

NEWSPAPERS WILL FOREVER HAVE A PLACE, WRITES SLACK

JULIE SLACK
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NEWSPAPERS MATTER
NOW MORE  THAN EVER

It's about trust. Our relationship with our readers is built on transparency, honesty and integrity. As such, we have launched a trust initiative to tell you who we are and how and why we do what we do. This article is part of that project.

I've been a journalist for 29 years, coincidentally starting my career as a sports and community reporter at the hometown newspaper I used to search every Wednesday for familiar names and faces - The Grimsby Independent.

At the time, it was an independent, owned by Beamsville's Bill Rennie, a gem of a gentleman and a lifelong journalist himself.

A naïve 20-year-old, little did I know that I'd end up writing stories that changed people's lives, and had long-lasting impacts on communities.

In various roles through the years, I was newspaper editor of the West Lincoln News (Smithville), Lincoln Post Express, the Grimsby Independent, the Ancaster News, The Hamilton Mountain News, and then reporter at the Mississauga

News and later the Milton Canadian Champion. Today, I write for all the Halton papers - Oakville, Burlington and Milton. There are stories everywhere and people I've met and crossed paths with that make me smile.

From helping to prevent the demise of local festivals, to fundraising for any number of causes, community newspapers truly embrace the role of being a champion.

When I worked at the Hamilton (Mountain then) News, we rallied successfully to keep the then-Henderson Hospital open when it was listed on the chopping blocks by the provincial government of the day. A similar scenario played out with Auchmar Mansion. With the newspaper supporting community groups, pressure was placed on governments to preserve this historic gem.

In Mississauga, I worked on a number of stories to help preserve lands that were once home to a much-loved and revered bird sanctuary run by

world-renowned ornithologist Roy Ivor.

In Halton, newspapers have helped to bring to light countless issues that would otherwise remain unknown to the community.

We keep politicians accountable to taxpayers. We make change happen.

Personally, my career has been life-changing and a continuous journey of education.

I look back at old newspaper clippings covering my youth: Baseball at bats, graduations, even the fluoride rinse program at schools!

And it's those moments that people still long to see in their newspaper. I understand that, and I'm so happy to have been able to be a part of that for all these years.

Julie Slack is a reporter for the Burlington Post, Milton Canadian Champion and Oakville Beaver. We welcome your questions and value your comments. Email our trust committee at trust@metroland.com.



Julie Slack

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