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News

Front Page

News Columns

Editorial

Sports Beat

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King documentary to premiere Feb. 20 at Country Day School

By David Anderson



Director Mark Magro is seen here with Elaine Robertson, of the King Heritage Committee Photos by Tom Panasiak

King Township is to get the motion picture treatment, as its very own documentary will be screened at The Country Day School Feb. 20.

2010-02-03 / News

Admission to the showing of the documentary, entitled King, which will start at 7 p.m., will be free.

The film was shot and directed by Toronto resident, producer and historian Mark Magro, with the assistance of Elaine Robertson, a member of the King Heritage

The committee financed the film, which is narrated by Andrew Marshall, a former CBC host.

Robertson said the documentary is unique because it's told through the eyes of Kettleby Public School's Grade 6 to 8 students, who are part of the Achievement Initiative Mentorship Program (AIM). "I have wanted to do project like this for 25 years," Robertson said. "Most documentaries are adult oriented, but this time history is seen through the eyes of children."

Also she thought that by having the students involved, it would help build their research, drama and speaking skills.

Some of the students even handled some of the film equipment, Magro said.

"It was great, they were all excited to see the steps involved in making a film," he commented

Magro collaborated with AIM to study local history and allow kids to put forth their skills, which he said is necessary for them to succeed.

Both Robertson and Magro said they saw changes in the kids as they worked on the documentary.

Mark Magro is seen here going over a scene for the King documentary.

"They became more mature and confident," Robertson said.

"After the film, while engaging in discussion with them, the questions and answers they were giving really made me feel like I was dealing with adults," Magro added.

He said that after people are done watching this documentary, they will see young people in a different

"I feel that young people are devalued and their opinions are not heard," Magro commented.

With this ideology, Magro thought that this style of documentary could be used as a template for Canada.

"The film covers the history of Canada, from the first people to the present day, as well as dealing with local history in the context of the broader sense of Canada," he said.

Robertson said the reason she picked Magro to do the film was because of his fresh ideas and his technical

"The Heritage Committee backed me up and we pitched it before council and they said 'yes,'" Robertson declared.









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Magro has also done three other documentaries called Cedar Mains Farm: A Forgotten Landscape (2007), Nonqyon Island (2008) and The Story of Uxbridge Station (2008). Cedar Mains Farm is is Caledon.

He won the Scugog Heritage Media Award for his film Nongyon Island.

Robertson was nominated for the Governor General Award for teaching history in the AIM program.

Magro and Robertson said they look forward to see everyone out at the premier of the documentary.

The school is at 13415 Dufferin St.

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