



Ontario Visual Heritage Project

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOOKING FOR LOCALS TO ACT OUT WITH HISTORIC STYLE Actors and Extras Sought for HD Documentary On Manitoulin

LITTLE CURRENT, Ontario – April 23, 2007 – Production for the Manitoulin Island Visual Heritage Project is about to get underway – and the film’s producers are looking for local talent to cast in the roles of the area’s most celebrated, and notorious, historical figures. The full-length, professionally produced, HD documentary film will explore the intriguing history of Manitoulin Island and its people through interviews with local historians, archival films and photographs, and re-enactments of historical events. Now, with interview filming complete, the Ontario Visual Heritage Project team is preparing to begin production for re-enactments and is looking for enthusiastic folks of all ages to get involved in filming over the summer months. Native trickster, Nanabush; Odawa Chief, J.B. Assiginack (Blackbird); Captain Anderson; and fisheries overseer, William Gibbard are a few of the colourful characters to be included in the film; for a more complete list of parts please visit our website at www.visualheritage.ca/manitoulin. Both speaking and non-speaking roles are available. No experience is necessary and honorariums are available for participants (amounts are dependent on size of role). All interested parties should e-mail the Ontario Visual Heritage Project’s producer, Yvonne Drebert, at yvonne@visualheritage.ca, for more information. Resumés and headshots are welcome but not required.

The Ontario Visual Heritage Project team, with the support of the Manitoulin Museums Association and 6 other community groups, has been compiling research, interviewing local history enthusiasts, and scripting re-enactments since funding for the project from the Ontario Trillium Foundation was announced in September of last year. Commenting on the project’s cooperative approach, project coordinator Zach Melnick notes that, “*the project takes cues from the collaborative community theatre approach, we employ a community-focused production model to create a work that is as inclusive as possible. Volunteer guidance and acting both add value to the Ontario Visual Heritage Project and promote an active interest in local history. The experience and exposure that actors gain from the professional atmosphere on set and the broadcast quality product make the experience worthwhile for everyone involved.*”

The Ontario Visual Heritage Project strives to create multimedia tool kits that are meant to teach, preserve and promote the history of Ontario to audiences young and old. The central component of the Project is a documentary film based on the history of the community, which is complimented by an interactive website, a course-guide for educators, and an interactive DVD. In the Spring of 2008, a launch event will be held to celebrate the completion of the project, the history of Manitoulin Island, and the distribution of the tool kits to every school, library, and

museum in the district free of charge. To gain a better understanding of the project and to view projects completed to date, please visit our website at www.visualheritage.ca.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative.

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