

BEST AGRICULTURAL STORY



ANDREA CRANFIELD

The Equity

Professional use of CP Style and its guidelines has made for clean, clear copy. As an FYI, it's acceptable in CP Style to use "The Hill," capitalized, as an informal expression of Parliament Hill. The lead was clear and newsworthy, and writing was also clear and explanatory. It's apparent the author referred to multiple sources, paraphrased information and had wise quote selection, and understood the issue. There is a missed opportunity to speak with a U.S. company that uses diafiltered milk or a politician on the subject.

LAURENT ROBILLARD-CARDINAL

The West Quebec Post

CP Style was followed fairly well, giving the copy a clear and professional look. A few notes: there is no need to capitalize job titles in CP Style; co-ordinates takes a hyphen; % is "per cent;" CPE and MRC aren't disambiguated. A closer adoption of CP Style would improve clarity, and clean up the style. The article has a decent lead sentence, and the article surveys a series of comments from speakers at the function with proficiency. It's evident the reporter attended an event and took the time to understand the subject being reported on, but it's not as evident they asked follow-up questions or challenging questions of the people quoted.

MARY FAHEY

The Low Down to Hull & Back News

CP Style helps make this a clear and concise, easy to read, and well-written article. In CP Style, numbers 10 and above are written as numerals. Writing "plainly" could improve clarity and focus. The article is a little too "wordy." It's most acceptable to use plain words, especially early in an article when declaring a lead sentence. "Ubiquitous" isn't in keeping with the "keep it simple" style of writing. And considering milkweed a "goldmine" is too hyperbolic, if only meant tongue-in-cheek, for a lead sentence. While it may not come naturally, an effort to speak more plainly may have a strong impact on the lead sentences, and the clarity and flow of your stories. This is an interesting subject, and shows the reporter's keen eye for a newsworthy element, and knack for telling a story for the sake of reporting on a larger subject, weaving a narrative of a family raising some extra money, while broaching the subject of a "milkweed industry." However, there are a few missed opportunities for reporting further. The subject of the health of Monarchs was raised; how does harvesting milkweed affect Monarchs, according to an entomologist? Also, it's stated that there are "so many potential things that can be done with" milkweed, but that's not elaborated upon. Some follow-up research or questioning could bolster the reporting.

Judge: Ryan Rogers, Editor, CAPS Community Newspaper, Port Perry, ON • Number of entries in the Best Agricultural Story category: 16

BEST COMMUNITY HEALTH STORY



MARY FAHEY

The Low Down to Hull & Back News

Entries in this category included many good health stories, but Fahey's was the best. She writes a clear, compelling story about 19-year-old Christian Provencher and questions whether the health system missed its chance to help prevent his death. The story starts strong and ends on important issues of awareness and trust.

STEVE BONSPIEL

The Eastern Door

Rich with detail, Bonspiel's story is a touching tribute to the life of Brenda Gabriel, who lost her battle with leukemia this year. The story is an excellent example of community impacts, but also raises the important health issue of who donates bone marrow and stem cells for transplants. It is a solid piece of writing.

JENNIFER COX

The Suburban (City Edition)

Jennifer Cox writes a short but very effective story on how one school, Academy Sainte-Anne, dealt with accommodating a severe dairy allergy. As a community health story, it provides an impressively clear example on what can be done if parents, teachers and administrators work together. The story is paired with two solid photos.

Judge: David Secka, Chair of Journalism, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism & Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics, Concordia University, Montreal, QC
• Number of entries in the Best Community Health Story category: 21