



The Delta Millers' Newsletter

The Gist of the Grist

Spring/Summer 2018

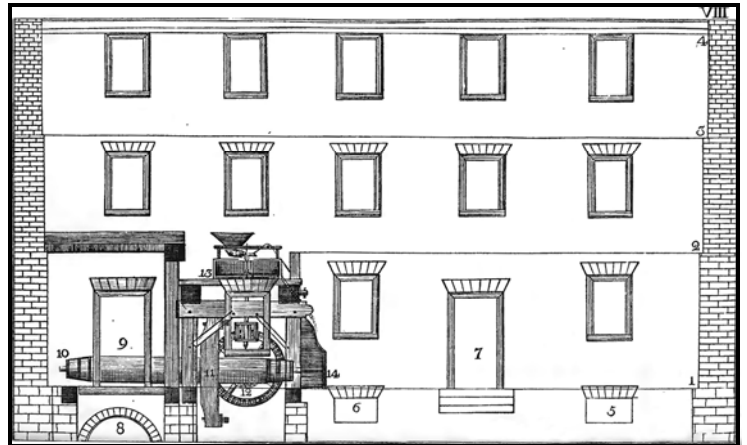
OLIVER EVANS and the OLD STONE MILL

The Old Stone Mill, when built in 1810, followed a design for an automatic gristmill created by American inventor Oliver Evans. Prior to Evans' inventions, flour milling was a manually intensive process that often resulted in poor quality flour. In 1783, Evans oversaw the construction of a conventional mill on his family's property on Red Clay Creek near Newport, Delaware. He wasn't satisfied and spent the next few years tinkering, trying out new ideas in that mill, developing automated improvements. By 1788 he had a working automatic mill. In 1790 he moved to Wilmington, Delaware and started to retrofit local mills, converting them to the automatic process. That year he received a federal patent for his process, the third patent issued by the new U.S. Federal Patent Office.

In 1793 he moved to Philadelphia and opened up a store selling milling supplies and also promoting his automatic mill process. A project to create pamphlets describing the process turned into a full fledged book, the "The Young Mill-Wright and Miller's Guide" which he self-published in 1795. This became the main guide for automatic gristmills, the final, 15th printing of his guide, was done in 1860.

Evans' improvements consisted of five new machines; the elevator, conveyor, hopper boy, drill and descender, used along with the existing grain cleaners, millstones and bolters. It wasn't just the equipment, it was how he used these in an integrated process to greatly reduce the manual labour of the process. According to Evans "Formerly one hand was required for every 10 barrels of flour that the mill made daily, now one for every 20 barrels is sufficient."

The millwright, who designed and built the Old Stone Mill, was extremely familiar with the Evans' process. The process, while simple in concept, is very complex in execution. The mill was powered by a



Look familiar? The diagram is from Oliver Evans' 1795 guide. The Old Stone Mill also has the same five windows along its front face. The machinery shown on the left in Evans' diagram are the millstones and the waterwheel axle that powered them. The Old Stone Mill's waterwheel was oriented 90 degrees to Evans' design.



waterwheel and all the equipment in the mill was directly connected to the waterwheel axle by wooden shafts and gearing (the mill was built prior to belt technology and metal gearing). Almost everything in the 1810 mill,

including the machinery, was hand built on site, mostly with local materials. And it was all done in the very tiny village of Delta located on the Canadian frontier.

We'll have a detailed article about building the 1810 mill on our website (shortly) with the full details of how it implemented the Oliver Evans process. Be sure and come out to our AGM (June 12) to hear Ken Watson give a visual talk on this topic.



Oliver Evans

- Ken Watson

President's Letter

Activities are starting up once again at the Old Stone Mill National Historic Site as we prepare for the upcoming season. This past fall and winter, we hosted over a dozen special tours set up by appointment with some of them during the coldest days in January. Special thanks to Anna Greenhorn, Moel Benoit and Sally Wanless for always being willing and available for these tours.

