

## 2026 Atlantic Journalism Awards Winners

On June 20th at an annual recognition ceremony awards in 26 media categories were presented to numerous journalists from throughout Atlantic Canada at the Atlantic Journalism Awards. The categories included: Print/Digital; Audio; Video and Any Medium. The recipients are listed below in the various categories:

### PRINT/DIGITAL

**Breaking News:** Gold - Nicole Sullivan - Cape Breton Post, NS, 'I felt sick'; Cape Breton police investigating swastikas across from Jewish cemetery Silver - Tara Bradbury - The Telegram, NL, Gander man arrested after DNA cracks Toronto cold case Bronze - James Reid - allNewfoundland-Labrador, NL, Auditor General Uncovered Wasted Funds On Travel Nursing Agencies

**Magazine Covers:** Gold - Dru Kennedy - Atlantic Salmon Journal, NB, Atlantic Salmon Journal's Winter Cover. Silver - Glen Strickey and Roxanna Boers - Saltscapes Magazine, NS, Chasing the aurora borealis; Bronze - Heather Fegan and Gwen North - Atlantic Books Today, NS, Natalie MacMaster Has a Story to Tell.

**Enterprise Reporting:** Gold - Derek Montague and Justin Brake - The Independent, NL, Labrador gynecologist accused of malpractice; Silver - Lindsay Jones and Greg Mercer - Globe and Mail, NS, Jack and Lilly Sullivan and Bronze - Josh Lewis - Eastern Graphic, PEI, Health PEI Series

**Features:** Gold - Lindsay Jones - Globe and Mail, NS, MSC Baltic III; Silver - Aaron Beswick - The Chronicle Herald, NS, 'He was a legend, one of the best': North Atlantic claims two N.S. fishermen; Bronze - Spoorthy Raman - Mongabay, NL, Newfoundland's puffins are perilously attracted to artificial light.

**Photojournalism Feature:** Gold - Greg Locke - Globe and Mail, NL, Ice bath therapy on Signal Hill, Newfoundland; Silver - George Sadi - CBC Nova Scotia, NS, Long-standing Africville activist says he will fight latest eviction notice; Bronze - Kevin McBain - South Shore Bulletin, NS, AAA Atlantic championships

**Photojournalism News:** Gold - Keith Gosse - The Telegram, NL, Senior Saviours; Silver - Greg Locke - Globe and Mail, NL, Newfoundland wildfires; Bronze - Keith Gosse - The Telegram, NL, Tactical Take-down.

### AUDIO

**Documentary Program:** Gold - Mariam Mesbah and Lindsay Bird - CBC Atlantic Voice, NB, The Graduate; Silver - Lindsay Bird and Caroline Hillier - CBC Atlantic Voice, NL, Looking for Eliza.

**Enterprise Reporting:** Gold - Tom Ayers - CBC Nova Scotia, NS, Lack of trust in the public trustee? Silver - VOCM News; Linda Swain and Sara Strickland - VOCM, NL, On the Ground of the

CBN Wildfire.

**Feature:** Gold - Sarah Keaveny Vos - CBC Prince Edward Island, PEI, Kindergarten to Grade 12 - Lessons in Life; Silver - Lindsay Bird and Sarah Keaveny Vos - CBC Atlantic Voice, NL, The Art of Life; Bronze - Viola Pruss - CBC New Brunswick, NB, Covered Bridges

**Information Program:** Gold - Christina Harnett, Erin MacInnis, Portia Clark, Katy Parsons, Jerry West, Cynthia Gatti and Phlis McGregor - CBC Nova Scotia, NS, Information Morning Nova Scotia with Portia Clark; Silver - 95.7 NewsRadio Team Halifax; Vanessa van des Nes, Dan Ahlstrand, Mark Hodgins, Chris Halef, Blake Priddle and Shelli Summers - 95.7 NewsRadio, NS, 95.7 NewsRadio 20th Anniversary Special

**Newscast (radio):** Gold - Tara Clow - Acadia Broadcasting - Moncton CKNIThe Bend, NB, New Brunswick Wildfires; Silver - 95.7 NewsRadio Team Halifax; Mark Hodgins, Chris Halef and Dan Ahlstrand - 95.7 NewsRadio, NS, Susie's Lake Wildfire Aug 12th, 2025 4 pm Newscast. Bronze - Caitlin Snow - Acadia Broadcasting - CKHY / CKHZ Halifax, NS, Nova Scotia Wildfires.

**Podcast:** Gold - Matt Stickland - Grand Parade, NS, Grand Parade Goes to Quebec

### VIDEO

**Breaking News** - Gold - Marykate O'Neill - NTV News, NL, Concern for Trepassy's Breakwater as Powerful Storm Batters Province; Silver - Reeti Meenakshi Rohilla - Global New Brunswick, NB, Man Charged with First-Degree Murder, Saint John, N.B.; Bronze - Becky Daley - NTV News, NL, Badger Fire Evacuation Lifted.

