

SUMMER 2011

Island

Life

One Thousand Islands. One Thousand Stories.





MYSTIC RIVER

Ian Coristine's 1000 Islands

Photographer Ian Coristine has photographed the breathtaking beauty of the Thousand Islands from an angle afforded very few: low from above in a Challenger float plane. Coristine, who lives six months of the year on Raleigh Island west of Brockville, spent over a decade documenting this archipelago with spellbinding results. The award-winning author of five bestselling books of photography is now writing a pictorial memoir of island life titled *One in a Thousand* with author/editor Donna Walsh Inglehart. Through rolling mists, marmalade sunrises and spring in the Lost Channel, the river casts its spell. These images from his most recent book, *The very best of Ian Coristine's 1000 Islands*, capture the magic.



Facing page: Up early to be in the air at dawn, I was frustrated by a low cloud cover that formed over most of the river. Much of Chippewa Bay remained in bright sunshine, but Singer Castle, though close to the edge, was hidden. Occasional holes appeared here and there and I thought that if I were patient, I might get lucky. Trying to guesstimate where the castle was hidden, I began circling. An hour later and just before low fuel forced me to turn for home, this momentary glimpse of the castle peaked through.

Left: Daybreak in late fall occasionally finds the river cloaked in sea smoke as the water releases summer's accumulated warmth into suddenly colder air, as though preparing these Chippewa Bay islands for Halloween.

Top: It was my friend Paul Rupert, an accomplished Canadian landscape artist, who years ago encouraged me to pay more attention to backlighting. An enchanting and intriguing world opened up. Moments before, I had shot the bridge from the other side, with predictable postcard style results. Only when I passed and turned to look back did the rosy glow in the clouds appear against the silhouetted shapes of islands and the Canadian span.

Above: I delight in misty conditions which can add considerable interest to a scene in an infinite variety of ways. Here the low angle of the early morning sun transforms low rises on Grindstone Island into a series of mountain ranges. However, fog in an airplane is not something to be trifled with. I've seen conditions change almost instantly, so before flying anywhere near it, I carefully survey my landing options.



Above: I'm often asked about my choice of camera. The answer is: "Whatever is with me when I need it." For exactly this reason I almost always carry a pocket camera with me when my camera bag is left behind. This spring shot in the Lost Channel shows the rewards.



Left: I was formation flying with another Challenger as part of a History Channel documentary about ultralight aircraft when this magical scene appeared in the Lake Fleet Islands. A frustrated cameraman in the other plane couldn't understand why I had bolted until he later saw this shot.

Above: This morning looks golden-glow warm, but it's precisely the opposite for campers along Kring Point State Park's narrow peninsula as sea smoke rising from Goose Bay testifies. The challenge on such mornings after a couple of hours of leaning into the slipstream is how to warm back up, a problem wonderfully solved after investing in a hot tub.



From the award winning bestseller,
The very best of Ian Coristine's 1000 Islands.
For more of Coristine's 1000 Islands images,
visit 1000IslandsPhotoArt.com.