

Quinte Secondary School graduate

sent April 20/94 p. 12

Diana captures photo award

By Nancy Gummow

Blk - Bldg - N. collector

The Intelligencer

An ex-Belleveillian photographer has snapped up Canada's highest prize in journalism.

Diana Nethercott, 29, won a National Newspaper Award for her picture "Young Critics" — of two children clasping their ears, as trumpeters play near them.

Nethercott, a Hamilton Spectator staff photographer, shot her award-winning photo last September at a charity water race.



Diana Nethercott

A delay forced Nethercott to wander around the race grounds — and luckily spied two kids squealing over a musical band's sounds.

With only 10 frames left in her camera, she took position near the boys, waited until they were close together — and click! — the spontaneous and humorous moment was captured on film.

"I knew this was a very funny picture," said Nethercott. "Children are just not afraid to be critics. The adults didn't like the noise either, but this tells the innocence of childhood. You can't plan something like that."

Nethercott wins \$2,000 and a plaque for her efforts, along with heaps of recognition. 'Young Critics' also won the North America-wide National Press Photographer's Association competition, plus the Ontario News Photographer's Association's award for best feature picture last September.

"It was great about the win, but I still had to go to work the next day. It was a little bit humbling," said the Quinte Secondary School graduate who credits a teacher for her early photographic inclinations.

One of her teachers took pictures of a fire which were published by the Intelligencer. He earned \$50 for his efforts — and Nethercott was hooked.

She saved earnings from her paper route and — with her dad's help — bought her first camera. His workroom became her darkroom to developing shots from her favorite haunts in Prince Edward County.

"I've always enjoyed the challenge of being able to tell the story with one photograph," she said. "That's what I enjoy."

Before the Spectator, Nethercott, a graduate of Ryerson University's Film and Photography course, interned at the Toronto Star and freelanced for the Globe and Mail.



Photo courtesy of Diana Nethercott

Young Critics. Diana Nethercott's award winning photo shows two young children responding to the sound of a band's horn section.