

Construction Report 2004: Hotel Waterpark Resorts

By Jeff Coy and Bill Haralson

August 3, 2004 --- Hotels with indoor waterparks are growing from 23% to 29% annually while the overall hotel industry expects new supply to grow only 1.2% in 2004 and 1.3% in 2005. In 2000, there were only 18 hotel waterpark resorts. Today, over 60 are open nationwide. Eighteen new additions and expansion projects are expected to open by year end. Hotel waterpark projects under construction have grown from 8 in 2000 to 32 that are under construction or will break ground during 2004.

Clearly, hotel waterpark resorts are both cool and hot at the same time! Projects in the development phase grew from 19 in 2002 to 46 in 2003 to 69 in 2004.

Construction Project Growth						
Hotel Waterpark Resorts USA						
	<i>2005F</i>	<i>2004F</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2000</i>
Open at beginning of year	79	61	48	39	31	18
Openings during year	13	18	13	9	8	13
Total Open at end of year	92	79	61	48	39	31
Percent Change	16.5%	29.5%	27.1%	23.1%	25.8%	
Under Construction		32	9	10	9	8
In Development		69	46	19		

Source: Hotel Waterpark Resort Research & Consulting.

The number of hotel rooms attached to indoor waterparks is expected to grow from 5,400 in 2000 to a forecast of over 16,300 in 2005, which is an increase of 4X over five years.

Room Supply Growth						
Hotel Waterpark Resorts USA						
	<i>2005F</i>	<i>2004F</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2000</i>
Open at beginning of year	12,266	10,132	8,193	7,135	5,431	3,545
Openings during year	4,117	2,134	1,939	1,058	1,704	1,886
Total Open at end of year	16,383	12,266	10,132	8,193	7,135	5,431
Percent Change	33.6%	21.1%	23.7%	14.8%	31.4%	
Under Construction		4,432	1,144	1,366	1,058	1,704
In Development		15,864	13,268	4,630		

Source: Hotel Waterpark Resort Research & Consulting.

Hotel waterpark resort grew out of Wisconsin during the 1990s, and then spread to adjacent states in the Upper Midwest. The growth pattern is spreading across the northern tier of the USA, with new properties stretching from Michigan and Ohio to Pennsylvania and new construction activity in the northwestern states of Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. In fact, three ski resorts --- Camelback Ski Area in PA, Boyne Mountain in MI and Silver Mountain in ID --- now have or will soon open indoor-outdoor waterparks to build revenues on a year round basis. In the future, indoor waterparks will spread to the Sunbelt where desert resort guests and their kids will look for protection from the sun, hot temps and humidity.

Recent Openings: USA

In February 2004, **Best Western Sterling Inn in Sterling Heights MI**, a suburb of Detroit, opened the 9,000 sf expansion of its indoor waterpark, bringing the total to more than 30,000 sf. You can reach owner-operator Vic Martin by emailing vic@sterlinginn.com.

In March, **Wilderness Resort & Golf Hotel** opened its 47,051 sf Wild West indoor waterpark which connects to 160 rooms previously added along with a rear lobby and large arcade. Wild West Waterpark is the resort's third indoor waterpark on site, bringing total indoor waterpark space to 161,000 sf --- the most of any resort in America. Wilderness now has 593 rooms and suites in **Wisconsin Dells WI**. Contact Tom Lucke or Peter Helland at 608-253-9729 for more information.

In April, Vance Castleman opened a 24,000 sf indoor waterpark in **Minot ND** as part of his 126-room **Sleep Inn & Suites**, which opened in January, 2004. Waterpark features include a 2,500 sf activity pool, 3 major waterslides, 2 kiddie slides, 4 kiddie play structures and a 4-leaf clover-shaped hot tub that accommodates 48 people. The Sleep Inn is connected to a 10,000 sf convention center and Dakota Square Mall with 85 stores. Ramaker & Associates provided the preliminary plans and Associated Pools of Minot designed and built the pools. Play structures were provided by Miracle Recreation Equipment. You can reach Vance Castleman at 701-838-7611.

