



# The Delta Millers' Newsletter

The Gist of the Grist

Spring/Summer 2019

## ONWARD and UPWARD

The Delta Mill Society has always moved forward in its work to preserve and present the Old Stone Mill National Historic Site. Since 1972, the Delta Mill Society has invested well over two million dollars into the restoration and interpretation of the mill, about half from grant funding and half from money raised by the Delta Mill Society. We've had setbacks in recent years with the loss of grant funding and staff, returning in late 2013 to a purely volunteer organization with no staff and limited funds. We've worked through that, learning how to do more with less, and you'll see changes coming to the mill this year. Those changes are driven by a renewed focus on the mill itself. The Delta Mill Society's 1972 incorporation states quite clearly that our primary mandate is to preserve and present the mill, and that's what we'll be doing.

Last fall we created a new Cultural Integrity committee, headed up by Katherine Killins. Katherine, together with history advisor Ken Watson and interpretation advisor Anna Greenhorn have been working on new mill interpretation. To that end, we have removed much of the third floor Beverley lakes exhibit, installed in 2010, which has now run its course. This will allow us to focus on interpreting the mill's 1810 design as an Oliver Evans' automatic mill, part of the reason for our National Historic Site designation.

Ken is creating new signage for the mill, to interpret the features of the 1810 building in relation to the automatic mill process. This signage will start to appear in the mill this summer. Space now opened up on the third floor will also allow us to have smaller exhibits that can be periodically changed, to provide returning visitors something new to see. Outdoor signage is also planned, to interpret the mill's position on the landscape and some of the unique design features that went into the 1810 mill.

Sally Wanless, head of Collections, has been working to identify items that don't fit our mandate and



### Our "New" Gift Shop

This is just a teaser of the spruced up gift shop. It's a physical example of doing more with less given the small size of the space. Be sure to come for a visit to see how this area has been improved. The gift shop is just the start, new interpretive signage will be placed in the mill later this year.

collections policy, such as cheese making equipment. We've just started the process of looking for new homes for these, preferably a museum that can put these artifacts on display. Some of these items are taking up valuable space in the Mill Drive Shed, our Blacksmith's Shop. We'd like to expand the Blacksmith's Shop, to make it a better public space.

Katherine has also been working hard on re-visioning our gift shop. You'll notice big changes there when the doors open on the May long weekend. Katherine has improved visitor access to the many items we have for sale while enhancing the heritage character of that room.

So it is onward and upward as we continue to work very hard to make the Old Stone Mill National Historic Site a heritage showcase for our region and for all of Canada!

## President's Letter

Well a lot has been happening since our newsletter last fall. In November members of the Board gathered for a day long review of our Strategic Plan to decide where we wanted to be in the future. Each of our Directors has a certain responsibility but we all agreed that in everything we do we need to focus on the preservation and presentation of our Old Stone Mill National Historic Site, for it is our gem and the reason the Delta Mill Society exists. This means that any decision we make we need to keep the cultural integrity of our Mill in the forefront.

So, to do so, we created a new committee, Cultural Integrity, which is chaired by DMS director Katherine Killins. I look forward to seeing the changes on the third floor and the newly revamped Gift Shop that will have its grand opening on Victoria Day weekend.

Our Events Director, Liz Priebe, has been very busy with numerous events at the Old Town Hall like the Festive Christmas Market and various concerts and rentals. On April 26<sup>th</sup> we hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Rideau Lakes Heritage Symposium, sponsored by MHAC and the Rideau Lakes Heritage Network. Our main guest speakers were our own local historians, Ken Watson and Doug Bond.

Chris Wooding, our Miller, will be giving milling demos on several Saturdays throughout the summer (see the back page of this newsletter). John Cain, our Blacksmith, will be on site each weekend throughout the summer so please stop and visit with him as he is very talented, and his items can be purchased in the gift shop.

So, as Anna Greenhorn says "Onward and Upward!" as we continue to raise funds through donations, memberships, fund raising and grant opportunities. The outside of the Mill will be getting a facelift as the trim is painted this summer thanks to a private grant we received from the William James Henderson Foundation.

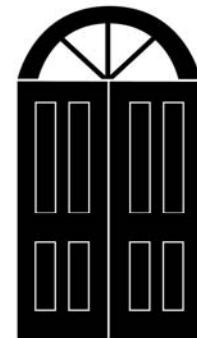
I am very proud and thankful to be part of the Delta Mill Society. We have an extremely talented group of Directors and volunteers who use their time and talents as we all work together to preserve and present our Old Stone Mill NHS.

Cathy Livingston, President, Delta Mill Society



### Paint & Repairs

This is the original 1810 door into the Old Stone Mill. The distinctive burgundy trim around the doors and windows of the Old Stone Mill is in need of repainting. In addition, several window sills require repair. Thanks to a generous \$10,000 grant from the William James Henderson Foundation a portion of that needed work will be done this summer.



## OLD TOWN HALL DELTA, ONTARIO

The Township of Rideau Lakes has graciously provided us with \$20,000 from a private foundation grant the township received for small hall improvements. Liz Priebe and Moel Benoit are looking into the best uses of this funding, which may include fixing the roof, improving the kitchen and improving the lighting in the hall.

