

Metroland papers earn SNA honours

EDITORIAL WRITER WINS TOP HONOUR IN NORTH AMERICAN COMPETITION

BY PATRICK CASEY
Staff Writer

York Region's Metroland newspapers have won a North American newspaper award for editorial writing.

The editorials, written by Liberal editor David Teetzel, won first place in the class D division of the Suburban Newspapers Association competition.

The three winning editorials were published in The Era-Banner, Markham Economist & Sun, Stouffville Tribune and The Liberal and dealt with the Oak Ridges Moraine, an Aurora girl's death at a riding stable and labour unrest at local schools.

"It's nice to have my name on a North American award," said Teetzel. "But it's not really an individual effort. That's why we don't put bylines on editorials. The positions in these editorials were discussed by all the editors and it's the reporters who do all the tough work getting the facts."

In the same competition, The Era-Banner claimed third place in the class D category for best editorial page.

The Oct. 7, Sept. 23 and Sept. 9 editions featured Teetzel's editorials, as well as a column by Era-Banner editor Doug Devine, a cartoon by Steve Nease and letters from local readers.

The Era-Banner, which won a second-place award in the 1999 general excellence category from the SNA, finished third for best local election coverage.

Its Sunday, June 6 edition last year recapped Premier Mike Harris' overwhelming provincial election victory, including a sweep of York Region by Progressive Conservative candidates.

The past 12 months have proven to be an award-winning year for York Region's Metroland division and included reporter Jennifer Brown being named the best suburban journalist in North America by the SNA.

Reporter Gianni Colavecchia won a best breaking news story for his piece depicting the disappearance and tragic drowning of two young brothers in the Scugog River. Colavecchia was working for Metroland's Lindsay This Week newspaper when he wrote the article.

The first award-winning editorial, published on Nov. 26, 1998, said it was time to end all strike action in York Region's schools and called on the provincial government to form one

province-wide union representing all elementary and high school teachers.

The May 13, 1999 editorial demanded that recommendations from an inquest into the death of Elizabeth Hader, who was dragged by a horse, be followed through. Similar inquests in 1985 and 1977 recommended riders wear helmets and proper footwear, but the rules were never adopted by the province.

A Sept. 23 editorial explained municipal governments do not have the money nor the clout to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine, as developers have already paved over a third of it. It called on the provincial government to support efforts to save the moraine, including adopting a 1994 position paper drafted by the former NDP government.

The SNA represents 2,000 publications in Canada and the United States, with newspapers reaching more than 17 million households and more than 42

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York Region winery wins award

In just five short years, Cilento Wines has established itself as a leading producer of wines.

And now the Woodbridge winery has the backing of the Ontario wine industry after winning the Andrew S. Brandt trophy for best general list white wine at the Cuvee Millennium awards celebration earlier this month.

Billed as the Academy Awards of the wine industry, the Cuvee awards are a celebration of excellence in Ontario winemaking. Cilento, which is sponsored by the Liquor Control Board of Canada and named after its current chairperson, captured the honour for its 1998 Chardonnay No-Oak wine.

Contestants were short-listed before a panel of winemakers blind-tasted all the entries.

"As a young company, I never thought we would win. It seems you have to earn your place," explained Grace Lociento.



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