

FILM

Escuminac disaster documentary to be screened in June

SAMANTHA MAGEE Miramichi Leader
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Andrew King got some shots during opening day of lobster fishing season last April.
Photo: submitted

MIRAMICHI • The documentary *Still Fishing: Beyond the Escuminac Disaster* will be publicly screened for the first time June 12 at 7 p.m. at the Carrefour Beausoleil theatre.

Andrew King, the documentary's director and Miramichi River Tourism Association's technology partnership officer, told the Miramichi Leader he was excited for opening night.

“I’m definitely excited to see the documentary play in a large auditorium,” said King. “Hopefully people come out to see it!”

The Escuminac disaster occurred on June 19 and 20, 1959, and is one of the worst hurricanes ever recorded to hit the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Colossal waves and howling winds battered unprepared salmon-fishing boats and their crews, many family-operated. Thirty-five men and boys drowned at sea and 22 fishing boats were lost or destroyed.



Escuminac Disaster survivor Max Martin being interviewed by King.

Photo: submitted

There is a memorial at Escuminac wharf listing names of the victims.

The documentary is 28 minutes long and was produced with the help of Terry Power and Cindy Trevors of the Miramichi River Tourism Association.

The documentary features interviews with men who survived the hurricane as well as children of the survivors. The documentary examines how they dealt with the trauma that rocked the community in the summer of 1959 and how it still permeates every day life there, while highlighting the courageous spirit of those who continue to fish.

There is no cost of admission. Tickets will be available at the visitor information centre located at 199 King St. as well as at the door.