



Dempsey holds up an example of artwork she created during an art exercise. The image of the carousel depicts a time in her life when she needed a cathartic release.

Froude too, cares deeply about the environment. Ten years ago the couple attended an international conference in Scotland with 150 speakers from around the world addressing such issues. As president of the Port Carling Memorial Community Hall Board during the building of the new facility, Dempsey learned strength is a matter of commitment, character, vision and the ability to work with others.

She was encouraged watching this community come together for a shared vision, building community. It gives her hope for the future of Muskoka and inspiration as an artist.

In 1996, Atis Bankas, director of the International School for Musical Arts and artistic director for the newly forming Muskoka Lakes Music Festival, asked Froude and Dempsey if they would be managing directors.

This year, they are celebrating the festival's 10th anniversary as it continues to evolve. Summer concerts are still the mainstay and they are achieving success with a budding 'Kaleidoscope' program that includes children's festivals, arts in education, music and arts summer camps and teachers' workshops. Teams of artists teach at Muskoka schools throughout spring, winter and fall.

Dempsey's children Amanda and Sean have both graduated from university and have inherited a work ethic gene from their mother. Sean did his degree in theatre arts and marketing at Queen's and now works in Toronto at Atlantis Creative Group.

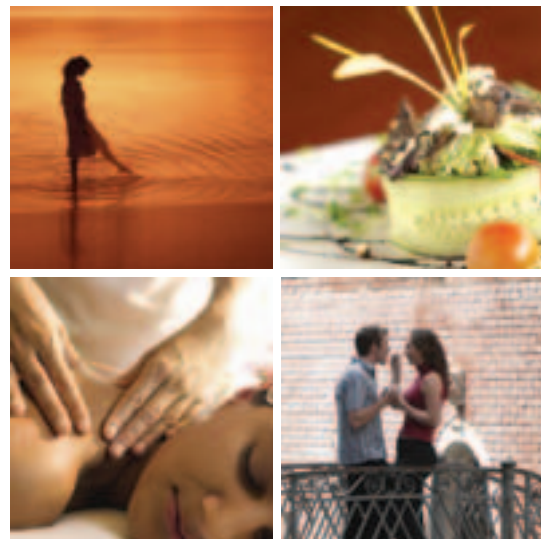
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