

The 2009 CAJ Awards



The Canadian Association of Journalists
L'Association Canadienne des Journalistes

Applications are now being accepted for the 2009 CAJ AWARDS and the CAJ/CNW Group Student Award of Excellence in Journalism.

EACH AWARD CARRIES A \$500 PRIZE !!

Applications for the CAJ Awards must be post-marked no later than:

February 28th, 2010

Featuring.....

In addition to the CAJ Awards for Investigative Journalism, the CAJ would like to highlight the three awards presented for the first time in 2009 - These new categories are not eligible for the Don McGillivray Award for Investigative Journalism.

- 1) Scoop Reporting (open to print, print Internet, Radio, TV and broadcast Internet)*
- 2) Daily Excellence (open to print, radio, TV)*
- 3) Print Feature (open to newspaper or magazine)*

Deadline for submissions for the CAJ/CNW Group Student Award of Excellence in Journalism is **February 28, 2010**.

Winners of the 2009 CAJ awards will be announced at the CAJ's National Conference in Montreal, May 28-30, 2010.

Please complete the application form enclosed and send 4 copies to:

**Canadian Association of Journalists
1106 Wellington Street
P.O. Box 36030
Ottawa, ON
K1Y 4V3**

**For more information contact the CAJ:
Phone (613) 526-8061
e-mail: canadianjour@magma.ca or
www.caj.ca**

Any material being couriered outside of Canada Post should be delivered to 145 Spadina Avenue, Suite 1, Ottawa, ON. K1Y 2C2

CAJ Awards Entry Form

PLEASE NOTE: Entries must have been published or broadcast between January 1 and December 31, 2009

Entrant(s)

Name(s) and Job Titles of Entrants: _____

Title of Piece:

Employer/Media Outlet:
(Mandatory)

Mailing Address:

P.Code:

(Office) Tel.:

E-mail:
(Mandatory)

Your Story

CATEGORY (check only ONE per entry form)

- Faith and Spirituality
- Open Newspaper/Wire Service
- Community Newspaper
- Magazine
- Open TV (under **5 min.**)
- Open TV (over **5 min.**)
- Regional TV
- Open Radio News/Current Affairs
- Photojournalism
- C.A.R. Award
- Scoop Reporting
- Daily Excellence
- Print Feature

PUBLICATION/BROADCAST OUTLET:

NAME/CALL LETTERS:
CITY:

PUBLICATION/BROADCAST DATES:

Run time on Audio/Video cassette:

IMPORTANT!

Additional information:

On attached (loose) sheets, briefly describe the circumstances of your story, including its origins, the particular difficulties of investigating it, and any change, action or impact the story caused.

ENTRY MUST INCLUDE 4 COPIES OF ENTRY FORM, PLUS:

PRINT: 3 PRINTOUTS OF THE ENTRY (8 1/2 X 11), PLUS ONE TEARSHEET OR PDF IMAGE OF THE ENTRY AS PUBLISHED.

BROADCAST/PHOTOJOURNALISM: 4 COPIES OF THE DVD/CDs.

ENTRY FEES: A fee is required for EACH person listed as an entrant, up to a maximum of four entrants. No fee is required for additional entrants beyond the first four, but names are needed.

- CAJ Members:** \$30 per CAJ member
- Non-Members:** \$125 per non-member (see below)

NON-MEMBERS: Become a CAJ Member NOW and pay the \$30 entry fee:

Annual memb. fees: Regular member \$75
 Income <\$30,000 \$40
 Student Member \$30

Send completed application to:

CAJ Awards
1106 Wellington Street
P.O. Box 36030
Ottawa, ON K1Y 4V3

Make cheque/money order payable to:

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS

JUDGING PROCEDURES

A broadcast story may only be entered in one broadcast category — radio or TV, but not both when the same reporters and producers were involved in the piece and it is based on the same body of research. At least one winning entry per category is declared by the judges. Winning entries are then passed on to the judges who decide the winner of the overall award: “The Best Investigative Report of 2009.”

If judges determine that none of the entries in a certain category merits extraordinary recognition, they may declare "NO WINNER" for that category. If this occurs, no finalists in that category are announced.

Finalists for each category will be announced early April, 2010.

All winners as well as the overall winner (for the investigative awards) will be announced at the Awards Banquet of the 2010 CAJ National Conference, May 28-30, 2010 in Montreal.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judging criteria have been consolidated into five categories:

- Originality:**
- * Entries need not be purely investigative to qualify; investigative entries are given added weight.
 - * Entries need not be entirely original in subject or content; original entries are given added weight
 - * Entries are judged on their effective use of medium, imagery, clarity, language and narrative.
- Thoroughness:**
- * Breadth and scope of research (number and variety of research sources).
- Depth:**
- * Utilization of research resources chosen (ie. How well the research was used to explain or illustrate the issue or event).
- Relevance:**
- * Impact or timeliness (ie. Did the story effect change, right an injustice or expand knowledge or understanding of an issue or event?).
- Discretionary**
- * Judges may consider any or all of the following:
 - * Degree of difficulty of research.
 - * Size or amount of resources available to the individual journalist or media outlet.
 - * Time available to complete the project.
 - * Element of risk involved in getting the story.
 - * Other circumstances or qualities worth noting.

