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- New community newspaper, the North Delta Reporter (BC), launches

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- Historic Ontario newspaper, the Thamesville Herald (ON), sold to new owner
- Orleans Star (ON) purchased by former managing editor
- TC Media sells two northern Quebec newspapers (La Sentinelle and Le Jamésien) to independent new owner
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- Hebdom Québec launches 'Mon Journal Local' mobile app
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**New Publications**

**Black Press launches new free daily paper on Vancouver Island (BC) (9/27/16)**

<http://www.nanaimobulletin.com/news/394482641.html>

Free daily newspaper, The Vancouver Island Free Daily, launched in print, on the net, and — perhaps most significantly — as a cutting-edge new app available to both iPhone and Android users. Publisher Peter McCully said it will offer people from Port Hardy to Sooke their best chance to stay on top of all the news that is important to them on a daily basis — from one convenient source, on whatever platform works best for them.

**New community newspaper, the North Delta Reporter (BC), launches (07/07/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/new-community-newspaper-launches-delta-b-c/>

Black Press is launching a new community newspaper in North Delta, British Columbia. The North Delta Reporter will publish on a weekly basis and will serve the same circulation region as its sister publication, The Now.

**Purchases/Ownership Changes/Mergers**

**Black Press announced the consolidation of the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News (BC) and the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Times (BC) (10/24/16)**

<http://www.mapleridgenews.com/news/398251021.html>

Black Press has announced the consolidation of the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News and the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Times in hopes of providing readers with a greater breadth of coverage of community news and events, in print and online. In addition to expanded local news content, the print platform will include a new regional lifestyle magazine that will be published on a quarterly basis and focus on the incredible diversity of the region, the mix of industry and businesses big and small, an array of artists and an abundance of lifestyles.

**Carstairs Courier (AB) merges with Mountain View Gazette (AB) (11/08/16)**

<http://newspaperscanada.ca/news/merger-alberta-community-newspapers/>

The Carstairs Courier, a weekly community newspaper in Alberta, has merged its operation with the Mountain View Gazette. Both papers are owned and operated by Great West Newspapers, which is part of Glacier Community Media. Readers and advertisers of the Courier will continue to be served by the Mountain View Gazette's distribution network. The Gazette is distributed free of charge to several communities in Alberta.

**TC Media sells two SK daily newspapers to independent owner Star News - Moose Jaw Times Herald (SK), Prince Albert Daily News (SK) (5/31/16)**

<http://newspaperscanada.ca/news/star-news-publishing-purchases-13-newspapers-saskatchewan/>

Alberta's Star News Publishing has acquired all of Transcontinental's Saskatchewan newspaper products, including the Prince Albert Daily Herald, the Moose Jaw Times-Herald, the Southwest Booster, and a number of smaller community weeklies and specialty products. Before the sale, Star News owned five community publications in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

**Grasslands News Group buys Sun and Express newspapers (SK) (08/10/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/grasslands-news-group-buys-sun-express-newspapers/>

Star News Publishing Inc. has announced the Grenfell Sun and the Broadview Express newspapers have been sold to Grasslands News Group. The publications are returning to local ownership and a big piece of their history with the long-time newspaper publishing Ashfield family. Current subscribers to the Grenfell Sun will continue to receive their newspaper while subscribers to the Broadview Express will have the option of transferring

their subscription to either the new Grenfell Sun Express or the Whitewood Herald. With the merger of the two newspapers, the publication date will move to Saturday from Wednesday, and a new newspaper website, Facebook page and Twitter account will be launched.

### **The Hill Times (ON) merges with Embassy, launches new Wednesday edition (03/16/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/hill-times-merges-embassy-launches-new-wednesday-edition/>

Ottawa newspaper The Hill Times will be absorbing Embassy magazine and will begin publishing two weekly print editions on Mondays and Wednesdays. Hill Times Publishing owns both political publications. According to a news release, the paper will feature “enhanced political coverage, new Hill columns, and features,” as well as content previously published in Embassy. The Hill Times, which launched a new website earlier this month, will continue to operate on a paywall subscription model and there will be no layoffs as a result of the merge.

