** WELLINGTONADVERTISER.COM

I love this website. This is a perfect example of how a community newspaper website should look. Excellent local content, easy to follow format, good choice of fonts and colours. A few items of note, the Business tab is empty, and the cartoon section has not been updated this year. Otherwise, this is an excellent site.



ELMIRA-WOOLWICH OBSERVER OBSERVERXTRA.COM

Plenty of good, local, original content. Exactly what a community newspaper website should be. Clean look, easy to read. I like the "What's New" section that loads on the left side of the homepage. This needs to be identified better, the bell icon does not do it for me.

HONOURABLE MENTION

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS | CJNEWS.COM - This site is packed with current stories, extremely easy to navigate and well designed. I particularly like the tabs across the top that reveals smaller images of content within the various topics.

Judge



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.

Oliver Sutton

Associate Publisher

Saint Laurent, QC

GENERAL COMMENT

Newspaper websites are becoming an important asset for print media. As the newspaper business continues to evolve, it is becoming crucial for any community newspaper to have a good website behind it. I was pleased to see updated content and active links. Moving forward, in order to stay relevant and keep readers coming back, it is important that we maintain our sites, keeping them fresh and current.

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ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION

PREMIER AWARDS BEST COMMUNITY WEBSITE/WEBPORTAL ~ CIRCULATION -9,999

6 ENTRIES





MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

This site has a clean simple design and is easy to navigate. The stories have good visuals to go with them and all seem good and relevant to their audience.

NORTH GRENVILLE TIMES | NGTIMES.CA

The landing page of this site was easy to access and understand and was lively without being cluttered. The stories were well presented and there was a good mix of content.



PARRY SOUND NORTH STAR | PARRYSOUND.COM

The layout of this website makes sense and it's easy to navigate. I like that the community events are right at the top and listed in an accessible way, as are the tabs for the different sections. This website had slightly newsier news up top than the other Metroland submissions.

Judge

Editor The Central Voice Grand Falls-Windsor, NL

Sarah Ladik is an editor for SaltWire in Newfoundland and Labrador and has made a career in small community papers and the stories they can help tell.

Sarah Ladik

GENERAL COMMENT

With more and more readers turning to the web over a print product for their news, the design and accessibility of the online version of papers is growing increasingly important. Entrants in this category did a good job of presenting their stories and other content in ways that make it easy for readers to stay informed. **5 ENTRIES**

PREMIER AWARDS MULTIMEDIA ONLINE/BEST ONLINE EXPERIENCE FOR A STORY



PETERBOROUGH THIS WEEK

Beer and maple carrots, a Kawartha Cookin' cottage favourite – Engaging character and a well edited video with the recipe in the body. It all works together nicely for the reader.



NORTH YORK MIRROR

North York General Hospital celebrates 50 years in community – The written word and interactive "Top 10" timeline complement each other without repeated information. The timeline provides easy and interesting access to facts that might lose a reader in a sea of copy and make use of some interesting, as well as historical, images.



HAMILTON MOUNTAIN NEWS

One final frame at Sherwood Centre bowling alley as the Hamilton Mountain facility closes – Good job by the reporter battling challenging sound atmosphere without a mic. This video would benefit from a little tighter editing to keep the viewer engaged. It does bring a lovely personal voice to the story.



Christine van Reeuwyk Multimedia Journalist Oak Bay News Victoria, BC



Christine van Reeuwyk 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, Victoria News and Oak Bay News.

GENERAL COMMENT

The diversity of multimedia elements added to these stories was as varied as the entrants! It was impressive to see how everyday news briefs were compiled into a critical map; how a team found, developed and utilized a character from the community to create a compelling video, with practical use; and a historical timeline created where a simple slideshow would have been easier but not as interesting to the reader. These teams all used the multimedia elements to develop a story rather than reiterating information that existed. All provided added value to the reader.

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ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION

PREMIER AWARDS ONLINE SPECIAL INITIATIVE







SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

First place goes to the team at Sudbury Northern Life for their extraordinary election night coverage. Their live broadcast required phenomenal planning and technical prowess. Done entirely as a television news show, the two-hour effort started with video to provide context to the issues both locally and provincially. The paper's hosts then conducted scheduled interviews to continue those conversations as the results came in. Remarkably, the team was able to cut to live coverage from the candidates' headquarters. Bravo!

