

# Lake Superior Magazine



Lake Superior Publishing

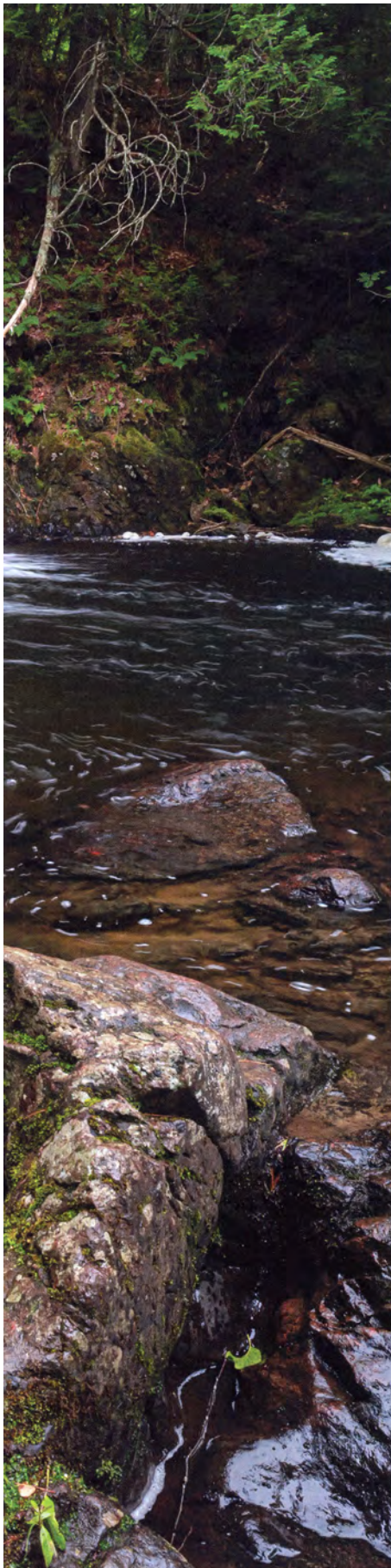


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*S. Zimmerman '25*





# Eye on the Lake, EYE ON THE LAND

Photography & Story by Jay Kerr

On my first visit to Lake Superior Provincial Park near Wawa, Ontario, I was blown away by the rugged landscape and spent a fantastic week of camping and shooting. I kept coming back to the area for photography trips and vacation time with my wife, Lissa.

In late 2017, we started looking at waterfront property north of Sault Ste. Marie. We found an undeveloped property with western views and bought it. Within a year, we had a modern prefab cabin built. Because we can both work remotely, we spend half our time at the Lake. It's also proven to be the perfect base camp for exploring in every season.

I have always admired the work of Canadian landscape painters, The Group of Seven. Some of their best work was painted in Algoma and the north shore of Lake Superior. The same natural beauty and untouched wilderness that inspired them over a hundred years ago is still here today, unchanged and undeveloped. It's why many artists are drawn to the area.

My favourite places on the Lake change all the time. Lately it's been sitting in a wood-fired hot tub while watching the sun set. Some days it's splitting wood or going for a paddle in my kayak. Being away from the Lake for weeks at a time makes me appreciate my time here even more. I love that photography pushes me to explore in search of new shooting locations. There's nothing like planning a trip and discovering an area for the very first time. I'm often introducing locals to areas where they've never been. Revisiting my favourite places in different seasons and times of day also presents endless new sights. There is so much to see.

When I'm not capturing landscapes with my camera for Jay Kerr Photography, I manage JAK Media, my web design firm. Toronto (my other home) is a great city to live in, but it can be noisy, congested and fast-paced. I crave our cabin on the Big Lake, where it is quiet and isolated. To be surrounded by forest with an incredible view of the Lake is calming.

It puts a smile on my face every time I arrive.

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[Rainy days and soft light are great for shooting waterfalls like this one on Beaver Creek at Searchmont, Ontario.](#)



Top: For the sunrise at Rudderhead Point, the sky was bathed in vivid color. Time seemed to stand still, forcing me to pause, and experience the moment. What a gift. 10 minutes later, everything went gray, the clouds moved in, and it started to rain.

Bottom: Unique rock formations on the Coastal Trail in Lake Superior Provincial Park.





Top left: I love crawling around the forest floor in search of photos, like this slug feeding on a mushroom at Rudderhead Point.

Top right: The juxtaposition of headlights and northern lights at Havilland Bay created a "Close Encounters" vibe.

Bottom right: Low water levels reveal red sandstone and other unique rocks on the shoreline of Lake Superior along Horseshoe Bay.

Bottom left: Clear water and colorful stones create the shoreline at Sandy Islands Provincial Park.







Top: A secluded spot beside Beaver Creek rushes through the forest at Searchmont.

Center: This image at Chippewa Falls is one of my first photos of the region, taken in 2008. The rest area beside this waterfall marks the halfway point of the Trans-Canada Highway. It's close to Batchawana Bay.

Bottom: One of nature's sculptures – tree stumps washed ashore on a pebble beach at Marathon.

Facing Page: A picturesque spot on the rugged shoreline of Lake Superior near Brulé Harbor in Lake Superior Provincial Park creates a lovely kayak rest area.

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Buying my Kodak VR35 film camera for a 2005 trip to Paris first got me into photography. The trip was fantastic, but most of my photos were terrible. I returned and took a half-day photography course on the basics. Then I purchased hundreds of photo magazines and dozens of books to learn about exposure, composition, and image processing. Photography became my passion. My advice for newcomers: Get up early. Stay up late. Watch YouTube tutorials to improve your photography. ■