In May, hotel owner Dave Nordstrom opened his 11,000 sf Wasserbahn indoor waterpark at the **Holiday Inn in Amana IA** --- the first *holidome* in America to be converted into an indoor waterpark. Ramaker & Associates submitted the winning design. Volk International represented the owner for specifications, bidding and supervision of installation. The existing pool was converted a zero entry to 8-inch wading pool with play structure and 5 geyser jets for young children. An activity pool was added with a waterwalk, basketball hoops and a vortex pool along with a large spa. A slide tower that looks like a Water Tower was added to the building and launches 2 enclosed body slides that exit and re-enter the building. "The sauna was completed redone and the game room went from 330 sf with 6 games to 800 sf with 22 games," reports General Manager John Gilbertson. "We created 14 new suites including several KidsSuites in new



interiors and furniture. All rooms have a microwave and refrigerator,” he said. Room occupancy and revenues have increased since opening in May. Talk to Kris Volk at 303-838-9785 or call hotel GM John Gilbertson at 319-350-8599 for more information.

In June 2004, four hotel waterpark resort projects opened:

- **Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells WI** opened the expansion of its outdoor waterpark in June 2004. The popularity of its indoor treehouse prompted owners, The Great Lakes Companies of Madison WI, to build a mini treehouse in its outdoor waterpark. The \$1.5 million expansion nearly doubled the size of the outdoor waterpark to 60,000 sf. The outdoor mini-treehouse has a tipping bucket that dumps water on guests at the sound of a bell. In addition, guests can climb into inner tubes for a wet journey down Half Moon Lake, relax on a leisure island, climb the 25-ft high aqua rock wall, play water basketball or ride kiddie bumper boats.
- **The Lodge at Cedar Creek Resort in Wausau WI** opened its new \$35 million, 50,000 sf indoor waterpark resort in June, and the largest of its kind in northern Wisconsin. The resort features 140 family-sized suites and historic log mill design that pays tribute to the region’s lumber industry. You can eat in the Saw Mill Grill and drink in the Buzz Saw Bar. The indoor waterpark includes 4 waterslides, splashdown pool, activity pool, kiddie pool, lazy river and treehouse with an 800-gallon tipping water bucket. The resort also has 1,600 sf of meeting facilities and a heated outdoor pavilion for special events. Developer is Chuck Heath, president of Horizon Development Group LLC of Verona WI. Call Chuck at 608-848-4500 or call the lodge at 888-365-6343.
- **Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells WI** opened its 120 3-bedroom condominiums and expanded convention center. The *Kalahari Condominiums*, which sold initially for \$379,000 each on a whole-ownership basis prior to construction, offer 1,579 sf in four different styles. Owners place their units in a rental program so they can be rented to hotel guests as a hotel suite. These condos (3 bedrooms) bring the total Kalahari room count to 738. In addition, Kalahari expanded its convention center to 125,000 sf including 47 meeting rooms, banquet seating for up to 3,000 people and a 10-screen cinema with stadium seating. Owners have full use of the resort facilities, including its 75,000 sf outdoor waterpark. The Kalahari Waterpark Resort Convention Center, as it is now called, has the most hotel meeting space in Wisconsin and reports to have America’s largest indoor waterpark (125,000 sf) --- although its neighbor, Wilderness Resort, has three indoor waterparks totaling 161,000 sf. For more information about condos, go to www.kalaharikondominiums.com. For convention sales, call 608-254-5019.
- **Blue Harbor Resort & Conference Center in Sheboygan WI** opened its doors in June to vacationers and business travelers to enjoy its 183 rooms, 40,000 sf indoor waterpark and 20,000 sf conference facilities --- with Grand Victorian décor and nautical atmosphere. The indoor waterpark features 7 waterslides, 4 pools, 2 hot tubs and a 100-game arcade. There are also 4 restaurants and an Aveda Spa with 6 feng shui treatment rooms. The waterpark conference resort is owned and operated by Great

Lakes Companies of Madison WI. For more information, go to www.blueharborresort.com or www.greatlakesco.com.

