

## PHOTOJOURNALISM CREATING IMAGES THAT CAPTURE THE NEWS

Photojournalist Barry Gray loves his job. For more than 34 years, he has worked as a photojournalist at The Hamilton Spectator newspaper.

Reporters gather information, interview people and write news articles. Photojournalists like Gray take the photos and videos that add more dimension and visual interest to those articles.

The job of a photojournalist isn't just to take nice pictures. Photojournalism, like all journalism, relates a story. It captures a moment, a person or an event, to help the reader understand what happened.

For most photojournalists, every work day is different and exciting. In a typical day, Gray may do a portrait of someone, shoot photos at a football game, drive to a park to photograph an event and later, cover a protest.

He's flown with the Snowbirds, Canada's famous military air show flight demonstration team. He gets to cover major events like the Grey Cup. And he was at the Tragically Hip's final concert.

"People say, 'Wow—that (job's) neat'—and it is, it flat-out is. And it still is after all these years," says Gray.

Gray gets his assignments from the newspaper's photo assignment editor. Reporters tell her what stories they're working on and she decides what photos will be needed.

Some photographs go with an article. Other times, a photographer may capture an image of something interesting, unusual or newsworthy and that photo may stand alone, with just a caption (known as a cutline).

"We do what we call enterprising or stand-ups, where, if we're in between assignments, we're out in the community looking for things," says Gray.

"A kid running through a sprinkler, (someone) raking leaves, kids tobogganing in the winter."

Sometimes, photographers have to capture difficult moments, like deaths and tragedies. "You do fires and accidents and things. You end up at things like that where there are raw emotions—it's part of the job, a very small part."

Photojournalists also shoot video, used on the news organization's website and in its social



**Barry Gray's 1990 photo of the Hagersville firefighters went viral, and he won The Hamilton Spectator's picture of the year award.**

media. Sometimes, if there aren't any available reporters, photojournalists may have to write up an article themselves and take the photos to go with it.

When talent collides with a bit of luck, a photojournalist may have an image go "viral." That happened to Gray in 1990.

A massive pile of 14 million vehicle tires had

caught fire in Hagersville, Ontario. Because of the way tires burn, extremely hot and for a very long time, putting them out is extremely difficult. When the fire was finally under control, the exhausted, heroic firefighters gathered to take a group photo of themselves. Gray and a reporter from The Spectator were there, and captured that poignant moment.

"I literally just went over and took a picture over their shoulder," he says. It ran in all the Toronto papers and then got picked up by Canadian Press (CP) and ran all over the world.

Whatever the assignment, once Gray has taken the photos, he chooses the one he likes best and cleans it up with Photoshop on his computer. He crops (sizes) it and adjusts the colours. Then he emails it to a digital folder. The reporter's text goes in the same folder, so the editors have all the information they need.

Gray, like all of the photographers at The Spectator, uses Nikon DSLR cameras for still photography. He shoots video using a video camera, or sometimes his smart phone. "It's easy and it's very quick. I can edit it on my phone in an app and it's just easier and it's faster. And the quality is more than sufficient for the website."

He has some advice for young people who want to be a photojournalist. "You have to be interested in photography. You should have a camera. Be out taking pictures, even if it's just on your phone."

You have to be interested in journalism, in what's happening in the world, he says. "Take pictures and start to care about 'the news.'"



# WORD SEARCH

Find and circle these words from the article. If there are any that you aren't familiar with, look up their definitions. We've circled the first one for you.

A	K	E	B	R	Y	H	P	A	R	G	O	T	O	H	P
N	P	H	O	T	O	J	O	U	R	N	A	L	I	S	M
I	I	H	K	H	E	A	C	B	V	L	N	D	O	L	C
Y	C	M	O	U	B	J	G	Q	I	A	S	R	G	B	F
F	T	C	U	T	L	I	N	E	X	T	Y	L	W	D	N
V	U	R	P	P	O	R	T	R	A	I	T	A	T	K	E
C	R	O	T	L	W	S	Z	A	V	G	X	R	X	M	R
H	E	P	O	A	N	T	H	Q	E	I	X	I	S	X	U
R	S	S	O	U	L	C	O	O	E	D	I	V	X	I	T
A	E	U	H	S	D	G	H	I	P	X	H	X	C	Z	P
D	A	S	S	I	G	N	M	E	N	T	O	W	J	A	A
B	G	M	M	V	Q	X	F	F	Y	T	L	P	D	U	C

~~PHOTOSHOP~~  
 CUTLINE  
 VIDEO  
 VIRAL  
 ASSIGNMENT  
 PHOTOJOURNALISM  
 PORTRAIT  
 CROP  
 VISUAL  
 SHOOT  
 CAPTURE  
 DIGITAL  
 PICTURES  
 PHOTOGRAPHY



## DID YOU KNOW?

Photojournalism began in the mid-1800s, when Roger Fenton documented the Crimean War. In the 1930s, Leica invented a smaller, more portable camera that allowed a photojournalist to travel wherever news was happening.



## DIG DEEPER

Like any journalism, photojournalism must convey the news. Find a news story online that has a photo. Does the photo do its job well? Why do you think that? If not, what should they have taken a picture of?