THE HERALD SERVING THAMESVILLE, DRESDEN AND BOTHWELL

Second place goes to the Thamesville Herald's flood coverage. The staff used social media to share critical information about flood warnings immediately: what to do and where not to go. It tapped into the power of Facebook to help keep the community safe when the risks were highest. (The video interview with municipal officials would have been much more dynamic if footage of the flooding – which staff had already taken – had been edited in.) In the print edition, the editorial team provided context and personal accounts of people affected by the flood. The various reporting models complemented one another well.

WATERDOWN FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW

The Waterdown Flamborough Review is to be applauded for investing in technology to allow staff to post stories throughout election night. However, better use could have been made of Facebook. There were only two election night posts, albeit one was to tell people to go to the website for live coverage.

GENERAL COMMENT

Technology has transformed the way community newspapers must communicate with readers. If you wait for the print edition to explain what's happened, people have already either found out on their own through social media or have already moved on to the next big thing. How can small papers with limited resources cope?

Judge

Martha Perkins Retired journalist of 30 years Ontario and B.C.



Martha Perkins has retired from a career of more than 30 years of community journalism, witnessing all the changes from manual typewriters to InDesign to Google Analytics.

4 ENTRIES

PREMIER AWARDS ONLINE BREAKING NEWS COVERAGE



SUDBURY NORTHERN LIFE

8 ENTRIES

Storm Damage – This is an excellent use of multi-media to tell the story. The articles do a great job of getting the information out that the public needs to stay safe and understand the impact of the storm. The video was a perfect way to provide people with a sense of the human impacts. Seeing the power of the storm and interviewing people involved was an important and necessary contribution. It was nice to see the quality of the video. Voice over and thought out editing also gave it that polished look that makes viewers want to watch to the end.



CAMBRIDGE TIMES

Man Surrenders – Lisa Rutledge covers all the bases in reporting on this incident. Photos and videos illustrating the drama and precarious nature of the event. Interviews with people who knew the distraught man, as well as the police negotiator and the owner of the restaurant.



NEWMARKET ERA/ AURORA BANNER

Hostage Situation – This was excellent work by the newspaper acting as a team. The updates on social media were frequent and allowed people to stay apprised of the situation as it unfolded. Gathering witness accounts of the situation is a great way to push past the initial story. What would have made the coverage better is an interview of at least one of the hostages.

HONOURABLE MENTION

NORTH YORK MIRROR – Andrew Palamarchuk 's leg work to investigate the past of Alek Minassian is a perfect example of pushing past an original breaking news story. The story gave readers an interesting insight into Minassian's history. Unfortunately, the submission would have worked better as supplementary information to the actual breaking news event.

GENERAL COMMENT

Breaking news extends well beyond the initial incident. The top three entries submitted material that depicted what the story was initially and how it unfolded. They demonstrated the community and human impacts while relaying the pertinent facts. Sudbury Northern Life, the first place entry, was a perfect example of combining all assets at its disposal to present a complete package. Quality video, dramatic photos and stories not only relayed the devastation caused by an extreme weather event but also communicated information to help keep readers safe and informed.