Under Construction & Opening in 2004: USA

In July, **Thunder Falls**, a \$12 million outdoor waterpark with 12 waterslides in **Mackinaw City MI**, completed construction on 20 acres at the first exit off I-75 into the city. Thunder Falls boasts having the largest dynamic wave pool in Michigan. Thunder Falls developer Joe Lieghio and his family own several restaurants and about 700 hotel rooms in Mackinaw City. In addition to his outdoor waterpark, he plans to start construction soon on a 40,000 sf indoor waterpark located near his existing 95-room **Hamilton Inn**. Plans call for the addition of 200 to 300 more guest rooms. The indoor waterpark is scheduled to open by June of 2005 and serve guests of numerous Lieghio hotels.

In August, **Holiday Inn Express in Grand Rapids MI** opened with 80 rooms and a 10,000 sf indoor waterpark. The owner is Sudhir Modi. You can contact him at 616-949-4600.

Ramada Spokane Airport opened its indoor waterpark in August 2004. The 5,300 sf waterpark includes a 2-story, 100-foot long waterslide, 4 pools, a 12-person hot tub, showers and an exercise room. "Currently, we are over-built with new competition in Spokane," says Jean Berg, sales director. "We're hoping our new indoor pool and waterslide will help us retain customers and boost our weekend occupancy even higher." Hotel owner is Spokane Equities. Reach general manager Rick LeFleur at 509-838-5211.

As of July 31, 2004, the following waterpark resorts were under construction and scheduled to open later in 2004: Great Escape Resort & Waterpark, Lake George NY; AmericInn, Ashland WI; Grand Mackinaw Inn, Mackinaw City MI, Baymont Inn, Shepherdsville KY; Grand Rios Waterpark Resort, Brooklyn Park MN; Waterpark of America, Bloomington MN; Holiday Inn Select North, Indianapolis IN; Grand Bear Lodge at Starved Rock State Park in Utica IL; Radisson Castaway Bay, Sandusky OH; and the Splash Lagoon Expansion, Erie PA.

- The owners of the proposed 200-room **Great Escape Resort** and 38,000 indoor waterpark in **Lake George NY** started clearing trees and preparing the site in July. The project is located across from the Great Escape theme park owned by Six Flags Corporation, a partner in the project. Aquatic Development Group of Cohoes NY is the design-engineering firm. Contact the ownership spokesman and developer John Lemery at 518-581-8800 for more information.
- The 65-room **AmericInn in Ashland WI**, owned and operated by ZMC Hotels of Duluth, is underway with the expansion and conversion of their indoor pool to an indoor waterpark that will open in September 2004. The existing pool will feature water volleyball and basketball hoops. A new kiddie pool is under construction. Another new pool will provide the splashdown area for two new waterslides. Owners bumped up the roof about ten feet to fit in a 25-foot slide tower. The AmericInn also has an outdoor pool

with one waterslide and another waterslide scheduled for installation. If you have a low ceiling above your pool, call John Goldfine at 218-723-8433 about how to raise the roof for a waterslide tower.