We were open Saturday evenings during "Celebrating the Season" in Delta with more people stopping for tours than ever recorded. Many came from afar and to take in all that Delta had to offer. Of course the Old Stone Mill, with its warm candle light and wreaths on all the windows, brought people in as its simple beauty is a reminder of times past when life was not so hectic. We are so fortunate to have such a special building in our community and the many volunteers who offer their time to decorate it.

The Drive Shed is in need of some work and we have plans to rehabilitate the end stone wall, install a new Blacksmith forge, add a training forge, and create more public space for people to view our blacksmithing demonstrations. This is, of course, dependent on obtaining grant funding. Over the next month or so we will be doing an inventory of the artefacts that are stored in the Drive Shed. We will try to find a good home for any items that do not meet our collection criteria, by transferring them to other museums or posting them for sale. We need to make more room in the blacksmiths shop, including room for other displays, such as the "Bear" from last year's archaeological dig at Lyndhurst.

Thanks to a private grant last year we now have audio/video equipment that can be used by ourselves and those that rent the Old Town Hall. This year we are looking at installing a more efficient HVAC system using funding from another "small halls" private foundation grant that came through from the Township of Rideau Lakes. In addition to the main hall venue (up to 100 people), we now also have a smaller meeting space, the Delta Room, available for rent (see our website for details).

Thanks to our volunteer Board of Directors and Coordinators for their support and to all those who volunteer as Tour Guides or help out at our many events. Special thanks to YOU, our members, for your continued support. We appreciate all of the financial and volunteer support we get to help us manage the operations of our three buildings. We couldn't do it without you.

If you are interested in getting more involved in the Delta Mill Society as a volunteer we have many different

opportunities. We would love to hear from you— just email us at info@deltamill.org or talk to any board member to express your interest.

We continue to move forward while remembering our past as we "Instill a Passion for our Heritage".

Cathy Livingston, President, Delta Mill Society

The Delta Room



The Old Town Hall received some sprucing up over the winter with painting and decorating the space we now call the "Delta Room." On the walls you'll find beautiful large photos printed on canvas of some of the village's heritage photos.

This room is available to rent (see our website for details) and is a perfect size for small groups (up to 14). The sprucing up of this section has also made it a much more welcoming space for visitors who come to use our public washrooms. Thanks to Katherine Killins and the other volunteers who have worked hard to make this an attractive meeting space.

Building the 1810 Mill

Part of the mission of the Delta Mill Society is that "we research and interpret its [Old Stone Mill's] history, design, and evolution ..." We've already published two books: *A History of the Old Stone Mill, Delta, Ontario* by Paul Fritz (2000) and *A History of Grist Milling in Delta* by Wade Ranford (2006) – both available in our gift shop. These are now joined by "*Building the 1810 Old Stone Mill in Delta, Ontario*" by Ken W. Watson (soon to be available as a free PDF from our website—we're also looking into a hardcopy option). Come out to our AGM on June 12 for a visual talk on this topic.

Featured Member/Volunteer Q&A by Mariska Kriebel

Sally Wanless

Sally Wanless is a very committed and active member & volunteer with the Delta Mill Society since 2012. Sally was born and raised in Montreal in an Anglophone family. She studied History and Languages at McGill University. Her first paid summer job was at the National Canadian Railway Museum in Montreal. After her studies she resided and worked a year in Italy. She inherited her lifetime interest and passion for history from her father. Although he was a Professor in Chemistry at McGill University his real interest was history. The history gene is passed on to one of Sally's daughters, who has a Master in Museum Studies from Leicester in England. One of Sally's jobs throughout her professional life was as a Tour Guide for schools and adults at the Black Creek Pioneer Village. Sally's educational and practical background and willingness to share this, brings a lot of expertise and knowledge to learn from.



Sally in the period costume that she wears as an interpreter and tour guide. The dress was made by volunteer Ginny Okum.

When and how did you become interested and involved with the Delta Mill Society?

I became involved instantly when we moved to Delta six years ago. The Mill and The Society were a principal reason for us to choose Delta. We wanted to move to a small village with a historical aspect. Delta with the Old Stone Mill seemed to be the perfect place for me as a volunteer opportunity.

