



# 2021 BNC Awards

Presented June 2022



**2021 Better Newspaper Competition - General Excellence**  
**2021 Better Newspaper Competition - Awards of Excellence**  
**2021 AWNA Photographic Awards**

Thank you to our awards sponsors:



**Genome**Alberta



# BNC Awards of Excellence

## Best Ag Section

Sponsored by:

Genome Alberta

1st Place **Provost News**

2nd Place **Rocky Mountain House Mountaineer**

3rd Place **Lakeland This Week**



Genome Alberta

I was pleased to judge the Agricultural Sections/Supplements for the AWNA awards. This was very interesting for me as I have almost 50 years of hands-on experience in farming and this brought much joy to me. Congratulations to all entries!

### First place -The Provost News

This entry really stole my heart for so many reasons...The front page story and photo with the triplet calves and the twin boys and sibling shows what farm life is really allabout, family involvement from a very early age.The feedlot story, Trying to do more with less, Family Enjoys Cattle, Rural Life was an exceptional human interest story,Another thing that really resonated with this particular entry was that all the ads that saluted and congratulated the farmersand ranchers for their outstanding work and achievements. This really shows how proud the communities represented in thispublication are of their agricultural community. Hats off to my first place pick, The Provost News!



### Second place -The Mountaineer from Rocky Mountain House

This feature packed a real punch. The front page story and pictures from Locals venture into ostrich farming as the cover story was very interesting and a great lead off. Clearwater County hosts preventative health assessments for rural participants was great because we all know that farming is one of the most stressful occupations, so this article was awesome, I loved the research regarding A century ago, Rocky District called ideal for mixed farming. Notable trends in local agriculture and Producers reminded to be BearSmart, again were well written and very deserving ofmore recognition. The final story and photo by Brittanie Willsie, summed this entry up best, A farmer's pot of gold. Everyone, and I feel, especially farmers, love to see that rainbow. We all need the rain, but the rainbow reminds us of sunny days ahead.



### Third place - Lakeland This Week

There were lots of interesting stories, pictures and advertising in this large supplement. The stories about organic farming, canola prices, soil moisture,, succession planning, fire department farm extrication symposium, market cattle prices, and local honey operators were all very well written, and contributed by the many writers for this paper.



## Effective & Original Use of Colour in Advertising

Sponsored by: **AWNA**

1st Place **Meridian Source - Alison Lamont School of Dance**

Credits: Shawna Chernichen

2nd Place **Ponoka News - Enchanted Garden** Credits: Jessica Crandall

3rd Place **Claresholm Local Press - Casa Roma: Smoking hot fire prevention special** Credits: Amanda Zimmer

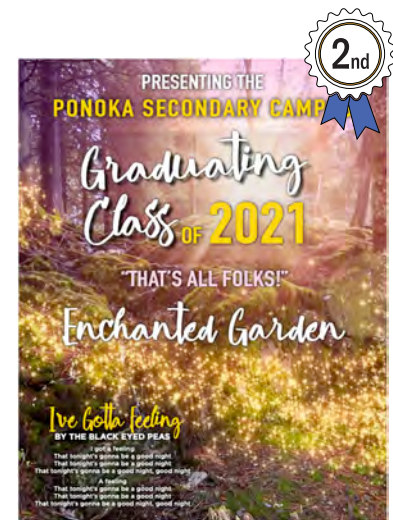
First Place - Meridian Source  
Love the yellow. Very effective colour use. Eye-catching dancer looks like a bird in flight. Good contrast between red and yellow. Scored 29 colour, 17 design, 10 copy, 13 images, 12 originality = 81 total

Second Place - Ponoka News  
Love the visual imagery which draws attention inward. Imagery compliments message of the ad very well. Scored 28 for colour, 18 design, 10 copy, 13 images, 10 creative, = 79 total

Third Place - Claresholm Local Press  
Really like the colour contrast. The eye is drawn in by the imagery. Originality is worthwhile. Scored 27 for colour, design 13 (it's a bit busy), copy 11, image 12, originality 14 = 79 total.

HM - The Mountaineer - This ad was original in design and content. The copy flowed well with the imagery. Ad was readable and to the point without a lot of clutter.

HM - Rimbey Review - colour in this ad scored 29 out of 30. It's very eye-catching. Ad had a lot of content and some images lost impact due to lots of information and visuals of page.



## Special Supplement or Section

Sponsored by:

**Metro Creative Graphics, Inc.**

1st Place **Claresholm Local Press - Celebrating our Veterans**

2nd Place **Shootin' The Breeze - 2021 Summer Guide**

3rd Place **Pipestone Flyer - Christmas Baking Special**



## Pandemic Writing Sponsored by: AWWA

1st Place **The Albertan - Barbershop owners plan to defy public health order** Credits: Johnnie Bachusky

2nd Place **Lakeland This Week - Local restaurants open for dine-in to protest provincial regulations** Credits: Rob McKinley, Robynne Henry

3rd Place **The Rocky Mountain House Mountaineer - Tea Rocks closes doors to those recently vaccinated for COVID-19** Credits: Brittany Willise

First Place - The Albertan

Strong writing, interesting stories, lots of voices and fresh photos. And incredibly entertaining. Very well done!

Second Place - Lakeland This Week

Strong stories, excellent photo on front, well presented. Good teamwork. Well done!

Third Place - The Mountaineer

An interesting read about a business owner not wanting vaccinated patrons to shop in their store. Fresh photo. Balanced story. Congrats!

## Gordon Scott Memorial Award for Best Feature Column by a Local Writer Sponsored by: AWWA

1st Place **Lakeland This Week - It's pretty real when you have it** Credits: Rob McKinley

2nd Place **Shootin' the Breeze - My Little Corner** Credits: Shannon Robison

3rd Place **Ponoka News - Finding your centre in troubled times** Credits: Emily Jaycox

First Place - Lakeland This Week.

Rob McKinley offers an expertly-written rebuttal to all those who protested the government-mandated COVID restrictions. Using the fact that two of his family members had COVID at the time of writing, he flips the familiar arguments on their head and points out the selfish choices made by others that ultimately restricted his family's freedom. This is an excellent example of using your own life to strengthen your larger point

Second Place - Shootin' the Breeze.

