

Streets of Toronto safe again

by MICHAEL
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TORONTO — March has arrived, and the streets of Toronto will soon be safe from nasty aliens from other worlds and macabre goings-on from the great beyond.

After several years of production, both War of the Worlds and Friday the 13th: The Series will be tearing down their respective sets and calling it quits later this month.

Both syndicated series failed to make a big splash in the ratings department, even though War of the Worlds had undergone extensive retooling in its second season. War, very loosely based on the cult 1953 movie which in turn was based on the H.G. Wells novel, stars Jared Martin, Lynda Mason Green and Adrian Paul. Richard Chavez, one of the program's more popular characters, was killed off this season.

Also taking its cue from the big screen, Friday the 13th: The Series fared somewhat better in its TV incarnation. With the slash 'n' dice aspects of its celluloid cousins toned down in favor of a more subdued Twilight Zone-style approach, the anthology series stars singer-model-actress Robey, who was joined by John D. LeMay during the first two seasons.

An estimated 300 Canadian actors and crew members will be affected by the cancellation of the two series.

• Meanwhile, moving further south, we fade in on Deke Wilson's Mini-Mysteries, a new half-hour series debuting this month on YTV that has the distinction of being the first and only national TV program conceived, cast, shot and packaged entirely in Windsor, Ont.

Shot on location in the Canadian border city located just a stone's throw from Detroit, the series is the brainchild of 27-year-old writer/director John May and produced by Top Twenty Productions, an independent company specializing in children's programming.

Viewers are invited to join in on the mystery-solving each Saturday evening.