



Ontario Visual Heritage Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feature Length Documentary on West Parry Sound History Available NOW!

PARRY SOUND, Ontario – Dec. 29, 2008 – After the launch of the West Parry Sound District installment of the Ontario Visual Heritage Project in August, the DVD of the production is now available through community partners. Entitled, ‘Rooted in Stone; Reflections on West Parry Sound’s Past,’ the DVD features a two-hour documentary film, which explores the intriguing history of the West Parry Sound District and its people through interviews with local historians, archival films and photographs, and re-enactments of historical events. The DVD is packed with additional interviews and stories.

In partnership with numerous community groups, ‘Rooted in Stone’ has been in the works since July of 2006. This past summer, the project was well received by a full house at its premiere screening at the Stockey Centre. Since then the project team has been hard at work preparing the film for DVD and distribution into every school, library, and museum in the district – free of charge, thanks to the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and FedNor.

One of the goals of this not-for-profit project is to create multimedia tool kits, which are meant to teach, preserve and promote the history of Ontario to audiences young and old. The documentary is the central component of each project, and is augmented by a website, a course-guide for educators, and an interactive DVD which allows viewers to access stories via a timeline, through their location, or according to their theme.

When discussing the West Parry Sound, project Director Zach Melnick said: “We are thrilled by the amount of volunteer support we’ve received for this project. 35 historians, 85 local actors, and people from across the city have come out to promote and preserve the history of West Parry Sound. Together we’ve created a project that we hope will spark new relationships and a renewed interest in history.”

Under Melnick’s direction, the Ontario Visual Heritage Project has seen success in seven counties in Southwestern Ontario, including: Haldimand, Norfolk, Brant/Brantford/Six Nations, Elgin, Oxford, Sarnia-Lambton, and Chatham-Kent. The Sudbury project is one of four projects that were launched this summer, including: the Muskoka District, Manitoulin Island, and the City of Greater Sudbury. All four documentaries will be available in a box set of DVDs entitled “The Shield.” Each of the films includes French subtitles.

One of the perks for community partner organizations, is that they can sell the DVD as fundraising items – ensuring that the history featured in the film is preserved. ‘Rooted in Stone’ is available for \$20 (plus applicable taxes) from project partners, including: the ParrySound Downtown Business Association, the West Parry Sound District Museum, the Retired West Parry Sound Teachers Association, the L.U. Maughan Company Limited, the Parry Sound Area Community Business and Development Centre Inc., the Parry Sound Area Chamber of Commerce, and Georgian Bay Country. Seven local townships are also project partners:

McDougall, the Archipelago, Carling, McKellar, Seguin, Whitestone, and the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound.

For additional information on the project, or to view a video trailer of 'Rooted in Stone; Reflections on West Parry Sound's Past,' please visit our website at www.visualheritage.ca.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For over 25 years, the Foundation has supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province. OTF continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit www.trilliumfoundation.org.

Press Contacts:

Perry Harris
Community Liaison
Parry Sound Area Chamber of Commerce
705-774-3253
perry_harris@hotmail.com

Yvonne Drebert
Producer
The Ontario Visual Heritage Project
905-772-1849
Yvonne@pixelduststudios.com



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