



Jim Fortin, curator of museums for Greater Sudbury, is co-ordinating the local participation in the Ontario Visual Heritage Project. THE SUDBURY STAR

DVDs to preserve our history

BY LAURA STRADIOTTO
The Sudbury Star

The history of how Greater Sudbury came to be is the subject of an educational video being produced by the Ontario Visual Heritage Project.

The project is a feature length documentary on the history of the community, complete with re-enactments of events, interviews, photographs and film.

The film will be complete in the spring 2008, at which time copies will be given to schools, libraries and museums for free. The educational kit also includes an interactive web site, a course guide for teachers and an interac-

HOW TO HELP

► Anyone interested in contributing to the project can go to www.visualheritage.ca/sudbury.

tive DVD.

In the meantime, area residents are encouraged to share their stories of the past by submitting them to the project website. The stories will be transformed into a script.

Historical photos of the city and film from as early as possible are also being accepted.

James Fortin is curator of the Greater Sudbury Heritage Museum. He's co-ordinating

the resources for the project, speaking with people who have stories to tell and others who collect artifacts.

"The stories will be woven together with common themes and show how people are affected by the geology and geography of the area," he said.

The history of the area's mining and agricultural sectors played a big part in forming the community, as well as the immigrants who moved here to work the fields.

"We are a product of our environment and these are the stories we want to tell," said Fortin.

With the help of Music and Film In Motion, filmmakers will use local actors to enact

certain events, "using words of people who lived through those time periods."

On the video, Matt Bray, an historian at Laurentian University, will talk about the city's mining history.

"It's very much a community project," said Fortin.

This week, the Ontario Trillium Foundation gave the Living History Multimedia Association's project \$140,000 to develop The Shield. The money will be used by groups in Muskoka, Parry Sound, Manitoulin Island and Greater Sudbury to identify and document local stories. The four DVDs will be available as a boxed set of DVDs entitled The Shield in spring 2008.