Shannon Robison successfully avoided the trap of relying too heavily on her own personal reaction to the community response to the discoveries on the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. Instead, she allows the words of a local Elder to provide the emotion, reflection and even hope that make this column an important read. Her own thoughts and actions serve to support the message rather than being the message itself. It's what this column needed.

Third Place - Ponoka News

The joy in reading Emily Jaycox's column on finding her special place - an unnamed mountain lake - is in her beautiful and evocative prose. Her words transported me to its very shore and made me feel as if I was sitting there right alongside her. An excellent read.

Honourable Mention - The Pipestone Flyer.

Shaela Dansereau put together a powerful piece that certainly led to many important conversations in her communities.

Honourable Mention - Claresholm Local Press.

Rob Vogt's piece on remembering his Grade 3 Christmas concert reminds us that an excellent column doesn't need to be 800 words long to have an impact. A funny, tightly-written and timely column is always a welcome read.



First Place - Claresholm Local Press

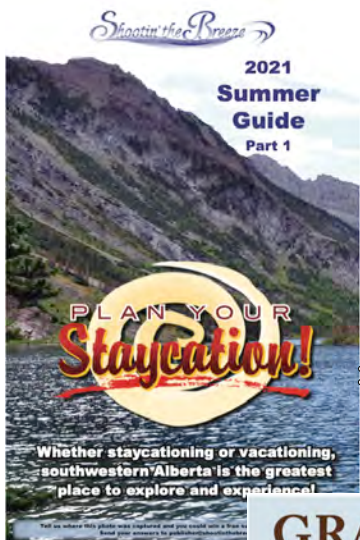
This section is visually impactful and beautifully-designed. Strong image on the cover, which anchors the interior top panels on each page. Editorial flows well among great-looking display ads as well as pages with dynamic business-card sized ad spots. Congratulations on this winning section!

Second Place - Shootin' The Breeze

With a Staycation/Vacation theme, this lively three part section has great photography and local stories. Well done display ads and a focus on local and notable spots makes this a handy keeper section!

Third Place - The Pipestone Flyer

This charming special section entices with beautiful food photography, topped with appealing typography throughout. The interior recipe-card layouts with photos of the 'grandma' contributions are great! All surrounded by well-designed display ads, this is a wonderful section!



# Excellence in Ad Campaign Award

Sponsored by: **AWNA**

1st Place **Sylvan Lake News - Long Weekend meal ideas** Credits: Barb Pettie, Alex Streicher

2nd Place **Wainwright EDGE - Not Just the Classics** Credits: Carrie Baumgartner

3rd Place **Lloydminster Meridian Source - KAT Salon & Spa** Credits: Amanda Richard

First Place - Sylvan Lake News

We loved this campaign! Original & eye-catching. Recipes were a great upsell and Sold me on the products for sure. If we had criticism it would be that a couple of the ads were a bit busy/full but over all well done.

Second Place - Wainwright EDGE

Love the idea, and the twist of humor in the ads. We did feel the message in the ad was overshadowed by the image. But overall, we really enjoyed them. Very tough decision between 1st and 2nd

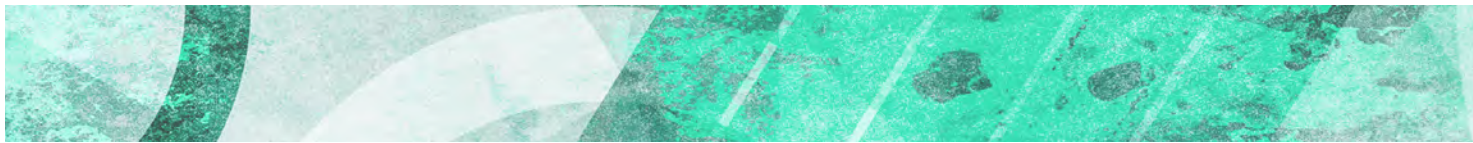
Third Place - Meridian Source

Loved the bold color choices and simple yet effective messaging.

HM Jasper Fitzhugh

We really liked the layout and design of these ads, however, we felt they could do a better job explaining the products/services offered. And there was a spelling error in one of the ads.





## Best Feature Story by a Local Writer

Sponsored by:



### Southern Alberta Institute of Technology

1st Place **Claresholm Local Press - Stavely's Little Free Library across from golf course was a labour of love**

Credits: Rob Vogt

2nd Place **Whitecourt Star - Local vet receives nationwide honour, but service is what drives him**

Credits: Brad Querin

3rd Place **Shootin' The Breeze - Formal Fridays - a family turns pain to purpose**

Credits: Shannon Robison

#### First place - Claresholm Local Press

Little Free Libraries add to the texture of life in many communities, large or small. Sometimes, they can lead to a stories beyond books, book-lovers and the LFL structure itself. Rob Vogt of Claresholm Local Press (June 8, 2021) spotted such an opportunity and turned it into a heart-warming text-and photo package.

#### Second place - Whitecourt Star

Long after the shooting stops, wars often continue to take their toll. Brad Querin of the Whitecourt Star (Nov. 10, 2021) describes "a dark place" which haunts a Canadian veteran who served in Afghanistan. It is a thought-provoking and unusual recognition of Remembrance Day .

#### Third place - Shootin' The Breeze

The tragedy of suicide was the topic of Shannon Robison in the May 2, 2021 issue of Shootin' The Breeze, published in Pincher Creek. A multi-item feature package compassionately explores how an individual burden that no-one suspected can become a self-harm catastrophe for many people.

## Healthy Communities Journalism award

Sponsored by

### Genome Alberta



1st Place **St. Albert Gazette - Paging Dr. Roy to the inventor's lab**

Credits: Scott Hayes

2nd Place **Wetaskiwin Times - More than food and a bed at Open Door**

Credits: Christina Max

3rd Place **The Provost News - 'I Was So Emotional That I Was Breathing on My Own'**

Credits: Jill Sherring

#### First Place - St. Albert Gazette

Of all the stories, this one could affect the most number of people across the country and throughout the world. He was thinking of others when he was inventing.

#### Second Place - Wetaskiwin Times

Homelessness is a problem across all communities and countries. I felt compassion for the workers who had to endure the lack of community support but who worked at making the lives of others better. A story that should be communicated to the public across the country.

