

Black Forest to film in the North Shore

MARGREAT DAVIS A small production company, Distant Field Productions, is gearing up to film their next movie in Northern Ontario. Black Forest is being called “The scariest movie ever made” and is slated to begin filming in Sudbury and Elliot Lake this coming August. Auditions have been underway in Sudbury since the end of June and almost all preparations have been made except one, a spooky barn. This minor but key prop is needed for a number of horror scenes and David Briggs, the film’s director has spent a lot of time looking into local areas, including the Saubles- Spanish River region.

Briggs is looking for an abandoned-looking house, barn, camp, or outbuilding surrounded by trees and bush, something seemingly secluded where the antagonist of the movie can take his victims. Councilor Jayson Stewart of the Township of Saubles-Spanish River recently played tour guide to Briggs, showing him a number of potential locations. “Massey is still only being considered at this point,” Stewart answered when asked if Massey had been chosen as a film site but promised to keep this reporter informed when a decision comes in.

While Distant Field Production is a very low-budget independent production company which is unlikely to bring an economic boost to the community Stewart does hope it would bring more publicity to the Saubles-Spanish River area and what it has to offer film making industry. “This could be act as a stepping stone for other directors to consider moving a larger production here. Larger productions rent land, need accommodations and catering, hire local constructions companies, sometimes need roads built and sets constructed, actors and background cast are hired...a production could do a lot for a small community like ours.”

“The Economic Development Committee and Council are always looking for ways to promote our community to new economic development, to enhance our tourism potential and to further strengthen and support our arts and culture scene,” Stewart continued. “As Northern Ontario continues to see a growth as Hollywood North North, as more productions are heading outside of the GTA and Montreal, we would like to be pioneers in marketing our small community.” For now Stewart, like many others in the community, is keeping his fingers crossed and hoping Briggs calls back with good news. Northern Ontario hold much potential in the beauty that surrounds us every day and at night can be the right mix of mystery and dark secrets that – hopefully – can draw the interest of film producers everywhere.

To learn more about Distant Field Productions or read a synopsis of Black Forest check out their website at www.distantfield.com.