- **Grand Mackinaw Inn**, a 65-room hotel in **Mackinaw City MI**, is under construction with a 5,000 sf indoor waterpark expansion scheduled to open later in 2004. Talk to Gary Chippi at 231-436-8831 or go to www.grandmackinaw.com.
- **Baymont Inn in Shepherdsville KY** is scheduled to open in September with 80 rooms and a 14,000 sf indoor waterpark. Contact Mr. Adams at 502-955-9550.
- Minneapolis developer Jeff Wirth bought a struggling **Ramada Inn in Brooklyn Park MN** in 2002 and announced plans to turn it into a 46,000 sf indoor waterpark attached to 225 renovated hotel rooms. That \$40 million project is scheduled to open in September 2004. Even before the project was finished, Wirth said he was moving forward on a second phase to the **Grand Rios**, which adds 200 rooms and 40,000 sf of space to the indoor waterpark, which will open in 2006. The Grand Rios will be the Twin Cities' largest hotel indoor waterpark for about a year, until The Wirth Companies opens another waterpark resort in Bloomington.
- Last May, The Wirth Companies Inc began demolition of the former Decathlon Club in **Bloomington MN** to make way for their proposed 60,000 sf **Waterpark of America at Grand Lodge**, which will have 403 rooms. Construction of the \$100 million project was underway in July with a planned opening for Fall 2005. Jeff Wirth plans to build America's Biggest Indoor Water Slide Tower, which will rise approximately 10 stories above I-494. For more information, go to www.wirthcompanies.com.
- By November 2004, **Holiday Inn Select North** at the Pyramids in **Indianapolis IN** will be home to Indiana's only hotel indoor waterpark. Construction of the 5-story, 30,000 sf indoor waterpark began last April. "It will attract families all year long," according to Jim Worthington, president of General Hotels Corporation, the hotel's management company. General Manager is Rick Seegert. The waterpark will be connected on two floors to the existing 344-room hotel and 11,000 sf of meeting space. General Hotels Corporation manages ten hotels in Indiana. Email them at info@genhotels.com.
- **Grand Bear Lodge** at Starved Rock State Park in **Utica IL** expects to open late in 2004.
- Cedar Point's newest roller coaster is only 35-feet high, but it will make a bigger splash than the park's monster ride. This water coaster is the centerpiece of the \$22 million **Castaway Bay**, the amusement park's first indoor waterpark hotel that is expected to open in November in **Sandusky OH**. The existing Radisson Castaway Bay, located at the entrance to Cedar Point Causeway, is expanding to include 237 rooms and 51,000 sf indoor waterpark with 12 waterslides, 3 pools, two 50-person hot tubs,



a 100,000-gallon wave pool, a 520-foot long MasterBlaster water coaster, 6,000 sf arcade and 12,000 sf of meeting facilities. Architect is R2 Architects Guild of Pittsburg PA. Aquatic designer is Water Technology Inc of Beaver Dam WI. Talk to Dan Keller, vp & general manager at 419-627-2206 or go to www.castawaybay.cedarpoint.com.

- **Splash Lagoon**, an indoor waterpark connected to three hotels in **Erie PA**, is under construction with the expansion of 22,500 sf more indoor waterpark space to include 2 more waterslides, food & beverage outlets and party rooms. Splash Lagoon is conveniently connected to a Holiday Inn Express, Residence Inns by Marriott and a Comfort Inn --- all owned by Nick Scott and his family. You can reach Nick Scott at nickscott@splashlagoon.com or call Scott Enterprises at 814-868-9500.

Under Construction & Opening in 2005: USA

Great Wolf Lodge in Williamsburg-York VA started construction last December on 301 themed suites and a 70,000 sf indoor waterpark costing \$48 million. The resort will feature 7 pools, wave pool, 12 waterslides over 400-feet long, spa, hot tubs, arcade, 250-seat restaurant, meeting rooms, gift shop, convenience store and an outdoor pool. Opening is expected in February 2005, according to Marc Pink, project superintendent of Stevens Construction Corp, who has helped build three of the six existing lodges. For more information, go to www.greatlakesco.com.

Ron Jon Surfpark is expected to open in March 2005 at Festival Bay Mall in **Orlando FL**.

