

CAYUGA LIBRARY AND HERITAGE CENTRE WELCOMES COMMUNITY WITH OPEN HOUSE

TAMARA BOTTING
tbotting@sachem.ca

While the adults paid for it, the new Cayuga Library and Heritage Centre was really designed for the children, says Bill Curran.

"Our clients are the two-year-olds of Cayuga," said Curran, principal with Thier and Curran Architects Inc., who worked on the project.

When the new building was designed, the library board requested a strong emphasis be put on making the space child-friendly, something Curran said he admires.

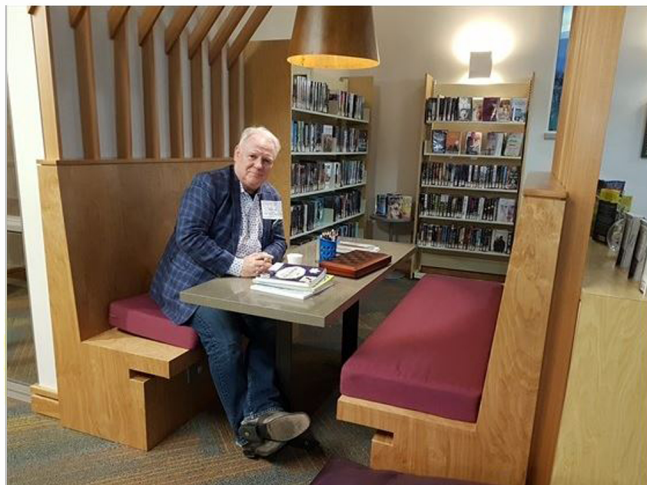
That's why the children's area has multiple story nooks and lower shelves, so the library's youngest patrons will feel at home in the space.

"(The library board) also went out of their way to make a space for the youth," Curran said. This includes a booth and table, as well as a quiet study room.

Throughout the library, there was a push to utilize features like natural light.

"A lot of it's about the light and the view, making the building feel welcoming ... that was a big part of it," Curran said.

On Dec. 6, there was an open house immediately prior to the town's light up night celebrations, so peo-



Tamara Botting/Torstar

Bill Curran, principal with Thier and Curran Architects Inc., had a chance to see people's reactions to his design of the Cayuga Library and Heritage Centre firsthand at an open house on Nov. 6. The new building boasts things like specific spaces designed for the community's children and youth.

ple who hadn't had a chance to check out the space could come in to have a look around, see the heritage centre's latest exhibit and enjoy some refreshments.

"In a small community, a library is especially important. There are not always other options for cultural centres," Curran said, noting that in Cayuga, the library also encompasses the museum, genealogy department and community room.

"That's really visionary," he said. "I think it will really provide value to the community ... that it will enrich the lives of all the

citizens in Cayuga."

For Curran, the open house was a chance to see people's reactions to his designs and chat with some guests about how the building came to be.

The new building has already been getting a lot of attention, including national coverage since its opening, Curran said.

"That tells you something special is happening here in Cayuga," he said, adding that staff have told him, "People are coming and staying and coming back."

The Cayuga Library and Heritage Centre is located at 19 Talbot St. W.