Cineflix Media shot TV show in Orangeville

By Tabitha Wells

In the last few years, the Orangeville area has seen more movies, commercials and TV shows filmed here.

With well-known actors like Donald Sutherland (filming Man on a Train) and Piper Perabo (scenes from Covert Affairs), and more recently a Dewar's Whiskey commercial, the town's historic buildings and scenic areas, along with the low volumes of pedestrian and vehicle traffic, seem to have made it an ideal area to shoot.

Orangeville once again became the setting for a film crew recently, this time for a show about the history of law enforcement in the United States. The show, called Lawmen, is an eight-part series that will air on the American Heroes Channel in 2016.

Lawmen follows the stories of different individuals who helped define the world of justice in America's earlier days, profiling individuals from the Wild West up to more recent history. The third episode, which will feature the scenes shot in Orangeville, tells the story of Melvin Purvis, the FBI agent who helped take down some of the 1930s deadliest public enemies, including Baby Face Nelson and Pretty Boy Floyd. He was most well-known, however, for taking down John Dillinger, the notorious bank-robber from the Depression-era in the United States. Along with robbing 24 banks and four police stations with his gang, Dillinger escaped from jail twice, and was charged, but never convicted, with the murder if a Chicago officer who had tried to take him down.

Dillinger was captured by Agent Purvis in 1934, only two years after Purvis was put in charge of the Chicago Division of Investigation Offices by then Director J. Edgar Hoover. Purvis had an impressive career, capturing more public enemies than any agent in FBI history, a record that still remains unbroken. His story is one that is filled with intrigue and conflict (as Hoover later announced Purvis' demotion, and is speculated as being jealous of the man's media attention).

From around 9 a.m. until mid-afternoon, crews, actors and camera-men marched up and down Broadway to film at several locations, including the front of the Orangeville Library, Town Hall, Playfair Dental Centre and Westminster United Church.

The American Heroes Channel is a premium channel (246) available locally on Rogers cable.