Ocean Falls by Ryan Ermacora and Jessica Johnson (Canada, 2015, 15:00)  
review by Robin Dalla-Vicenza

Ryan Ermacora, Jessica Johnson, and producer Aidan Whiteley's film Ocean Falls is an experimental documentary/hybrid film that explores what happens when a community is forgotten by the society that created it. 16mm film captures the beauty of this old abandoned mining town, in mostly static shots that evoke the isolation of its once modern spaces: houses where people once lived, remnants of school yards with wildlife encroaching all around. The film gives an almost dystopian sense of the kind of place this used to be, while also contemplating the beauty of its desolation. One of the film's most poignant moments is an interview with one of the few remaining citizens. Norman's simple description of how he has been able to sustain himself in the town over the years gives a sense of reality to the film. It shows us the human side of this forgotten wasteland, still a very dear home to the people who make it their stomping ground.

Ocean Falls demonstrates the failings of a capitalist society that is unwilling to take care of a place once its original need is gone. It beautifully captures the people who are ready to pick up the pieces and hold onto the way of life that is dear to them, whether it is seen by the rest of the world or not.