

# Change of command at Metroland



IAN OLIVER



MURRAY SKINNER

BY PATRICK MANGION  
Staff Writer

As president of Metroland Publishing, Murray Skinner presided over some of the most exciting changes to impact the newspaper industry in years.

Now, after 33 years, his career draws to a close. He guided the expansion of Metroland community newspapers throughout Ontario while building an online presence that has positioned the company as an industry leader.

While Mr. Skinner will remain with the company as a consultant, July 1 marks the beginning of the Ian Oliver era at Metroland.

"It's a fabulous company. We are the leading newspaper and media company across Ontario and Canada and we're among the best in North America. But it's the people who make this company great and it's the people I'll miss the most," Mr. Skinner said, adding he plans to travel more during retirement.

His newspaper career spans 40 years, 33 of them with Metroland, where he served as vice-president of marketing for 19 years before being appointed president in 2000.

He previously held the position of vice-president of marketing and corporate sales for Metroland.

"I'm proud of the variety of ways we serve our

community with shows, our newspaper, Internet, magazines and printing," Mr. Skinner said.

"The future of Metroland will be similar to its past; we have to be open to adapting and change. It's our people who will make it happen."

His successor, Mr. Oliver has been a publisher with Metroland since the age of 27.

With the amalgamation of the former CityMedia Group into Metroland in September 2006, Ian was appointed to the position of publisher at The Hamilton Spectator, executive vice-president of Metroland and group publisher of Metroland West Media Group.

As well as his involvement and leadership in Metroland's expansion into non-core products such as consumer shows and magazines, Mr. Oliver has played a key role in Metroland's geographic expansion.

He led the launch of Metroland's largest community newspaper, becoming the founding publisher of Niagara This Week.

He has also identified and completed more than a dozen acquisitions for Metroland.

Mr. Oliver has been extensively involved in Metroland's overall strategy, serving as a member of Metroland strategic planning committee, the Torstar Newspaper Group, the Gold Book Advisory Board, and Metroland's publishers' advisory committee.

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