



Quebec Community Newspapers Association
Association des journaux régionaux du Québec

2009 Newspaper Awards

CALL FOR ENTRIES

400 Grand Boulevard, Suite 5, Ile Perrot, QC J7V 4X2
Tel. 514-453-6300 Fax 514-453-6330 Email: info@qcna.qc.ca www.qcna.org

Rules of Entry

****Please read the rules carefully.****

1. DEFINITION OF AN ENTRANT / SCOPE OF COMPETITION

An entrant is a member of the Quebec Community Newspapers Association in good standing as of December 31, 2009. All entries are based on editions published during the calendar year 2009.

2. ENTRY FEE

Entrants wishing to compete in the awards competition must pay an entry fee calculated at \$5 per award entry submitted, plus GST (5%) and PST (7.5%). A single cheque for the total entry fee plus taxes payable to QCNA **must** accompany the entry package from each newspaper. Credit card payments (VISA, MASTERCARD) are also accepted. (*See Page 7 for entry fee payment form.*)

3. ENTRY DEADLINE

Monday, January 18, 2010. All entries must be received at QCNA, 400 Grand Boulevard, Suite 5, Ile Perrot, QC J7V 4X2, postmarked or delivered prior to midnight on Monday, January 18, 2010.

THERE WILL BE NO EXTENSIONS.

4. LIMIT OF NUMBER OF ENTRIES

Only **one entry per newspaper** in any category in the Best Overall Newspaper Category A - (A – A9) will be accepted.

Only **one entry for each person per newspaper** in any category in the Individual Writers' Awards and Photography Awards Category B (B1 – B 23) will be accepted.

5. BEST OVERALL NEWSPAPER AWARDS - CATEGORY A

For Category A1 - Submit **two** copies of one **FEBRUARY 2009** issue and **two** copies of one **OCTOBER 2009** issue to QCNA for judging.

Newspapers that publish two or more editions per week are required to select one edition and enter the same edition for the two months selected by QCNA.

For Category A2 – A8 - Submit entries from any edition published during 2009.

6. INDIVIDUAL WRITERS' AWARDS – CATEGORY B

Writers must submit a total of two copies of each entry including at least **one full tearsheet** copy. (Copies must be legible and, whenever possible, full size.) Writers are encouraged to include a short summary outlining how a story was obtained and underlining any special circumstances surrounding the story, including unusually tight deadlines, etc. Individual awards are open to members of editorial staffs as well as contributors whose work is published by member papers.

Only one entry for each writer per newspaper in any category will be accepted. Stories may not be entered in more than one category.

7. PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS – CATEGORY B

Photographers must submit two tearsheets. Prints, no larger than 8 X 10 may also accompany entries but are not obligatory. Photographers are encouraged to include a short summary indicating particularly tight deadlines, elements of difficulty or risk involved in getting a particular photo, and other circumstances worth noting.

Only one entry for each photographer per newspaper in any category will be accepted. Photos may not be entered in more than one category.

8. FORMS / IDENTIFICATION OF ENTRIES

Clip an entry coupon to each of the two tearsheet submissions requested for each award category you are entering. Entries not accompanied by an entry coupon will not be accepted. Place any supporting material behind the form. Indicate / highlight article / photo on entry tearsheet when necessary for clarity. (*See Page 7 for entry coupons.*)

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

The top three finalists will be announced in alphabetical order at QCNA's website www.qcna.org by the end of March 2010. First, second, and third place winners will be selected in each category (*except B12 & B13 – see Page 5*) unless the judges determine none of the entries in a certain category deserve special recognition, in which case they may declare no winner in that category. An electronic version of submissions for the top three finalists in each category may be requested by QCNA.

10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

Winners will be announced during the 30th annual awards banquet to be held in the spring of 2010. Prizes must be accepted as awarded and are not transferable. Decisions of the judges shall be final. QCNA shall not be held liable for any entry that is lost, stolen, misdirected or delayed for any cause or in any way.

BEST OVERALL NEWSPAPER AWARDS - Category A

Only one entry per newspaper in any category will be accepted.

A1 Best Overall Newspaper

Judged on community news content, front page, editorial page, photos, advertising, layout and overall impression.

A2 Best Front Page

Judged on community news content, photo(s), layout and overall impression.

A3 Best Editorial Page

Judged on content, writing, layout and overall impression.

