

Muskoka Woods mission statement.

Just inside the studio door, Muskoka Woods director of Risk Management Tim Duffield has crafted a workbench of weathered timber from the camp's original boathouse, a key part of the camp's founding vision. Between 40 and 50 years old, these timbers tie the new structure to its heritage.

"And being built in the shape of a workbench – although it's a beautiful shape – it reminds us that we've come here to do the hard work of learning leadership, because of the high cost of poor leadership," Ellen Duffield points out.

The stone ramp in the foyer invites the able bodied and those in wheelchairs to enter the leadership training experience together. It eliminates access barriers that could have arisen when the studio was built on two levels – with a five-foot variance – so it could nestle comfortably into the adjacent hillside.

"It also creates a really important part of our story," Duffield says, quietly unraveling the

details. "It becomes part of the pathway. You come across the bridge and you're on the pathway that comes through the centre of the building. The studio is meant to represent that life and leadership are a journey, and we're just here for a short period, at this particular point, to be able

Like the bridge, everything at the studio has intrinsic meaning.

to learn and to reflect. The building is meant to create a place for that reflection about our leadership journey."

Once on the ramp, the journey can be themed programmatically, based on objectives ranging from pathways for team building to managing change.

"But it also helps us to pause and slow down because you can't just walk straight up, so you have to turn back on yourself, and life is like that," says Duffield. "We're sometimes going forward. Then we sometimes think we're going backwards, but we need to do that in order to get to where we need to go. And it forces us to slow down as we come into the building."

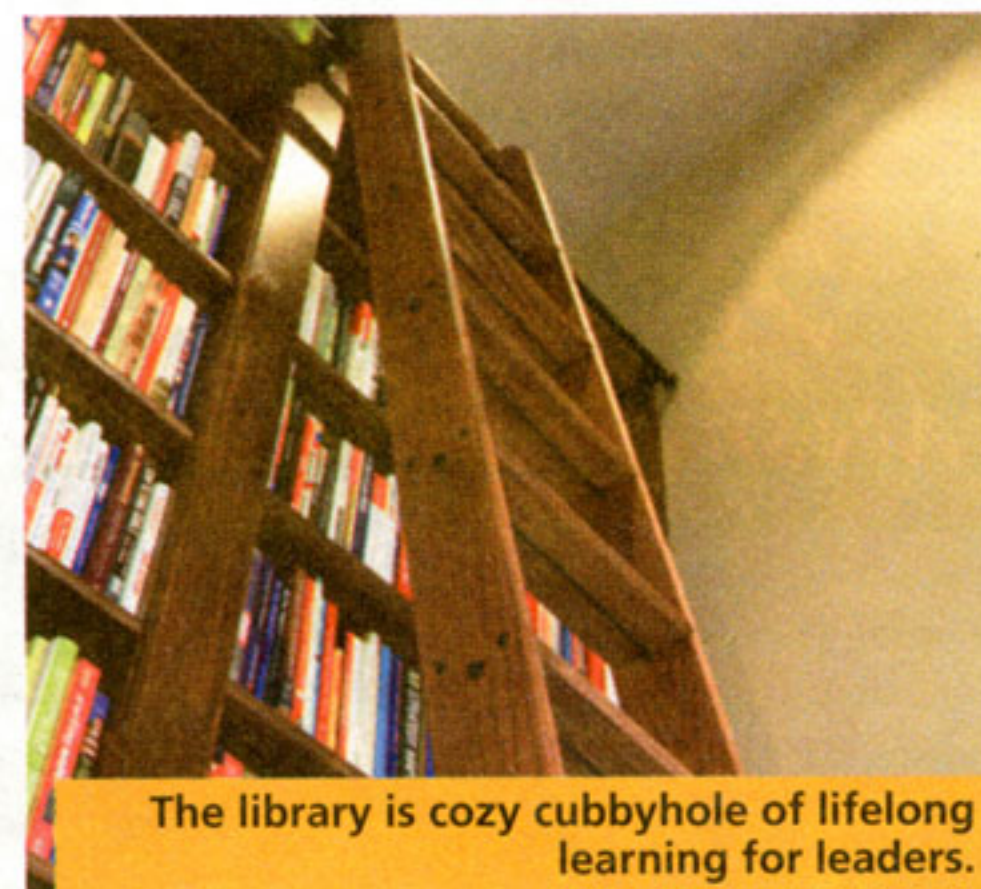
For this Christian faith-based establishment, the ramp also represents a prayer labyrinth inside the entry, providing an opportunity for people to pray.

"At every corner as you come in, you lay things down," explains Duffield. "Then at every corner, as you go out, you pick things up that you're taking back out into the world with you." Each room has significance.

The library is a cozy cubbyhole of lifelong learning for leaders. Lined with shelves of tactile books surrounding a state-of-the-art Kindle and a built-in iPad, the room demonstrates juxtaposition, another main theme of the building.

Juxtaposition remains a cerebral stimulus throughout the studio, where the modern architectural configuration embraces reclaimed barn board. In the art studio, a shelving-unit made by Rankin Lake craftsman Brian Claridge represents a tree, juxtaposing the outdoor environment inside. This piece also speaks to the value of creativity in leadership.

