

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER FACTS: LENGTH = 775 MILES. • THE RIVER STARTS WHERE LAKE ONTARIO EMPTIES AND FLOWS NORTHEAST TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. • THE RIVER DRAINS THE LARGEST FRESH WATER SOURCE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, THE GREAT LAKES. • JUST EAST OF MASSENA, THE RIVER LEAVES



Ian Coristine has shot many views of Boldt Castle, which was built by millionaire hotelier George C. Boldt. The 120-room castle is a monument of Boldt's love for his wife, Louise. After her death in 1904, work on it stopped, and the structure was abandoned until 1977, when restoration began. In 2001 Brennan Stained Glass Studio, of Syracuse, created and installed a stained-glass dome for the castle.

THE U.S. BORDER AND BECOMES SOLELY A CANADIAN RIVER • THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER HAS THE LARGEST DISCHARGE OF ANY RIVER IN NORTH AMERICA. (SOURCES: "PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE THOUSAND ISLANDS," BY MARY BEACOCK FRYER AND THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER RESTORATION COUNCIL)

| TEXT BY CHARLES MCCHESENEY



VIEW FROM ABOVE

PHOTOGRAPHER/PILOT CAPTURES BEAUTY OF THOUSAND ISLANDS

The plane came first. Ian Coristine didn't even know about the Thousand Islands in 1992, but he had pontoons on his single-engine airplane and decided to go exploring over a body of water.

Living in Hudson, Quebec, near Montreal, Coristine flew over the St. Lawrence Seaway. "What's this?" he remembered thinking when he came above the fresh water archipelago where Upstate New York meets Canada.

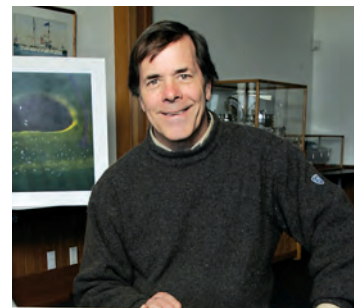
It was love at first flight.

Since that day, Coristine, 57, bought an island near the eastern end of the Thousand Islands and adopted the life of "Island People."

He's also become something like the official photographer for the islands, having published a trilogy of photography books on the area. The latest is "The Thousand Islands" (1000 Islands Photo Art Inc.), published in May. Photos from the book are featured in an exhibit, "Aerial Perspective Part II," opening July 14 at the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton.

As in his previous books, "The 1000 Islands"

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PHOTOGRAPH BY DICK BLUME

Pilot and photographer Ian Coristine has authored three photography books on the Thousand Islands.



THOUSAND ISLAND FACTS: THE THOUSAND ISLANDS EXTEND ON THE CANADIAN SIDE FROM WOLFE ISLAND NEAR KINGSTON, ONTARIO, TO THE BROCKVILLE NARROWS AT BROCKVILLE, ONTARIO. • ON THE AMERICAN SIDE THEY EXTEND FROM TIBBETS POINT ON LAKE ONTARIO TO MORRISTOWN. • FRENCH NAME



The Thousand Islands Bridge.

Says Coristine of this shot: “If this picture included a soundtrack, you’d be listening to the deafening bellow of this ship’s foghorn, which the helmsman in the center window of the bridge is leaning on heavily.”



FOR THE THOUSAND ISLANDS IS MILLE ILES. • NATIVE AMERICAN NAME TO THE ISLANDS IS GARDEN OF THE GREAT SPIRIT. • THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY TOOK FOUR YEARS TO BUILD, BEGINNING IN 1955. (SOURCES: "PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE THOUSAND ISLANDS" AND THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER RESTORATION COUNCIL)



West of Bartlett Point and French Creek Bay.

“Out to photograph Clayton on a quiet morning, I was fascinated by this low sheet of cloud cascading over the shoreline just west of Bartlett Point and French Creek Bay,” says Coristine.



NATIVE AMERICAN FOLKLORE TELLS THIS TALE: LONG AGO, MANITOU, THE GREAT SPIRIT, CAME DOWN TO EARTH, BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WERE FIGHTING. HE CALLED THEM TOGETHER AND GAVE THEM A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN, TELLING THEM THEY MUST NOT FIGHT. FOR A TIME, ALL WENT WELL. BY AND BY, THERE WERE THE



A view of Crossover Island Light.

A picture of a perfect reflection is equally viewable right side up or upside down, Coristine says. To get this shot, he paddled out in a canoe, and then, “sat absolutely still for a considerable time waiting for the ripples to dissipate.”



CRIES OF WAR. MANITOU RETURNED AND WRAPPED THE GARDEN IN HIS BLANKET. AS HE WAS ABOUT TO PART THE SKY-CURTAIN, HIS BLANKET BROKE. DOWN TUMBLED THE GARDEN INTO THE ST. LAWRENCE, BREAKING INTO PIECES, BIG AND LITTLE, THAT BECAME THE THOUSAND ISLANDS. (SOURCE: WWW.ROCKPORTCRUISES.COM)



Thousand Island Country Club's Lake Course on Wellesley Island.

Coristine seldom plans his photo outings. “Planning or even anticipating specific subjects seldom works. I look for weather that offers promise and then go out and see what can be found.”

Such is the case with this shot. Says Coristine: “I found a flock of seagulls circling like gliders in a weak thermal over a water hazard on the Thousand Island Country Club's Lake Course on Wellesley Island.”





The Lake Fleet and Admiralty islands. They are located in Canadian waters off Gananoque, Ontario.

THOUSAND ISLANDS MARKETPLACE




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www.thousandislands.com/theship/
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and “Water, Wind and Sky,” Coristine presents views of the islands from a variety of perspectives. There are photos he took while flying his plane, photos taken from a canoe and photos shot on his own island.

That contrasts with other photo books of the Thousand Islands, Coristine says. He recalls one that had wonderful photos, but most of it had been shot from along a nearby highway.

Coristine says because his plane is always at hand (he ties it down right next to his cottage) he is able to shoot at any time of day. Most books

of aerial photography are shot on clear days at high noon, he says.

Sales of the first book, “The 1000 Islands,” published in 2002, exceeded Coristine’s expectations, selling out the print run of 10,000. It has sold an additional 20,000 copies since. The second book, which Coristine says was designed more for “Island People, the real river lovers,” and printed in 2005, has sold more than 6,000 copies, he says.

The third book Coristine calls a “replacement for the first book rather than doing a fourth printing.” ❖



Coristine’s second and third books are available at the Antique Boat Museum, at shops in the Thousand Islands and online at www.1000islandsphotoart.com. “Water, Wind and Sky” is \$45; “The Thousand Islands” is \$29.95.

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