

LINDSAY CRYSLER OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lindsay Chrysler Award was created in 1994 and renamed The Lindsay Chrysler Outstanding Achievement Award in 2016. The award is named after Lindsay Chrysler, a former dean of journalism at Concordia University who was instrumental in raising the bar for journalists within QCNA, and for recognizing the high impact of community journalism. QCNA wanted to mark Lindsay's ongoing love and dedication to community newspapers and his long-time involvement with QCNA with an award that would recognize his long service to the association and to community journalism. In the early 1980s, it was Lindsay, and then-editorial services coordinator Judith Taylor, who judged all entries in the QCNA Better Newspapers Competition. Lindsay encouraged his journalism students to do a stint or forge a career, in a community newspaper so they could truly appreciate the impact of what they wrote. This award is one of QCNA's most prestigious honours because it pays tribute to individuals who set the highest standard of excellence that in turn raises the profile of community newspapers. It was Lindsay's wish that the award celebrate an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the community newspaper industry in general or whose work in a community newspaper has made an extraordinary contribution to the community in the past year or over the long term.

This year's recipient had a lifetime of involvement in community newspapers and contributed tremendously to her community and this association. She started a paper named Family Gazette in Ottawa in 1948 but went on to publish five other newspapers including Pontiac County's first French language paper, Le Réveil de comté du Pontiac. Her journalism career was centered on newspapers but Rosaleen Dickson branched out into broadcasting – both radio and television, and was a founding member of CHIP, a bilingual community radio station in the Pontiac as well as CFVO, French cooperative television station in Hull. Her journalism intersected with her community activism and she was instrumental in launching the first public library in Shawville, housed for many years in the offices of The Equity, the newspaper that most of her action revolved around. Mother of seven children, she and her husband David worked tirelessly for their community. In her "retirement" she wrote for The Hill Times and also learned HTML, publishing a book about it called HTML: for people who would rather do it than read about it. Cheerful, positive, bilingual, a true role model for our industry – the 2018 Lindsay Chrysler Outstanding Achievement Award is presented posthumously to Rosaleen Dickson, who died January 23, 2018 at the age of 96 in Ottawa.

Judges: George Bakoyannis, The Laval News and Karen MacDonald, Global News.

ROSALEEN DICKSON

The Equity



Rosaleen Dickson has been involved with community newspapers since 1948 when she started the weekly Family Gazette, after she, her husband David and their four children, Ross, Jennifer, Elizabeth and Marjorie moved to Ottawa. At that time she also chaired the Hospital Committee of the Ottawa Citizens Committee on Children and helped make the case for a children's hospital, which led to the establishment of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO).

In 1953 Rosaleen and David, purchased The Equity, a weekly paper in the Pontiac area of west Quebec, and moved the family to Shawville, Quebec where three more children were born: Charles, John (who died in infancy) and Andrew. In her more than three decades as editor of The Equity, Rosaleen brought intelligence, creativity, humour and boundless energy to her work in support of community development. In 1962 she and David founded Pontiac's first French language newspaper, Le Réveil de comté du Pontiac, and though this venture proved unsustainable, she reserved a page or two of The Equity each week for French readers, a tradition that continues to this day. Also, in the '60s she and David published nearby Ontario community papers: the North Renfrew Times, the Petawawa Post and the Arnprior Guide.

With a command of both English and French, and formidable powers of persuasion, it was not words but action

for which she had greatest respect. There was never a challenge that couldn't be overcome with the application of effort as her many accomplishments, great and small, will attest. Whether driving a Pontiac hockey team through winter blizzards to games in Ontario, training children to square dance on horseback, arguing forcefully for the federalist cause in Quebec referendums or championing the restoration of a covered bridge, Rosaleen's causes found artful expression through the pages of The Equity and her own sleeves-rolled-up labours. As well, in her spare time, Rosaleen edited and published a long list of books about the history and culture of the Pontiac.

The first woman to sit on Shawville town council, Rosaleen lent her energies to such projects as the creation of the Shawville Library (located for many years in The Equity office), construction of a senior citizens' home, revamping the town's water system and establishing Mill Dam Park. Endlessly striving to brighten the corner where she was, Rosaleen was a force of nature with a hearty disdain for bureaucratic obfuscation, sustained by the sheer delight of simple pleasures such as reading newspapers, sailing on the Ottawa River with her family and playing timpani in the town band.

Rosaleen was also active in broadcasting, co-hosting the first live interview program produced at CJOH in Ottawa, Valley Weekly, with Bill

Luxton and a young Peter Jennings. She produced and hosted a TV interview program at CHOV in Pembroke, was a founding member of CHIP, a bilingual community radio station in the Pontiac and of CFVO, a French cooperative television station in Hull, and was a regular contributor of stories about the Pontiac to both, as well as to CBC's Radio Noon in Ottawa.

A child of the Depression, an adult during the Second World War, Rosaleen had no illusions about the tragic depths to which human stupidity could descend. Yet she maintained a firm belief in the human potential to create a better world and saw the opportunity to nudge things in that direction – whether raising children, as a member of a committee or writing a newspaper – by accentuating the positive and reflecting the best in people back to them.

After she and David passed their printing and publishing business on to their children in the '80s, Rosaleen remained an active communicator, participating in the launch of Freenet, Ottawa's first free email service provider, during which she wrote FreeNet for the Fun of It, and HTML: for people who would rather do it than read about it, helping other writers bring their manuscripts into a publishable condition, and writing The Meech Lake Monster about the proposed accord. She volunteered at the National Press

Club, doing her best to keep that once prominent Ottawa institution alive.

During the first few years of the Hill Times, founded by her son, Ross, and Jim Creskey, she wrote a column, MPs in the Kitchen, each week with a different member of parliament, celebrating their cooking skills or lack of same. She carried on for many years writing book reviews and taking photographs for the Hill Times and for its sister newspaper, Embassy. One of the many highlights over these years came during an interview with Dalton Camp when he discovered the subject of his graduate thesis at Columbia University was her father, Kenneth Leslie, a fellow Maritimer, recipient of the Governor General's award for poetry, and the publisher of a political magazine based in New York.

She taught journalism at Ryerson University and earned her own Master's Degree in Journalism at Carleton University in 2003. Her thesis was titled Not Just Another Pencil: Computer Mediated Communications From a Senior's Point of View. Among her many honours for community service, she was awarded an Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

After 96 years, Rosaleen's vigorously-lived and thoroughly-enjoyed life gradually ebbed to a peaceful end on January 23rd, 2018 at her home, with her daughter Elizabeth at her side in Ottawa.