#### Third Place - The Provost News

A captivating story that people would read from the start to the finish imagining what it would be like if it happened to me.

#### HM - Fort Macleod Gazette

Although only affecting 1 in 12-20,000 people, it was a heartwarming family story that could bring tears to your eyes. Very informative as to what goes on and the hardships when a child has this problem. The Community got behind the family and helped with a chair.

## Sports Writing Award

Sponsored by **AWNA**

1st Place **Lakeland This Week - St. Paul Canadiens re-establishing unique affiliation with Montreal Canadiens**

Credits: Janice Huser

2nd Place **Fort Macleod Gazette - Pandemic cuts player's career short**

Credits: Frank McTighe

3rd Place **Vauxhall Advance - Vauxhall Jets hopeful for spring baseball**

Credits: Cole Parkinson

#### First Place - Lakeland This Week

This is a winning piece not because of the affiliation with the Montreal Canadiens but the well written, in-depth research and coverage of personnel really draws readers interest. It certainly brings historical data and value information to the St. Paul community. The impact to the community is more than the attendance at the arena. Well done!

#### Second Place - Fort Macleod Gazette

An insightful story on how a hockey player being affected by the pandemic. A well written piece on Amy's hockey career showing hardship, optimism, discouragement and achievement. Liked the tie to the whole female hockey league being impacted in southern Alberta communities which is part of the judging criteria of the award.

#### Third Place - Vauxhall Advance

A well structured and approach in reporting a baseball team preparation for their upcoming season. Readers will learn the different training aspects including the importance of mental strength for a baseball team. Liked the flow and its comprehensive coverage.

## Best Habitat Conservation Story

Sponsored by:

### Ducks Unlimited Canada



1st Place **Shootin' the Breeze - Proposed water allocation changes cause local turbulence**

Credits: Sean Oliver

2nd Place **Lakeland This Week - Moose Lake proposed to be first Canadian lake treated with alum to curb blue-green algae**

Credits: Jazmin Tremblay

3rd Place **The Pipestone Flyer - Pigeon Lake environment gets a boost from new technology**

Credits: Shaela Dansereau

#### First Place - Shootin' the Breeze

Well written and informative with multiple sources quoted. Great coverage of a very timely issue as Alberta copes with the impact of extreme drought. I appreciate how the article was staged to provide a thorough explanation of the issue. I hope every resident of the watershed read this article.

#### Second Place - Lakeland This Week

Informative and well researched. This is timely and important information to get out to the public. Many don't have a good understanding of what is happening to our lakes and watersheds and what solutions may be available. Well done!

#### Third Place - The Pipestone Flyer

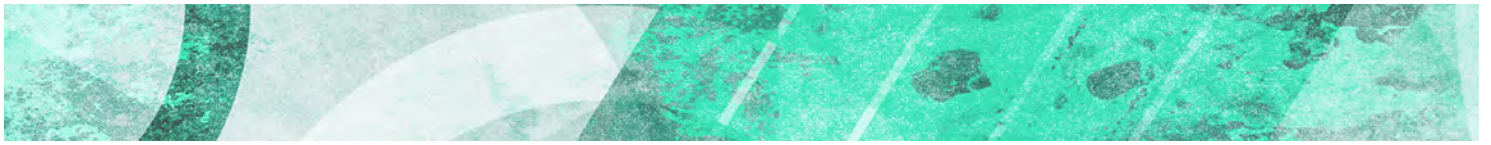
A short piece but packed with information and valuable sources. A good brief highlighting an exciting development in the community!

#### HM - Town and Country This Week

Well written, kept me engaged. The way the author has put this piece together makes the reader care about the issue and highlights many often-overlooked impacts on our birds.

#### HM - Slave Lake Lakeside Leader

Great to see coverage of our First Nation communities!



## Excellence in Creative Advertising

Sponsored by: **AWNA**

1st Place **Jasper Fitzhugh - Dinner Thank-You** Credits: Melissa Morris

2nd Place **Rimby Review - Meadow Kenney Realtor "Holiday Greeting"** Credits: Alex Streicher

3rd Place **Lloydminster Meridian Source - Landmark Whitefish** Credits: Brent Michalenko

First Place - Jasper Fitzhugh

This is pleasing to look at, and makes a standard thank you ad a bit more fun and festive. A great keepsake for those being thanked. Great work!

Second Place - Rimby Review

A fun way to tie in a Christmas greeting for a real estate professional. The clip art at the bottom could go and allow for bigger impact from gingerbread house.

Third Place - Meridian Source

A clean layout that communicates a lot with graphics and text (if anything a little too much - condensing the descriptions may help). Nice call-in to the reader.

Creative Advertising - Sponsored by: AWNA						
Newspaper name	Overall impact -30	Design -25	Quality of copywriting -15	Images/graphics -15	Creativity/originality -15	Total
Claresholm Local Press: IGA: Wishing You Cartloads of Joy	23	23	13	12	11	82
Fort Macleod Gazette: All the feels	24	22	13	10	13	82
High Prairie South Peace News: Gift ideas for Christmas	20	20	10	12	10	72
Jasper Fitzhugh: Dinner Thank-You	26	23	13	15	14	91
Lloyd Meridian Source: Landmark Whitefish	26	22	13	14	11	86
Rimby Review: Realtor "Holiday Greeting"	26	23	14	12	12	87
Rocky Mountain House Mountaineer: Rival Trade	25	23	12	13	12	85
Shootin' the Breeze: The Cowboy Show	25	22	11	15	10	83
Slave Lake Lakeside Leader: 50th Birthday	23	20	10	12	13	78
Strathmore Times: ACKU Strathmore Karate Club	26	22	11	13	13	85
Sylvan Lake News: Friday Night Fun	25	22	11	13	12	83
Taber Times: Welcome to Taber	25	22	13	14	11	85
Vauxhall Advance: Tire Shop	22	20	12	10	8	72
Wainwright EDGE: Driving Range is Open	22	20	11	12	10	75

**THANK YOU!**  
TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THE CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER POSSIBLE

**THE COCOS CAFÉ CULINARY CREW:**

- Lynn & Andrew Wannop
- Alice Wannop
- Mik Vanderkamer
- Erin Mangon
- Lexi Zarney
- Kaalen Schock
- Rowan Bell-Marustich
- Lucy Vazquez Barajas
- Joanna Ortiz

**THE DINNER DELIVERY DRIVERS:**

- Aaron Parcels
- Mallory Parcels
- Borrett Delabarre
- Angie Wilson
- Declan Underworth
- Chris Woo
- Emma Vicel
- Meg Olsen
- Lisa Riddell

The festive meal was prepared with food ordered locally through Jasper Fire and Ice. Bags were donated by the Grocery People and the West Coast Cannabis Store. Take-away containers were donated by The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge.

