

Short film making waves

RECREATION

Surf is up at CUFFS.Docs annual festival



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

This year's Calgary's documentary film festival, CUFFS.Docs, is getting a little wet and wild.

The lineup, unveiled this week, includes a screening of Gaza Surf Club, which will be paired with a short documentary by Calgarian Desiree Bilon called Surf Anywhere.

Bilon chronicled the efforts of Alberta group Surf Anywhere as they created river surfing waves in Kananaskis.

The technology they used could then be replicated in other land-locked areas of the world, truly allowing athletes to surf anywhere.

Essentially, a dam is opened and water flows over a drop. A hole has been created at the base of the drop, creating surf-able waves when the water hits.



Surf Anywhere follows a group trying to create waves in land-locked Alberta.

COURTESY ROBERT BISHOP

"You're not actually travelling with the wave, you're doing the travelling on the face of the wave," explained Bilon. "At first it was a strange concept — even though you're travelling on the face of the

wave, you're not travelling towards anything. You're just in the same place. But the sensation is very similar to surfing in the ocean."

The project came at the right time for Bilon — the

former competitive surfer suffered a serious leg injury, and had moved back to Calgary to undergo physiotherapy.

Just as her body was ready to get back into the surfing

The sensation is very similar to surfing in the ocean.

Desiree Bilon, on riding river waves in Kananaskis

world, she heard of this project, and decided it was worth documenting.

It's a natural fit to screen before Gaza Surf Club, which follows the surfers of Gaza battling waves despite war and strict sanctions on surfboards.

Another Calgary-related project featured at CUFFS.Docs is a short documentary about the 2015 Stampede.

National and international documentaries include 24X36, a doc about movie posters; We Are X, which chronicles the career of a Japanese rock band; and The Last Lab, which explores taboo joke subjects, such as the Holocaust.

CUFFS.Docs runs from Nov. 17 to 20. For more information, visit www.calgaryundergroundfilm.org.

IN BRIEF

Sharp objects found in Halloween candy reported

RCMP in two communities near Calgary are investigating sharp objects found in Halloween candy.

Cochrane RCMP are investigating the appearance of sewing needles found inside two chocolate bars collected for Halloween in Cochrane.

Okotoks RCMP say parents reported their child finding a razor blade loose amongst his Halloween candy.

METRO

Alberta to emerge from recession: ATB Financial

ATB Financial says it expects the worst of the energy downturn to be over and Alberta to emerge from a two-year recession caused by the collapse of oil prices.

In its latest economic outlook, the provincially owned bank says it expects Alberta's economy to grow 2.1 per cent next year after a forecasted contraction of 2.6 per cent this year and a shrinking of four per cent last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS