

# ShortCuts



JANUARY 2004

## Film Cowichan

Film Cowichan opened its doors for business in September 2003. As an economic development initiative of the Cowichan Region Economic Development Commission, Film Cowichan operates as a non profit organization to attract and support film industry activities in the Cowichan region.

**Our Staff:** Film Cowichan operates with four community relations assistants, provided through an HRDC JCP program, the Film Cowichan office manager and the technical assistant.

### Community/Infrastructure Development

Film Cowichan and the EDC are working with the 4 municipalities and the CVRD to streamline the film permit application process for the Cowichan region. The executive committee will meet monthly to work through the logistics of making the Cowichan a film friendly location.

### Activity Report

#### Film Activities:

An estimated 1.2 Million worth of productions shot in the Cowichan Region between September December 2003.

#### Feature Films:

Two feature films have been shot or partially shot in the Cowichan region since Film Cowichan opened its doors, in September 2003.

**Sleepover**, a low budget film, created for European distribution. Directed by Boon Collins

**ChestNut: Hero of Central Park**, a Keystone Entertainment Production. Directed by Robert Vince.

#### Documentaries: Research Underway

**We are the Forest, Spring 2004**

A documentary investigating the role and the influence the cedar tree has played in the Coast Salish culture. Documenting the work and teachings of Simon Charlie, Stella Johnnie, Francis Horne, renown First Nations artists from the Cowichan Region. Arrowhead Film Productions. Produced and directed by Harold Joe.

#### Commercials: Completed Nov.23, 2003

The "Visit Cowichan" commercial shot for the Victoria/Nanaimo markets, with scenes from Mill Bay, Duncan, and Ladysmith, completed in November 2003.



Location file: Skutz Falls

### HR Development

Film Cowichan is working towards identifying, promoting our local skilled labour market. Information on film support businesses is currently being gathered. In the Spring of 2004, we will be able to offer a directory of film industry support services to film companies working in the region.

Film Cowichan and Cowichan Secondary will be co-hosting a series of workshops in the region, starting with the Film Set Etiquette workshop December 11, 2003.

In May 2004, Film Cowichan, the Cowichan Secondary School, Cowichan Theatre and the BC Arts Teacher's Association will be co-hosting the BC Student's Film Festival in the Cowichan. The BC Student Film Festival attracts over 200 entries in nine categories of film. This will be a significant film industry event, with major economic spin-offs for the region. Film Cowichan is currently looking for sponsors for the Film Festival.

### Marketing

Film Cowichan is the frontline response centre for location inquiries from locations managers and film directors as well as from the BC Film Commission. Since September, Film Cowichan has responded to over 20 inquiries for specific locations, mostly for feature film productions.

To help meet these requests, Film Cowichan is creating a comprehensive photo file library of locations in the Cowichan Region; unique locations, communities, homes, roads and culturally significant areas. As of November, 60 locations have been photographed and documented in the Cowichan region. These location files will be housed at the Film Cowichan offices, in Victoria and also on the BC Film Commission's data base of locations.

The Film Cowichan website is also under development.