



On April 28, 2018, the **Coast Capital Savings Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards** brought together more than 300 journalists and industry representatives from across British Columbia and Yukon to celebrate almost a century of the BCYCNA and its members' outstanding work and accomplishments.

Kicking off in the afternoon with the Association's Annual General Meeting, Sarah Strother (publisher of Pique Newsmagazine and President of Whistler Publishing) officially took the helm as BCYCNA President, and Andrew Franklin (Digital Director, Black Press) wrapped up his year in the role, but stayed on as Past-President.

Tim Shoultz of Glacier Media continued as First Vice-President, Todd Hamilton (The Northern View and Haida Gwaii Observer) accepted the Second Vice-President role, Doug Foot (Glacier

Media) renewed his role as Treasurer, and Sarah Holmes (Gabriola Sounder), Susan Attiana (The Local Weekly), and Karen Hill (Kelowna Capital News) returned as directors. The BCYCNA was also delighted to welcome Andy Holota (Black Press) as a new director for the 2018/2019 year.

The evening's festivities kicked off with the **Catalyst Paper President's Reception**, as hundreds of guests mingled and enjoyed complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres before dinner. We also launched our first-ever **silent auction fundraiser** and are happy to report that it brought in more than \$4,000 for the non-profit BCYCNA! Definitely a tradition to be continued and built upon!





Andrew Franklin welcomed guests to the gala and acknowledged the optimism, passion, determination, and creativity that continues to exist in our industry. He praised members for having expanded our audience, and urged all to remember that *“trusted content is what will continue to set us apart and we must realize that it is the reader that has the final say... Our readers always expect from us, high standards, truth, and quality. Period.”*

Incoming President Sarah Strother then joined Franklin on stage to accept the ceremonial President’s gavel, before sharing her message about the importance of all member papers *“sharing and working together. Sharing experiences, sharing best practices, sharing successes... As an organization it is our responsibility to ensure we are well positioned as an industry to move forward.”* She then talked about the association’s priorities for the year ahead: firstly, to continue to build on and improve the Ma Murray Awards; secondly, to engage youth through the scholarship program; and lastly, to position the BCYCNA for financial success and accountability to its members.

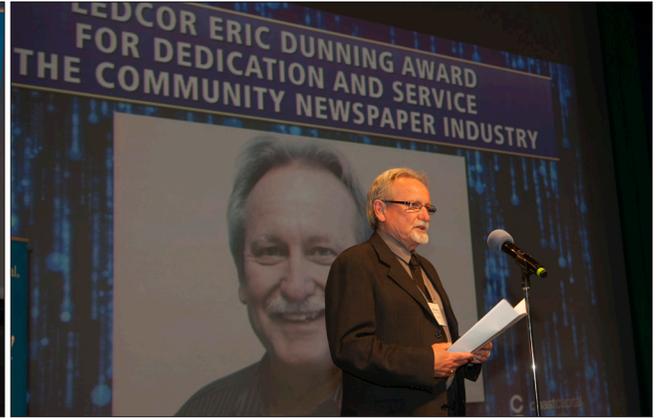
Finally, **Silver Quill Recognition Awards** were presented to 13 very deserving industry members for their 25+ years of service to the community newspaper industry.

The Silver Quills were awarded to Mario Bartel, Dale Bass, Ken Goudswaard, Todd Hamilton, Karen Hill, Vikki Hopes, Greg Knill, Phylis Laflamme, Kevin Mills, Brenda Mitchell, JR Rardon, Diane Strandbert, and Lorie Williston.

After dinner, it was time to hand out the **CN BCYNA Community Journalism Scholarships**. CN’s Public Affairs Manager Joslyn Young and the BCYCNA’s own Scholarships Committee Chair Todd Hamilton presented the awards to the following journalism students from across the province:

From Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Marcus Barichello and Alyssa Laube; from Langara College, Lindsey Lloyd and Cameron Thomson; from Thompson Rivers University, Juan Cabrejo and Cailyn Mocci; and from University of Victoria, Jacob Noseworthy and Cormac O’Brien.





From here, MCs Kevin and Sonia from the KiSS FM Morning Show took over for the official awards presentation portion of the evening. Sponsors and gold winners were invited to the stage to hand out and receive awards in 46 categories. The **Ledcor Eric Dunning Award for Dedication and Service to the Community Newspaper Industry** was among those awards: Don Kendall from Black Press was this year's deserving recipient. We were also thrilled to hand out five brand new digital awards for the first time this year, sponsored by KPU, recognizing the continued expansion of community newspapers into the digital realm.

Many winners and their colleagues shared their excitement and support through social media, and in fact, the #mamurray18 hashtag was once again trending on Twitter.

An extra special treat this year were the multiple door prizes provided by Coast Capital Savings, which were awarded in creative ways courtesy of Kevin and Sonia. Adam Leblanc from the Vancouver Courier won a Canon Powershot 40x Optical Zoom digital camera after it was determined that he was the newest community newspaper rookie in the room. Lisa Prophet and team from the Maple Ridge News submitted the best selfie(s) of the night and as such, took home an Audio-Technica LP120 professional stereo turntable. Lastly, Laura Baziuk and Anthony Pan went head to head in a Black Press vs Glacier Media round of Kevin and Sonia's Not-So-Secret-Word. Laura ended up winning a pair of Sony over-ear noise cancelling bluetooth headphones! Huge thanks to Coast Capital for adding so many awesome prizes and fun to the evening.



As always, during the After-Party, the Coast Capital Savings photo booth captured some fun moments for guests, and 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 the wee hours.

The 2018 Coast Capital Savings Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards Gala was another huge success. After we take a little break to catch our breath, we'll get started planning next year's gala, already scheduled for **April 27, 2019**. Mark it in your calendar!

We would like to say a huge thanks to all of our sponsors – title sponsor Coast Capital Savings, and presenting sponsors Black Press Media, Catalyst Paper, CN, Glacier Media, KPU, and TD Bank Group. We'd also like to extend our thanks to award sponsors Aberdeen Publishing, Association of BC Forest Professionals, BC Care Providers Association, Concord Pacific, Eclipse Awards, Fujifilm, HUB International, International Web Express, Ledcor, Port of Prince Rupert, Port of Vancouver, River Rock Casino Resort, Sun Chemical, Thompson Rivers University (Journalism, Communication and New Media), Tinhorn Creek Vineyards, and Trial Lawyers Association of BC.



*See you
next year!*

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019
RIVER ROCK CASINO RESORT

