

Paul Chartrand Interview by Spenser Thibault, November 20, 2021

This is another Cha-Bay story. When **[speaks Michif]** when I lost my fish! He tells this one... you gotta know the place, St. Laurent. There's a place called "aen Dreuge," you know about? [Spenser replies: No, tell me.] There's a place—aen Dreuge—I didn't know what it was 'cause I just knew what it was when I was little, but then I figured it out when I was an adult. Where it comes from is, in the early 1900s, the government, somebody, or a company, they dredged it, a canal from the lake, y'know. They wanted to have a dock for boats, and to load supplies, and cross the lake. They were planning, I think, a railway up to that point, and they were going to build a railway. So they dredged, and dreuges in our speech is derived from that English word "dredge"—to dredge. It's just a big, deep channel, and then there's marsh around it—that's all it is. But, I went and I hunted there, pretty well every day after school during the duck hunting season, and that's why I'm deaf today!

But anyway, this one is about aen dreuge, Cha-Bay had said he went and put a net across the dreuge there, so the fish swim in there, **[speaks Michif]** that's a piece of net. And he put it across the dreuge, the creek, and then the next morning, he goes to check it, and he said he was just getting there in his hip waders. He says, he's just about to pull on his net to check the fish, and he hears this **[speaks Michif]**, then he heard a helicopter, [helicopter sound.] You know Cha-Bay, he'd make that sound, and it would be just like a helicopter! I could hear it. And he says "RCMP helicopter" hovering above him, from Lundar, about twenty miles north of St. Laurent. They have an RCMP detachment there. He says RCMP helicopter, right over him! "Out of season!" he says—"fishing!"

So he dives in! He dives into the weeds and into the reeds like that, just his butt stickin' up in the air! He's trying to hide from that helicopter! But they didn't come down, too low. He says, "Boy, I turned my head a little bit, **[speaks Michif]** little helicopter **[speaks Michif]** Oh, gotta save my, my... **[speaks Michif]** ...

So what he says, he was just going to pull on his net and heard that RCMP helicopter from Lundar. Oh, he's trying to hide. He turned his head a little bit through one eye. He could see. "Oh, they didn't come too close, but they let down this hook, a big hook, with a rope there, and they hooked my net, and they took off! My net was swaying in the wind like that, with the fish in it!"

[speaks Michif], so that's another Cha-Bay story.