PHOTOJOURNALISM AWARD

The CAJ Photojournalism Award is based on the judging of either a portfolio of work of the past year **OR** a photo essay (collection of photos on same subject/story). A portfolio **AND** a photo essay may be entered as a single submission, but duplicate pictures cannot be entered in both. JPEGs must be 300 DPI.

The objective is not to find the single best photograph but to reward journalistic vision, consistent quality and a body of work that reflects his or her professionalism and journalistic abilities.

For either photo essays or portfolios, each submission must include:

- * Up to 20 JPEG format photos on 4 discs;
- * No original material;
- * For a person submitting a portfolio **AND** a photo essay as a single entry, a total of 20 photos may be entered on 4 discs in JPEG format.

Canadian Association of Journalists/Marketwire Computer-Assisted Reporting Award

The CAJ/Marketwire CAR award recognizes excellence in computer-assisted reporting. Journalists who have won this award have probed urban decay, adverse drug reactions, airline safety and corruption in the taxi industry, to give just four examples. In the decade since it was inaugurated, the award has become one of the most sought-after and competitive in the annual competition.

WHAT IS CAR?

Computers have become the key means used by governments and industry to record information. CAR is a natural outgrowth of this development, as journalists have learned to read, understand and interpret information contained in everything from vast databanks, to the PC down at city hall. To do this, they use computer programs, primarily spreadsheets, database managers and mapping software. Once the analysis is done, the reporters most often have the meat of the story. Conventional reporting and interviewing then fleshes the full story out.

HOW IS THIS AWARD DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS?

The winning story will be a story that is an example of the finest journalism produced in Canada in 2009 where CAR techniques played a key (and indispensable) part in developing the story. Stories that don't meet the standards of journalistic excellence will not win, no matter how involved or intricate the use of CAR techniques.

WHAT QUALIFIES AS CAR?

All stories where the use of spreadsheets, database managers, mapping software and similar programs played a key part in the development of the story. An extraordinary and novel use of on-line resources may also be considered. Routine use of the Internet for research, finding contacts or contacting experts does not qualify.

IS THIS ONLY FOR BIG PROJECTS?

No. Stories done on deadline that use CAR techniques to reveal details that otherwise would not have been known could also be entered.

IN ADDITION TO WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR THE GENERAL AWARDS, SHOULD I PROVIDE ANYTHING ELSE?

Entrants in this category should provide full details as to how they used CAR in the development of the story. This should include the source of the data, the steps used to obtain the data (or in the case of data entered manually, the source of the information and the steps used to create the database), the software used and how the analysis was done. The entrant should also explain why he/she chose to use CAR techniques on this particular story and why the story could not have been done without CAR. There should be a description of how the information obtained from the analysis was used to develop the stories.

An important note: In judging the use of CAR techniques, the most weight will be placed on the quality of investigative journalism that went into the story. The award is not meant to recognize technical skill in the use of software and computers, but rather what you set out to find and how you found it using CAR.

CAN I ENTER THE SAME STORY IN THIS CATEGORY AND ANOTHER?

No, you must either enter your story in the CAR category or another category. Further, multiple items published or broadcast that are based substantially on the same research can only be submitted as part of a single entry in a single category.

AWARD FOR FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY WRITING AND BROADCASTING

The CAJ/Centre for Faith and the Media award is presented to a Canadian journalist who has done outstanding work in covering a story or stories of faith and spirituality in Canadian life. We are looking for coverage which explores how issues of faith and spirituality intersect with other spheres of life such as politics, business, arts and culture, or community life. For people of faith, their spirituality is more than the celebration of holidays, and the performance of ceremonies and rituals. It is a way of being. We are looking for a journalist who has successfully examined and described this reality in a way which enlightens, informs and broadens understanding for viewers, readers, or listeners. The entrant's work will have been broadcast/published in 2009, and should be exemplary in terms of accuracy, fairness, balance and respect for the role that spirituality plays in Canadian society.



Introducing

CAJ

New

Awards

Scoop:

Awarded for the best 'scoop,' published in print or on the Internet, or broadcast (radio / TV / Internet).

The Entrant must be able to demonstrate to judges how the entry was the first to break a story or bring significant new information to light that was of regional or national importance. An explanatory memo is highly recommended for entrants in this category, providing verifiable information attesting to the above. Entries are limited to one piece with related material (ie. sidebar). Winner in this category is not eligible for the Don McGillivray Award for Investigative Journalism.

Daily excellence: Open to print, radio or TV

Awarded for excellence in daily, deadline-driven reporting based on same-day research.

Judges will take into account reporter initiative as well as the quality of writing and research under deadline pressure. Entries are limited to one piece with related elements (ie. sidebar).

Winner in this category is not eligible for the Don McGillivray Award for Investigative Journalism.

Print feature:

Awarded for excellence in print feature (newspaper or magazine) that is not specifically investigative in nature. Judges will recognize quality of writing and research. Entries are limited to a single story with related elements (ie. sidebar). Winner in this category is not eligible for the Don McGillivray Award for Investigative Journalism.



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