

'The Manhattan Project' will use Bancroft as backdrop

By Jim Eadie

An independent film company will be shooting a film in Bancroft for 16 days during March, and possibly a few days in April or May. It could feature Bancroftians too.

"We might have a new industry coming to town," said Bancroft Deputy Mayor Charles Mullett during the Feb. 13 regular council meeting, following the tabling of The Manhattan Project Report by planning co-ordinator Robin Tait.

"The production team has been in touch with the town staff and would like to involve the local community as much as possible to ensure that the project is a positive experience for all those involved," said Tait. "The producers are also looking for extra help, background extras and actors for a few supporting roles."

At first blush, it would seem that "The Manhattan Project" might be another take on the 1940's American rush to develop the atomic bomb, but not so. The current production is described by the production company on its web site as "a character driven comedic drama set in a small northern Ontario town. It follows a 70-year-old homebody with terminal cancer plotting to take matters in his own hands with the help of his drink of choice, the manhattan. The film is set in a quiet town full of natural beauty; the perfect place for someone to slow down in their twilight years. The colourful characters who inhabit a small town provide a sense of community and liveliness, the result of an ensemble effort akin to the television series "Northern Exposure."

"I wish to extend our congratulations to Robin (Tait)," said CAO Hazel Lambe. "She has worked extensively to bring this group to town."

A large portion of the film budget will be allocated to the production component including location costs, accommodations, equipment and food while the crew is in Bancroft.

"Word gets around in the film industry when there is a welcoming place," said Councillor Wayne Wiggins.

Final production of the film is expected to be completed by June 1 for a 2018 submission into the Toronto International Film Festival.

Further details can be obtained by contacting Tait at the municipal office at 613-332-3331 or www.manhattanproject-movie.ca.