Judge

Chris Puglia Editor Cochrane Eagle Cochrane, AB

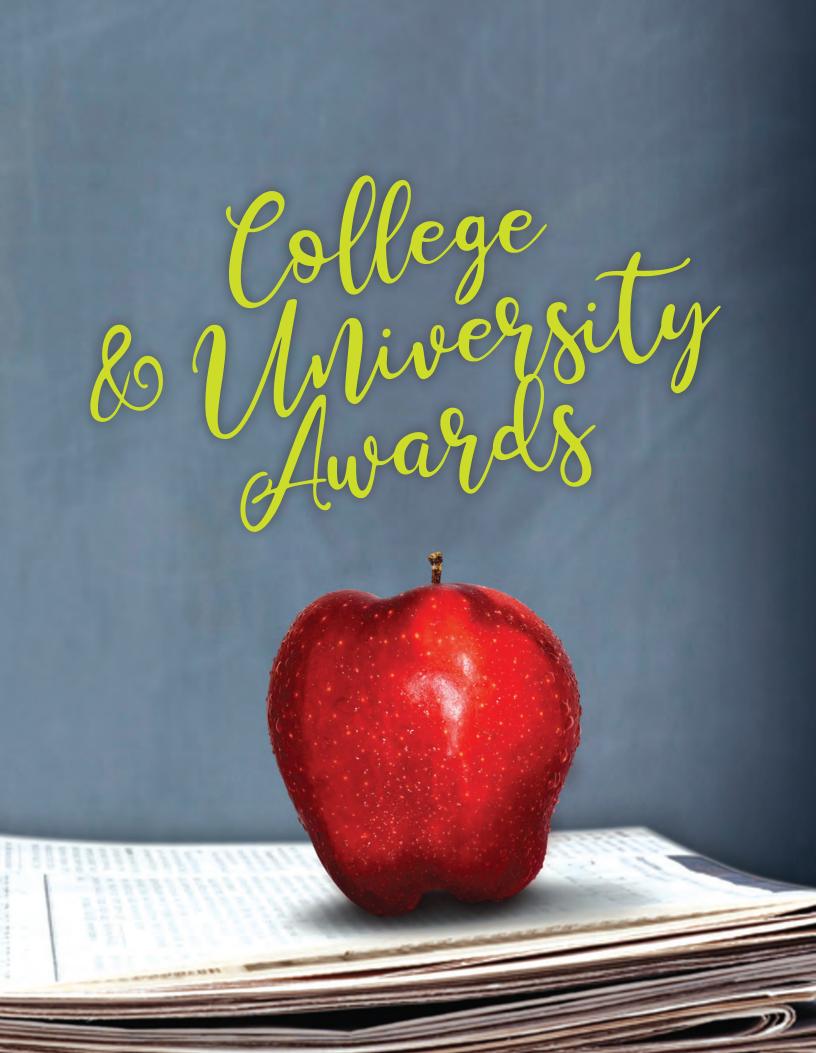


Chris Puglia was trained at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology,

graduating in 1997. Chris has more than 20 years of experience as a journalist, beginning his career in central Alberta. After four years at newspapers in Alberta, he headed north to Yellowknife and spent 12 years working in both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut holding various positions, ranging from general reporter to coordinating editor, for Northern News Services. In 2014, he returned to Alberta and began working for Great West Newspapers at the St. Albert Gazette before taking the editorial helm of the Cochrane Eagle in 2016.

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ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION



COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY STUDENT FEATURE WRITING

Sponsored by: Ontario General Contractors Association



18 ENTRIES

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE | BOBBY HRISTOVA, TAYLOR BRIDGER, SERGIO ARANGIO, RUSHANTHI KESUNATHAN & ANJELICA BALATBAT

Great job putting a personal touch on one of Canada's biggest news stories of the past few years. This team reported on some very difficult topics with professionalism and clarity. Solid, clean writing let the story shine.



CENTENNIAL COLLEGE | TRISHA SALES, ELLEN SAMEK, MOUHAMAD RACHINI, JESSIKA LAM & LOUISE ALLYN PALMA

Incredible depth to this story and a good mix of classic storytelling with factual reporting on a topic that gripped Toronto and all of Canada.



LOYALIST COLLEGE | JESSICA CLEMENT

Concise, solid writing on a topic that's especially important to youth and young adults. Jessica Clement captured a good range of voices for the story.

HONOURABLE MENTION

FANSHAWE COLLEGE | LAUREN DIETRICH – A less-than-thrilling lede betrayed an otherwise well written story that included a good mix of emotion and factual reporting.

Judge



Luke Edwards Reporter Niagara This Week Niagara, ON

Luke Edwards is a reporter for Niagara this Week and editor for Niagara Farmers' Monthly. The Laurier Brantford journalism grad comes from a news background, following in the footsteps of his grandfather who spent 35 years in the industry, and his uncle, who recently retired from a career in magazines in Toronto.

GENERAL COMMENT

A good mix of stories, from an interesting people profile to very in-depth reporting of relevant topics of the day. A few took on some very important and difficult subjects, reporting in a delicate manner that showed the professionalism one would expect from a seasoned, senior reporter. Great job all around.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY STUDENT NEWS WRITING

19 ENTRIES



LOYALIST COLLEGE | FRANK MOSES

The lede doesn't do this story justice. This was a well-written and compelling read. It would have been even better if the veterans' affairs and defence ministers were interviewed for this important story. Nice job.



