

Camping In at Great Wolf Lodge

MAPEI Products Make for a Howling Good Time at Canadian Resort

In April 2006 a new addition to North America's largest family of indoor water park resorts opened in Niagara Falls, Ontario. This Canadian Great Wolf Lodge Water Resort is owned by Ripley's Niagara Water Park Resort, L.P., through a license from Great Wolf Resorts, Inc. Ripley Entertainment is a Jim Pattison Company, the third largest privately owned company in Canada. Part of a \$200-million family entertainment destination, Great Wolf Lodge Niagara Falls is a North woods adventure, jam-packed with fun for everyone. Kids can even camp out in the KidCabin® guest suites, which contain a log-cabin-like sleeping area just for them.

Before the fun could begin, a lot of hard work went into making the lodge a place to delight old and young alike. Ledcor Construction Limited of Canada, Toronto Office, served as the general contractor for the project. Ledcor brought the first Great Wolf Lodge in Canada to completion on schedule, including 406 suites, 90,000 square feet of indoor water parks and numerous public spaces. "It was a very exciting job," said Senior Project Manager Kenneth Wang. "All the trades worked well together and we had no complaints on the floor finishing from the property owner. We are looking forward to working with MAPEI products again in the future."

The challenge of covering over 300,000 square feet (27 871 m²) of floor space was handled by Classic Tile of Oakville, Ontario. Under the project management of Ehab Shaheen, Classic Tile's installers worked with their favorite installation products by MAPEI to set tile and lay carpet and vinyl tiles in work spaces, hallways, guest suites and the Grand Lobby.

Starting out with good surface preparation, Shaheen's team evened out small holes wherever needed with *Planipatch*®, to which they added *Planipatch Plus*TM for a high-performance patching compound. Wherever leveling was needed, the workers used *Novoplan*® 2, MAPEI's polymer-

modified self-leveling, cement-based underlayment. In the kitchens, they spread 8,000 square feet (743 m²) of *Mapelastic™ HPG* to provide waterproofing protection for the floors.

When it came to setting the tile on the floors of the kitchens and restaurants, Classic Tile turned to their reliable standby, *Ultraflex™ 2*, a professional-grade mortar. They also used *Ultraflex 2* with the tiles on the bathroom floors in the public areas as well as in the lodge's 406 suites, for total coverage of 30,000 square feet (2 787 m²). All the floor tile was grouted with *Keracolor™ S* sanded grout from MAPEI.

For the wall tiles in the bathrooms, the installers worked with a new MAPEI product, *Ultralite Mortar™*, a lightweight, nonsag wall and floor mortar. "We love this product!" said Shaheen. "It gave us the flexibility of building mortar beds up to ¼", ½" or ¾" [6, 12 or 19 mm] thicknesses, whichever we needed. Walls aren't as even as you think, so *Ultralite Mortar* was a real advantage to us in this situation." He added, "*Ultralite* has a great consistency. It goes on as easily as mastic, but mastic can't get as thick as this mortar can. Also, we really liked its nonsag capability when we were applying a total of 60,000 square feet of 13" x 13" [5 574 m² of 33 cm] large-format tiles in the bathrooms." The team applied *Keracolor U* unsanded grout to the smaller joints between the wall tiles. The presence of antimicrobial protection from the BioBlock™ technology in the *Ultralite Mortar* and the *Keracolor* grouts was an additional plus*.

Turning from tile to carpet installation was no problem for Classic Tile, which uses MAPEI's floor-covering installation systems for a total solutions approach. To lay the 280,000 square feet (26 013 m²) of carpet found in the guest suites, hallways and Grand Lobby of the lodge, the team turned to *Ultrabond ECO® 185*, MAPEI's performance-grade, high-tack carpet adhesive that offers a strong long-term bond for demanding commercial carpet installations. "We depend on the *Ultrabond ECO* products for consistent performance, and they always deliver," said Shaheen.

In the laundry room downstairs and in the linen rooms on each floor of the lodge, the linen carts need to roll smoothly, so vinyl tile was the floor covering of choice. The installers used MAPEI's *Ultrabond ECO 800* pressure-sensitive flooring adhesive to ensure proper tile placement.

"It was a big installation, but it is good to be a part of jobs like this," said Shaheen when the project was finished. "We have good installers and good installation techniques. We believe our installation products are just as crucial to us as our installers, because they make things work right and save us time and labor. Whenever we need technical support, MAPEI's people are always available. In short, MAPEI brings us peace of mind!"

*BioBlock technology has been added to select MAPEI adhesives and grouts to help inhibit the growth of various types of odor- and stain-causing mold, mildew and bacteria. BioBlock technology provides built-in antimicrobial protection without expensive additives, extra steps or added time.

Consult your federal, state and local environmental and health departments for recommendations on preventing mold, mildew and bacteria growth. For the most current information on BioBlock technology's antimicrobial protection, visit www.mapei.com.