By Pam Lundborg
Home & Real Estate editor

Syracuse resident Kathleen Quigley’s new book, “The Summer Cottage: Retreats of the 1000 Islands,” showcases her picks of the most captivating summer homes in that region.

Since early childhood, Quigley spent the summers at her family cottage on Lake Ontario. As a girl, she said, she’d cruise up the river and admire the same Thousand Islands homes year after year.

“I was fascinated by the boathouses,” she said. “The architecture intrigued me.”

Quigley, a freelance writer who has been featured in The New York Times and Architectural Digest, will sign copies of her book at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Onondaga Historical Association. This will be the first opportunity for the public to buy the book.

She will also sign books at 7 p.m. April 6 at Barnes & Noble bookstore in DeWitt.
I had an idea of the landmark cottages, so it was just a matter of finding out who the owners are," she said. "They were so gracious and proud of their places. They were thrilled to show me around."

The book features photographs from Syracuse photographer James Scherzi.

The book contains 24 chapters, featuring a variety of properties for their unique characteristics. For instance, Fox Run, a 30-acre estate, is featured because the Smithsonian Institution declared it one of the great gardens of America. Boldt Castle, one of the most famous estates in the islands, is featured for its historic significance. A home on Pullman Island is featured because of the extensive remodeling that brought the property back to its former glory. Sunnyside, an ornately shingled house, she said, is uniquely designed.

It’s the attention to the historic significance of some of the cottages that intrigued the Onondaga Historical Association, said Executive Director Gregg Tripoli. The Thousand Islands, Tripoli said, attract a large number of Central New York vacationers, so there is a strong local interest. Plus, he added, the writing and photography are breathtaking. "It’s a great coffee-table book," he said.

Quigley said this book was a two-year project.

"I think the architecture sort of speaks to me," Quigley said of her desire to write the book about the cottages. "And there are a bunch of wonderful people up there."

This sleeping porch at Casa Blanca on Cherry Island is used as a cozy spot to watch sunsets and entertain.

This brass fireplace is in the dining room of La Duchesse, a 106-foot houseboat on view at the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton. The boat, built in 1903, defined the luxury yacht of that era.