## ANNUAL ECO-FILM FESTIVAL SET FOR KICK-OFF

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This year's Eco Film Fest kicks off with a film about the world's first giraffologist.

Eco Film Fest screens five films from January to May, chosen by a committee the previous June.

The festival is in its sixth year, and its first year as a separate entity from Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER).

"During the year we keep our eyes and ears open for what's around and come up with a healthy

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number of films to choose from," Daisy Radigan, Eco Film Fest's convener, said.

Each month of the festival. the chosen film focuses on a specific theme. In January the focus is on climate action, followed by healthy living in February. In March, for World Water Day, the focus is on water preservation, followed by Earth care in April for Earth Day. The festival ends in May, with a film chosen for its focus on biodiversity.

This year, the first screening in the series is The Woman Who Loves Giraffes, a film about Anne Innes Dagg. Dagg, the world's first 'giraffologist,' retraces the steps of her first expedition to Africa.

Originally, Dagg had been scheduled to attend the screening, but accepted an opportunity to travel to



Elaisa Vargas photo

Anne Innis Dagg, the world's first 'giraff-ologist', feeds a giraffe at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago. Dagg studied giraffes in the wild in 1956, and now, at 86 years old is continuing her study.

Kenva with director Alison

"They would have loved

to do a Q-and-A by Skype," Lesley Zimic, executive assistant, said via email, "but it will be a bit too early in the morning for that - 4:30 a.m. in Kenya."

Instead, executive producer Paul Zimic will attend the screening, with a pre-recorded message from Dagg and Reid.

"Three days after the screening Ann will celebrate her 87th birthday," Radigan said. "We're going to send her a card."

Prior to the screening, the Eco Films Fest hosts a table talk with local representatives from various organizations connected to the theme. At the January screening, showgoers can speak with representatives from the Upper Credit Humane Society, Kneading Equine First Aid Service. EcoSource and the Halton Hills Climate Action team.

The Woman Who Loves Giraffes will be screened as the first instalment of the Eco Film Fest. The screening begins at 7 p.m. on Jan. 22 at the John Elliott Theatre (9 Church St.).

Tickets are \$12.50 including tax and fees.

To learn more about the festival visit hheff.ca.



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