



Presented by Paddle Canada

2022 Award Winners

The High Road

Winner: Canadian Location

Film by: Keith Robertson

15:03

In the summer of 2020, Dwayne Wohlgemuth became the first person ever to hike the entire length of the longest esker in the world. At just under 800 km in length, the Thelon Esker stretches across the remote Barren Lands of Canada's Northwest Territories. During his gruelling, 40-day hike, Dwayne had several encounters - none of which were with humans.

Mentor on the Main

Winner: Documentary

Film By: Richard Alexander

16:05

Keith Payne is among the first generation of whitewater canoe instructors in the province. After a broken shoulder and a long recovery, Keith jumped at a chance to introduce a group of former students to his beloved Main River. On what Keith believes may be his last descent of this challenging river, the group struggles with two different approaches to running rivers. Is there anything left for Keith to teach the next generation of paddlers?

Paving Tundra

Winner: Environmental

Film By: Jayme Dittmar

28:14

The Brooks Range is North America's most rugged wilderness and one of Earth's largest roadless areas. In 2013 the State of Alaska proposed building a 220-mile industrial access road to facilitate the construction of an open-copper pit mine near the village of Ambler. Paving Tundra follows Kristin Gates as she packrafts the road corridor to Ambler, and Harry "Supluagniq" Douglas revealing and reliving an Inupiaq prophecy on progress.

Sheri

Winner: Inspirational

Film By: James 'Q' Martin

28:49

Sheri Tingey's 60 year career as a woman who has defined the odds by starting a company at age 50 that has revolutionized the outdoor industry. The film is a story about the hurdles she overcame to launch the company, about the ways she hid from view so that people would judge the boats, not her role in creating them. It's the story of her son, Thor Tingey, who has built the company alongside his mother, but has only recently begun to fully grasp what she has created not just for him, but for adventurers who've used the boats to access remote and wild rivers around the world. The story of Sheri Tingey is also an evergreen and widely universal story about missed opportunities—not by Sheri, or other women—but by outdoor adventurers and the industry as a whole - when we only listen to ideas, celebrate advances, and invite innovations from a select few. At this watershed moment of reckoning around equity and inclusion for the industry, for the lifestyle, Sheri's life story will both warm audiences, and ask them to grapple with important questions about who belongs.

"Conscience" Isère expedition

Winner: Rafting

Film By: Pauline Boinard

04:50

Water means life, and its existence provides opportunities for new meetings and interactions. "Conscience" is about a group's memorable and inspiring adventure in the French wilderness that guides them through a more conscious way of life; for themselves and the environment. See how they discover the mutual benefits of combining rafting, fishing, and yoga.

Decision

Winner: Sea Kayaking

Film By: Beau Gaughran

12:20

Decision is the story of wild Alaska shorelines, a remote lighthouse and the ongoing problem of marine debris. The scenery is magnificent and the kayaking is superb, while the message about our addiction to plastic and its effects on the environment come through in every shot. This short film can transport you to pristine southeast Alaska waters, bringing you along on a paddling journey with whales, sea lions and otter, and still show you the realities of wilderness beaches choked with plastic debris and the volunteers working to clean them up.

The Connections Series. Connected to Water: Stefi Van Wijk

Winner: Shorts

Film By: Julie Mulligan

03:29

It has been a defining year, one of trials, challenges, and changes, but these have led to amazing stories of strength, resilience, and support. They have also made one thing clear, that it is the people of Ontario's Highlands – their faces, stories, and experiences – that are backbone to this region and what makes us stand apart from the rest. In 2021, we set out to meet the people and discover their stories and special connections, whether it be with the land, water, people, food, music, or wild spaces. Born from this journey is The Connections Series, a documentary series showcasing the stories of the people who live here. We invite you to follow along with each episode and reconnect with what you think is most special about this place we call home. The Connected to Water episode features the story of Stefi Van Wijk and allows us to follow along on her journey of growing up in a family of championship paddlers, and finding her own path and connection to the river.



2022 Honorable Mentions

Starborn

Film By: Olivia Mater

Time: 16:22

The fire is stoked, the stars are shining and a voice rises from the flames. It is 50 years in the future. What will a grandmother tell the children about the time of pandemic? What can she teach them - about stories, about grief, about hope? Weaving together poetic prose, imagery and sound, Starborn delves into a story contoured by the wounding of colonialism and held by the reckoning of the human responsibility to the land and to one another. In this personal, haunting, lyrically poetic film, grief and hope are held in balance, as we are asked to remember, imagine, breathe, and dream into new worlds. Starborn is an offering to the deepest layers of the heart, and a seed of hope for the ones yet to be born.

Surf in Rome

Film By: Javier Silva

27:18

A deep look into Rome's hidden surf culture.

Unseen

Film By: Kym-Louise Barton

09:08

Unseen tells the story of what it is like to have Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), but not know you have it. Growing up Michael always felt different, but he didn't know why. Playing the niche sport of Canoe Polo didn't help him 'fit in' at school. He was teased and bullied for playing the sport he loved. In order to survive in a neurotypical world, Michael learned quickly to hide his true self. Alone on the water, Michael reveals how he has felt all his life not knowing he had ADHD.

Uncharted Waters

Film By: Jack Armstrong

07:00

Uncharted Waters tells the life-changing story of 50 active and inactive gang members experiencing an overnight whitewater rafting trip for the first time.

Headwaters Down

Film By: Headwaters Down (Justin Black, Will Gemma, Dietrich Teschner)

1:15:16

Filmed over 13 days and across 250 miles of river, Headwaters Down is the story of the James River told through the eyes of five friends. Once the most polluted waterway in America, the James is recast as a monument to a river's innate resilience and the incredible progress that can be made when we try to heal our rivers instead of commoditize them. From the humble headwaters in the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Fall Line white-water in the crew's hometown of Richmond, VA, Headwaters Down is an exploration of the James River's past and present and a living documentation of the many different ways in which anyone can get out and experience the beauty, history, and awesome power of this under-appreciated river.

Deep Bay

Sara Bulloch

02:52

A poem inspired by Amber O'Reilly's artist residency at Riding Mountain National Park with visuals by Sara Bulloch.