



MEDIA RELEASE

2007: ANOTHER RECORD-BREAKING PRODUCTION YEAR

For Immediate Release: January 29, 2008

The Okanagan Film Commission's annual statistics for 2007 show a 65% increase in inquiries to the region and a 12% increase in production activity. There were many notable productions in the region for 2007.

"Shred 1" and "Shred II," starring Canadian comic Tom Green were both shot on location at Big White and Silver Star Mountain Ski Resorts last spring. The summer of 2007 welcomed Director David Wu on location in the historic Kettle Valley Railway, shooting the Chinese Canadian co-production "Iron Road" based on the Chinese workers building the CN railway. The CBC mini-series is set for release in Spring 2008.

"The Canadian Antiques Roadshow" set up shop in Vernon, British Columbia's only stop on their tour. "The Andromeda Strain", a mini-series being released through A&E, shot in Hedley with celebrity stars, Rickie Schroeder (recently from '24'), Benjamin Bratt ('Law & Order'), and Christa Miller ('Scrubs'), as well as Canadian born actor Eric McCormack ('Will and Grace'). "Psych", an American syndicated comedic series, also shot this summer on location at both Cedar Creek Estate Winery and Quail's Gate Family Estate Winery.

"We are thrilled with the productions that our valley has hosted this past year, as it clearly shows the industry is growing in the region. Production remains very strong going into 2008." says board chairperson Joyce Wegner. "Our new film commissioner, Jon Summerland has brought with him all of his contacts from his years of experience as a location manager in the lower mainland. We are already seeing the positive effects of his extensive network with production commitments in spite of industry concerns over the writer's strike. We hope that with approval from our key funders to increase our budget for this fiscal, we will be able to afford to take our organization to the next level of film productivity."

Summerland is in the process of developing a marketing plan for the region. "The valley has so much potential and all we need is the financial resources to sell it." His plan is to create an image-driven campaign that will educate the world on all of the opportunities that the region can provide. "The writer's strike, while distressing to the industry in the Lower Mainland, has provided us with an opportunity to re-assess the way we market ourselves as a regional film commission. Further, we are building a large human-resources base. We have Sara Shaak, our former film commissioner working hard with her company Grapevine Picture Works to help us promote the valley, and we have our local Economic Development Office encouraging the development of studio space." enthuses Summerland.

With the recent announcement by the BC Government that the film incentive BC tax credit is increasing from 30-35%, the production services tax credit will rise from 18-25% and the regional tax credit is now 12.5%, the film industry has earned some positive recognition from the government for its contribution to the economy. The film industry in BC generated \$1.2 Billion in economic impact in 2006.

The Okanagan Film Commission's mandate is to generate a positive economic impact by enabling the growth of the Okanagan-Similkameen-Boundary region as a film centre. The Okanagan Film Commission currently receives financial support with partnership contributions from Regional Governments and the Province of BC.

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For more information:

Okanagan Film Commission

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www.okanaganfilm.com

Attached: Okanagan Film Commission 2007 Production Statistics

OKANAGAN FILM COMMISSION 2007 STATISTICS

	2007	2006	% increase
Inquiries	4535	2745	65%
Production Activity	\$6,213,000	\$5,535,000	12%

2007 PRODUCTION ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN

3	Feature Films
2	Mini-Series
8	Television Series
6	Commercials
2	Other (short films/still campaigns)
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21	Productions in region spending approximately \$6,213,000 in Total.

NOTABLE PRODUCTIONS

Shred I and Shred II – Feature length films starring Canadian comic Tom Green shot entirely on location at Big White and Silver Star Ski Resorts.

Iron Road – CBC Mini-Series directed by David Wu starring Peter O'Toole shot on location at Kettle Valley Trestles.

The Andromeda Strain – A&E Mini-Series directed by academy award nominee Mikael Salomon with executive producer's Tony and Ridley Scott. Starring Benjamin Bratt.

Psych – US Network Television Series – Shot at Cedar Creek Estate Winery and Quail's Gate Family Estate Winery. Episode directed by Joanna Kerns.

Beast of Bottomless Lake – Provost Pictures, shot throughout Central Okanagan. Primarily Peachland and Kelowna.

Canadian Antiques Roadshow – CBC Television Series hosted by Valerie Pringle

The Fish'n Canada Show – OLN/Global TV, shot in Vaseux Lake and Osoyoos Lake

The Best Places to Find Cash and Treasures – TV Series shot in the Rock Candy Mine, Grand Forks, BC, Indigo Films