A surfpark is a new concept to create the perfect wave in a large indoor pool --- an idea developed by frustrated board-rider and entrepreneur Jamie Meiselman who earned his MBA at Columbia in 2002. Meiselman

teamed with co-founder Doug Kirk to form Surfparks LLC, which is partnering with Ron Jon Surf Shops to create the first indoor Surfpark at Festival Bay in Orlando. Aquatic Development Group of Cohoes NY is building the groundswell wave system, which creates up to 6 waves per minute up to 8-feet high. ASR Ltd of Australia is designing the wedge pool to maintain wave height and power



through the full length of the ride. ASR is also building an adjustable pool floor that changes the wave shape at the touch of a button on the computer. Meiselman is also planning to build a Surfpark as part of the Randall's Island Aquatic Center in NY in 2006. Call Jamie Meiselman at 908-654-7063. Email is info@surfparks.com. Website www.surfparks.com.

Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls MI will be the first ski resort in America to have an indoor waterpark. The 58,000 sf Avalanche Bay is under construction and expected to open Memorial Day 2005 along with the 200-unit Mountain Grand condo-hotel, bringing the resort's total room count to 524. The indoor waterpark will feature 6 waterslides including a cannonbowl tube slide, 4 pools with a lazy river, 2 whirlpools, a Flowrider water coaster and

climbing structure with tipping water bucket. The facility also has an arcade, food & beverage and retail areas. Water Technology Inc of Beaver Dam WI provided the design concept and engineering. Steve Kircher, owner-operator of Boyne Mountain Resort, hopes the new hotel indoor waterpark will help the resort regain its footing as the No. 1 ski resort in the Midwest, a Ski magazine ranking it held for many years. Reach Steve at 231-549-6005 or go to www.boyne.com.

Country Inn Hotel & Convention Center owner Dick Richards has always been innovative when it comes to promoting his hotel in **Waukesha WI**, a suburb of Milwaukee. But with increased competition and lost business over the last three years, Richards decided to build a \$25.6 million, 40,000 sf indoor waterpark addition to his 187-room hotel. He says the indoor waterpark will draw more people to the hotel and the surrounding area year round. The indoor waterpark, which includes 3 waterslides, 4 pools and a hot tub, is expected to open in May of 2005 along with a 15,000 sf family entertainment center. Richards joined with Real-Cap LLC owners Mark Flaherty and Ed Carow to form a separate entity for the project, CIP Equity LLC. The project will be financed through a loan with First Bank of Illinois. Architectural Design Consultants of Lake Delton WI designed the project.

Grand Casino Resort in Tunica MS plans to start construction in the Fall of 2004 on a new \$65 million, 30-acre water theme park that is expected to open in June 2005. Although it is primarily an outdoor waterpark, the Grand Water Park will feature a significant amount of space to indoor water recreation facilities. Grand Casino Tunica is partnering with Southeastern Recreation Developers LLC of Hernando MS to create a regional resort destination. For more information, contact Jon Lucas, president of Grand Casino Tunica, or call Valerie Morris at 662-357-3089. Website is www.grandcasinos.com.

Massanutten Resort in McGaheysville VA is constructing a 42,000 sf indoor waterpark that will feature 12 waterslides, 2 pools, spa, lazy river and a wave pool. Opening is expected in July 2005. Massanutten is a thriving four season resort and community of over 600 single-family homes, 900 timeshare units and a multi-million dollar ski business. Massanutten will be the second ski resort in the nation to build an indoor waterpark; the first will be Boyne Mountain MI which plans to open Memorial Day 2005. Aquatics Development Group of Cohoes NY is the design-engineering firm. For more information, contact Clay Rice, director of resort operations at 540-289-4977. Website is www.massresort.com.

Focus Enterprises of Valparaiso IN announced the construction start for a 30,000 sf indoor waterpark addition to the existing 79-room **Holiday Inn Express** on US Hwy 23 in **Dundee MI** near Cabela's Outfitters. New guest rooms will also be built, bringing the total to 166. Focus Enterprises owns and manages 18 hotels in Indiana and Michigan. Dean Morgan is president; you can email him at operations@focushotels.com.