### **Historic Ontario newspaper, the Thamesville Herald (ON), sold to new owner (07/20/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/historic-ontario-newspaper-sold-new-owner/>

The Thamesville Herald in Ontario has a new owner—Heather Wright. Publisher Allison Humphrey has owned the historic paper for 16 years; she first purchased the publication from former owners Orville and Mae Schilbe. Based in Kent County, the Thamesville Herald has been operating since 1886 and has a current circulation of approximately 900. Heather Wright, publisher of the Petrolia Independent, will take over Humphrey’s responsibilities on July 27.

### **Orleans Star (ON) purchased by former managing editor (11/21/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/orleans-star-purchased-former-managing-editor/>

A former managing editor of the Orleans Star announced late last week that he had purchased the community newspaper from TC Media. “Community newspapers, and especially locally-owned and operated community newspapers, have traditionally served as the heart of the community,” said Fred Sherwin, the former managing editor of the 30-year-old publication.

### **TC Media sells two northern Quebec newspapers, (La Sentinelle and Le Jamésien) to independent new owner (08/31/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/tc-media-sells-two-northern-quebec-newspapers-independent-new-owner/>

TC Media has sold two of its Quebec papers to a new owner. Karine Desbiens purchased La Sentinelle, a weekly paper based in Chibougamau, Quebec, and regional monthly Le Jamésien. Desbiens serves as news editor for both publications. “Today I have achieved my dream of running my own business in acquiring two flagship Northern Quebec publications,” said Desbiens in a press release. “I believe in this region’s potential and future.”

### **Three community papers, the Yarmouth Vanguard, Digby Courier and the Shelburne County Coast Guard, merge in NS (02/09/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/three-community-papers-merge-in-nova-scotia/>

In Nova Scotia, Transcontinental has merged three weekly papers – Yarmouth Vanguard, Digby Courier and the Shelburne County Coast Guard – to form the Tri-County Vanguard. Due to the decrease in advertising revenues, operating three separate titles in the region was no longer financially viable according to Jennifer Vardy Little, managing editor of Transcontinental Media’s Nova Scotia Weekly Group of Papers. The merged paper covers all three counties in the region, offering greater reach for advertisers.

**Four community papers merge to form the Valley Journal-Advertiser, and the Annapolis Valley Register in NS (04/13/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/community-papers-merge-nova-scotia/>

In Nova Scotia, TC Media has announced plans to merge four Annapolis Valley community newspapers into two publications. The Hants Journal and the Kings Country Advertiser will combine to create The Valley Journal-Advertiser. Meanwhile, the Kings County Register will merge with the Annapolis County Spectator to become the Annapolis Valley Register. TC Media also announced plans to cease publication of the Valley Now free paper, which launched last year.

**Publishing Changes**

**Kimberley Daily Bulletin/Cranbrook Townsman (BC) reduced to three (paid) editions per week (4/19/16)**

<http://newspaperscanada.ca/news/b-c-papers-announce-new-publishing-schedules/>

In British Columbia, three Black Press papers have announced changes to their publishing schedules effective this week. The Kimberley Bulletin and The Cranbrook Townsman will now print three issues a week and will be delivered (to subscribers only) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The Kootenay Advertiser will print one region-wide issue a week and will be delivered on Thursdays.

**Alaska Highway News (BC) to publish weekly instead of daily (3/31/16)**

<http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/regional-news/alaska-highway-news-returns-to-weekly-publication-schedule-mirror-to-broaden-editorial-coverage-1.2195228>

The Alaska Highway News is returning to its roots as a weekly community newspaper. The paper will become a free distribution paper serving Fort St. John and area every Thursday, while the Dawson Creek Mirror will broaden its community coverage using the current Dawson Creek-based editorial staff. All editorial staff at the paper's current offices in both Dawson Creek and Fort St. John will be retained as part of the changes and will continue to provide daily news coverage online at [www.alaskahighwaynews.ca](http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca). A new website for the Dawson Creek Mirror will be launched in the coming weeks.