**THANK YOU** to the countless individuals and families who donated to the Christmas Day Dinner and to these local businesses who sponsored the dinner:

- Everest Outdoor
- Patricio Lake Bungalows
- SAW Construction
- Servus Credit Union
- Jasper Fitzhugh
- CN Teamsters

And to Community Outreach Services' Outreach Workers and Chris Woo for getting people signed up and organized to receive a beautiful, home-cooked meal on Christmas Day.

**Coco's Cafe**

**Holiday Ranch House & Majestic Views!**

This spacious 4 bed 2 bath ranch house is peacefully located in the north country. Long sunny days and cool nights in this sweet picturesque cozy home!

**Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to all my clients, family & friends!**

**Meadow Kenney**  
REALTOR®

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403-867-2330  
@meadowkenney

Proudly serving the communities of Rimby & Edmonton.

Foundation in Rimby  
The Good Real Estate Company

**LANDMARK WHITEFISH**

EVERY DESTINATION HAS ITS LANDMARK MOMENT.

Introducing the Landmark, in the village at Whitefish Mountain Resort. The location is the mighty mountains of Montana. In the company of Glacier National Park, high mountain lake and the country in a region with no match, finding the abundance of an outdoor lifestyle. The Landmark represents a new era for Whitefish, one that embraces the heights of creative luxury, the essence of innovative technology, and the personal of personalized services. Landmark is the first to bring the small footprint, high convenience and total luxury of contemporary turnkey living to Whitefish.

Whitefish is ready for its Landmark moment. Are you?

**A SERIES OF WONDERFUL, WELCOME FIRSTS.**

Landmark owners will feel the treasured guests of their Whitefish home. An owner-only, virtual concierge service & private elevator serves their entrance and departure. Home is heated to the preferred degree. Bridge and garage stocked with comfort and necessities. Regular housekeeping is on option. So one enjoys take-offs that allow weekend-generating rental periods without devastating owner occupancy. Lock and leave, or lock and stay a little longer.

**BASE LODGE LOCATION, 5-STAR VOCATION.**

White Whitefish is most coveted for its summer by the lake stories. Landmark will breathe new life into its winter ones. Banging righteously with ski-in, ski-out location on the base of the lift, bordered by a ski lodge and open-air scene that takes full advantage of its massive valley views from a selection of lush terraces. When summer does finally arrive, Landmark's escape story gives easy to the poolside one - equally packaged and unique in these mountains.

**WARMTH OF WHITEFISH**

The good town of Whitefish, Montana is as charmingly Old World as you would imagine, led to Landmark by a half-hour drive of pure poetry. The town has evolved over generations of happy families, into the perfect haven for a luxury mountain retreat. Every convenience, from boutique to big box, as well as its own friendly vibe and complete feel, continuing close when you're not for away.

**Whitefish is ready for its Landmark moment. Are you?**

The Landmark offers a wide collection of fully-furnished residences, with one-bedroom starting under \$300k.

landmarkwhitefish.com | 1-406-477-7307 | LANDMARK WHITEFISH 3902 BIG MOUNTAIN RD WHITEFISH, MT 59937



## Best Local News Story

Sponsored by:

**Mount Royal  
University**



- 1st Place **Shootin' the Breeze**  
- MD will cover Snake Trail fire bill, some smouldering questions remain Credits: Sean Oliver
- 2nd Place **Slave Lake Lakeside Leader - Fed-up town council calls for MLA Pat Rehn to resign** Credits: Joe McWilliams
- 3rd Place **Rocky Mountain Outlook - Buried in the Avalanche** Credits: Tanya Foubert

### First Place - Shootin' the Breeze

Overall excellent article from the headline through to the last sentence. Well-written, well-structured, good use of subtitles (though the wording for these might have benefitted from more consistency in style/tense), good use of quotes. This article was engaging, presenting information in a way that made even dryer content interesting, and using a few plays on wording that strengthened the story and made it more fun to read. The lede was particularly strong.

### Second Place - Slave Lake Lakeside Leader

This article was direct, succinct, and engaging. The piece was well-written (though at times it toed the line between News and Opinion) and felt very connected to the community in which it was published. I thought the use of quotes was strong and appreciated the balance between summarizing quotes and opinions and sharing the wording of the people themselves (though a touch more of the actual wording would have strengthened the article further). I would be excited to read more from this writer.

### Third Place - Rocky Mountain Outlook

This article was a real tour de force. From strong investigative work to an engaging presentation that enhanced the content, this article made for an excellent read. I thought the dek and the use of quotes were particularly strong. The lead-ins to quotes were also very well done. In some cases, I think the wording could have been more concise; at the sentence level, the wording was occasionally a bit repetitive. Overall the article could have been a touch shorter/more succinct but that does not take away from its effect.

### HM - Okotoks Western Wheel

This article captures the heart of the community. The piece was well-written and well-structured and it made good use of quotes. Overall, it was a pleasure to read.

### HM - Drayton Valley

Western Review Well-written and well-structured. Good use of quotes (and good job breaking up longer quotes, so the piece was easy to follow, even though it was quite quote heavy).

### HM - Wetaskiwin Times

### HM - Mayerthorpe Freelancer

### HM - Whitecourt Star

### HM - Meridian Source

### HM - St. Albert Gazette

## Excellence in Education Writing Award

Sponsored by:

**Lethbridge College**



- 1st Place **Mayerthorpe Freelancer - Sangudo School will be open 2022-23, community to be consulted on growth** Credits: Brad Quarin
- 2nd Place **The Pipestone Flyer - Graduating students in Wetaskiwin throw water fight after being told it could result in suspension** Credits: Shaela Dansereau
- 3rd Place **Rocky Mountain Outlook - Two of three Bow Valley school boards fully opt out of draft K-6 curriculum** Credits: Greg Colgan

### First Place - Mayerthorpe Freelancer

A good story, with multiple perspectives. 9.5/10

### Second Place - The Pipestone Flyer

Great story with original photos and multiple interviews. Shaela Dansereau 9/10

### Third Place - Rocky Mountain Outlook

Great piece just no photos. 8/10

### HM - Claresholm Local Press

Original photo with a ton of people interviewed!