Great Wolf Lodge in Stroudsburg PA is under construction with a 400-suite hotel and 50,000 sf indoor waterpark that will open in October 2005. The indoor waterpark will include 8 waterslides, 4 pools, 2 hot tubs, lazy river, wave pool and a 6,000 sf arcade. The Pocono Mountain location in Pennsylvania will draw leisure families from New Jersey and New York City. Owner is Great Lakes Companies of Madison WI. Go to www.greatlakesco.com.

Bavarian Haus in Frankenmuth MI announced the start of construction in September for a 28,000 sf indoor waterpark addition that will open in October 2005. Owners Al and Susan Zehnder said they will demolish some rooms and build new rooms to replace them in order to re-configure the 137-room property, which is located adjacent to Bronner's, the world's largest Christmas store. Contact owners Al and Susan Zehnder for details.

Nemacolin Woodlands Resort & Spa in Farmington PA, one-hour southeast of Pittsburgh, may start construction by year end on a 300-room, 52,000 sf indoor waterpark hotel that will open in 2005. Reach Joe Bernardo at 412-367-1839 or call project manager Peter Magerko at 724-329-6624. Website is www.nwlr.com.

Joe Lieghio plans to start construction soon on a 40,000 sf indoor waterpark located near his existing 95-room **Hamilton Inn in Mackinaw City MI**. Plans also call for the addition of 200 to 300 more guest rooms. The indoor waterpark is scheduled to open by June of 2005. You can contact Joe Lieghio at 231-818-0547.

Brad Swenson plans to break ground before year end in **Duluth MN** on a parcel near I-35 across from Spirit Mountain Ski Area. **Kulala Falls Hotel Waterpark** will have 129 rooms and a 35,000 sf indoor waterpark featuring 3 major waterslides, adventure pool and lazy river. DSGW of Duluth MN is the architect, Water Technology Inc of Beaver Dam WI is the aquatics designer-engineer and Kraus Anderson is the contractor. Contact Brad Swenson of Clearwater Development LLC in Fargo ND for more information. 701-478-5000.

Double JJ Ranch & Golf Resort in Rothbury MI, north of Muskegon, announced that in the fall owners will invest \$40 million for a new indoor waterpark, dinner theater, conference center and 57-room hotel. Although the size of the indoor waterpark and its construction start date are unknown, the project, which includes 150 home sites and a recreational vehicle park, is scheduled to open in 2006. Contact owners Joe and Joan Lipsitz.

Hotel Waterpark Resorts Under Construction Or Scheduled to Break Ground in 2004						
<i>Hotel Waterpark Resorts USA</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Rooms</i>	<i>Indoor WP Sq. Ft.</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Open Date</i>
BW Sterling Heights IWP Expansion	Sterling Heights	MI	250	9,000	200402	200402
Wilderness Resort's Wild West Waterpark	Wisconsin Dells	WI	160	47,051	200403	200403
Sleep Inn & Suites	Minot	ND	126	24,000	200404	200404
Holiday Inn Amana Conversion	Amana	IA	155	11,000	200405	200405
Great Wolf Lodge OWP Expansion	Wisconsin Dells	WI	309		200406	200406
Lodge at Cedar Creek Resort	Wausau	WI	140	50,000	200406	200406
Kalahari Resort Condominiums	Wisconsin Dells	WI	360*	0	200406	200406
Blue Harbor Resort	Sheboygan	WI	183	40,000	200406	200406
AmericInn & Waterpark	Ashland	WI	65	2,500	200407	200406
Thunder Falls OWP	Mackinaw City	MI	0		200307	200407
Holiday Inn Express	Grand Rapids	MI	80	10,000	200308	200408
Ramada Spokane Airport	Spokane	WA	165	5,300	200407	200408
Baymont Inn Waterpark Addition	Shepherdsville	KY	80	14,000	200407	200409

