

Publisher Ken Nugent (front, second from left) is surrounded by Independent & Free Press staffers celebrating the paper's first-place finish at the 1996 Better Newspapers Competition. The paper won the Class 5 (circulation 12,500-24,999) general excellence award Saturday. Staff members pictured are, from left, (back row) Kevin Powell, Rose Marie Gauthier, Cynthia Gamble, Nancy Geissler, Lana Walsma, Pat Kentner, Mary O'Brien, Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt and John McGhie. (Middle row) Mary Lou Foreman, Stephanie Ahrens, Carol Hall, Sandra Dorsey, Jeannette Cox and Terrylynn Guest. (Front row) Dolores Black, Ken Nugent, Sharon Pinkney and Shelli Harrison.

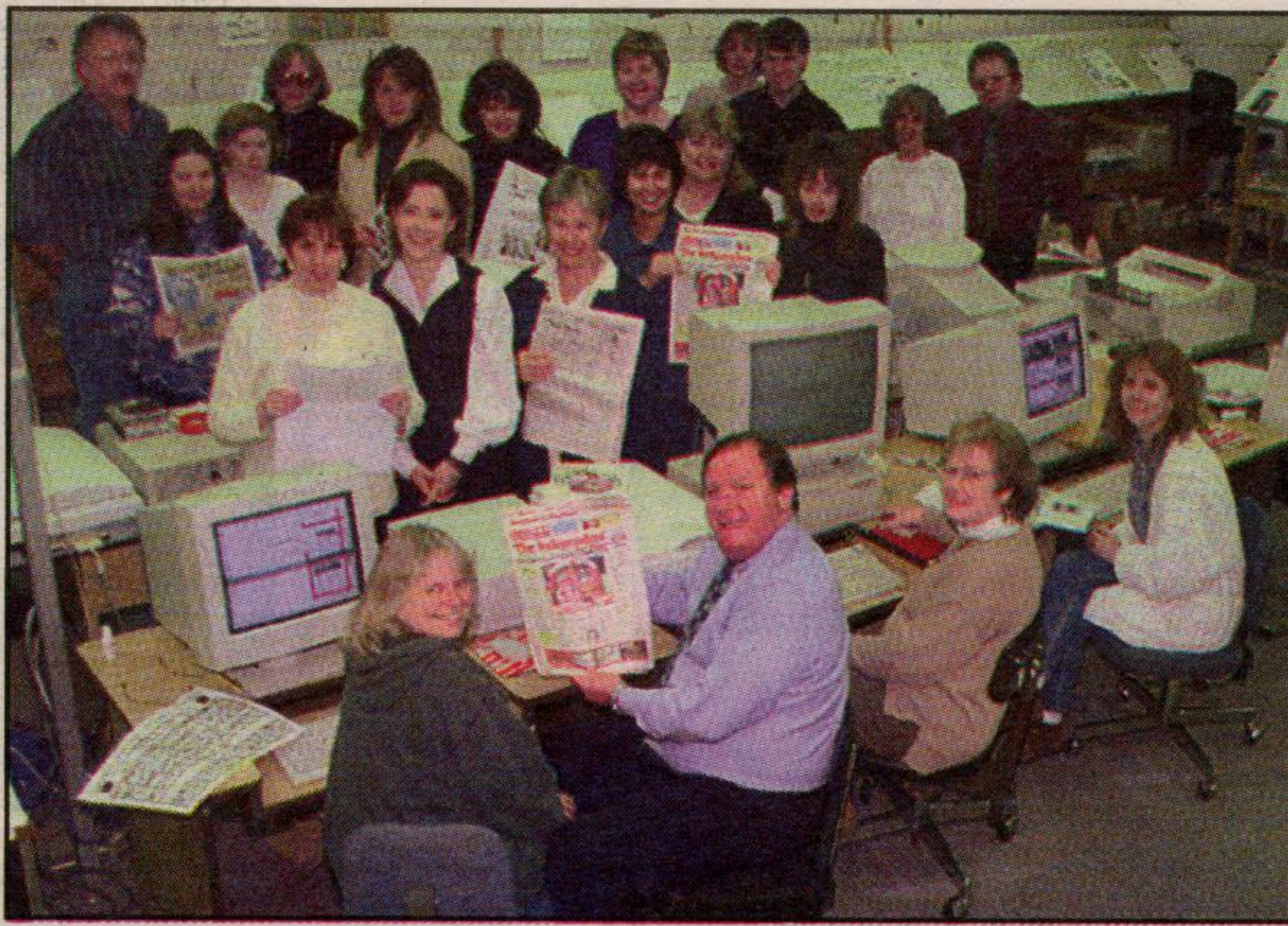


Photo by Ted Brown

Independent is tops in 10 categories at newspaper awards

Judges for the Ontario Community Newspapers Association 1996 Better Newspapers Competition liked The Independent & Free Press—a lot.

Competing in class 5 (circulation 12,500-24,999) of the General Excellence Awards, The Independent & Free Press earned 805 of a possible 1,000 points to take first place. The Oakville Beaver finished second with a total of 675 points while the Owen Sound Tribune was third with 645. Chatham This Week and the Kanata Courier-Standard were fourth and fifth respectively. A total of 10 papers competed.

The top five finishers are automatically entered in the Canadian Community Newspapers Association awards competition scheduled for July in Whistler, B.C.

All papers in the Ontario awards were judged on 11 different categories and The Independent & Free Press earned the highest marks in 10 of those categories.

The judges said The Independent & Free Press did a "super job both in content and presentation. Readers (were) treated to fresh, clean copy and interesting well-cropped photos."

The following is how the judges rated Halton Hills best-read paper in the various categories. The figure in brackets is the total number of points available:

Front page: 120 (150); community news 120 (150); editorial and opposite editorial (op ed) pages 70 (100); presentation 80 (100); photography 85 (100); advertising content 85 (100); advertising design 85 (100); classified advertising 40 (50); local feature stories 40 (50); sports coverage 40 (50); production quality 40 (50); overall 805 (1,000).

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