## Sue Gawlak

### Best Local Editorial

Sponsored by: **St. Albert Gazette**



- 1st Place **Shootin' the Breeze - They were children** Credits: Shannon Robison
- 2nd Place **Slave Lake Lakeside Leader - Different notions of representation** Credits: Joe McWilliams
- 3rd Place **St. Albert Gazette - It's our right to seek accountability** Credits: Editorial board

### First Place - Shootin' the Breeze

At first glance, this column looks too long. It raises the fear the reader will not read the entire piece. It seems an edit here and there might be welcome, but it is so well-written that a few less words seems like the least of our worries. The author's passion comes through loud and clear. The topic is clearly important, one that will be with Canadians for a long time. What is really important, I think, is the author includes plenty of data to back up her passionate argument and she wisely includes links to resources. This is just an expression of the writer's emotions, sentiments and observations, but an informative piece that prompts the reader to think.

### Second Place - Slave Lake Lakeside Leader

This is very well-written and concise editorial. Strong points are made in simple language. The MLA's actions, or lack of, are clearly contrasted with the position the town finds itself in. As the editorial notes, this might be the first time ever in Alberta politics that a town has called for the resignation of an MLA, definitely a rarity in rural Alberta dominated by like-minded conservative politicians. One complaint would be the need for the MLA's reply to city council, or a defense of his actions, in the editorial rather than reference to "seemed to". However, one might suspect that info is available in news coverage.

### Third Place - St. Albert Gazette

Local governments' addiction to in-camera meetings must always be challenged and this editorial does a great job of that. It is concise and powerful. The editorial is right to shine a light on local officials, especially bureaucrats who are arrogantly defiant when pressed to provide information the taxpaying public has a right to know.

### HM - The Oyen Echo

This was a very enjoyable column. Well-written and informative. The author manages to connect a classic study of the Chicago meatpacking industry with the local situation. Well done.

# 2021 AWWNA Photographic Awards



## Spot News Photo

1st Place

**Rocky Mountain Outlook  
River Rescue**

Credits: Evan Buhler

2nd Place

**Slave Lake Leader**

**Is this the way to the barber shop?**

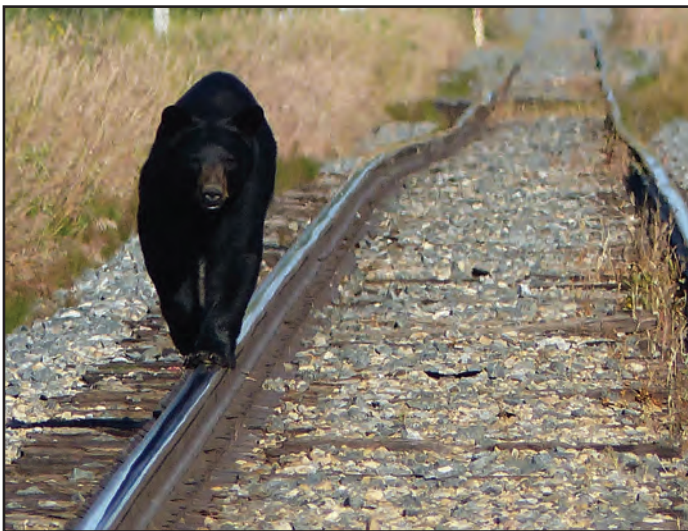
Credits: Joe McWilliams

3rd Place

**Lakeland This Week**

**No one injured in helicopter crash**

Credits: Janice Hauser



The AWWNA and member newspapers wish to thank our photo judge, George Brown former AWWNA president and longtime Symposium chair. His community newspaper photography has won awards in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

# Feature Photo

1st Place  
**Town & Country News**  
**Cattle Drive**  
Credits: Jesse Boily



2nd Place  
**Lloydminster Meridian Source**  
**Bike Buds Ride into Sunset**  
Credits: Taylor Weaver



3rd Place  
**Rocky Mountain Outlook**  
**Coming Up for Air**  
Credits: Evan Buhler



Honourable Mention  
**Spruce Grove Examiner**  
**Summer Buzz**  
Credits: Kristine Jean



Honourable Mention  
**East Central Alberta Review**  
**Smoke Show**  
Credits: Terri Huxley

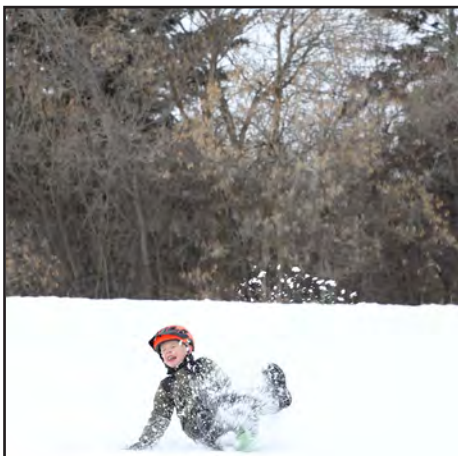
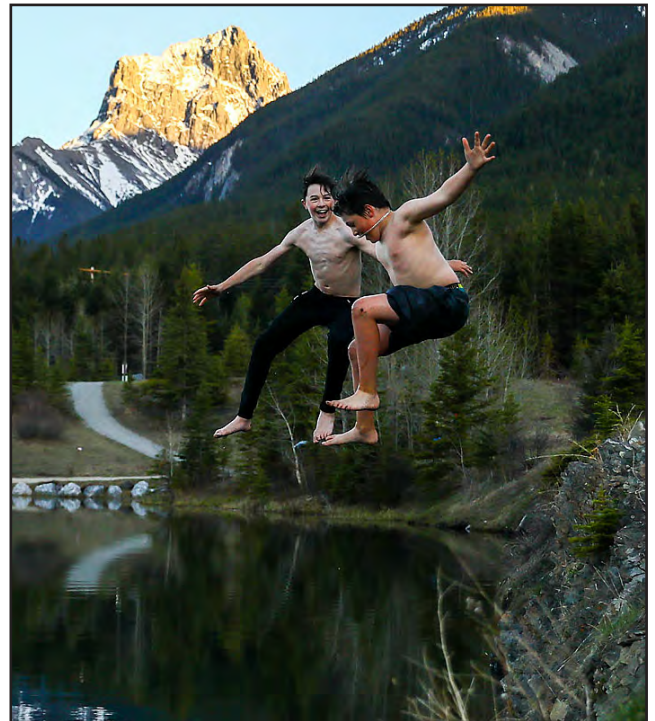