### The Miller's Loaf Fresh Bread

We're pleased to announce that we will have the "Miller's Loaf", a rustic round loaf farmhouse bread, made using our stone ground Red Fife flour by Nana B's bakery in Merrickville, available for sale in our gift shop every Saturday morning.

The Miller's Loaf looks beautiful and tastes great!



### Children's Activity Book

Volunteer Lisa Martin has created a lovely activity book for children. We'll be offering this for sale in our gift shop this summer.

Come in and check it out!





**Featured Member/Volunteer Q&A by Mariska Kriebel**

***Katherine Killins***



**Katherine in the refreshed gift shop.**

Katherine has been a Board Member and volunteer/"doer" with the Delta Mill Society since the beginning of 2014. Katherine's smile and her enthusiastic and passionate approach are contagious. Katherine held the position of Events Chair until last fall when she assumed the position of Chair of our new Cultural Integrity committee. The mandate for that committee includes maintaining the overall look and heritage character of the building.

Katherine was raised on her family farm in the Niagara Peninsula. Her upbringing sparked a lifelong appreciation for nature, history and culture. She began her career as a teacher at an elementary school but realised quickly that, although she loved teaching and instructing, the school environment was not her setting. Instead she decided to dedicate her energy and attention in raising her two daughters while at the same time extensively renovating an old stone home. During that period she also taught bread making and handicrafts to local groups.

Katherine next got a position at Dundurn Castle in Hamilton, starting off as an interpretive guide and then becoming head of Programming and Staff, working in conjunction with the city of Hamilton. Later she set up her own home based business, creating workshops and seminars, advising clients on décor and also organizing weddings, all related to historic topics, homes and museums. When she moved to Ottawa, Katherine became involved with Dickinson House Historical Society in Manotick and expanded her knowledge and heritage skills.

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

When we retired to this area I was not involved with the DMS for the first years. I was the President of the garden club in Athens. One day out of interest, I attended a meeting at the Old Town Hall. After the meeting I was invited by Sally Wanless, who, triggered when she heard about my background, asked me to help with the Delta Mill Society. At the time the board was anxiously looking for someone to revamp the gift shop. I immediately started with reorganizing the gift shop and became a member of the board as well.

***What do you find most rewarding about being a volunteer?***

Besides my passion for history and connecting with the like-minded, it is an opportunity to put my skills and knowledge into practice. I truly enjoy adding a personal dimension to the historic ambiance and generate interest in the history of the Old Stone Mill and area. It gives me the opportunity to create experiences for the public to remember.

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

I consider the most significant aspect of the Old Stone Mill to be the early technology by Oliver Evans as described in every detail in Ken Watson's book "Building the 1810 Old Stone Mill." But also the architecture and heritage character of the whole building is a very appealing aspect.

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

It is such a fine example of a Mill set in that era. It is also the fact that we have a working milling process. It is a sensory experience for all ages.

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

Dundurn Castle is my favourite for its grandeur. It is truly a stepping back in time experience. Upper Canada village in Morrisburg and the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site in Baddeck are also on my favourite list.

***Thank you Katherine!***



## 2019 Special Events at the Old Stone Mill

(see [www.deltamill.org](http://www.deltamill.org) for more details and updates)

### OLD STONE MILL 2019 Milling Schedule (starting at 1 pm)

Day	Date
Saturday	May 18
Saturday	June 1
Saturday	June 15
Saturday	June 29
Saturday	July 13
Saturday	July 27
Saturday	August 10
Saturday	August 17
Saturday	September 7
Saturday	September 28

### CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP Saturday, November 30

Bring your kids to the Old Town Hall from 5 pm to 8 pm to have fun doing Christmas Crafts (supplies are free).

### CELEBRATING THE SEASON Fridays and Saturdays Nov. 29 & 30, Dec. 6&7, Dec. 13&14 and Dec. 20&21

Celebrating the Season will continue in 2019 to be open on both Friday and Saturday evenings. We'll be open both evenings on those event days.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday, June 11, 7 pm Old Town Hall

Our featured speaker will be Art Shaw on the archaeological dig at the Lyndhurst Ironworks. That work is discovering information about the iron foundry that operated there from 1801 to 1811. Art will give us the details of what has been found to date and of the archaeological work planned for 2019.

*Everyone is welcome!!*

### DELTA FAIR Thurs-Sun, July 25-28

We will be participating in the annual Delta Fair. The millstones will be turning on Saturday July 27. Lots of activities throughout Delta—come and celebrate one of Ontario's oldest fairs—see [www.deltafair.com](http://www.deltafair.com)

### DELTA HARVEST FESTIVAL Saturday, September 28

Our 5th Annual Delta Harvest Festival will celebrate the bounty of the fall harvest. We'll have full details in our next newsletter.

### SEASON OPENING Saturday, May 18

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

### Matthew Barber Concert Saturday June 8

Barber's music is inspired by the great songwriters of the 20th century North American folk/blues/rock'n'roll and country tradition. There will be a dinner followed by the show. See [www.deltamill.org](http://www.deltamill.org) for details.

### BLACKSMITHING Every Saturday



Our Blacksmith, John Cain, will be demonstrating the heritage art of blacksmithing, every Saturday during our main season. Come out and say hi to John and see how iron is forged.

### More Events & Event Updates

We're always working on a few new things including more music at the Old Town Hall. 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](http://www.deltamill.org) or [www.facebook.com/DeltaMill/](https://www.facebook.com/DeltaMill/)