

ON A ROCKY ROAD TO LAKE ROSSEAU

ENHANCING NATURE'S GIFTS

From the open concept summer residence it's a short amble along the remarkable stone walkway to the 1 1/2 storey 3 slip boathouse and expansive patio deck.



What weekend guest wouldn't love the decidedly cheerful cottage look of this lakeside guesthouse and boat-house combination?



Truly a Zen moment—the peace inspired by this impressive waterfall serves as a reflective touchstone amid the natural beauty of Ontario's near North.



This rock climbing wall does double duty as a recreation activity and camouflage for the adjacent waterfall pumping system.



The fibreglass slide, installed by Pro Slide of Ottawa, Ontario, winds through and around a lush backdrop of plantings, flowerbeds, stone walkways, retaining walls and even a bridge before arriving with a splash at the lakeshore.

What to do when your stunning summer home has a backyard intersected by a looming rise of Muskoka rock? Cast a hot tub into the granite, of course. And why not build a 50-foot waterfall and a 150-foot waterslide? That is exactly what the team at Tamarack—including Toronto architect, Mark Hartley, accomplished. Working closely with the client, they turned an 'obstacle' into an exceptional outdoor feature, part of a \$1.5 million enhancement that seamlessly blends elegant landscaping, safe 'play spaces' for two young children, and intimate patios and sitting areas.

Linking the four-bay boathouse with the 4,000 square foot waterfront residence is a remarkable 140-foot stone walkway. With a cunning use of steel leg supports and underwater lighting, this lake-edge rock wall appears to float at night.

The granite of Muskoka may discourage some but Madden and his team are inspired by challenges. Using a cast concrete chamber, they set a hot tub directly inside the rock, constructing a surrounding deck from Brazilian Ipe wood that is three times harder than oak and denser than water. This workhorse material will last for at least 50 years.

Staying with horses, it's a 90-horsepower 3-phase electric motor that pumps 6,000 gallons per minute for the waterfall. Aesthetics became a problem with the exposed 18-inch diameter polyethylene pipe circulating the water. Then the client recalled a man-made rock climbing wall in Nassau.

Tamarack contacted a rock climbing wall builder, and a faux granite face was installed, covering the pipe and blending with the native stone. Now climbing holds allow adventurers to be cooled by the waterfall's spray—a real hot summer bonus. And on cool days, you simply turn off the water. If only nature could be that cooperative, every day would be sun-filled at the cottage. ♣



Sunlight floods through the extensive windows of this summer retreat during the day...but the night lighting brings a spectacular glow to the northern twilight.