HUMBER COLLEGE | AMY CHEN

Really a great lede, which automatically pulled me into reading this very interesting, well-written and wellresearched story, which is the whole point of good newspaper writing. I didn't know anything about this issue, but now I do. Nice job

HUMBER COLLEGE | ANDREW JEFFREY

Good story. Well-written and well-reported.

Sponsored by: Ontario Journalism **Educators Association**

GENERAL COMMENT

Katherine Graham, the former publisher of The Washington Post during Watergate, once famously said, "News is what someone wants suppressed. Everything else is advertising. The power is to set the agenda. What we print and what we don't print matter a lot." This great quote is a timeless reminder to young journalists about the critical importance of news reporting in a democratic society. Reporting news is hard work, but it's also rewarding because it should create and push for greater transparency and justice, which is why we're all here. In this year's Ontario college and university student news writing category, there were some really good news stories to choose from and it was tough to pick the top three. But the best news stories either drew me in right away and were also well-written, had depth, context, details, background, and a few had great ledes. People like smart, substantive stories and these top three offered that.

Judge

Kate Malloy Editor

The Hill Times Ottawa, ON

Kate Malloy is the editor of The Hill Times. Under her editorial leadership for nearly three decades, The Hill Times has become an award-winning newspaper that blazes trails and breaks exclusive stories in federal political reporting every week.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY

14 ENTRIES



LOYALIST COLLEGE | ANDREJ IVANOV

A high impact photo that would be at home on the front of any newspaper! Congratulations on a job well done.



ALGONQUIN COLLEGE | KARINE BEAULIEU

🔌 Karine Beaulieu brings us right into the front row - and the view is great. Beautiful clear shot.



NIAGARA COLLEGE | BETH AUDET

Beth Audet captures teamwork with only one team members face – nice job!

GENERAL COMMENT

This year's entries were all had great technical quality and the winners had that extra wow factor which propelled them to the top three. One of the most important things young photographers can do is look at the work of people already working in journalism and study how they capture a moment with one shot. Remember an interesting angle can turn a good shot into something wonderfully eye catching!

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

6 ENTRIES



ALGONQUIN COLLEGE | ALGONQUINTIMES.CA

Any community would be happy to have AlgonquinTimes.ca as their community news source. It contains wellwritten and timely stories. This is a j-school class that has obviously been plugged into the on-campus community and the wider world beyond and made coverage a priority. The site has a strong opinion section, with a wide variety of opinions on a wide variety of topics. The design of the site is generally good, easy to navigate, with lots of options above the fold, though I find the large-photo skybox links across the top distracting. All in all, a very useful site for students and readers, and a good breeding ground for reporters.

DURHAM COLLEGE | CHRONICLE.DURHAMCOLLEGE.CA

The Durham College site has a clean, modern design with a good selection of choices above the fold. Nice big photos, though the quality of the images often didn't seem to match the size of the photo. The colloquial phrasing of the "Check This Out" section is suitable for the audience. I like that the "Connect with Us" links to social media was very visible and very prominent, something of which other entries in this category should take note. That said, the Chronicle's Facebook page was fairly stagnant, though there was lots of action on Instagram. All in all, a decent website with good design elements that could be even better with a few tweaks.

NIAGARA COLLEGE | NIAGARA-NEWS.COM

There is some excellent content on the Niagara News website and some odd choices that hurt the school on points. The site has a good scroll length, not too short, with nice clear division of news sections. Incorporating weather and recent Tweets into the design is good. The On and Off campus sections are very useful, and demonstrate (along with the reporting itself) that the class is plugged into the wider community. The site has an active Opinions section, and timely news coverage. The News seems to lack a social media strategy (a common problem among almost all sites I judged), which is disappointing because we need reporters who are keen/ talented/capable when it comes to using and understanding social media for journalists. There are some good videos produced by this school's students, but you'd never know it because a link to video is buried at the bottom of the page. The News has good content and could have scored higher with some better design choices.

