

THE BEAST HAS LOADS OF HEART

In mid-May, Okanagan Mission residents woke to hear the words "lights, camera, action" bounce off Lake Okanagan in Bertram Park.

A low budget, independent feature movie, *The Beast of Bottomless Lake*, sets out to prove the existence of Ogopogo -- Kelowna's infamous lake monster. Filmed in and around Kelowna, the movie is presented in a comic manner with a host of colorful characters. All the cast and crew in this film are volunteers and many local businesses contributed equipment and services that made the production of this film possible.

Keith Provost, whom many Kelowna Theatre members will remember, followed his dream of acting to Vancouver with high hopes of making his mark in the industry. Sadly, he was killed in a bicycling accident. His friends and collaborators, Craig March & Kennedy Goodkey, made this movie in his honor.

My initial job was to round up the local talent to present to the film's director Craig March and after just two days of auditioning he found his characters. This casting process proved to be hilarious

which was a good thing since the film is a comedy and was written by Keith Provost and Kennedy Goodkey in hopes of making the audience laugh out loud!

The Okanagan Film Commission was very helpful in finding people for the crew and the Centre for the Arts and Technology (CATO) sent us students to help fill in the gaps. For many of those students this was their first experience working on a professional film set.

Our local casting choices for the television reporters who break the news about the existence of Ogopogo are: CHBC TV news anchor, Doris Janssen; Shaw TV's Tim Morton; Sun FM's Jeff Leishman, and actor, Dorothy Dalba. Some of the other characters include: Roger Ward as Dean Baxter, Howard Davis and Mariel Belanger as hotel clerks, Lindsay Kascak as a university student, Thomas Fournier as a young

version of the main character, CATO Marketing Manager Bob Sterling as the wedding official, Bron Johnson as the groom, Jennifer Kirkbride plays the bride, Kathy Rollheiser as the bride's mother, Raymond Bailey as the bride's father, Janine LeMere and Jerry Mason as the grooms parents, Perry Joe Williams as Chief Big Sky, and Samuel Doyle and Don Hildebrandt who both play unusual characters.

Our thanks go out to; LA Weight Loss, Meadowsweet Water, Manteo Resort, the Princess II, and the City of Kelowna for the use of Bertram Park which acted as Rattlesnake Island and Squally Point.

- Siobhan Shaw is a freelance writer and casting director/producer who makes her home in Okanagan Mission.



Photo submitted

Film crew on the set in Bertram Creek Regional Park.

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