What do you find most rewarding about being a volunteer?

Being a volunteer for the Old Stone Mill is a great way to interact and spend time with people who have similar interests. The other aspect is sharing the history and beauty of the building with visitors. The enjoyment of sharing the stories and specifics and see a spark in their eyes is very rewarding. Also the hope that maybe a few of these visitors will gain a further interest in history motivates me to do this.

What do you consider the most significant historical aspect of the Old Stone Mill?

First of all the incredible architecture of the building. Besides the aesthetics of the building the other major aspect is that it is used for its original purpose again. I love to tell visitors that they should realize that after 200 years the Old Stone Mill is doing again what it was supposed to do, to grind local grain and produce flour. The building is not static anymore.

Why do you think it is important to preserve the Old Stone Mill?

The very reason why Delta was established in the first place, was its location for a mill. It adds to the streetscape and the core of the village. A working Mill can show the whole grinding process. Visitors can touch the grains and talk about bread and other products. A cultural experience for the younger generations. This is very important for the future generations who will need a real experience to remember. I believe we are in the right place with the right heritage experience at this time. This will not only benefit the continuity of the history of the Old Stone Mill but also Delta as a village and community.

Beside the Old Stone Mill do you have any other favourite museum?

My favourite museums are Upper Canada Village, the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa and the Black Creek Pioneer Village in the Toronto area. I really like the social and living aspect of these museums.

Thank you Sally!





2018 Special Events at the Old Stone Mill

(see www.deltamill.org for more details and updates)

OLD STONE MILL 2018 Milling Schedule (starting at 1 pm)

Day	Date
Saturday	May 19
Saturday	June 2
Saturday	June 16
Saturday	June 30
Saturday	July 14
Saturday	July 28
Saturday	August 11
Saturday	August 25
Saturday	September 1
Saturday	September 29

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 12, 7 pm
Old Town Hall

Our AGM will feature **Ken Watson**, who will step us back in time to 1810 Delta with a visual presentation about **Building the 1810 Old Stone Mill**. It will not be an architectural talk, but rather Ken will look at the mill's position on the landscape (why it's on an artificially constructed channel), how it followed the Oliver Evans' design for an automatic mill using locally sourced materials and answer the burning question "why was such a large and expensive stone gristmill built in tiny 1810 Delta?"

Everyone is welcome!!

SEASON OPENING

Saturday, May 19

The mill will be open for tours from 10 am to 5 pm daily until Labour Day.

MUSIC at the MILL

Saturday Aug. 18

Enjoy the progressive country music of local six piece band, *Rocky High & The Northern Lights*. 7 pm at the Old Stone Mill. Details TBA

GINGERBREAD FAIR

Saturday, December 1

Bring your kids to the Old Town Hall from 3 to 5 pm to have fun decorating Gingerbread cookies (supplies are free).

DELTA HARVEST FESTIVAL Saturday, September 29

Our 4th Annual Delta Harvest Festival will celebrate the bounty of the fall harvest. We'll have full details in our next newsletter.

DELTA FAIR

Thurs-Sun, July 26-29

We will be participating in the annual Delta Fair. The millstones will be turning on Saturday July 28 Lots of activities throughout Delta—come and celebrate one of Ontario's oldest fairs—see www.deltafair.com

CELEBRATING THE SEASON

Fridays and Saturdays
Nov. 30, Dec 1, Dec. 7&8, Dec. 14&15, Dec. 21&22 and

Due to its overwhelming popularity, Celebrating the Season has expanded to include Friday evenings as well as Saturday evenings. We'll be open both evenings on those event days.

SPIRITS of the MILL Friday & Saturday, October 26 & 27

A spooky but fun event for all, children and adults alike.



Characters from the past will entertain you as you tour the spookily decorated mill. See the photos on the Events page of our website—it's quite spectacular!

More Events & Event Updates

We're working on a few new things including more music and more heritage speakers. We'll have information about those, as well as updates on our current events, on the events page of our website and on the events listing on our Facebook page. See:

www.deltamill.org or www.facebook.com/DeltaMill/

