



2015 Ma Murray Award Gala Highlights

Another great year of the Ma Murray Awards is now behind us. Where does the time go? Let's take a look back at some of this year's highlights!

On Saturday, April 25, 2015, the BC and Yukon Community Newspapers Association, along with our title sponsor, **Coast Capital Savings**, recognized and celebrated another year of excellence in community newspapers at the **93rd annual Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards**, held at the River Rock Casino Resort.

As always, the Gala was preceded by the **CN Community Journalism Scholarship Luncheon**, which celebrates emerging talents in the community newspaper industry. This year we handed out \$7,000 in scholarships to Journalism students from around the province, each hand-picked by their instructors for their excellent work and for their enthusiasm for community newspapers. The luncheon is always a great chance to sit down and meet some of our industry's future leaders.

Immediately following the luncheon, the **BCYCNA Annual General Meeting** took place, at which time new BCYCNA President **Tim Shoults** (Vice President, Content and Audience Development at Glacier Media) officially stepped into his role as President for the 2015-2016 year. Stepping down this year were Jim Coulter, Chuck Bennett, Hugh Nicholson, Brad Alden, and Steve Ceron. Sarah Holmes (Gabriola Sounder, independent) was declared Vice-President, and new directors Andrew Franklin and Bruce McAuliffe, both of Black Press, began their terms. Returning directors include Doug Foot, Dee Dhaliwal, Peter McCully, Colleen Sparrow, and Susan Attiana.

The **Catalyst Paper President's Reception** then kicked off the night's festivities, where more than 260 guests mingled and enjoyed complimentary drinks and an inviting spread of hors d'oeuvres before heading into the theatre to take in the main event.



President Tim Shoultz welcomed the crowd to the theatre and spoke about the changes in our industry. *"I would say that there is more competition for us today than ever before. ... Thanks to the rise of social media, our readers, our advertisers, and even our sources are, in essence, publishers right alongside us, competing for the same audience we are.... So I think it's more important than ever for community newspapers, whoever owns them, to realize that we are all playing for the same team."*



Almost as if to reiterate this message, he then recognized three former BCYCNA directors with an **Honourary Life Membership** to the BCYCNA. *Stephen Robertson* (former independent publisher of the Yukon News), *Chuck Bennett* (Black Press) and *Peter Kvarnstrom* (Glacier Media) were each awarded the honour for their lasting impact on the association.

The CCNA's Quill Recognition Award program has been gaining popularity within the BCYCNA over the last several years, and this year was no exception. This year, seven BCYCNA members received **Silver Quill Awards** for their more than 25 years in the industry. Recipients were: *Rod Sluggett*, *Gail Sjuberg*, *Alistair Taylor*, *Stan Popovic*, *Phillip Morrison*, *Guy Bertrand*, and *Richard Dal Monte*.



Then, to top it all off, *Rollie Rose*, Executive Director of the BC Press Council, received a **Gold Quill Award** for more than 50 years in the industry.



CBC's *Gloria Macarenko* and 102.7 The Peak's *Kevin Lim* took the stage next to welcome guests and provide an overview of the evening before dinner.



Coast Capital Savings again went above and beyond with their generosity as title sponsor. With a \$500 Apple gift card on the line, they challenged Gala guests to post fun Gala photos online with the hashtag #MaMurrayCoastCapital. (Jenna Hauck of the Chilliwack Progress was the lucky winner!)

Awards were handed out in 45 categories. All of this year's winners were thrilled and you could see it on their faces.



Among the highlights was the **BC Housing Eric Dunning Award for Dedication and Service to the Community Newspaper Industry**, and this year's recipient was the very deserving **Bob Grainger** of Black Press.





When the awards presentation was over, we welcomed Vancouver-based party band **Jane's Blonde** to the stage for a new kind of after-party right in the theatre. Sponsor Tinhorn Creek Vineyards continued to supply wine and good cheer to all in attendance. (Emily Wessel of the Merritt Herald returned her nametag at the end of the night and was the lucky winner of the Tinhorn Creek weekend guesthouse stay.)

The Coast Capital Savings photo booth was once again on hand to capture all of the good cheer on film, in all its embarrassing and costume-clad forms.

For those who refused to let the fun end, the **Glacier Lounge** (Presidential Suite on the ninth floor of the resort) kept the party going until morning.

The 2015 Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards Gala was another huge success and we are already looking forward to next year's event, which will take place on **Saturday, May 7, 2016**.



Huge thanks to our title sponsor Coast Capital Savings as well as our presenting sponsors Catalyst Paper, CN, BCLC, Glacier Media, and TD Bank Group. We'd also like to extend our thanks to BC Housing, the Black Family, Eclipse Awards, Hub International, Kamloops This Week, New Car Dealers Association of BC, Port Metro Vancouver, River Rock Casino Resort, TELUS, Thompson Rivers University – Journalism, Communication and New Media, Tinhorn Creek Vineyards, Trial Lawyers Association of BC, and International Web Express.

See you next year!
SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016 - RIVER ROCK CASINO RESORT