**Fort McMurray Today (AB) shifts to digital, adjusts print schedule (11/15/16)**

<http://newspaperscanada.ca/news/fort-mcmurray-today-shifts-focus-digital-adjusts-print-schedule/>

Fort McMurray Today recently announced plans to increase online content and will reduce its print publishing schedule from six days a week down to two. A bi-weekly print edition will be distributed on Tuesdays and Fridays and the paper's website will be updated daily with local, national and international. A new weekly print product, Fort McMurray This Week, will be home delivered to subscribers on Thursdays. Since the wildfires in northern Alberta earlier this year, Fort McMurray Today's Facebook traffic has increased tenfold. "For us, that really reinforced the importance of digital news," notes managing editor Olivia Condon.

**Moose Jaw Times-Herald (SK) stops charging online, ends Monday print edition (07/07/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/moose-jaw-times-herald-stops-charging-web-stories-ends-monday-print-edition/>

In Saskatchewan, the Moose Jaw Times-Herald has taken down its online paywall. Readers will no longer be charged to access online stories; previously, site visitors were able to read five online stories per month before being asked to pay to continue reading additional content. "We have heard loud and clear from our community that this policy was annoying to our readers," said the paper's publisher Roger Holmes. "To make our website more enjoyable, we will now post short versions of our newspaper stories on the site for free."

Longer, more in-depth articles will be available in the print edition and for digital subscribers. The paper also announced plans to stop producing its Monday print edition as it shifts to a Tuesday to Saturday publishing schedule.

**Guelph Tribune closes and relaunches as Guelph Mercury Tribune (ON). (06/02/16)**

<http://newspaperscanada.ca/news/guelph-tribune-re-launches-guelph-mercury-tribune/>

As the Guelph Tribune marks its 30th anniversary this year, the community paper has rebranded with a new name: the Guelph Mercury Tribune. A tribute to the recently shuttered Guelph Mercury, the newly rebranded Metroland publication decided to recognize the longstanding newspaper. "It seemed appropriate to honour the heritage of the Guelph Mercury and its important role in documenting life in Guelph by incorporating that great brand into the Tribune's name," reads a statement on the Guelph Mercury Tribune website.

**La Presse (QC) stops publishing weekday print edition (1/1/16)**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/la-presse-stops-printing-1.3385321>

After 131 years of publishing, Montreal-based French language newspaper La Presse has distributed its last weekday print edition. With the exception of its Saturday editions, the paper is going digital-only starting Jan 1, 2016. La Presse will continue to publish daily, but content will be on its app, La Presse+. Ad sales for the app are now outperforming the ad sales of the paper version, making the transition to digital profitable.

**Publication Closures****Northern Journal (NWT) discontinues print edition (03/09/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/northern-journal-discontinues-print-edition/>

The Northern Journal (formerly known as The Slave River Journal) in Fort Smith, NT distributed its final print edition on March 3, 2016. In business for 40 years, the community newspaper will continue to publish daily news content online following the closure of its print edition. The paper is owned by Northern News Services, which publishes five newspapers in the region, including the Yellowknifer and NWT News/North.

**Similkameen News Leader (BC) to cease publication. (7/26/16)**

<http://newspaperscanada.ca/news/b-c-weekly-similkameen-news-leader-cease-publication/>

In British Columbia, the Similkameen News Leader is closing. The independent weekly tabloid in Princeton first started publishing in 1998. The final edition will be distributed on July 26. "I'm very proud about the quality of our product and feel we accomplished a lot as an independent voice within the community," said owner and publisher George Elliot.

