

Shoreline Journal is Finalist in AJA's Competition

By Maurice Rees

The Shoreline Journal is in the running to win another award. Maurice Rees, publisher of the Shoreline Journal is one of twenty print journalists from throughout Atlantic Canada, in seven categories, to be listed as a finalist in the 2020 competition organized by the Atlantic Journalist Awards. The gold and silver AJAs, 1st and 2nd place, winners will be announced in early June 2021.

Rees's entry in the best community newspaper news story provided extensive coverage of the mass murders in Portapique in April 2020. His entry was one of three entries from community newspapers. The other finalist from Nova Scotia was Tina Comeau, Yarmouth Vanguard for her entry, "Bringing life to unmarked graves".

Rhea Rollmann with The Independent, St. John's, NL entry was based on "An empty lot on Eric Street holds the key to the city".

The Atlantic Journalism Hall of Fame inductees will be announced on May 25, 2021. Publisher Rees was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2018 for his longevity of over 55 years in the publishing sector. The AJAs is celebrating its 40th year of honouring journalistic excellence in Atlantic Canada.

The list includes three finalists in each of the 28 journalism categories, plus student journalism awards. The entire list of print journalists includes:

Breaking/Spot News Reporting: Newspaper: Alex Bill, all-Newfoundland/Labrador.com, St. John's, NL for "Nasdaq acquires Verafin"; Andrew Rankin, The

Chronicle Herald, Halifax, NS for "Lawyer: tenant evicted by demolition" and Juanita Mercer, The Telegram, St. John's, NL for "Snowmageddon".

Feature: Newspaper: Anne Calder, The Chronicle Herald/Saltwire, Halifax, NS for "The extraordinary evolution of writer Amy McKay"; Drew Brown, The Independent, St. John's, NL for "Unmasking Donny Dooley: Newfoundland's most wanted troll" and Noushin Ziafati, The Chronicle Herald, Halifax, NS for "Refugee claimant 'wrestling virus' at Northwood".

Enterprise Reporting: Newspaper: Aidan Cox, The Daily Gleaner, Fredericton, NB for "Holes in tracking raise questions around racial discrimination in policing"; Andrew Rankin, The Chronicle Herald, Halifax, NS for "The making of a mass killer" and Ashley Fitzpatrick, The Independent, St. John's, NL for "A glimpse inside: a day at Her Majesty's Penitentiary".

Photojournalism News: John Morris, Reuters and others, Charlottetown, PEI for "Nova Scotia shootings"; Keith Gosse, The Telegram, St. John's, NL for "Family escapes house fire" and Keith Gosse, The Telegram, St. John's, NL for "Fatal rollover".

Photojournalism Portrait/Feature: John Morris, The Globe and Mail, Charlottetown, PEI for "Canada/USA Border Closure"; John Morris, Reuters and others, Charlottetown, PEI for "Back to school after COVID March break" and Keith Gosse, The Telegram, St. John's, NL for "Distorted driving".

Editorial Cartooning: Bruce MacKinnon, The Chronicle Herald, Halifax, NS for "Show of

work" and Michael deAdder, The Chronicle Herald for "Show of work".

Best Community Newspaper News Story: Maurice Rees, The Shoreline Journal, Bass River/Mait-

land, NS for "Portapique coverage"; Rhea Rollmann, The Independent, St. John's, NL for "An empty lot on Eric Street holds the key to the city" and Tina Comeau, Tri-County Vanguard, Yarmouth, NS for "Bringing life to unmarked graves".

The other finalist categories include the following categories: radio, 5; television, 5; magazines, 3; Other - any medium, 7. The Jim MacNeill New Journalist Award includes three finalists, while seven journalism students will be recognized for special awards.

Go to: <https://ajasonline.org/finalists20> to see the finalists' stories and visuals.

For further information: Bill Skerrett, AJAs, 902-478-6026, office@AJAs.ca

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Two from Colchester on FCM Board?

By Maurice Rees

Colchester might have two council members on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) board. At its committee meeting on May 13th council approved Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart to seek the 3rd VP position and in a separate motion, approved Mayor Christine Blair putting her name forward as one of four Nova Scotians to the national body.

Deputy Mayor Stewart asked Councillor Cooper to take the chair, while he relayed to council he had been asked to put his name forward for a five year stint to become 3rd Vice-President to ascend to the presidency, then serve his fifth year as past president. Council approved his candidacy and will cover any related travel expenses.

In a separate motion, Councillor MacKenzie moved that council also approve Mayor Blair to become a member of

the national body with travel expenses to be covered by the municipality. Speaking on the matter, Mayor Blair said she had been approached by various colleagues across Canada to seek the position as one of four Nova Scotia representatives. Council unanimously approved her candidacy for the upcoming FCM annual meeting.

The shift in representation to FCM board has been necessitated as result of District 10 councillor Tom Taggart informed council earlier this spring, he would not be seeking reappointment. He has served on the board for several years.

FCM brings together nearly 2,000 municipalities of all sizes—representing more than 90 percent of Canadians. Elections to the FCM board will be held as part of the AGM, held in virtual format, June 3-6, 2021.

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