



BOOK RELEASE

Miramichi: River of Character

Brian Atkinson with text by Joanne Cadogan

Preface by David Adams Richards

Photography / Biography
ISBN 13: 978-0-86492-535-0
\$35 / 120 pp / 10.25 x 8.25 / hc
Pub Date: June 12, 2009

Startling and personal, stories about living along one of Canada's great rivers.

Through his lens, internationally acclaimed photographer Brian Atkinson has captured powerful and moving images of the men and women living along the mystical Miramichi River. Accompanied by the deeply familiar writing of Joanne Cadogan, the spirit of each character sketch is finely drawn into a sumptuous collection of photographs and text. To flip through these pages is to be drawn into the way of life in the Miramichi region — the folks gathered here run bait shops, tea rooms, mechanic shops, and music halls. They turn canoe poles, practice the old ways of the Mi'kmaq, fiddle, jig, and ruminant. Here are just a few of the people featured in the book.

Theodore Williston survived the Escuminac Disaster, which made nineteen women widows and eighty-three children fatherless. He doesn't drink coffee anymore because of his heart — but he still fishes smelt with his sons, plants and harvests a vegetable garden, and blows his own snow.

Howard Augustine grew up fishing and hunting but is now a conservationist. The path between Howard's summer and winter teepee retreats tells the story of three thousand years of Mi'kmaq habitation in the area.

Alphonse Doucet survived a hurricane in which thirty-five other fishermen drowned but has continued to fish for fifty-two years. He likes being his own boss but worries as he watches the stocks deplete and younger men struggle.

Boucher Palmer cuts and hauls wood, traps, or crafts axe handles in his workshop. Over the years, he has accumulated a collection of over 100 axe handles, including models of the monster tools wielded by the first lumbermen who explored the Tabustinac forests for ship masts.

Darlene Jardine runs a tea house in a century-old store she bought from the government for a dollar. She started out serving tea, baked goods, soups, and sandwiches. Before long, the community demanded an expanded menu.

Delton Curtis first started cutting and hauling wood near his Grey Rapids home when he was twelve. Today he works as a private guide. He is pleased that some of the ground he cut as a youth is coming back again and hopes for a full recovery for his children and grandchildren.

The photographs on these pages spill over with the richness of the lives each featured person is living. *Miramichi: River of Character* is a tantalizing tease of a book that will engross visitors to the region, the curious, and those who dwell among these fabulous people. A voyage not to be missed.

BRIAN ATKINSON has worked as a professional photographer for the past 21 years. In that time he has traveled to over 55 countries. For *Equinox*, he covered stories ranging from refugee returns in Guatemala to the emergence of Eritrea as an independent country. On assignment for *Canadian Geographic*, he has photographed the seal hunt in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the fishery in the Bay of

Fundy, the French shore in Nova Scotia, the wilderness coast of New Brunswick's Fundy Trail, New Denmark, migrant workers in Quebec, and a pond hockey tournament with over 120 teams and minus 20 degree temperatures. For Brian, photography is about people, the chance to live, learn and work with people all over the world, and to help them voice their story. He has worked with a wide variety of magazines and non-profit organizations. His clients include *Canadian Geographic*, *Equinox Magazine*, *U.S. News*, *The Globe and Mail*, CARE International, *The Ottawa Citizen*, The Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontieres, the New Brunswick Government, the Canadian National Parks Service, *Harrowsmith*, *Readers Digest*, This Country Canada, *TIME Magazine*, Oxfam, Canadian Auto Workers, M5 Advertising, CIDA, *L'Actualite*, *Macleans*, Acura, *Outpost Magazine*, the New Brunswick Conservation Council, and others.

JOANNE CADOGAN is a third-generation journalist who grew up in the newspaper industry watching, with enthusiasm, both her parents and grandparents run their community newspapers. Her first break in journalism was to become the editor of the *Brunswick Business Journal*, a business newspaper serving all New Brunswick, which was published in Moncton. Ms. Cadogan is also the former editor of *The Miramichi Leader* and *The Miramichi Weekend*.

— 30 —

CONTACT INFORMATION

For review copies, author interviews, or publication excerpts please contact Susan Baker at sbaker@gooselane.com or call (888) 926.8377.

High-res book cover and author image files are available at www.gooselane.com.