



Then & Now...

It's February 18th and for the past couple of days the weather has been brutal: whiteouts, power failures, road closures... but every once in a while the sun crept through the clouds as I was sitting at my desk here in Collingwood.

This morning, after a night of howling winds and another fifteen centimeters of snow, I decided that I needed to get some fresh air, so I bundled up and braved the cold weather and went for a walk. On the trail I met a friend of mine whose daughter was on the cover of *Women with Vision* exactly two years ago: March -April 2002 (when it was a 24 page black and white newsletter). Cathy Canning and I began chatting and I asked how her daughter Andrea was doing. We went inside and Cathy proudly told me about her daughter's journey.

Andrea Canning, who was born and raised in the Town of The Blue Mountains, had a dream of becoming a news reporter. A graduate from the University of Western in London, Ontario she also went on to study Radio and Television Arts at Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto.

She described Andrea as a risk-taker. From 1996-97, Andrea began to get experience under her belt, as she became an assignment editor and field producer for the television show "Extra". She set out on her determined journey almost ten years ago and has never looked back. Leaving home in 1997 she set her sights on sunny California to see what her options would be in the United States. (that California sunshine sounded good today!) She had a successful interview and secured an internship position with David Hasselhoff's Company (remember *Baywatch?*) for a few months. She returned home for two years to finish school and then went to work for CKVR TV in Barrie, Ontario as a reporter and the 6:00 p.m. anchor. She was adding to her resume.



Andrea never gave up. She returned to the US and worked at WCPO-TV in Cincinnati and later from 2000-2001, she covered a wide range of issues for WPTV in West Palm Beach, Florida: covered the presidential election (November 2000); notably she was the first reporter in the election office the day after the election when they performed a recount. She reported on the anthrax scare at the National Enquirer buildings, the Nathaniel Brazil teacher- shooting, the Elian Gonzales case, and has been in the midst of several hurricanes. Only first-rate newswomen get that kind of coverage

Andrea says: "I love going to work...the hours are long and sometimes I'm up all night. It is a very pressure-packed environment; there isn't a lot of time to get the show on the air. It's big business and I thrive on the pressure."

Andrea now lives and works in the States. She's a Washington, DC- based correspondent for NewsOne, ABC's affiliate news service. NewsOne provides live and packaged news reports for 180 ABC affiliates, as well as more than 30 domestic and international clients, including BBC, NHK, Fuji, ARD/Germany and CTV Canada. She also frequently files stories for Good Morning America and World News Tonight and has been anchoring ABC's national overnight newscast ABC World News Now for the last 2 months.

As a top-notch reporter, Andrea has made her dream come true. She now covers news from America's capital and travels to breaking news events for live reports. This young woman has come far in less than ten years and is a ray of sunlight to us all. Congratulations Andrea, we in Canada will continue to follow your career with interest. You are an inspiration to all young *Women with Vision*.



Lorraine Leslie
Founder/Publisher

Nominated for RBC Canadian Woman **ENTREPRENEUR Awards 2005**

The feature women about whom I write, have traveled a long, winding road to success – each woman on her own journey; a journey that sometimes hasn't been smooth. These women open their hearts to inspire and motivate other women, of all ages, to follow their dreams and passions...