



The **94th annual Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards** drew more than 300 journalists and industry representatives from across British Columbia and Yukon together to celebrate their outstanding work and accomplishments on **May 7, 2016**.

The BCYCNA kicked off the event by handing out thousands of dollars in scholarships to journalism students at the **CN Community Journalism Scholarship Luncheon**.

It's a Ma Murray tradition to recognize emerging talent in the community newspaper industry and this year was no exception. Journalism school instructors selected students who displayed both talent and enthusiasm for community news.

The luncheon recognized the students' work, but also gave them the opportunity to meet and network with journalists who report for the BC and Yukon newspapers they may want to work for in the future.



BCYCNA board members met for the Association's **Annual General Meeting** after the luncheon. Sarah Holmes (Publisher, Gabriola Sounder) officially stepped into her role as president and Tim Shoultz (Glacier Media) concluded more than a year of very productive service.

Dee Dhaliwal, publisher of the Vancouver Courier, became Vice President, and new director Todd Hamilton joined the board. Doug Foot, Peter McCully, Susan Attiana, Andrew Franklin, and Bruce McAuliffe returned as directors. Colleen Sparrow of the Prince George Citizen stepped down, but was thanked for her hard work and dedication to the industry.

The **Catalyst Paper President's Reception** then kicked off the evening's festivities, as hundreds of guests mingled and enjoyed complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres before heading into the theatre for the main event.

Outgoing President Tim Shoultz welcomed guests to the gala and described the past year as competitive. He also emphasized the importance of community newspapers in today's digital world.





“Competition in our industry is still fierce, but not in the sense of newspapers competing against newspapers. We’re now competing with Facebook, Google, and in some cases, our own readers, for attention. But people are still coming to us for local news, because no other sources can bring them hyper-local information and advertising reach like we can. And the proof is in the numbers.”

Incoming President Sarah Holmes then joined Shoultz on stage with an optimistic message about the year ahead.

“The challenges in our industry have encouraged us to come up with creative solutions to help community newspapers. Our goal this year will be to ensure a sustainable organization by focusing on a project-specific mandate. And we already have some very exciting projects in the works.”

Holmes then presented a **Silver Quill Award**, which recognizes 25 years in the industry, to Michelle Hueller of the Campbell River Mirror.



MCs Kyle Donaldson – of Citytv – and Susan Edgell – of CFJC-TV – took the stage next to welcome guests and provide an overview of the evening.

After a delicious salmon feast, sponsors handed out awards in 45 categories. The **Ledcor Eric Dunning Award for Dedication and Service to the Community Newspaper Industry** was among those awards. Brad Alden, retired from NOW Newspapers, was this year’s deserving recipient.



All winners and their colleagues showed their excitement through speeches of gratitude and social media. In fact, the **#mamurray16** hashtag was even trending on Twitter.

Exclusive wine sponsor Tinhorn Creek Vineyards supplied wine and good cheer all evening, right through the After-Party. And Jean-Edouard de Marenches, guest of the Bowen Island Undercurrent, returned his nametag at the end of the night to become the lucky winner of the Tinhorn Creek weekend guesthouse stay.

At the After-Party, the photo booth captured funny and embarrassing shots of costume-clad guests as it does every year.

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

The 2016 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, April 29, 2017**.



We would like to say a huge thanks to all of our sponsors – presenting sponsors Catalyst Paper, CN, BCLC, Glacier Media, KPU, and TD Bank Group. We'd also like to extend our thanks to award sponsors – BC Care Providers Association, the Black Family, Concord Pacific, Eclipse Awards, Hub International, Kamloops This Week, Ledcor, New Car Dealers Association of BC, Port of Vancouver, Resource Works, River Rock Casino Resort, SafeCare BC, TELUS, Thompson Rivers University (Journalism, Communication and New Media), Tinhorn Creek Vineyards, Trial Lawyers Association of BC, and Urban Fare.

# See you next year!

## SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017 - RIVER ROCK CASINO RESORT