

# *Ma Murray* **COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER** *Awards*

## *2012 Gala Review*



Red carpet, flashes of cameras, nervous anticipation and shining awards, all that and much more were part of the 90th annual Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards Gala that acclaimed the best among community newspapers in BC and Yukon. Set in the exciting atmosphere of the River Rock Casino Resort in Richmond on April 14, the evening carried on an almost century-old tradition of recognizing excellence and supporting talent.



As in the past, the Gala was preceded by the CN Scholarship Luncheon, which awarded emerging talents in the community newspaper industry. A remarkable \$23,000 was given out to carefully-selected and deserving

students, who embody the bright future of the community newspaper industry in BC and Yukon.



The BCYCNA Annual General Meeting also took place, during which we swore in new BCYCNA President Steve Robertson (Yukon News), and said goodbye to Maurice Donn (Nanaimo News Bulletin), who concluded his year-long term as President of the Association. Also sworn in on the board this year were Amber Ogilvie (Gulf Islands Driftwood) and Jim Coulter (Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows News).

Stepping down after many years of service to the board were Joyce Carlson (Powell River Peak) and Peter Kvarnstrom (Glacier Media). The Catalyst Paper President's Reception then marked the official start of the evening festivities, where over 300 guests mingled and enjoyed drinks before finding their seats and seeing Dan Quinn, acclaimed comedian, take to the stage in a stand-up comedy act and then as a co-emcee with Jill Krop.

In the end, forty-six awards were given out, including a special recognition for Joyce Carlson, who was awarded an Honourary Life Membership in the BCYCNA for her lifelong contribution to the association and industry, and to mark her 25 years of service to the Board.



Among the award recipients was also Merv Unger, a veteran journalist and former publisher of the Nanaimo News Bulletin, whose commitment to his home community gained him the Eric Dunning Integrity Award.

The celebration was accompanied by plenty of good wine and delicious food, which also ensured that as the evening progressed, the winners' speeches would gain in charm and humour.

In on of the evening's finest moments, Gail Sjuberg from the Gulf Islands Driftwood "tebowed" upon receiving her award, in response to a challenge put out by the BC Reporter. And the good spirit of the celebration continued to enrich the rest of the evening, which included an after-party in the foyer of the theatre. An open bar and a DJ awoke the dance flairs and for those who refused to let the fun end with a 1:00am closing of the foyer, the Glacier.

The 2012 Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards Gala was another huge success, and we couldn't have pulled it off without the support of our sponsors.