**Enterprise Reporting** - Gold - Ella MacDonald - Global Halifax, NS, Unheard. Unserved; Maritime Women's Health in Crisis; Silver - Allyson Dubé and Yves Levesque - Radio-Canada, NB, Mauvais climat de travail à la prison de Saint-Hilaire; Bronze - Ben Cleary - NTV News, NL, Power to the People: The Upper Churchill Contract.

**Feature:** Gold - Bailey Howard - NTV News, NL, Ahead by a Century: 100 Years of Memorial University; Silver - Jocelyn Elsdon and Michael Heenan - CBC News, NB, Swamp Water; Bronze - Jodi Cooke - NTV News, NL, We the North

**Newscast (television):** Gold - Vincent Lehouillier - Radio-Canada, NB, Téléjournal Acadie; Silver - Tracy Lightfoot - CBC Prince Edward Island, PEI, CBC News: Compass, Premier Resigns; Silver - David Squires, Amy Smith, Tom Murphy and Ryan Snoddon - CBC Nova Scotia, NS, A tribute show to Colleen Jones.

**Video Journalism** - Gold - Colleen Connors - CBC Newfoundland and Labrador, NL, Show of work; Silver - Becky Daley - NTV

News, NL, Recovery work continues on grounded MSC Baltic III; Bronze - Skye Bryden-Blom - Global Halifax, NS, Show of work  
**ANY MEDIUM**

**Arts & Entertainment Reporting and Writing** - Gold - Wendy Bergfeldt - CBC Nova Scotia, NS, Miner's Houses, Glace Bay; Silver - Rhea Rollmann - The Independent, NL, What the water holds; Bronze - Kevin Yarr - Saltscapes Magazine, NS, Music is the language of hope.

**Business Reporting and Writing** - Gold - Brian McLaughlin - The Telegraph-Journal, NB, Is Time of Day Pricing The Next Frontier for NB Power? Silver - Alex Bill - allNewfoundland-Labrador, NL, Puddister Sells Pennecon To Ontario Industrial Firm; Bronze - James Reid - allNewfoundland-Labrador, NL, CoLab Drums Up US\$72 million For AI Growth

**Civic Affairs Reporting and Writing** - Gold - Haley Ryan - CBC Nova Scotia, NS, Tenants of Halifax mobile home park set water meter precedent across Nova Scotia; Silver - Carole Morris-Underhill - Valley Journal-Advertiser, NS, 'A disaster waiting to happen': No winter warming centre planned for Windsor; Bronze - Logan MacLean - The Guardian, PEI, PEI water woes

**Climate Action Reporting and Writing** - Gold - Cloe Logan - Canada's National Observer, ON, Planned New Brunswick gas plant could threaten vital migratory bird corridor; Silver - Brian Owens - Atlantic Salmon Journal, NB, Fish Can't Walk; Bronze - Jeremy Hull - Saltscapes Magazine, NS, Castles made of sand.

**Commentary** - Gold - Paul MacNeill - Eastern Graphic, PEI, Emails Show What's Wrong with PSB; Silver - Ainsley Hawthorn - CBC Newfoundland and Labrador, NL, This isn't the first time American leaders have suggested annexing Canada; Bronze - Bill McGuire - Island Farmer, PEI, Griffon Editorial: Tariffs, lemmings, curling & censorship; AVC's decision betrays PEI's core values

**Indigenous Affairs Reporting and Writing** - Gold - Cassidy Chisholm - CBC Nova Scotia, NS, How adding names to archival images has been healing We'koqma'q First Nation; Silver - Heidi Atter - The Independent, NL, Innu welcome first students into Innuaimun immersion Kindergarten; Bronze - John Chilibeck - Brunswick News, NB, Show of work.

**Legal Affairs Reporting and Writing** - Gold - Tim Bousquet - Halifax Examiner, NS, The Wrongful Conviction and Execution of Daniel Sampson; Silver - Gareth Hampshire - CBC Nova Scotia, NS, N.S. abuse victims reveal lifelong trauma from father's sexual violence; Bronze - Lindsay Jones and Tu Thanh Ha - The



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Globe and Mail, NS, Atlantic Registry.

**Social Justice Reporting and Writing** - Gold - Cameron Kilfooy - The Telegram, NL, 'I am a Newfoundlander': MUN residency policy stands in the way of a young woman's hope to become a physician; Silver - Celina Aalders - CBC Nova Scotia, NS, Intimate Partner Violence: show of Work; Bronze - Judith Mendiola Lelo de Larrea - PNI Atlantic News, NS, Unfair cost and burden: how the pink tax puts women at a disadvantage.