HONOURABLE MENTION

HUMBER COLLEGE I HUMBERETC.CA – The Humber Etc. has a great name and generally good design. There's a good variety of editorial content, which shows the students are writing. I was particularly impressed with the active editorial section in which the class would take positions on the news of the day and write about it. The photography was generally strong (a plus since most reporters don't put as much effort into shooting photos as they do in writing stories) and so is the writing. There's a good variety of material on the homepage and a unique way of divvying up the available screen space. That said, the scroll could be longer to keep readers on the page longer. There were no visible links to social media feeds on the homepage, so I don't know if Humber is integrating social (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.) into their instruction, but if they aren't, they should. Social is integral to what we do and knowing how to use it is key to modern reporting.

GENERAL COMMENT

It is clear to me the journalism schools have a clear understanding of the role community newspapers play in the communities we serve. These are schools that 'plugged in,' as we say, and that is an invaluable ethic to instill in young reporters. On each site, I found timely, well-written (mostly) stories, and clean copy, as well as strong opinion sections from several entries. This is heartening. That said, design is important and several of the entries could use an overhaul to reflect more modern presentations of news websites. Providing readers with more choice above the fold, and more varied design (therefore more selection) below the fold, as well as providing readers with more ability to scroll, would improve the user experience and keep readers on the page longer, clicking headlines. Some good journalism and some great videos are going unread and unwatched thanks to lackluster design. Perhaps the most common issue I found was a seeming lack of social media strategy from any of these sites. Not only were links to social media feeds rarely given prominent positions on the homepage, I found stagnant platforms from several entries. Branding is important, as distasteful as some might find it. Social media is integral to how we work, how we news gather and how we market ourselves. Students should be leaving J-school with that knowledge and understanding.

Judge

Mark Gentili Managing Editor Sudbury Northern Life and Sudbury.com Sudbury, ON



Mark Gentili is the managing editor of Sudbury.com and the Northern Life newspaper in Sudbury, Ontario.

2018 COMMUNITY AWARD IN MEMORY OF MARY KNOWLES

Brent Rankin, Managing Editor, The North Shore Sentinel

Year after year the Community Award in Memory of Mary Knowles recognizes the industry's most energetic, dedicated and giving individuals. This year's recipient, Brent Rankin, Managing Editor of The North Shore Sentinel in Thessalon is no exception.

In 1991, Brent convinced his family to acquire the weekly newspaper in his home town of Thessalon. At the time, he was writing an opinion column and showed great interest in journalism. Immediately after purchasing the publication, Brent took on the role of editor and has been committed ever since to delivering relevant, insightful news and information to readers in his community.

He has adapted and evolved with the changes of print media. He once worked in a dark room developing 35mm film and now uses digital cameras. He started on original Compugraphic equipment and, of course, shifted to computers when technology advancements were made. He has help from a printer in North Bay, but otherwise Brent produces the entire paper himself. The North Shore Sentinel's only other staff member is an account manager responsible for billing and payables.

One would think his plate would be quite full of responsibility, but not only does Brent run the small independently-owned newspaper, he is also co-manager of several other family-owned businesses including an auto parts store and repair garage, an office supply retailer, a home-heat fuels supplier and an excavating business.

But wait, there's more!

Brent is the longest serving Mayor in Thessalon's 127-year history. In fact, he was also the youngest elected Mayor after joining municipal council at the age of 21.



He truly cares about his community, which is why he also serves on the Algoma District School Board,

the Sault Area Hospital Board, the Algoma District Homes for the Aged Board, and was recently appointed to the Algoma Public Health Board of Directors. Each of these boards require travelling at least one hour both ways for regularly monthly meetings. He has also served on the local Chamber of Commerce and is the longest serving Chair of the Thessalon Public Library.

He is a familiar face and friend to many in the community, and has great respect for those who are working to better it. He often highlights volunteers in the newspaper and recently ran a 26-week feature called the "Golden Oldies" to showcase residents over the age of 85 who are actively involved in various organizations and events.

Brent is married with two children, both of whom are following in their father's volunteerism footsteps and are committed to public service.

He is an industry and community leader, which is why the Ontario Community Newspapers Foundation (OCNF) is proud to recognize him with the 2018 Community Award in Memory of Mary Knowles.