**Daily newspaper Nanaimo Daily News (BC) ceased publishing (1/29/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/nanaimo-daily-news-to-cease-publication/>

Black Press has announced plans to close the Nanaimo Daily News at the end of the month. The Vancouver Island daily newspaper has been in operation for more than 140 years. It will publish its final edition on Friday, January 29. Black Press will continue to publish the twice-weekly Nanaimo News Bulletin. "The community newspaper model continues to enjoy strong readership and advertising support, making it a highly effective local media option with a bright future in the print and digital space," said Randy Blair, Black Press president, B.C. Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island Divisions.

**Northeast News (BC) to close (02/09/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/b-c-weekly-northeast-news-to-close/>

Northeast News in Dawson Creek, B.C. will publish its final edition on Thursday, February 11. An independent newspaper published by Aberdeen Publishing, Northeast News first launched in 2004 and served almost 18,000 homes in the Peace Region. "The paper has been struggling financially for some time and the directors have determined that, in the present economic environment, there is no prospect it can be made profitable," said Aberdeen Publishing president Robert Doull. The communities in the Peace River Regional District and the Northern Rockies Regional District will continue to be served by the Alaska Highway News as well as by independent newspapers in Tumbler Ridge and Fort Nelson.

**Redvers Optimist (SK) to cease publishing (11/15/16)**

<http://newspaperscanada.ca/news/redvers-optimist-cessation-publication/>

Saskatchewan community newspaper The Redvers Optimist will publish its final issue on November 26, 2016. The paper is closing due to economic circumstances according to publisher Ted O'Neil. The Redvers market will continue to be served by the Carlyle Observer, which will increase its circulation from 250 copies up to 500.

**Yorkton News Review (SK) to cease publication (10/20/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/yorkton-news-review-cessation-publication/>

The Yorkton News Review, a weekly newspaper owned by Glacier Community Media in Saskatchewan, has announced that they will be ceasing publication as of October 27, 2016. The city will continue to have community news published through its other weekly paper Yorkton This Week.

**Metroland daily newspaper, the Guelph Mercury (ON), to cease publishing. (1/29/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/guelph-mercury-moves-to-digital-only-publishing-model/>

Metroland Media has announced it will cease publication of the print edition of the Guelph Mercury. The [guelphmercury.com](http://guelphmercury.com) website will continue operating and will be managed by the Metroland's regional digital team. The Guelph Mercury first launched as a daily paper in 1867 and will publish its final print edition on Friday, January 29. Metroland will continue to publish the Guelph Tribune, its twice-weekly community newspaper that reaches more than 40,000 households in Guelph and surrounding area.

**The Rainy River Record (ON) ceases publication (09/16/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/rainy-river-record-sign-off/>

After almost 100 years the Rainy River Record will cease publication following the printing and distribution of the Sept. 27 edition. The Record office will remain open through to the end of November. Over the past several years, the paper has been unprofitable. Two major advertisers, the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario, have chosen to shun newspaper advertising in favor of buying advertisements on US social media such as Google and Yahoo. "It is a blow to all newspapers in both Ontario and across Canada," said Record publisher Jim Cumming. The Fort Frances Times will pick up all the current subscribers to the Rainy River Record. Customers having both Rainy River Record and Fort Frances Times subscriptions will have the two subscriptions added together and the subscription extended in time.

**Digital Initiatives**

**Star Touch (ON) hits 200,000 downloads (02/04/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/star-touch-hits-200000-downloads/>

The Toronto Star's recently launched tablet app, Star Touch, reached a download milestone last week. The free app, available on both Apple and Android devices, is averaging above 45,000 user sessions every weekday and above 50,000 on weekends. Data shows most users are located in the Greater Toronto Area and are younger than the traditional newspaper audience.