# Human Interest Photo

1st Place  
**Rocky Mountain Outlook**  
**Just Flip It**  
Credits: Evan Buhler

2nd Place  
**Rocky Mountain Outlook**  
**Jump Around**  
Credits: Evan Buhler

3rd Place  
**Lloydminster Meridian Source**  
**Taking in the Moment**  
Credits: Taylor Weaver



HM  
**Ponoka News**  
**Teddy Bear Memorial**  
Credits: Emily Jaycox

HM  
**St. Albert Gazette**  
**Wipe Out**  
Credits: Jessica Nelson





# Sports Action Photo

1st Place  
**Rocky Mountain Outlook**  
**Just Send It**  
Credits: Evan Buhler

2nd Place  
**Rocky Mountain House**  
**Mountaineer**  
**Bighorn Stampede**  
Credits: Brittany Willsie



3rd Place  
**Rocky Mountain Outlook**  
**Lightning Quick**  
Credits: Evan Buhler

HM  
**Strathmore Times**  
**Crowd-Pleaser**  
Credits: Adelle Ellis

HM  
**Okotoks**  
**Western**  
**Wheel**  
**Waterskiing**  
Credits: Brent Calver



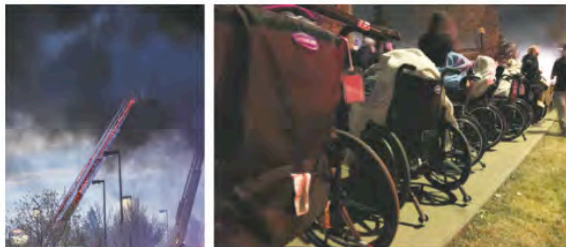
# Multi-Photo Layout

16 | Wednesday, May 12, 2021 | St. Albert Gazette

## CITADEL MEWS FIRE



APRIL HUDSON/ST. ALBERT GAZETTE  
Fire crews shoot water at the burning top floor as the fire worked its way along the building.



APRIL HUDSON/ST. ALBERT GAZETTE  
At least 20 seniors in wheelchairs were awaiting buses to evacuation sites along Erin Ridge Road on May 7 after a large fire forced the evacuation of Citadel Mews West. Many area residents volunteered to assist these seniors.



APRIL HUDSON/ST. ALBERT GAZETTE  
Firefighters at the top of ladder trucks are engulfed in acid black smoke high in the air and hidden from view as they shoot water at the burning roof of Citadel Mews West.

APRIL HUDSON/ST. ALBERT GAZETTE  
Firefighters from departments around the region worked together through the night to battle the blaze. Residents arrived with cartons of water to keep them hydrated during this most massive structural fire in St. Albert's recent history.



KEVIN MA/ST. ALBERT GAZETTE  
A volunteer comforts a senior resident of Citadel Mews as they await the arrival of more evacuation buses following the May 7 fire at the complex. The line of seniors in wheelchairs stretched for about half a block.



► Debris from the Citadel Mews fire landed in what appeared to be a play area for the YMCA Citadel Child Care centre, which was on the ground floor of the building on St. Albert Trail.



ANNA BOROWIECKI/CAPTION  
Torned rafters and a tattered curtain blow across a broken window after the morning after a massive fire destroyed Citadel Mews West.



KEVIN MA/ST. ALBERT GAZETTE  
Used as a bottle filler for the ground near Citadel Mews West on May 7, all three St. Albert Fire units, plus crews from Morinville, Edmonton, Strathcona, and Spruce Grove spent most of the previous night putting out a massive fire at the senior centre.

► A St. Albert firefighter examines a parking lot flooded by water the day after the Citadel Mews West fire.



1st Place  
**St. Albert Gazette**  
Citadel Mews Fire  
Credits: April Hudson, Kevin Ma and Anna Borowiecki

# Photo Illustration



1st Place  
**Rocky Mountain Outlook**  
RedPath Radio  
Credits: Evan Buhler



2nd Place  
**Town & Country News**  
Sasquatch!  
Credits: Jesse Boily

### Open Farm Days at Windy Rafters

Visitors to Windy Rafters Barn on Saturday were given insight into Alberta's farming past with demonstrations of skills such as blacksmithing and rope-making, and more of the historic, busy, open house atmosphere of the past.

They also got to enjoy a barbecued sandwich and other home cooking, and in the evening enjoyed live music in country fare dancing as part of Alberta Open Farm Days.

photos by Frank McTighe



Tour guide Dusty Litchfield shows an old photo.



Visitors to Windy Rafters watch as David O'Connor gives a rope-making demonstration Saturday.



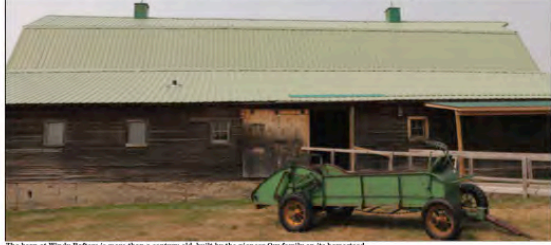
Children enjoyed animals in a farm zoo.



Misty Orr gives a demonstration in the blacksmith shop at Windy Rafters.



The replica homesteaders' cabin kitchen.



The barn at Windy Rafters is more than a century old, built by the pioneer Orr family on the homestead.

