

# Marc Miquel Helsen, M.A.

WRITER / EDITOR / JOURNALIST / PHOTOGRAPHER

## PROFILE

Talented writer with 5+ years experience as a reporter/photographer, editor and proof-reader. Write salient, in-depth articles under pressure. Personable attitude that engages people from all walks of life. Skilled in developing and maintaining professional relationships, from politicians to academics and sports personalities. Solid network of contacts for story ideas and background information. Advanced research skills (academic, online, investigative, etc.). M.A. in Journalism.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### FLASH QUOTE REPORTER (STAFF)

Olympic News Service, Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games, 2010

- Interviewed elite athletes including Sidney Crosby, Alexander Ovechkin, Jaromir Jagr, Jarome Iginla and Roberto Luongo
- Selected relevant quotations from interviews and entered them into internal system for the use of accredited media like The New York Times and the Toronto Sun
- Participated in media scrums with representatives of various media agencies
- Wrote articles based on said interviews quickly and efficiently
- Attended press conferences with elite athletes, coaching personnel, IOC and NHL directors (including Jacques Rogge and Gary Bettman) where I posed questions, took notes, and wrote summaries

### REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER

The Observer, Elmira, ON, 2006-2009

- Wrote 5-10 weekly articles in the areas of spot news, crime, provincial and federal politics, environment, health, education and sports
- Made an impact on local residents by investigating and reporting on sensitive issues, e.g. writing a series of articles on intermittent telephone service in rural areas which culminated in an emergency and eventually, resolution of the issue
- Covered weekly municipal council meetings on social planning, community, health and infrastructure issues
- Photographed spot news, sports, and weekly community and cultural events
- Photographed junior hockey games and wrote articles which included personal analyses and interviews with coaches, players, managers and league officials
- Made quick judgment calls when required to take photographs of sensitive situations, always considering the impact it would have on the individuals involved
- Developed and maintained professional relationships with representatives of public and private sectors, including federal and provincial politicians, academics, and members of the Waterloo Regional Police Service

- Researched and interpreted public documents and online sources
- Assisted with the editing and proofreading of the entire paper
- Trained and mentored new reporters

#### REPORTER

The Town Crier, Toronto, ON, 2005

- As an intern, wrote stories for the News, Entertainment, and Sports sections
- Covered multicultural and social issues such as multi-ethnic artists building Toronto audiences and inner-city youths coordinating out-reach programs
- Developed and submitted own stories which were paid for on a freelance basis

#### CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Vancouver Courier, Vancouver, BC, 2005

- Interviewed and wrote articles on diplomatic officials and representatives of several countries (Chile, Canada, Armenia and Turkey)
- Wrote a cover feature about Chilean torture survivors from the perspective of local Chilean-Canadians
- Gained the trust of interviewees through fluency in Spanish and an affable personality

#### CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Scene Magazine, London, ON, 2004-2005

- Wrote articles for the Arts and Entertainment section
- Previewed and reviewed plays and poetry

#### FREELANCE EDITOR / TRANSLATOR / ENGLISH TEACHER

Barcelona, Spain, 2001-2002

- Edited proposals, documents, and letters for grammar and accuracy
- Translated medical, business and song lyrics from Spanish into English
- Taught and tutored English conversation classes, grammar lessons, and general reading and writing

#### EDUCATION

- TEFL Certificate, University of Saskatchewan (Continuing Education), Saskatoon, SK, 2010
- M.A., Journalism, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, 2005
  - Wrote freelance articles despite high pressure to finish M.A.
  - Developed radio and TV projects, including a radio documentary on The Black Donnellys, a family of local historical interest
- B.A., Double Major in English Literature and Spanish, University of British Columbia Vancouver, 2001

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- Studied Script Writing through Wilfrid Laurier University (Waterloo)
- Member of the South-West Regional Soccer Association (SWRSA)
- Former captain and president of Waterloo Park Football Club
- Music: Classical guitar; Former member of ska/rock band