

# Reporters, editors garner awards

## National awards honour Metroland's York Region newspapers for excellence

York Region's Metroland newspapers took home 12 awards in this year's newspaper competitions sponsored by the Canadian Community Newspaper Association.

The awards were announced during the association's 81st national convention in Magog, Que. July 20 to 23.

Former Newmarket Era-Banner reporter Rick Vanderlinde won for best news story in the highest circulation class of the CCNA competition for his coverage of the desperate search for missing Newmarket woman Tammy Lamondin-Gagnon last spring.

Vanderlinde, who is now news editor at the Era-Banner's sister newspaper, the Markham Economist and Sun and Stouffville Tribune, was praised for doing his own investigating for the story, not solely relying on the police. His interviews with family and friends of Lamondin-Gagnon brought real emotion to the story, the judges said.

Vanderlinde said he was prompted to delve further into the story because of its impact on the community.

"It was a classic mystery. There was a murder, we had no body and the police didn't have much to go on. Because it was so close to home — people were afraid to let their daughters go out at night — was part of my impetus for digging into it," he said.



Metroland journalists Dawn Liersch and Rick Vanderlinde won awards in national newspaper competition.

"It was one of those stories you live with a long time ... It's nice to be recognized for something you put a lot of work and a lot of thought into. It's nice to know your peers feel you've done a good job."

Gianni Colavecchia, a reporter at The Liberal newspaper in Richmond Hill, placed second in that same category for a story on the drowning of two young boys in the Scugog River last year. Colavecchia was working at Metroland's Lindsay This Week when he wrote the story.

Colavecchia and Hugh Nicholson of Lindsay This Week shared second prize for a national editorial.

Joan Ransberry, a reporter with the Markham Economist and Sun and Stouffville Tribune, won second place for outstanding columnist.

And Era-Banner reporter Dawn Liersch won a second place CIDA Award for excellence in writing on international co-operation, an award sponsored jointly by the CCNA and the Canadian International Development Agency.

The Era-Banner took top honours for best front page, with The Liberal following in third place. The Liberal also placed third in overall general excellence for best all-round newspaper and third place for best editorial page.

The Era-Banner, The Liberal and the Stouffville Tribune were blue ribbon winners in the general excellence competition.

"It's encouraging to see our efforts haven't gone unnoticed," said Ian Proudfoot, publisher of Metroland's York Region group of newspapers. "I'm particularly proud the newspapers have been recognized in a wide range of categories."

Overall, Metroland newspapers picked up 35 prizes from the competition with accolades including best all-round newspaper, best newspaper promotion and best sports photo for the Oakville Beaver, and best editorial page for Oshawa/Whitby This Week.

# Big box store won't kill mall

BY FRED SIMPSON  
Staff Writer

Although major changes are being proposed for Thornhill Square, the mall will still survive, says Councillor Randy Barber.

After a recent public meeting, some area residents were concerned the mall at Bayview and John streets would be replaced with a big box housewares store.

But Barber said a proposal to replace the old Zellers store, which has been vacant for two years, with "an upscale European home decorator type of place" would affect less than half the mall's space and leave popular businesses such as Dominion and Tower Records intact.

Barber suggested this was preferable to the owners' initial idea of "tearing half or more of the building down and putting in a whole bunch of condos right beside the railway tracks" on John Street.

"There are 44 trains a day that go through there and I can just see what kind of a problem we would have with residents who would want to move in there," Barber said.

"All of a sudden, I would be hearing complaints about there being too many trains going by."

The mall was recently purchased by a pension fund group, which is trying to bring in more traffic.

Councillor Bill O'Donnell, in whose Ward 1 the mall is located, said he has been working for years to help find a tenant for the Zellers space.

O'Donnell said the Dominion store and lawyers, doctors and dentists offices in of the complex have been "very successful", but not so the commercial section at the east end. Further public discussions would be held before any decisions were made, he said.



# UNIMARK CARPET

## SAVE UP TO 50% OFF

Registered trademark of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and company. DuPont Canada Inc. is a licensee.

• NO DOWN PAYMENT • NO MONTHLY PAYMENTS • NO INTEREST FOR 6 MONTHS OAC.

### Dupont STAINMASTER Xtra Life®

55 oz. Wght. 100% Nylon

- \* 120 excellent designer colours
- \* 10 year wear warranty
- \* Virtually trackless
- \* Shock resistant

**\$24<sup>99</sup>** sq. yrd.

55 oz. Wght. 100% BCF Dupont Nylon

- \* Stainmaster Xtra Life®
- \* 24 of today's latest colour choices sure to suit any decor
- \* 10 year wear warranty
- \* Virtually trackless

**\$28<sup>99</sup>** sq. yrd.

65 oz. Wght. 100% BCF Dupont Nylon

- \* Stainmaster Xtra Life®
- \* Amazing 90 splendid colours
- \* 10 year warranty
- \* 1/10th guage Saxony Plush
- \* Virtually trackless

**\$36<sup>99</sup>** sq. yrd.

A wide variety of Berbers, Level Loops, Sisals, Commercial Grade Cut Piles and Graphic Design selections are all reduced to sell quickly.

••• all prices above include •••

• Best Installation • 1/2 inch Premium Underpad • Lifetime Installation Guarantee

• C.O.D. CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL 7% off.

## FREE SHOP AT HOME

# 294-6733

11 LAIDLAW BLVD.  
MARKHAM, ONTARIO

### BUSINESS HOURS:

Mon., Tues., Fri.....9-6  
Wed.....9-7  
Thurs.....9-8  
Sat.....9-5



DUPONT STAINMASTER Grand Luxura™

DUPONT STAINMASTER® Carpet

• Dupont STAINMASTER Master Life®