

Ma Murray 2014 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

PRESENTED BY

Awards

APRIL 26, 2014



2014 Ma Murray Award Gala Highlights

So, we've had a little time to recover. Now, with awards polished and displayed on shelves, thank you notes sent out, and kudos sent and received, let's take a look back at the **2014 BCYCNA Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards Gala presented by Coast Capital Savings.**

On Saturday, April 26, 2014, the BC and Yukon Community Newspapers Association celebrated the great achievements of 2013 at the 92nd annual Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards. A yearly tradition since 1922, the Ma Murray Awards recognizes the year's best in community newspaper publishing, bringing in industry professionals from across BC and Yukon. For the last several years, we've planted our roots at the **River Rock Casino Resort** in Richmond, where BCYCNA members have become familiar with the lavish theatre, amazing food and drink, fabulous entertainment and, well, the party of the year.

As is now customary, 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 \$6,500 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 **Chuck Bennett** (Group Publisher - Black Press Kootenay Region) was introduced and former President **Hugh Nicholson** (Divisional Manager - Glacier Media Vancouver Island)



BCYCNA staff wait to welcome guests to the 2014 Ma Murray Awards



Chuck Bennett kicks off his presidency with swagger

concluded his year-long term as President of the Association. Amber Ogilvie (Gulf Islands Driftwood) stepped down this year, and we welcomed Peter McCully (Parksville-Qualicum Beach News) to the board.

The **Catalyst Paper President's Reception** then kicked off the night's festivities, where about 250 excited 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.

When incoming President Chuck Bennett took the stage to make his welcoming speech, he probably didn't realize that he was about to coin the evening's catchphrase. *"Our industry used to have a swagger. I don't know when we lost that swagger. But we need to get it back.... We all know how important our newspapers are to our communities,"* said Bennett. *"But now we need to start telling people that. We need to tell people we are by far the strongest media in every community we serve."*

An inspiring speech, to say the least. With a swagger, Mr. Bennett set a great tone for the evening.

For the night's entertainment, Breakfast Television's Kyle Donaldson co-hosted with comedian Erica Sigurdson – who was universally declared one of the best comedians to grace the Ma Murray stage!



MCs Kyle Donaldson and Erica Sigurdson welcome the crowd



The "best selfie" winners from table 23

The MCs put out a challenge to all Ma Murray guests to tweet the best "selfie" of their table (a la Ellen Degeneres at the Oscars), and boy, did everyone rise to the occasion: **#mamurray14** was trending that night, and the selfies collected were outstanding. Table 23 (comprised of folks from the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News, Mission City Record, and sponsors from the New Car Dealers Association of BC) took the honours and at the end of the night, theirs was declared "best selfie!"

But before then, a total of 45 *real* awards were handed out. Highlights included **Grant Lawrence**, former publisher of the Comox Valley Record, receiving this year's **Eric Dunning Award for Dedication and Service to the Community Newspaper Industry**. Stories of his many years in the industry brought forth a standing ovation and smiles across the room. Some of our other favourite winners are below.



Grant Lawrence receives the Eric Dunning Award for Dedication and Service to the Community Newspaper Industry from sponsor Fergus McCann of BC Housing.



Perhaps the most excited winner of the night, Christopher Sun of the Alberni Valley News took home the John Collison Memorial Award for Investigative Journalism. Peter Kvarnstrom of Glacier Media presented the award.



The team from the Vancouver Courier celebrate their first place win in the Port Metro Vancouver Website & Online Innovation Award category.



Ever-determined to win the Best Selfie contest, the Squamish Chief team captured Gold in the BCLC Newspaper Excellence category - circulation group C.

With guests full of food and wine – and a few surprise rounds of tequila shots, the party moved to the upper foyer, where live 80s cover band the **Tighty Whiteys** performed some of the best hits of the 80s! Sponsor Tinhorn Creek Vineyards continued to supply wine and good cheer to all in attendance, and title sponsor Coast Capital Savings once again provided a photo booth to capture that good cheer on film, in all its embarrassing and costume-clad forms.



The Tighty Whiteys in their neon glory



Jean & Ken Hincks from the Burnaby NewsLeader were among the first to try out the photo booth

For those who refused to let the fun end with a 1:00am closing of the foyer, the **Glacier Lounge** (Presidential Suite on the ninth floor of the resort) kept the party going until morning.

The 2014 Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards Gala was another huge success (dare we say our best yet?) and we couldn't have pulled it off without the support of our generous sponsors.

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, Hub International, Kamloops This Week, New Car Dealers Association of BC, Port Metro Vancouver, River Rock Casino Resort, Safeway, TELUS, Thompson Rivers University – Journalism, Communication and New Media, Tinhorn Creek Vineyards, Trial Lawyers Association of BC, and International Web Express.



Some well-earned fun for the multi-award-winning staff from the Yukon News



Martina Perry from the Northern View shows off her beautiful new trophy



Bhrendain Clugston of the Richmond Review poses with his team's award for best Special Section in the over 25,000 category



Relaxing post-Gala are Sarah Holmes and Derek Kilbourn of the Gabriola Sounder and representatives of Catalyst Paper.

See you next year!
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015 - RIVER ROCK CASINO RESORT