

NONQUON ISLAND PRESS KIT



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Kouquon Island

45 MINTUES | HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY | ©2009 WANTED MEDIA CORPORATION

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Journey to Nonquon Island

Imagine standing atop a hill where ancient memories collide. Close your eyes now and take in the soothing sounds of the lake as the midnight heat dances around your body.

Lost here are the buildings, hidden from the ravages of time. Indigo silhouettes play tricks on your eyes as their shadows beckon, summoning you back to their heyday. Faded writings and old photographs are your only guide.

Tall wildflowers embrace broken statues to form a landscape of ageless beauty. The real artist here is Mother Nature. These buildings are phantoms, mere ghosts haunting sacred ground.



Visiting Nonquon Island is an experience that mere reading can but hint at. Come close your eyes on top of this lonely hill and let this place work its magic on you as it did on me.

Mark Magro

Director



SYNOPSIS



A traveler finds a fragmented story that unfolds with historical research on Native burial grounds, expensive estates, and battles that took place on and around the island. He decides to set out on a mission to document these historical events.

“Nonquon Island is located on the shoreline of Lake Scugog near the Ontario town of Port Perry. It is a fascinating location,” says producer/director Mark Magro.

“In this movie we interviewed previous owners who told us about a bond between the island and the people who lived there. There once was a school for troubled boys, a church, an estate, restaurant venue and art school located on the island,” says Magro. “While watching this movie you will not only experience the history, but you will also see beautiful landscapes and captivating buildings, and be able to compare how the whole place used to look, to how it looks now. ”



Each period in time had something to add to the fascinating story of this place. The continuing saga took an interesting turn when the Mississauga's of Scugog recently purchased the property. The island's story came full circle with the return to its Native roots, which helped with the revival of Mississauga customs and culture.

“It is important to acknowledge the Native presence, and understand the development of Port Perry, and I feel this movie accomplishes this.” says Mark Magro.



PRODUCTION NOTES

Started by curiosity and fueled by passion, this one year project began in late 2006 by *Wanted Media*.

The idea was presented to the *Township of Scugog* and *The Mississauga First Nations of Scugog*. Both parties provided financial and historical support on the basis that the film respect their cultures and provide an accurate account of the history.



Mark Magro and Brent Tremain with Paul Arculus

Peter J. Hvidsten who ran the *Focus on Scugog* newspaper in the area, worked with local historian Paul Arculus to publish the only known written work on the island. Peter provided the majority of the old photographs and even a super 8 film of the island from the 1940s and 50s. Jill Thompson and Fay Koss from the *Mississauga First Nations of Scugog* supplied a tremendous amount of documentation stories of their history.

Nonquon Island was filmed throughout the summer of 2007. Beautiful weather and a motivated crew provided a memorable experience. Each person left with their own unique view of the island.

Bullseye Inc. provided their editing services while Alan Hardiman created the final audio mix. Don Ross developed an amazing musical soundtrack and the final product was completed in spring of 2008.

Nonquon Island premiered at the *Canoe the Nonquon* film festival in Port Perry in the summer of that year. This film has been submitted to a variety of film festivals since the summer of 2008 and has been accepted into the 2009 *ReelHeART* Film Festival in Toronto.



CREW BIOGRAPHIES



MARK MAGRO - DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Mark went to University and College where he obtained a B.A. in History and Film and a diploma in the computer field. Mark foreshadowed his future and decided to further pursue the art of film making. He decided to explore the Toronto Film School. It was at the school that he embraced the process of storytelling.

BRENT TREMAIN – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Naturally artistic from an early age, Brent dabbled in fine arts as a painter. His subsequent training and experience gained while attending film school gave him the much needed technical abilities to further pursue his aspirations as a film maker. Brent's dream is to spend a lifetime capturing beautiful images, to tell intriguing stories and do it all through the lens of a camera.



TOM PANASIAK – PHOTOGRAPHER

Tom graduated from York University with a B.A. in Fine Arts and Art History as well as a diploma in Building Restoration from George Brown College. Photography has always been a passion of his and to him it's not just about taking pictures. A photographer needs to capture the overall atmosphere and feeling of the place and people being photographed.





AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS



In 2008 *Nonquon Island* received the *Heritage Scugog Media Award*. This award is "For a work of non-fiction about Scugog's archaeological, built, cultural and/or natural heritage."

Wanted Media was honored to receive such a prestigious award for the work we have done to promote Scugog Township.



"History Recorded on Film"

Rzeczpospolita National Polish Newspaper (March 25, 2009)

Wanted Media and Nonquon Island premiere at ReelHeART festival

"Shining the spotlight on Scugog's history"

News Durham (November 24, 2008)

Nonquon Island winning 2008 Scugog Media Heritage Award

newsdurhamregion.com

THE SCUGOG
STANDARD

"Young filmmaker focuses on Seven Mile Island"

Scugog Standard (July 20, 2007)

Early publicity on Nonquon Island production

"Toronto filmmaker returns to Scugog for film fest"

Scugog Standard (April 25, 2008)

Promotion for Nonquon Island Premiere

"Canoe the Nonquon enters 40th year"

Focus on Scugog (May 2008 Edition)

Nonquon Island premiere in Port Perry

FOCUS
on Scugog



CREDITS

Director

Mark Magro

Executive Producers

Mark Magro
Nick Schincaglia
Mississauga First Nations of Scugog
Township of Port Perry

Producers

Cristien Rapp

Writer

Mark Magro

Script Supervisor

Alan Hardiman

Camera

Brent Tremain

Director of Photography

Brent Tremain

Editor

Clark Masters

Post-Production Services

Bullseye

Music

Don Ross
Live in Your Head
© 2006 GMF
Goby Fish Music

Post-Production Audio

Alan Hardiman

Film Liaison for Port Perry

Deborah Tiffin

Research Information

Jill Thompson
Fay Koss

Production Manager

Ashleigh Maltby

Art Director

Ashleigh Maltby

Photographs

Ashleigh Maltby
Tom Panasiak

Associate Production Company

BlindBox Films

Special Thanks

Charlotte Hale
Fay Koss
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Chief Tracy of the Mississauga First
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Della Charles
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Township of Port Perry
Art Beaver
Tom Bonanno
Port Perry Memorial Library
Toronto Film School
The Scugog Standard Newspaper
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Rob Millikin
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