A4 Best Feature Page

This entry puts everything together. It must combine a well-written, thoughtful feature story with one or more quality photographs on one page (*a double-truck spread may count as one layout*). Judging will be based on quality of writing and photography, originality, imaginative design, impact, feature value and editorial treatment of subject.

A5 Best Sports Page(s)

Judged on content, photos, layout and overall impression.

A6 Best Special Section

Must be written and produced by staffers including both editorial and advertising content. Judged on originality of idea, creativity, impact of the section, local editorial content relative to the idea, advertising design, layout and typography.

A7 Best Community Newspaper Promotion

Through one of the following ways, this award recognizes the newspaper that: 1) sponsors or originates a community event; 2) promotes the newspaper through participation in an existing event; 3) develops a total newspaper promotion; 4) promotes with the most original idea some aspect of the newspaper in an effective way (circulation, advertising, news, etc). An entry will consist of full details of the program, newspaper coverage, media used, costs and a summary explanation that reports on the impact and effectiveness of the promotion.

A 1 to 2-page explanatory summary must accompany the entry.

A8 Best Ad

Award will go to the best ad, **produced in-house for a client**. Judged on effective use of photography or artwork, originality, layout, copy writing, general appearance and balance.

A9 Best Website

Judging will be based on editorial and other content (quality of writing and photos, timeliness, advertising, archives, links, relevance to your community) as well as overall design (ease of navigation, visual appeal, graphic design). Entries will consist of the newspaper's website address (URL) printed on the entry form. Submit two printouts of home page. Judging will take place online on the same day as yet to be determined.

NB Unlike the rest of the awards, this award is for the current year and will bear this year's date.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES - MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010

INDIVIDUAL WRITERS' AWARDS – Category B

Only one entry for each writer per newspaper in each category will be accepted.

WRITERS' AWARDS

B1 Best News Story

For a single news story (may include sidebars). To be judged on the quality of writing (spelling, grammar, style), research and reporting skills and reporter's enterprise. Deadline pressure may also be a consideration where applicable.

B2 Best Feature Story

For a single news or human interest feature (may include sidebars). To be judged on the quality of writing and reporting skills, impact and original treatment of subject.

B3 Best Business Story

For a single news story on a business topic. To be judged on the quality of writing (spelling, grammar, style), reporting skills and reporter's enterprise.

B4 Best Investigative or In-Depth Reporting

For one or a series of stories dealing with a single subject. To be judged based on the quality of writing, reporter's enterprise and investigative and reporting skills. Reporters and / or editors are encouraged to submit a brief note to explain how the story affected change or provided new knowledge, understanding or insight about an issue in the community.

B5 Best Sports Story

For a single sports story (may include sidebars). To be judged on the quality of writing, reporting and analysis.

B6 Best Arts and Entertainment Story

For a single arts feature or review. To be judged on quality of writing and reporting or critical analysis.

B7 Best Column Writing

Columnist must submit three columns written during the 12-month period ending December 31, 2009. Entries will be judged on writing, creativity and style.

B8 Best Business Column or Feature

For a single column or feature on a business topic. To be judged on the quality of writing and research, and in the case of a column, creativity and style.

B9 Best Editorial (local affairs)

For a single editorial on issues directly facing the community covered by the paper. Editorials will be judged on the quality of the writing, clarity and sound reasoning.

B10 Bob Phillips Award for the Best Editorial (general)

For a single editorial dealing with topics outside the community, but having local interest or relevance. Editorials will be judged on the quality of the writing, clarity and sound reasoning.

B11 Best Headline Writing (three to five best headlines required)

The headlines must have been written by regular staff members for locally produced staff stories. Headline entries can come from any section of a regular edition and each must be clearly identified on the page. Submit full-page tearsheets of your **three to five** best headlines from any issues published in 2009. Clearly identify the author(s) of the headlines. Judged on accuracy, cleverness, creativity, impact and originality. **Judges will consider all three to five headlines as one entry.**

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES - MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010

WRITERS' AWARDS — *continued*

B12 Best French-language News Story*

For a single news story (may include sidebars). To be judged on the quality of writing (spelling, grammar, style), reporting skills and reporter's enterprise. Deadline pressure may also be a consideration where applicable.

*There will be only one winner in this category.

B13 Best French-language Editorial / Column*

For a single editorial or column on issues either directly facing the community or outside the community but having local interest or relevance. Judging will be based on the quality of writing, clarity and sound reasoning or creativity.

*There will be only one winner in this category.