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



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GENERAL EXCELLENCE

CLASS 1 (CIRC. 1,999 & UNDER)

Newspaper	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Production Quality	Total	Rank
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	50	50	975	
The Independent Serving													
Petrolia and Central Lambton	130	132	90	88	92	82	83	18	41	40	45	840	1
The Herald Serving Thamesville,													
Dresden and Bothwell	128	133	82	82	82	77	82	18	37	42	43	805	2
Deep River North Renfrew Times	127	127	88	88	85	78	73	20	27	40	45	798	3
Minden Times	120	130	85	75	80	80	83	19	38	37	35	782	4
Kincardine Independent	118	118	77	78	82	80	77	20	37	45	40	771	5
Blyth/Brussels Citizen	128	132	87	87	70	73	65	19	37	35	37	769	6
Parry Sound North Star	130	120	80	87	75	78	75	18	34	18	38	754	7
New Hamburg Independent	117	120	80	80	75	78	78	18	35	36	35	752	8
Listowel Banner	113	113	80	77	78	77	78	18	27	42	40	743	9
Barrys Bay, The Valley Gazette	110	120	47	57	63	90	92	18	42	35	42	715	10
Walkerton Herald Times	115	115	77	67	70	70	70	18	32	25	43	701	11
Wingham Advance Times	113	113	78	67	55	72	77	20	33	15	38	681	12

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	131	130	81	80	83	81	77	19	40	40	42	803	1
Fort Frances Times	132	127	73	73	73	76	74	21	32	39	39	758	2
Winchester Press	127	123	75	76	76	74	76	22	24	34	34	742	3
Burks Falls Almaguin News	134	125	82	79	65	71	62	18	25	19	35	716	4
The Haldimand Press	117	118	61	74	72	73	72	18	21	29	39	693	5
New Liskeard Temiskaming													
Speaker	115	116	57	60	66	72	75	21	25	35	36	679	6
Vankleek Hill Review	120	120	61	62	66	71	74	19	26	27	31	677	7
Ayr News	105	113	67	60	63	67	60	18	18	30	34	635	8
·													

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

Newspaper	Front Page 150	Community News 150	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages 100		Photography 100	Advertising Content 100	Advertising Design 100	Classified Advertising 25	Local Features 50	Sports 50	Production Quality 50	Total 975	Rank
Nunavut News/North	130	132	98	83	81	80	80	28	47	42	42	843	1
Eganville Leader	127	135	93	82	83	80	80	30	47	38	42	837	2
Niagara This Week, Town Crier	113	127	101	75	76	87	83	25	37	37	42	802	3
Gravenhurst Banner	115	123	85	77	75	85	82	28	42	30	42	783	4
			•										

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	135	135	81	92	84	85	79	21	40	40	43	835	1
Niagara This Week, The Leader	118	140	85	89	84	85	83	23	41	41	43	833	2
Niagara This Week, Fort Erie Post	120	133	83	86	78	86	82	23	37	40	43	810	3
Port Perry Star	119	121	82	78	81	82	85	22	36	33	40	780	4
Bracebridge Examiner	116	128	80	85	70	85	80	22	33	18	40	756	5
Perth Courier	109	105	82	73	69	83	78	24	35	35	40	733	6
Smiths Falls Record News	109	105	82	70	69	83	81	24	35	35	40	733	6
Glanbrook Gazette	102	122	72	84	55	88	78	21	34	31	40	727	8
Huntsville Forester	119	125	81	79	65	80	80	22	36	0	39	726	9
Amprior Chronicle-Guide	101	110	75	76	67	80	80	20	32	32	39	712	10
Kemptville Advance	106	101	72	80	67	80	78	21	34	28	40	708	11
Carleton Place/Almonte													
Canadian Gazette	98	101	73	80	60	87	77	22	32	28	40	699	12
Parry Sound Beacon Star	112	98	82	80	76	77	77	20	34	0	37	692	13
Voice of Pelham	119	110	78	73	67	75	74	17	40	0	36	690	14
Uxbridge Cosmos	120	103	83	72	50	70	73	17	23	10	42	663	15

