

About the islands

- A family saga
- Almost 60 years



From top left: Harold Owens in an early outboard; Joe Hart, the first French-Canadian guide and always quick with a joke and a story; Aurel Hart, Joe's nephew who became guide when Joe grew too old; Jack Owens (foreground) with Joe in the first camp; Aurel with a 200-pound sturgeon; Joe and Peter Owens in "Pete's boat," built by Joe. From the island log books and at www.powens.com.

Peter Owens began visiting the St. Lawrence River when he was six years old. His grandfather, Harold Owens, purchased his first island in 1943, and now four generations span this personal, family history. Harold and his son, Jack, hired guides who were wise to the river's whims and dangers.

During the first ten minutes of his first visit, 'Pete' fell into the river and was "baptized" according to the island log books. Ever since he has learned to respect the river, and though Harold and Jack are now dead, Peter retains the last of three islands held by the family.

The *Rips* Web pages include this family history of life on the river spanning more than half a century.

They're talking about Rips...

"**Rips is a great historical novel** full of action, adventure, romance and memorable characters. Ripping through this dark but ultimately uplifting story is the mighty St. Lawrence River, which acts as a metaphor of the history of the North American experience, where the themes are identity, exuberance and survival.... I highly recommend this book."

—Ernest Hebert, author of *The Old American*, *The Dogs of March* and five other novels.

"**A rip-snorting read!** I was well hooked. The history was fascinating, as was the constant sense of menace. Great characters, furious pace." —Award-winning British writer Graham Joyce, author of ten novels

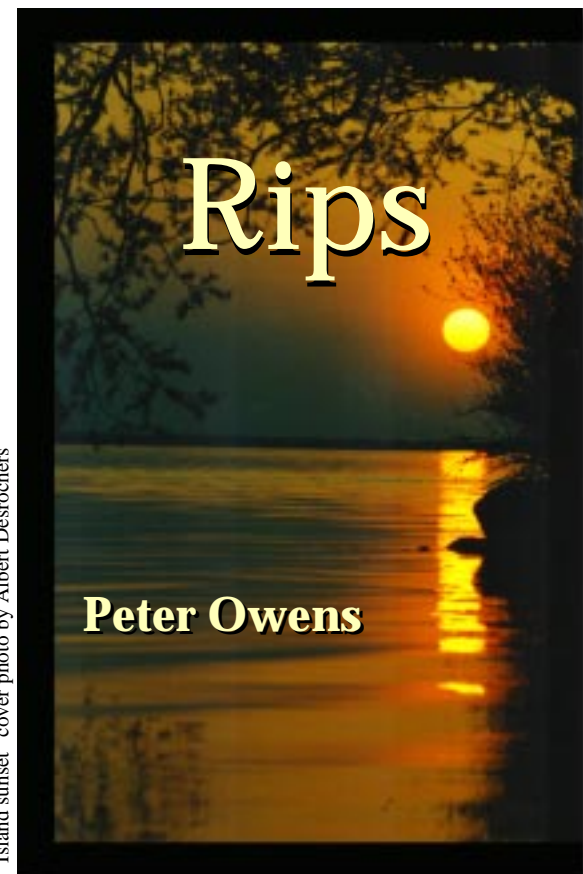
"**With the river and sudden turns** of war sweeping along its compelling and culturally diverse characters, the adventure story is a ripping good yarn set against the authentic backdrop of regional history. To its suspenseful mix of captures and escapes, deaths and torture and perilous journeys, the author adds episodes of frank sexual liaisons and cross-cultural romance on the frontier.... Its changing aspects and terrible power are vividly described in "*Rips*," making the river itself a vital and imposing character in the unfolding tale, not unlike Mark Twain's Mississippi River." —John Golden, *Watertown Daily Times*

"**Owens has wonderfully captured** the earthy nuances of life in the time they lived. Professionally speaking, the writing is beyond comparison — really first-rate and compelling. I couldn't put it down!" —Theresa Barbo, President of the Cape Cod Maritime History Association and author of *Murder Hill*

"**Rips is an immediate go**, the characters solid, the narrative skillful and forward - moving with a strong feeling for the natural world that is in the tradition of the best writing in Fenimore Cooper." —William Barker, Orleans, Mass., English Professor Emeritus, Fitchburg State College

"**Some of the most beautifully written scenes** I have ever read. With wisdom and compassion Owens' muscular prose leads us through myriad complex adventures with the sureness and depth of the St. Lawrence itself. *Rips* is a deeply affecting and exciting novel." —Shirley Stuart, California writer

Rips is published by Publish America in Maryland with New England distribution by Covered Bridge Press and New York distribution by North Country Books.