B14 Best Education Story

For a single news or feature article dealing with educational and school board issues. To be judged on the quality of writing (spelling, grammar, style), reporting skills and reporter's enterprise.

B15 Best Agricultural Story

For a single news or feature article (may include sidebars) on an agricultural subject or issue. To be judged on the quality of writing, (spelling, grammar, style) reporting skills and reporter's enterprise.

B16 Best Environmental Story

For a single news or feature article (may include sidebars) on an environmental subject or issue. To be judged on the quality of writing, (spelling, grammar, style) reporting skills and reporter's enterprise.

B17 Best Municipal / Civic Affairs Story

For a single news or feature article covering town / city hall or other municipal issues in your community. To be judged on the quality of writing (spelling, grammar, style), reporting skills and reporter's enterprise.

B18 Best Community Health Story

For a single news or feature article dealing with health or medical issues that affect your community. To be judged on the quality of writing (spelling, grammar, style), reporting skills and reporter's enterprise.

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

B19 Best News Photo

To be judged on news value, quality, composition originality and impact. Deadline pressure and difficulty of assignment may be a consideration in judging. Images may not be digitally altered beyond the traditional lightening, darkening and color balancing.

B20 Best Feature Photo

To be judged on feature value, quality, composition, originality and impact. Images may not be digitally altered beyond the traditional lightening, darkening and color balancing.

B21 Best Sports Photo

To be judged on quality, composition, originality and impact. Images may not be digitally altered beyond the traditional lightening, darkening and color balancing.

B22 Best Photo Essay—*for a series of photos related to the same subject.*

To be awarded to the photographer(s) and others who took the photos and put the essay or page together. To be judged on the quality of photos and editorial treatment. Images may not be digitally altered beyond the traditional lightening, darkening and color balancing. Entry should include the name of the photographer(s) as well as the individual(s) who laid out the photo essay.

BEST EDITORIAL CARTOON

B23 Best Editorial Cartoon

Cartoonist must submit two tearsheets. Criteria for cartoons will be originality, creativity, style, design, punch line, presentation and, of course, humour!

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CORRESPONDENT AWARDS – Category C

Editors and publishers are invited to submit the names of correspondents who have made an exceptional contribution to the newspaper. All nominations will receive a certificate of recognition.

LINDSAY CRYSLER AWARD

For this category, we encourage members to nominate individuals who have made significant contributions to community newspapers and their success in the past year or over the long term.

Winner will be selected by a panel of past winners.

See attached application form.

JOAN DURNIN OUTSTANDING SALESPERSON AWARD

Awarded to a member of the sales staff who has made a significant contribution to the newspaper through sales performance, dedication, client development and community outreach work that raises the profile of the paper.

Winner will be selected by a panel of past winners.

See attached application form.

PAUL DUMONT-FRENETTE AWARD

The QCNA's top individual writing award. This prize will be awarded to the individual who has shown the best overall performance in the year as determined by judges in reviewing all entries.

Winner is determined by the number of winning entries in the writing categories.

OUTSTANDING PHOTOJOURNALISM AWARD

The QCNA's top individual photo-journalism award. This prize will be awarded to the individual who has shown the best overall performance in the year as determined by judges in reviewing all entries.

Winner is determined by the number of winning entries in the photography awards.

OUTSIDE THE COMPETITION – JUST FOR FUN !!

The Terrific Turkey Trophy Award

This category aims to add a little levity to the ceremonies while at the same time giving us a chance to sit back and laugh at ourselves. The Turkey Trophy and other dishonorable mentions will be given to the funniest bloopers and silliest headlines. Enter your own, enter those from other QCNA papers, the QCNA staff is also promising to set some of the most comical *misnakes*, *egregious* errors, and hilarious headlines aside. The names of the culprits may be omitted to protect the guilty.

Send your entries to:

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DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES - MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010

QCNA 2009 NEWSPAPER AWARDS

ENTRY FORM

Please fill out and attach to each tearsheet entry.
(Make copies as needed.)
For more details, call QCNA at:
514-453-6300

YOUR NAME _____
NEWSPAPER _____
AWARD NAME _____
CATEGORY NO. _____

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ENTRY FEE PAYMENT FORM

Total number of entries X \$5 _____
(100304955RT) GST 5% _____
(1001211346) PST 7.5% _____
Total _____

Payment enclosed:

VISA

MASTERCARD

Cheque payable to QCNA

Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Send entries to:
QCNA, Grand Boulevard, Suite 5, Ile Perrot, QC J7V 4X2