

The Magpie River

Muteshekau-Shipu · Côte-Nord, Québec



The Magpie's falls — frame from the completed film

In 2021 the Innu Council of Ekuanitshit and the Minganie municipality granted the Magpie **nine legal rights** — the first river in Canada recognized as a living person. We drove two RVs north from Toronto to meet her, and came home understanding she had never needed our permission. **Chapter One is finished. The trailer is live.**

THE CHAIN OF EVENTS

Bowden — the POM art collective's house. A last feast, a blessing, the caravan leaves Toronto.

Tamworth — nothing planned yet. A sharing circle by the water, intentions set, tomatoes gathered. The branch-passing ceremony.

The mask — Carolin casts a face in plaster at her Tamworth studio, sketching the river's shapes, talking eddies and flows.

The breakdowns — a gas station outside nowhere, caution tape across the engine bay, poutine while the Bounder wouldn't move.

Ceremony — the mask travels north and gets passed around at the river; Ganesh day kept on the road, a brass vessel and offerings at the water's edge.

The waterfall — the argument dissolves. Three breakdowns on the way home; the caravan separates, the way a river would.

THE FACTS

Status — feature complete, trailer live

Shot — September 2023, 13 days

Rig — two RVs · 32ft Fleetwood Bounder

Route — Toronto → Tamworth → Montréal → Québec City → Havre-Saint-Pierre → the Magpie

Archive — Canon C-series interviews, drone, GoPro, 5D stills, full Act One timelines

Themes — rights of nature · Two-Eyed Seeing · limnology as love language

"She is a wild river. She does not care at all about personhood. And seeing that much freedom within existence means it must also exist within us."



The drive north



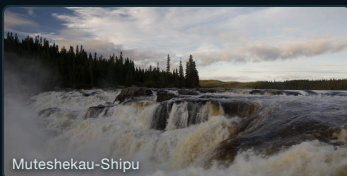
The mask, worn at the river



The breakdown



Casting the mask



Muteshekau-Shipu



The caravan at the edge



Stranded, eating anyway



Between cities