"Island sunset" cover photo by Albert Desrochers

Historical/nautical fiction

by
author, journalist

Peter Owens

www.powens.com

Distributed by
Covered Bridge Press
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A Publish America title

About Rips



The island point in *Rips*

Rips is set on an island on the St. Lawrence River on the border of the U.S. and Canada during the French and Indian War.

It's about the trials, adventures, frustrated romances, and traumas of American, English, and French settlers living among Indians and combatants during a chaotic and dangerous era.

Through guile, determination, courage, luck, loyalty, trickery, and defiance, the makeshift family at the core of *Rips* scrapes and claws for survival, ultimately relying on an Indian friend's mastery of the wild to gain the narrowest edges against daunting odds.

Torn apart by the wildly unpredictable forces of men, river, climate, romance, and an accurate rendering of history, the characters of *Rips* fight for a sense of order, peace, and wisdom in a novel rippling with energy.

- Richly drawn characters
- Action and adventure aplenty
- Spectacular wilderness setting
- Gritty, vibrant prose
- Heroic men and women against daunting odds

About the author

Cape Cod writer Peter Owens is a widely published and award-winning journalist, software author, Web publisher, fiction writer, and educator. Two of his software packages, *The Research Paper Writer* and *The Classroom Newspaper Workshop* have been Tom Snyder Productions best-sellers, and *KidNews*, the Web site he founded and published for five years, won dozens of national awards and accolades.



He has written for local and regional newspapers where his work was awarded by the New England Press Association. He has written for *The Guardian* of London and for McGraw-Hill's *Popular Computing Magazine*.



He published several short stories in *the North American Review* and *The Smith* of New York City. Owens teaches professional writing at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth where he was Teacher of the Year in 1993. He has authored a chapter for a book titled *Essays on Life and Landscape in Northern New*

York to be published by North Country Press. *Rips* is Owens' first novel, and he is currently working on its sequel.

To order *Rips*:

www.publishamerica.com/bookstore.htm

1-877-333-7422

www.powens.com, www.amazon.com

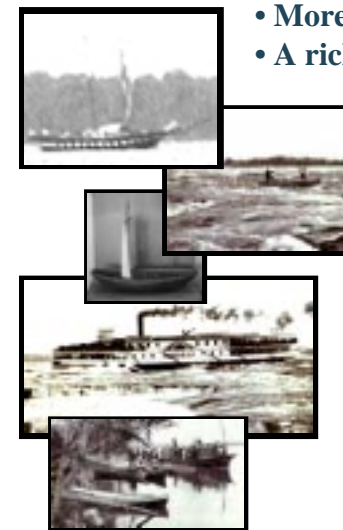
www.borders.com

www.barnesandnoble.com

River history

- More than a novel
- A rich history

of the river and region is displayed on Owens' Web pages



From top left: a restored brig heads downriver; two men poll up the Lachine Rapids; replica of an historic bateaux at Coteau Rapids; a steam excursion boats shoots Lachine Rapids; a fishing party with St. Lawrence River skiffs and steam launch prepare for a trip.

Thanks to modern technology, *Rips* is more than a novel. In conducting his research for the book, Peter Owens visited hundreds of Web sites and read dozens of books, diaries, and accounts of life on the St. Lawrence River and the Adirondack region where the book unfolds.

He compiled much of his research and generated a river history that begins with the formation of the river during the last ice age. He describes three wars, the decimation of native tribes, and the evolution of French resentment still brewing in today's separatist movement.

Included, as well, is a discussion of nautical history. The treacherous rapids shown above were eventually by-passed by canals, leading to an extraordinary evolution of ships and boats adapted to the river and its vast sweep from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.

His "River History" includes dozens of links and a selected bibliography for anyone to use, all located at www.powens.com.