**Globe and Mail (ON) adopts Arc Publishing technology (06/08/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/globe-mail-adopts-arc-publishing-technology/>

On June 1, The Globe and Mail became the largest North American media outlet to begin using the Arc Publishing platform. Developed by The Washington Post, the technology driven multi-platform system will allow the paper to manage, publish, analyze and monetize content more quickly and efficiently. The content management system also offers enhanced, personalized video capabilities as well as flexible and scalable ad solutions with built-in analytics. The Globe has been working with The Washington Post for two years to develop and test the new publishing platform. "This partnership reflects the future of publishing – one that harnesses technology and analytics to enable audience-focused storytelling based on data science," said Globe publisher and CEO Phillip Crawley.

**Postmedia opens new digital development lab in Kitchener-Waterloo (08/17/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/postmedia-open-new-digital-development-lab-kitchener-waterloo/>

Postmedia announced plans to open a new digital development lab in the fall of 2016 at Communitech, an innovation centre based in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario. Two new staff members – an innovation manager and a development lead – will be hired to lead a team of engineers and developers focused on identifying and developing new B2B-focused digital products and services for small and medium sized businesses, as well as providing additional support for Postmedia's existing portfolio of digital products.

**Hebdos Québec launches 'Mon Journal Local' mobile app (02/24/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/hebdos-quebec-launches-mon-journal-local-mobile-app/>

Hebdos Québec and European software developer Protecmedia have partnered to develop Mon Journal Local, a new multiplatform digital publishing tool that is similar in design to the La Presse +/Toronto Star Touch model. Available for smartphone and tablet users, Mon Journal Local allows viewers to create a customizable kiosk with their favourite newspaper titles and gives publishers the opportunity to upload interactive editorial content, photo galleries, videos and advertising campaigns. Out of Hebdos Québec's 32 weekly newspaper members, 24 publications will be available via the free tablet app, with papers being installed gradually until September 2016. "Our goal is to reach 250 000 downloads by December 2016," said Hebdos Quebec CEO and marketing director Gilber Paquette.

**Library digitization project makes historic Nova Scotia newspapers available (09/21/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/historic-newspapers-nova-scotia-now-available/>

Since 2009, Libraries Nova Scotia has sponsored a series of newspaper digitization projects designed to explore the challenges of preserving and providing online access to a selection of the province's historical and culturally diverse newspapers. During that time, an estimated 104,700 page of newspapers have been digitized. That includes 21 titles stretching from 1769 to 2003. This ambitious project has helped to preserve the heritage of at-risk print publications from across Nova Scotia's history.

**Black Press introduces branded content opportunities (11/29/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/black-press-introduces-branded-content-opportunities-local-advertisers/>

To provide new multimedia solutions for local businesses, Black Press launched a paid content program for advertisers. Impress Branded Content, the largest native advertising platform in B.C., will allow advertisers to purchase editorial-style content on the newsfeeds of Black Press' community newspaper websites and social media pages. All Impress Branded Content articles will be clearly labeled as sponsored content and will be "editor approved" according to Andrew Franklin, director of digital development for Black Press. "We need to find ways to grow our business through opportunities online," Franklin notes.

**Content Access Models – Tablets, Paywalls/Meters, Micropayments**

**Winnipeg Free Press (MB) micropayment plan (04/20/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/winnipeg-free-press-generates-new-revenue-micropayment-plan/>

In 2015, the Winnipeg Free Press became the first newspaper in North America to introduce a micro-payment plan. Unlike a standard metered paywall, this unique pay-per-view model allows readers to purchase digital content on a per-article basis. Approximately eight months after the Free Press first launched this new subscription model, the paper estimates that about 4,300 readers have purchased at least one article through the micropayment plan, and the paper is attracting approximately 40 new micropayment subscribers each week. With each article costing 27 cents, the average reader spends about \$2 per month. Heavily reported feature articles and long-form investigative stories tend to be the most popular content purchased through this payment plan. "The flexibility provided by our paid option has enabled an almost commitment-less option for our readers. It lowers the height of the paywall and monetizes audiences who would otherwise leave," explains Free Press vice president for digital content Christian Panson. Furthermore, more than 15% of the micropayment users have been successfully converted into full subscribers.

