



60th Anniversary

The Old Stone Mill in Delta, Ontario, built in 1810-11, closed its doors in 1960. On August 28, 1963, owner Hastings Steele signed over the deed to the mill to four trustees; Elizabeth Robinson, Mildred Sweet, Albert Frye and Robert Tuck. Those trustees started to call themselves The Delta Mill Society and gathered other volunteers to the cause of preserving the treasure that is the Old Stone Mill.

Sixty years, and tens of thousands of volunteer hours later, the Old Stone Mill is a beautifully preserved and presented heritage site, saved and cared for to this day by an all volunteer group, The Delta Mill Society.



The Mill in 1972 – Rescue Rehabilitation

The mill was in very rough shape when it was handed over to the Delta Mill Society in 1963. The DMS has put over 2 million dollars into restoring the mill to the showcase it is today.

The Delta Mill Society (DMS) is a self-funded, all volunteer group with a working board of 11 people plus many additional volunteers. Over the past 60 years we've put in a tremendous amount of work to protect and present the Old Stone Mill (OSM). This has involved tens of thousands of volunteer hours.

With a can-do attitude, the DMS has taken on numerous major projects, raising the needed funds along the way. These are a few of the highlights:

- 1964** – committees are formed with dozens of volunteers and plans are made to stabilize the mill and do an initial rehabilitation.
- 1970** – the DMS has the OSM designated a National Historic Site.
- 1972** – the Delta Mill Society is incorporated. Rescue rehabilitation work starts and continues to 1974. Work includes stabilizing the building and replacing the roof and windows.

- 1978** – The OSM is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.
- 1985** – The OSM opens its doors to the public as a museum of milling technology and industrial heritage.
- 1992** – The DMS purchases the adjacent former Denaut Hall which had been converted in the 1920s into a garage. It is repurposed for large artifact storage and also operates as a Blacksmith Shop with public demonstrations.
- 1994** – the DMS purchases the Old Town Hall to house its growing artifact and archival document collections.
- 1994-1999** – archaeology and extensive conservation research are done in advance of a major restoration of the mill.
- 1999-2003** – the mill undergoes a 1.7 million dollar restoration program. The Old Town Hall is open to the public as a museum.
- 2004-2007** – interpretive signage and interactive exhibits are added to the mill. Research is done into the history of the mill and published as a book: “A History of Grist Milling in Delta” by Wade Ranford.
- 2007** – the DMS installs a waterwheel in the mill.
- 2010** – on the 200th anniversary of the mill, working millstones and a bolter are installed in the mill. That fall, we began to grind heritage Red Fife wheat into flour.
- 2012** – the DMS renovates the Old Town Hall and operates the main floor as a community hall and provides public washrooms.
- 2017-2018** – extensive new interpretive signage is added inside the mill and a new book is published: “Building the 1810 Old Stone Mill in Delta, Ontario” by Ken Watson.
- 2022** – a major renovation of the Blacksmith Shop is done and a period correct hopper-boy is installed on the 3rd floor of the mill.
- 2023-beyond** – our unofficial motto is “onward and upward.” Sixty years after our formation we continue to strive to do more to showcase this amazing part of our Canadian heritage.

For more information see: www.deltamill.org