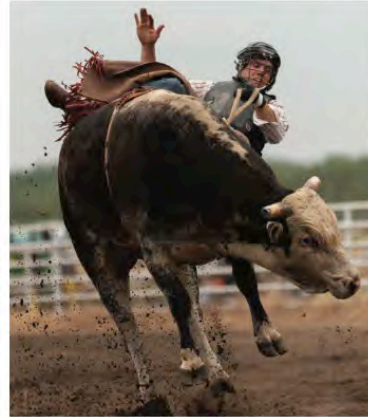
### 2nd Place Fort Macleod Gazette Open Farm Days at Windy Rafters

Credits: Frank McTighe

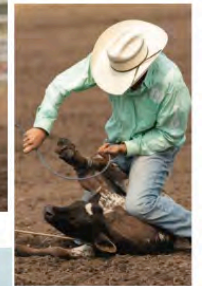
### 3rd Place Town & Country News Rio Grande Rodeo Returns

Credits: Jesse Boily

## Rio Grande Rodeo returns!



Top: Jeff Doreksen at the Bull Riding competition at the Rio Grande Rodeo on Thursday. July 7 marked the rodeo's first day of the four day event.



Right: Cotton Klassen takes a fall in the tie-down roping competition.



Below: Marty Likko, front, and Cruz Likko spring into action at the team roping.



Right: Rick rider Rista Guyard performs a challenging stunt from her horse while holding a canister of red smoke for Canada Day at the Rio Grande Rodeo.



### HM Oyen Echo Honey Harvest

Credits: Joan Janzen and Kate Winquist



### HM Fort Macleod Gazette Annual Fish Rescue

Credits: Frank McTighe

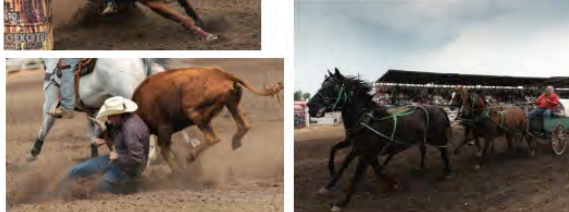
Honey looks and tastes quite different, depending on the floral sources.



Top: Andrew Nelson in the Novice Horse Riding competition.



Right: Jan Pederson runs around a barrel in the Ladies Barrel Race.



Below: Shelby Crook in the Ladies Barrel Race.

Photos by Jesse Boily

Jerry Stapan buckles the animal at the Steer Wrestling competition.

Denise Moore races by at the Rio Grande Rodeo's chuckwagon races.

# BNC General Excellence Awards

## Class A

### Best Overall Score

- First Fort Macleod Gazette
- Second High Prairie South Peace News
- Third Provost News

### Best Front Page

- First Fort Macleod Gazette
- Second High Prairie South Peace News
- Third Slave Lake Lakeside Leader

### Best Sports Page/Section

- First Fort Macleod Gazette
- Second High Prairie South Peace News
- Third Slave Lake Lakeside Leader

### Best Editorial Page

- First Fort Macleod Gazette
- Second High Prairie South Peace News
- Third Vauxhall Advance



### Judge A Comments

It was a pleasure to see so much fine craftsmanship in this circulation class, demonstrating that excellence can be achieved no matter how many copies are coming off the press. The best of the best were truly independent efforts, rather than cookie-cutter templated papers with little character or appeal. (Over a third of the newspapers in competition were the product of a single media company and looked virtually identical from cover to last page.) Not surprisingly, perhaps, first place went to a paper that's been publishing for 139 years, second place to a paper publishing for 59 years, and third to a paper publishing for 112 years. There's evident experience and deliberation in their pages. They are unquestionably part of and valued by their communities. It doesn't get better than that.

CLASS A	Local Feature	Comm. News	Presentation	Prod. Qual.	Photography	Adv. Content	Adv. Design	Front Pg.	Edit. & Op.Ed	Sports	TOTAL
	50	150	150	50	100	100	100	150	100	50	1000
Bashaw Star	30	100	50	40	40	35	80	80	10	0	465
Castor Advance	20	100	50	40	20	30	80	60	0	0	400
Fairview Post	50	75	25	40	40	50	75	50	10	0	415
Fort Macleod Gazette	50	150	150	50	95	95	95	150	100	50	985
Hanna Herald	25	75	25	40	40	50	75	50	0	25	405
High Prairie South Peace News	50	150	145	45	95	95	90	145	95	45	955
Mayerthorpe Freelancer	25	75	25	40	40	50	75	50	25	0	405
Nanton News	25	75	25	40	30	50	75	50	10	5	385
Oyen Echo	30	80	75	40	50	50	75	100	45	0	545
Peace River Record Gazette	20	50	25	40	30	50	75	50	10	0	350
Pincher Creek Echo	20	50	25	40	30	50	75	50	10	0	350
Provost News	50	100	100	40	75	100	95	130	10	0	700
Shootin' the Breeze	50	100	100	45	75	50	75	130	10	0	635
Slave Lake Lakeside Leader	50	100	90	45	80	50	50	135	25	40	665
Stettler Independent	25	75	25	40	50	50	75	50	0	0	390
Vauxhall Advance	40	75	100	40	30	50	75	75	50	35	570
Vulcan Advocate	25	75	50	40	30	50	75	75	40	20	480

## Class B

### Best Overall Score

- First Town & Country News
- Second Claresholm Local Press
- Third Taber Times

### Best Front Page

- First Town & Country News
- Second Claresholm Local Press
- Third Rimbey Review

### Best Sports Page/Section

- First Taber Times
- Second Claresholm Local Press
- Third Drayton Valley District Free Press

### Best Editorial Page

- First Claresholm Local Press
- Second Drayton Valley District Free Press
- Third Town & Country News



## Class C

### Best Overall Score

- First Rocky Mountain Outlook
- Second Bow Valley Crag & Canyon
- Third Lakeland This Week

### Best Front Page

- First Rocky Mountain Outlook
- Second Lakeland This Week
- Third High River Times

### Best Sports Page/Section

- First Rocky Mountain Outlook
- Second Rocky Mountain House Mountaineer
- Third High River Times

### Best Editorial Page

- First Lakeland This Week
- Second Ponoka News
- Third Rocky Mountain Outlook



### Judge B Comments

With 2021 being the second year of the pandemic, judging again proved difficult with newspapers striving to keep publishing with fewer ads, fewer pages and fewer staffers.

