RUPERT RIVER VIEWS – The magnificence of Oatmeal Falls, seen here in July 1986, will be no longer. The new Rupert River Diversion, will cut 71% of the flow of the mighty river. But Hydro-Quebec and their Cree partners will not allow the new view to look like the diverted remains of the Eastmain River (above) by installing a series of dykes to support the new lower flow. Likewise the fearsome corner set of rapids (right), part of an awesome set called The Fours, will shrink. This boy, wearing Geoffrey Peake’s hat, whom we met in Rupert House in 1982 (now called Waskaganish) has seen his world change quite a bit. His Cree Nation are now hydro supporters. There will even be a drinking water plant built in Waskaganish to supplement the vanishing river which for generations supplied billions of gallons of clean and abundant fresh water.

Photos by Michael Peake