**Sports Reporting and Writing** - Gold - Terry Roberts and Darryl Murphy - CBC Newfoundland and Labrador, NL, Here's how a 'ragtag' Placentia team captured N.L.'s first Canadian junior softball title; Silver - Madiha Mughees - Halifax Examiner, NS, 'Cricket is where you're able to assert a cultural identity': Going to bat for a rapidly growing sport in Halifax.

### SPECIAL AWARDS:

**AJA Hall of Fame Award** - Stephen Kimber - Freelance Journalist and Author, NS

**Jim MacNeill New Journalist Award** - Gold - Giuliana Grillo De Lambarri - CBC Nova Scotia, NS, Show of work; Silver - Yumna Iftikhar - The Independent, NL, Show of work; Bronze - Shauna Bernard - The Telegram, NL, Show of work.

**Student Journalist Awards** - Gold - Melissa Mbeba - NSCC Ivany Campus, NS, Mothering Within; Silver - Marlo Ritchie - University of King's College, NS, Remand numbers in Nova Scotia's jails could soar under new law, warn experts; Silver - Olivia Nitti and Tedi Buffett - University of King's College, NS, Finding sanctuary

**The Mike Critch Excellence in Crime Reporting Award** - Gold - Ryan Cooke and Katie Breen - CBC Newfoundland and Labrador, NL, Pure Hell; Silver - Ella MacDonald - Global Halifax, NS, The Murder of Devon Marsman; Bronze - Tara Bradbury - The Telegram, NL, A conversation That Never Came.

## Steve Kimber inducted into AJA Hall of Fame

By Maurice Rees

Stephen Kimber, infamous Nova Scotia Freelance Journalist and Author was inducted in the AJA Hall of Fame Award at the Atlantic Journalism Awards (AJAs) annual awards celebration held in Halifax on June 20th. Awards were presented in twenty-six media categories to journalists in Print/Digital; Audio; Video and Any Medium categories from throughout Atlantic Canada. Five special awards were presented for: AJA Hall of Fame Award; Jim MacNeil New Journalist Award; Student Journalist Awards and The Mike Critch Excellence in Crime Reporting Award.

The Atlantic Journalism Awards (AJAs) was started in 1981 to honour journalistic excellence and achievement in print and electronic news in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador. Inductees to the Hall of Fame from 2018 to recognize journalists those from subsequent years are included in a special file on the AJAs website (<https://ajas.ca>). Anyone can nominate an individual for the award.

2018 inductees included: Don Connolly - 42 Years Host/Journalist, CBC-NS Information Morning. 70,000 Interviews; Jim & Linda Gourlay - 50/20 Years Journalists/Publishers, Saltscapes - Good Taste. Living Healthy in Atlantic Canada. Eastern Woods & Waters. Atlantic Salmon Journal - Atlantic Insight; Dirk van Loon - 41 Years Journalist/Publisher, Rural Delivery. Atlantic Forestry Review. Atlantic Beef & Sheep. Atlantic Horse & Pony; Maurice Rees - 55 Years Journalist/Publisher, Shoreline Journal - NS Business Journal. Atlantic Energy News. Yarmouth Vanguard/Digby Mirror. So u' W e s t e r / F a r m Focus/Metro Telecaster. Woodstock Bugle and

Aleta Williams - 40 Years Journalist/Editor The Evening News. New Glasgow Nova Scotia. Mentor to Many.

The Atlantic Journalism Awards (AJAs) proudly congratulates all recipients recognized at the 2026 Atlantic Journalism Awards Gala, held Saturday, June 20 at the Halifax Central Library in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The AJAs celebrate excellence in journalism across Atlantic Canada, recognizing the stories, investigations, visuals, audio, and reporting that informed communities, sparked conversations, and demonstrated the power of journalism over the past year.

This year's awards brought together journalists, editors, students, freelancers, and media organizations from across the region to recognize outstanding work produced in 2025. The Atlantic Journalism Awards Board extends sincere congratulations to all finalists and winners. The calibre of submissions this year reflected the strength, creativity, and dedication of Atlantic Canadian journalism and highlighted the essential role journalists continue to play in our communities. A special congratulations is extended to Stephen Kimber, who was inducted into the Atlantic Journalism Awards Hall of Fame in recognition of his outstanding contributions to journalism and storytelling throughout his distinguished career. The AJAs also proudly presented the Mike Critch Excellence in Crime Reporting Award, created by Mark Critch in honour of his late father and celebrating exceptional local crime reporting. In addition, the AJAs awarded three student journalism scholarships, recognizing emerging talent and supporting the next generation of journalists across Atlantic Canada.

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