Some papers relied heavily on stories from non-resident reporters and submissions from various groups and organizations.

Judging sports stories was complicated because while the criteria requires sports to be judged, some papers had none.

At the same time, with November being one of the submission months, a mixture of Remembrance Day pages and Christmas events/promotions made for an eclectic collection of editions to read.

First place overall goes to the Grande Prairie Town and Country News on the strength of photographer Jesse Boily whose two front page pictures in the two submitted editions made them pop. His photo skills continued inside. This paper would have had a higher score had the two editions contained sports.

Second place to the Claresholm Local Press which had the most balance of the six newspapers entered in this class. Special mention to editor Rob Vogt who is a writing machine, something very evident in the Remembrance Day supplement submitted with the November edition submission. At times I did wish his ledes were crisper and more informative.

Third place to the Taber Times. Its sports coverage topped all of the other entries. Had it a local feature in its entries, its score would have been higher. I enjoyed one of its editorials, that being on the conduct of a locally-elected official who apparently arrived inebriated for his swearing in.

Although it did not place in the top three, the Drayton Valley and District Free Press has a funny and sardonic editor in Graham Long judging from his column. And a credit to it for having a local feature in each of its submissions, one by Amanda Jeffery on the mystery of a man's disappearance seven years previously and the other by Brandy Fredrickson on women taking up hunting.

CLASS B	Local Feature	Comm. News	Presentation	Prod. Qual.	Photography	Adv. Content	Adv. Design	Front Pg.	Edit. & Op.Ed	Sports	TOTAL
	50	150	150	50	100	100	100	150	100	50	1000
Claresholm Local Press	30	80	100	30	60	80	75	100	85	20	660
Drayton Valley District Free Press	0	73	100	30	60	83	70	75	80	10	581
Drayton Valley Western Review	35	70	80	25	65	70	50	70	65	0	530
Grande Prairie Town & Country	33	85	100	25	80	75	70	125	70	0	663
Rimbey Review	0	65	100	30	70	80	77	90	60	8	580
Taber Times	0	70	90	30	70	75	73	80	68	35	591

CLASS C	Local Feature	Comm. News	Presentation	Prod. Qual.	Photography	Adv. Content	Adv. Design	Front Pg.	Edit. & Op.Ed	Sports	TOTAL
	50	150	150	50	100	100	100	150	100	50	1000
Bow Island County Commentator	35	130	115	40	60	90	75	135	70	40	790
Bow Valley Crag & Canyon	45	145	125	45	90	90	90	140	90	25	885
High River Times	30	130	118	47	70	85	92	144	65	46	827
Lakeland This Week	35	142	120	43	85	75	80	145	95	27	847
Leduc/Wetaskiwin Pipestone Flyer	43	146	137	35	75	92	82	120	65	25	820
Ponoka News	38	129	127	32	71	88	95	117	92	42	831
Rocky Mountain House Mountaineer	44	135	105	45	91	77	81	142	70	47	837
Rocky Mountain Outlook	50	147	140	47	93	90	96	146	91	48	948
Sylvan Lake News	27	125	125	28	69	80	91	118	60	30	753
Wainwright Star Edge	26	131	119	41	76	80	98	119	89	35	814

## Class D

### Best Overall Score

- First St. Albert Gazette
- Second The Albertan
- Third Okotoks Western Wheel

### Best Front Page

- First St. Albert Gazette
- Second Okotoks Western Wheel
- Third The Albertan

### Best Sports Page/Section

- First Okotoks Western Wheel
- Second The Albertan
- Third St. Albert Gazette

### Best Editorial Page

- First St. Albert Gazette
- Second Okotoks Western Wheel
- Third The Albertan



### Judge D Comments

#### 1st Place - St Albert Gazette

This paper stands out on nearly all fronts, with clean, readable design from the front page on back, comprehensive news coverage (18 pages on a devastating fire in one edition), a great opinion section with plentiful letters, compelling feature reporting, excellent photography and beautiful advertising. A lack of sports coverage in one of the two editions was the only missing element. Congratulations!

#### 2nd Place - The Albertan

This community newspaper, an amalgam of four formerly separate titles, does a solid job of meeting the challenge of covering both the area as a whole and its component communities with distinct news coverage and features, plentiful and well-designed advertising (particularly municipal), strong photography and solid sports.

#### 3rd Place - Okotoks Western Wheel

The Western Wheel is a solid community paper that knows and reflects its community well, with the best sports coverage by far in the category, a varied op/ed section and solid presentation and community news. Advertising content and design, while serviceable, was the only thing keeping this paper out of second place.

CLASS D	Local Feature	Comm. News	Presentation	Prod. Qual.	Photography	Adv. Content	Adv. Design	Front Pg.	Edit. & Op.Ed	Sports	TOTAL
	50	150	150	50	100	100	100	150	100	50	1000
Okotoks Western Wheel	30	120	120	45	75	75	70	120	85	45	785
St. Albert Gazette	45	140	130	45	80	85	85	130	90	20	850
Strathmore Times	20	100	100	40	70	75	75	90	50	10	630
The Albertan	35	120	125	45	75	85	80	115	80	35	795



The AWNA and member newspapers thank the General Excellence judges.

*Dave Burket*  
The Voice of Pelham (ON)

*Rod Link*  
Terrace Standard & Kitimat  
Sentinel (BC)

*Adam Louis*  
Agassiz Harrison Observer (BC)

*Tim Shoults*  
Glacier Media (BC)

and the Awards of Excellence judges

for their time and effort.

*Alvin Chow*  
Richmond News (BC)  
*Jennifer Golletz*  
Ducks Unlimited  
*Ian Tennant*  
Mount Royal University  
*Kris Hodgson*  
Lethbridge College

*K-J Millar*  
Northern View (BC)  
*Renee Hueston*  
Aylmer Express  
*Gordon Cameron*  
Hamilton Community  
News (ON)  
*Walter Nagel*, SAIT

*Bob Gilroy*  
Star and Times (MB)  
*Nicola Rose*  
U of Waterloo - Imprint  
(ON)  
*Sharon Kirkup*  
Flin Flon Reminder

*Michael Jacobs*  
Darrell Davis  
Metro Creative Graphics  
*Janis Cleugh*  
Tri-City News (BC)