"We say that in order to understand your world, you need to understand the arts," Duffield

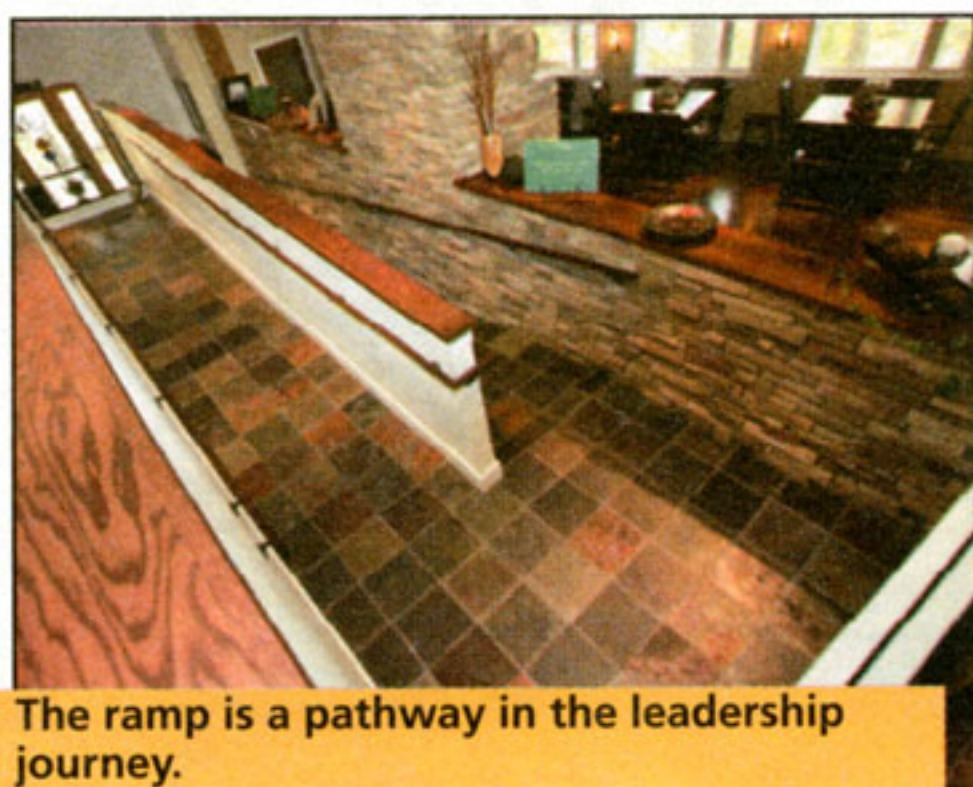


The library is cozy cubbyhole of lifelong learning for leaders.

explains. "And in order to impact your world, you need to be able to use the arts."

Across from the art studio, an office/boardroom called The Printing Press symbolizes communication. Here, a worn printing press has been invited as a sage elder in the evolution of communication technology, to sit in stark contrast to the modern office electronics linked to today's global information highway.

"The printing press had such a profound impact on our culture, by allowing us to have books and magazines and such," says Duffield. "So in the same way, it would be our hope that if people here inspired to shape their world, that they would create or design things that would have that level of impact on our culture."



The ramp is a pathway in the leadership journey.

A Few Highlights of our Spring Season

February

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE

Supertramp:

CRIME OF THE CENTURY

Note for Note
Cut for Cut
Live

February 12
@ 8:00 pm
Adults \$32
S/S \$30



March

Echoes of Ireland



March 13 @ 8:00 pm
Adults \$42, S/S \$40
Music, Dance and
Stories with a Celtic Lilt

Lighthouse: 40 Years of Sunny Days

March 25
@ 8:00 pm
Adults \$45
S/S \$43



Joel Plaskett



March 18
@ 8:00 pm
Adults \$36
S/S \$34

Indie-Rock at its best

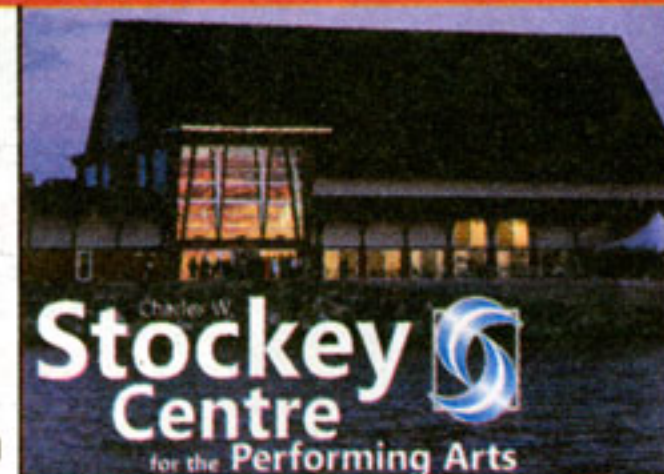
April

Jason McCoy's One Man Show



Canadian
Country
Music
Icon

April 8 @ 8:00 pm
Adults \$45, S/S \$43



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