JUDGE SCORESHEETS

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

Newspaper	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages	Presentation	Photography	Advertising Content	Advertising Design	Classified Advertising	Local Features	Sports	Production Quality	Total	Rank
	150	150	100	100	100	100	100	25	50	50	50	975	
Dundas Star News	133	133	82	81	78	83	80	17	40	43	40	811	1
Northumberland News	135	134	73	79	81	80	80	20	42	42	41	807	2
Ancaster News	133	130	79	80	78	78	78	21	40	38	40	796	3
Waterdown Flamborough Review	134	128	81	79	77	80	78	19	37	40	38	790	4
Elmira-Woolwich Observer	128	129	75	78	76	74	76	21	42	36	43	777	5
Renfrew Mercury	128	130	73	77	76	78	75	21	39	40	38	774	6
Orangeville Banner	130	126	81	81	74	80	78	19	35	28	42	773	7
Haldimand County, The Sachem	137	126	70	73	75	78	78	16	35	36	41	765	8
Hanover, The Post	128	129	77	74	75	74	74	20	37	34	39	762	9
The Canadian Jewish News	140	127	73	83	74	73	78	15	34	8	46	752	10

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

Newspaper	Front Page	Community News	Ed. & Op. Ed. Pages		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	
Sudbury Northern Life	137	140	86	89	83	87	87	23	40	41	45	858	1
Fergus Wellington Advertiser	128	133	92	78	77	80	78	23	48	33	35	806	2
Sarnia Journal	134	129	81	81	79	83	82	19	40	35	38	800	3
Waterloo Chronicle	132	134	86	82	76	79	79	17	34	36	42	797	4
Guelph Mercury Tribune	117	124	87	73	82	87	88	19	40	38	40	795	5
Niagara This Week, Niagara Falls	132	123	85	65	77	87	87	22	40	40	37	793	6
Clarington This Week	122	122	82	77	82	85	82	20	38	40	40	788	7
Georgetown/Acton Independent													
& Free Press	123	125	85	78	77	85	83	22	33	35	38	786	8
Stoney Creek News	122	128	89	80	73	80	78	22	32	38	40	783	9
Niagara This Week, Welland	116	127	80	72	85	82	82	22	35	42	37	778	10
Oshawa Express	129	136	82	77	72	77	77	17	38	32	38	773	11
Whitby This Week	103	122	75	80	78	83	82	23	47	40	37	769	12
Milton Canadian Champion	118	115	75	68	85	83	82	19	35	37	38	756	13
Hamilton/Burlington Bay													
Observer	125	105	80	75	82	80	82	8	42	18	45	742	14
Cambridge Times	110	120	73	77	62	77	77	19	37	33	34	719	15
Cornwall Seaway News	119	109	80	63	67	83	77	13	28	35	33	709	16
Grimsby Lincoln News	115	100	72	70	75	75	75	17	30	32	33	693	17
Listowel Independent Plus	98	107	63	65	70	77	75	21	35	40	32	682	18
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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	
Niagara This Week,													
St. Catharines	98	118	76	72	72	77	77	23	27	33	42	714	1
Burlington Post	98	112	78	73	72	77	75	20	28	30	40	703	2
Oakville Beaver	100	111	73	73	71	78	77	20	27	30	40	700	3
Hamilton Mountain News	99	108	77	70	76	73	74	17	27	35	40	697	4
Oshawa This Week	98	109	70	72	70	78	75	19	28	32	38	689	5
Kitchener Post	99	107	80	73	68	75	75	18	26	25	38	685	6
Ajax Pickering News Advertiser	96	105	70	68	70	77	75	17	27	33	35	673	7

CLASS 8 (COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY)

	CLASS O (COLLEOL & OIN	V ERSI	••,								
	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	
-	Algonquin College – Algonquin Times	125	150	85	50	50	25	100	45	630	1
1-	Niagara College — Niagara News	110	100	78	80	80	5	85	40	578	2
-	Humber College – Et Cetera	120	123	60	65	70	5	90	40	573	3
	University of Waterloo – Imprint	100	100	75	75	80	20	85	35	570	4
	Durham College – The Chronicle	60	135	85	62	42	15	90	46	535	5
4	Loyalist College — The Pioneer	125	100	0	75	100	0	50	40	490	6

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