



Catherine O'Hara (left), Eric Riehl and Julie Slack earned first-place honours from the Local Media Association for their in-depth series on autism titled *Navigating Through the Fog*.

Autism series takes first place in North American newspaper awards

Champion also wins other awards in province, region

The *Champion* has been recognized for excellence in North American, provincial and regional newspaper competitions.

Navigating Through the Fog, a four-part series focusing on families living with autism, was chosen by the Local Media Association as the best in its class for in-depth reporting.

The media industry association, which accepts entries from hundreds of community newspapers from across North America in its annual editorial competition, recognized the Metroland West Media Group team feature that ran in the *Champion* and its sister papers, the *Flamborough Review*, *Burlington Post* and *Oakville Beaver*, through October and November 2012.

Reporters Julie Slack of the *Champion* and Catherine O'Hara of the *Flamborough Review*

teamed up with now *Champion* (formerly *Oakville Beaver*) photographer Eric Riehl to document the unique challenges families face when a child is diagnosed with autism, and the options available to them within — and outside of — the province's health and education systems.

To read *Navigating Through the Fog*, visit <http://linkbitty.com/FXmUb>.

Your hometown newspaper also enjoyed a tidy haul at the Ontario Community Newspaper Association awards Friday night in Vaughan.

The *Champion* finished among the top three in five categories, including three first-place showings.

Winning first for Best Sports Photo was an image captured by former *Champion* photographer Graham Paine of a hockey player landing upside down in a corner check.

The *Champion* also took first for advertis-20

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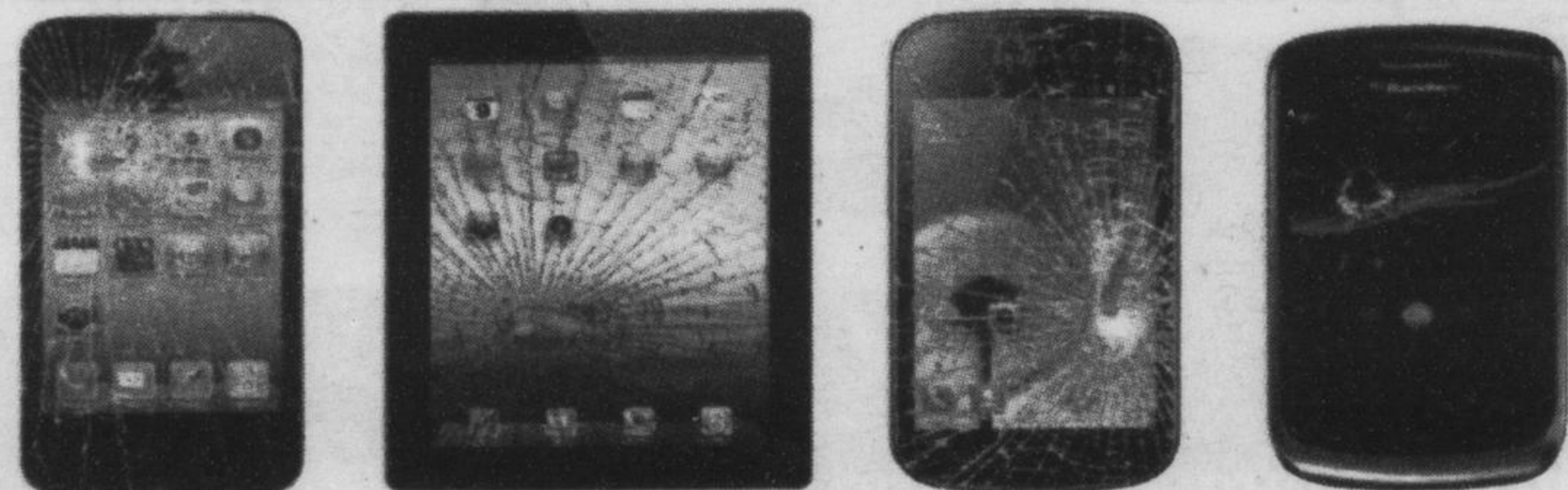
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