Grand Rios Waterpark Resort	Brooklyn Park	MN	224	46,000	200407	200409
Holiday Inn Select North IWP Addition	Indianapolis	IN	344	30,000	200404	200411
Grand Bear Lodge at Starved Rock	Utica	IL	191	20,000	200311	200411
Castaway Bay Resort IWP Addition	Sandusky	OH	237	38,000	200311	200411
Grand Mackinaw Inn IWP Expansion	Mackinaw City	MI	65	5,000	200407	200412
Splash Lagoon WP Expansion	Erie	PA		25,000	20012	200412
Great Wolf Lodge	York-Williamsburg	VA	301	70,000	200312	200501
Ron Jon Surfpark at Festival Bay Mall	Orlando	FL	0			200503
Mountain Grand Lodge & Waterpark	Boyne Falls	MI	200	58,000	200405	200505
Country Hotel & Conv Ctr IWP Addition	Waukesha	WI	187	40,000	200405	200505
Grand Casino Resort's Grand Water Park	Tunica	MS			200409	200506
Hamilton Inn MTC IWP Addition	Mackinaw City	MI	395	40,000	200408	200506
Massanutten Resort IWP Addition	McGaheysville	VA	1740	42,000	200407	200507
Great Escape Resort	Lake George	NY	200	38,000	200407	200509
Waterpark of America at Grand Lodge	Bloomington	MN	403	60,000	200405	200509
Holiday Inn Express Room & IWP Addition	Dundee	MI	166	30,000	200407	200509
Great Wolf Lodge	Stroudsburg	PA	400	50,000	200406	200510
Bavarian Haus Indoor Waterpark Addition	Frankenmuth	MI	137	28,000	200409	200510
Kulala Falls Hotel Waterpark	Duluth	MN	129	35,000	200411	200511
Nemacolin Woodlands Resort	Farmington	PA	300	52,000	200412	200512
Grand Rios Waterpark Resort Expansion	Brooklyn Park	MN	200	40,000	200503	200603
Double JJ Ranch & Golf Resort IWP Add	Rothbury	MI	57		200504	200604

Source: Hotel Waterpark Research & Consulting, Coy & Haralson, Aug 3, 2004.

Recent Openings in Canada

Ameri-Cana Resort & Conference Center in Niagara Falls, Ontario, opened its 19,100 sf indoor waterpark attached to its existing 160 rooms and 16,000 sf conference center. Open Aire of Toronto provided the polycarbonate structure and enclosure for the indoor waterpark. You can reach owner Michael DiBellonia at 905-356-8444

Under Construction in Canada

Great Wolf Lodge in Niagara Falls, Ontario, is scheduled to break ground before year end and open in 2005. Ripley Entertainment plans to spend \$200 million on a family resort destination that will include a Ripley-owned Great Wolf Lodge and a state of the art 115,000 sf Ripley's Aquarium of Canada on a 25-acre parcel along the Niagara River, just north of downtown Niagara Falls, Canada. Ripley's is the first license ever granted for a Great Wolf Lodge by the Great Lakes Companies of Madison WI. Ripley's Aquarium of Canada, opening in 2006, will be the third sea life attraction following Ripley's Aquariums in Myrtle Beach SC and Gatlinburg TN. The northwoods-style hotel will have 404 rooms and 90,000 sf of indoor waterpark. Other features include a themed family restaurant, huge arcade, gift shop, confectionery, Aveda Spa, meeting rooms, fitness center along with outdoor pool and recreation area. Call Eric Lund of Great Lakes Companies at 608-251-6500 or call Tim O'Brien of Ripley Entertainment at 615-646-7465.

Hotel Waterpark Resort Research & Consulting is a collaboration of Jeff Coy & Bill Haralson. Coy heads JLC Hospitality Consulting and is certified by the International Society of Hospitality Consultants. Haralson heads William L. Haralson & Associates and is a Hall of Fame member of the World Waterpark Association. For more info, contact Jeff at 507-289-7404 or email jeffcoy@aol.com. Website is www.jeffcoy.com. Reach Bill at 972-231-7444 or email wharalson@aol.com. Website is www.wlha-inc.com.