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Turtle taxi looking for locals to help save injured shell dwellers

arrives, according to Francisco Retamal Diaz, project manager at the NCC. Otherwise, the turtle might try to wander off or be taken by a predator. After providing Carapace with details, the program will send a volunteer to the location of the injured turtle and transport it to the rehabilitation centre.

He also said that there is a vet clinic closer to Gatineau that can stabilize turtles but is limited in its capacity.

The Taxi Carapace initiative began last June, and more than

50 volunteers have since signed up to transport the critters to the rehabilitation centre near Montreal. Without volunteers, it would not work as well, according to Retamal Diaz, adding that public involvement is essential to help the turtles recover.

Retamal Diaz said that 93 turtles were helped and released last year.

"Most of the time, the turtles that are found on the road are nesting females, so they have eggs in them. So even if the turtle is dead, they can still harvest the

eggs and hatch them and then release the babies where they were found," he explained.

So, if you run over one of these creatures or find one lying injured on the side of the road, call: 450-622-1020 x286.

Retamal Diaz said that they are always looking for more volunteers. You can fill out the form to become one at natureconservation.ca.

The NCC runs the initiative, which complements Éco-Nature's turtle conservation initiatives, according to the press release.

The Anglo reality in Quebec

Doc featuring Low Down to screen June 6

BY SIMON HOPKINS
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What is the reality for anglophones living in Quebec? That is the story told in the film "Regional Realities," which will debut at a screening June 6 at Motel Chelsea.

The 30-minute documentary by award winning filmmaker Anita Aloisio focuses on anglophone communities in the Outaouais and their relationship with Quebec's language laws. A second documentary to be released later this spring explores the same question in Rouyn-Noranda, Que.

The film features anglophone community members including the editor and publisher of the Low Down. A Q&A will follow the 5 p.m. screening at Motel Chelsea featuring Aloisio, along with film participants Nikki Mantell, Trevor Greenway and Danielle Lanyi, executive director at

Connexions Resource Centre in Aylmer.

Aloisio works as a researcher at Concordia University's Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network. And as an experienced filmmaker, Aloisio thought a documentary would be a strong way to highlight her research.

"We wanted to make sure that we were able to provide storytelling and research in a powerful way and look at how... language laws or reforms to the French charter have an impact on everyone's daily life," Aloisio said in an interview. She added her research has revealed that anglophone communities in Outaouais are feeling the impact of language laws across education, medical and social services. "These realities don't always come through in an authentic way to policymakers," she said. Aloisio said that is why she made this film.

Low volunteer honoured by Lieutenant Governor



Low resident Kevin Morris was been recognized for his volunteer contributions with a Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal from Quebec Lieutenant Governor Manon Jeannotte. The ceremony awarding him the medal took place at the Université du Québec en Outaouais on April 12. As the founder of Venosta's Be and Become Youth Centre, Morris has "demonstrated the power of committed volunteerism to make a significant difference in his community," wrote the judges. "Over a decade, he led the development of an organizational structure, financial support and dynamic programming to establish this Regional Youth Resource Centre as a key component of the social safety net, providing active support for youth in the central Gatineau Valley."

The Lieutenant Governor's Medal recognizes volunteers in Quebec for their outstanding involvement, determination and dedication to their community and the province as a whole. There are three categories of medals: bronze for youth, silver for seniors and gold for exceptional merit.

Photo: courtesy Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Regional Realities screenings

- June 6, 5 p.m. - Motel Chelsea, 1418 Quebec Hwy 105, Chelsea (Outaouais)
- June 7, 5 p.m. - Coronation Hall, 206 Chem. River, Bristol (Outaouais)
- June 15, 2 p.m. - Neighbours Association, 139 Av. Murdoch, Rouyn-Noranda (Rouyn-Noranda)
- June 18, 2 p.m. - Concordia University, 1400 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal (Both films)



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