**La Presse (QC) tablet-only weekday edition circulation milestone (01/27/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/la-presse-hits-circulation-milestone/>

La Presse has released new numbers demonstrating the continued growth of its tablet app. The latest data from Localytics shows that La Presse + is viewed on average by more than 243,000 unique tablet users daily throughout the week. Comparatively, La Presse's print newspaper reached a daily circulation peak in 1971 with 221,250 copies. Since La Presse first announced the end of its print edition in September 2015, tablet subscriber numbers grew by more than 100,000 (approximately 22 %) in four months. Readers spend on average 40 minutes a day with the tablet app, with adults aged 25 to 54 accounting for 63 percent of the readership.

**General Industry**

**Ottawa cuts newspaper ad spending (09/01/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/featured/25606/>

According to a recent federal report, the Canadian government has dramatically shifted its advertising to the internet and away from daily newspapers even as it studies how to deal with the decline of the traditional newspaper industry in the digital age, writes Dean Beeby of CBC News. The report was obtained by CBC News through an Access to Information request. Earlier this year, Bob Cox, chair of the Canadian Newspaper Association, and publisher of the Winnipeg Free Press, appeared before the standing committee on Canadian Heritage to advocate for increased government support for the publishing industry.

**Postmedia signs printing agreement for London Free Press (ON) with Metroland (06/02/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/postmedia-signs-printing-agreement-metroland/>

Postmedia has entered into a printing contract with Metroland Media Group for the production of the London Free Press starting this fall. As a result of this new outsourcing agreement, Postmedia will close its London-based printing plant. All other community papers published at the London plant will be relocated to nearby Postmedia production venues.

**Toronto Star (ON) closing Vaughan printing plant and enters new 5 year printing deal with Transcontinental (01/15/16)**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/torstar-to-sell-printing-plant-in-vaughan-ont-more-than-285-jobs-affected-1.3405317>

Torstar says 220 full-time employees and 65 part-time staff will be affected by a plan to sell its Toronto-area printing plant and outsource the work to Transcontinental, Canada's largest commercial printing company. The switch to Transcontinental is expected to produce about \$10 million of annual savings for Torstar. "Transcontinental Printing has newer, more modern presses and this decision will result in our very loyal print readers and subscribers receiving a high-quality print product with enhanced reproduction," Toronto Star publisher John Cruickshank. Torstar has entered into a five-year printing agreement with Transcontinental to print the Toronto Star.

**Ottawa Business Journal (ON) and Metro Ottawa (ON) team up on distribution deal (09/14/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/obj-metro-ottawa-team-distribution-deal/>

TC Media's Ottawa Business Journal (OBJ) has entered into a multi-year distribution agreement with Metro Ottawa in order to increase the paper's visibility and accessibility within the region. Metro News network will deliver the bi-weekly newspaper to more than 1,000 local businesses and bulk distribution points. Additionally, 50 new outdoor newspaper boxes will be introduced into the downtown core, containing copies of both Metro Ottawa and OBJ.

**Métro Montreal (QC) signs exclusive distribution agreement with the STM (01/27/16)**

<https://nmc-mic.ca/news/metro-montreal-signs-exclusive-distribution-agreement-with-the-stm/>

TC Media has entered into an exclusive agreement with the Societe de transport de Montreal (STM) to distribute Métro newspapers in the Montreal transit system. The daily commuter paper will now be available in 320 stands in the city's metro system as well as more than 1,000 existing distribution points throughout the city. TC Media's five-year contract with STM commences in February 2016. "We are proud of this new partnership with the STM and pleased that we can continue to better serve public transit users and our readers in the Greater Montreal area," said Métro publisher Nicolas Faucher in a press release.