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Made-in-N.B. stars shine at Silver Wave

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Andrew King's film, Still Fishing, was one of the many short films showcased at this weekend's 14th annual Silver Wave Film Festival. The New Brunswick Filmmakers' Cooperative event showcased more than 120 short films. Photo: James West/The Daily Gleaner

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Those Gilmore Girls reruns didn't stand a chance on Netflix during this weekend's 14th annual Silver Wave Film Festival.

More than 120 short films from across the country were presented at this year's festival, the largest turnout the festival has ever seen.

Andrew King's film, Still Fishing, was one of the short films showcased at the event. The 28-minute documentary was about the Escuminac disaster in June 1959, one of the worst fishing disasters in Canadian history where 35 fishermen did not return home.

The documentary tells the story of three of the surviving fishermen – two continue to fish today.

“It’s almost like people that come back from war,” said King, technology partnership officer with Miramichi River Tourism Association. “When you come back from something traumatic like that, it’s just good to talk about.”

King, who was welcoming a group of people in front of the Charlotte Street Arts Centre Sunday afternoon, came up with the idea to film a documentary during opening day of lobster fishing.

“It was really exciting to see, there were 75 boats in the water and I was filming for tourism,” he said. “But as I kept going back to the wharf, I started to learn about the story of Escuminac because there’s a monument on the wharf.”

King, who worked alongside producers, Cindy Trevors and Terry Power, started working on his first film in the spring of 2013. He finished at Christmas and says he was excited to showcase his work and tell the stories of the three survivors.

“When you interview somebody about something as sensitive as that, sometimes they’ll tell you more than they’ve ever told their friends and family,” said King. “They’ll tell a stranger a more in-depth version of the story.

“I think it was a nice way for them to have a platform, to just let it out.”

King and his team also won the award for Best Low Budget Documentary.

“It was shocking, I never thought we’d win an award,” said the Ottawa native. “I just shot and edited it on an SLR (single-lens reflex camera).”

After submitting a script to this year’s festival, Lisa Jodoin also won the 2014 Jane LeBlanc Filmmaker Award, and will receive a \$1,880 prize to produce her next film, which will be about a writer whose wife disappears.

“I’ve always been a writer and I heard about the Film Co-op (New Brunswick Filmmakers’ Co-op) and I joined. It’s the best thing I ever did,” said Jodoin, who lives in Fredericton. “I’ve only been a member for less than a year but it’s been amazing.”

Jodoin said she’s already starting pre-production next week and is looking forward to the new challenge. Her short film, *Tracing Blood*, was also up for several nominations during Saturday night’s awards ceremony.

“I’m thankful to receive that award, I wasn’t expecting it,” she said. “It’s a huge honour.”

The festival was created by the New Brunswick Filmmakers’ Co-op staff and board of directors to foster growth and excellence in film in New Brunswick.

“It’s important to have these kind of events to encourage filmmakers. They work so hard all year-long and it’s good to share that love of cinema,” said Cat LeBlanc, co-organizer of the

Silver Wave Film Festival. “Events like this are really important to showcase New Brunswick and bring people in from away.”

LeBlanc told the Daily Gleaner she is already looking forward to next year’s festival.

“These people (filmmakers) are big to us, this festival was created to basically showcase New Brunswick talent and the talent around the world,” she said. “The independent filmmakers are our celebrities, they are our stars.”