

A GUIDE FOR FILMING IN



GRAVENHURST

GATEWAY TO MUSKOKA



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Welcome to the Town of Gravenhurst

Gravenhurst is a diverse and thriving community that consists of an urban centre, surrounded by picturesque and iconic Muskoka cottage country landscapes. Our region is home to a historic downtown core as well as many villages that vary in character and size.

The Town recognizes the direct and indirect economic and cultural benefits associated with the film and television industry for our community. We are committed to supporting and encouraging filming opportunities within the Town of Gravenhurst while ensuring the rights, safety and privacy of Gravenhurst residents and businesses are protected.



This Filming Guide has been prepared by the Economic Development Team, to provide production companies with key information related to filming in the Town of Gravenhurst.

We are here to help you find the perfect location for your project and to help you navigate the municipal approvals process. Contact us for more information at 705-687-2230 or amy.taylor@gravenhurst.ca

Our Locations Inventory includes sites throughout the community including:

- Heritage Downtown
- Muskoka Wharf (including Steamships and Heritage Boat Museum)
- Municipal facilities (including Opera House, library, parks and sports arena)
- Historic Homes
- Art gallery
- Airport
- Rural pocket communities; and
- Number of spectacular multi-million dollar private residence and cottages.

To see a full list of our unique locations visit the Ontario Creates website or contact our office.

Past Projects Filmed in and around Gravenhurst include:

- ❖ Murdoch Mysteries, 2023
- ❖ Cottage Country, 2014
- ❖ Swingers Weekend, 2017
- ❖ Boy in Blue
- ❖ One Week
- ❖ Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town
- ❖ The Paper Chase
- ❖ Solo, 2013
- ❖ Go Fish, 2016

FILMING GUIDELINES

1. Permission for location filming is required for productions on streets or property under the jurisdiction of the Corporation of the Town of Gravenhurst, including private residences.
2. All companies applying for permission to do location filming on the property of the Corporation of the Town of Gravenhurst must present a certificate of insurance for general comprehensive coverage for not less than \$2 million dollars per small production occurrence OR not less than \$5 million dollars per large production occurrence. Vehicle and other special coverage may be required depending on the size and nature of the filming.
3. All scheduled location filming on streets under its jurisdiction require not less than fourteen (14) days in advance of filming in order for any permits to be issued. This does not apply to previously permitted locations where rescheduling is necessary.
4. Affected residents and businesses in the area(s) of filming must be notified not less than seven (7) days in advance of filming, including any planned interference with pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
5. Production vehicles must not block driveways or other access ramps without approval.
6. Permissions authorizing filming on streets in residential areas between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., will not be approved unless all affected residents have been notified not less than fourteen (14) days in advance and no complaints have been cited with 7 days of notice.
7. It is the production company's responsibility to ensure that there is minimum disruption to residents and businesses where filming occurs. The production company is under no obligation to provide compensation for disruption, unless agreed upon in advance.
8. Production crews will clean the filming location at the end of each filming day and ensure that the area is returned to its original condition, unless approved through the Town of Gravenhurst.
9. Police Officers and / or Fire Department officials are required for any detonation of pyrotechnic special effects or traffic control and permit compliance. The production company is responsible for any and all associated costs.
10. The production company is responsible for any out-of-pocket expenses related to the use of Town owned properties or equipment.
11. The production company is responsible for any out-of-pocket expenses related to the use of any private residence or property, as agreed upon by the property owner and production company.
12. It is the responsibility of the production company to ensure that their staff operate in a safe and professional manner in the course of their duties.
13. The production company may be required enter into a Hold Harmless Agreement with the Corporation of the Town of Gravenhurst.
14. The Town of Gravenhurst is to be named where possible in any credits that are produced for the film.

FILMING PERMISSION APPLICATION

Permission for filming is required for all location filming of a commercial nature which takes place in the Town of Gravenhurst, excluding newscasts, current affairs, and student/personal videos, but where the filming event may involve road closures, public notification or other municipal and non-municipal approvals (i.e. police/fire support, parking provisions, traffic control measures etc.).

The Filming Permission Application requires production companies to provide all relevant details such as: key contacts, summary of script, location and timing of filming, construction for sets and staging, vehicles and equipment onsite, main cast and crew, traffic control needs, signage requirements, parking requirements, special effects, stunts and all other required municipal and non-municipal approvals.

The following documents may form part of and must be include with your Filming Permission Application submission:

- Proof of Insurances
- Hold Harmless Agreement
- Other Municipal and non-municipal approvals
- Copy of Community Notification(s)

APPLICATION REVIEW AND APPROVALS

The Town is committed to processing applications as quickly and efficiently as possible. Filming events that are larger or more complex in scope (i.e. road closures, special effects, stunts, extensive set construction etc.) will require more processing time to seek necessary input and approvals from multiple Town departments.

Ensuring applications are complete and contain all necessary documentation upon submission will prevent any unnecessary delays. It is suggested that extensive or more complicated applications must be submitted at least thirty (30) days in advance of proposed filming.

The Town's Economic Development Division, in consultation with other Town staff as appropriate, is responsible for approving Filming Permission Applications and will coordinate all reviews and approvals that are internal to the Town (i.e. Fire, Parking, Traffic, Recreation, etc.).

Hold Harmless Agreements between the Town and the Production Company will require signature of the Clerk or designate.