



The Delta Millers' Newsletter

The Gist of the Grist

Spring/Summer 2015

A NEW SEASON!

Greetings, all! There appears to be a break in what has seemed to be a never-ending winter and some hope of spring in 2015 is evident. With spring, of course, comes the sweeping out and opening of the Old Stone Mill and the start of a busy and, we hope, rewarding season.

The Mill does not officially open until May. Nonetheless, we start our 2015 activities, as usual, in April by participating in the Delta Syrup Festival. In May, we have a Victorian Tea planned for Mothers' Day Saturday, to be hosted by Mrs. Denaut, if we can persuade her to come out of retirement. The Mill will open officially on May 16 and we will once again participate in Doors Open on May 23 & 24.

We've convinced the Right Honourable John A. Macdonald and his wife Agnes to return to Delta to regale us with stories at our Annual General Meeting on June 9. It promises to be an entertaining evening. July will see a Fish Fry on July 4 and activities in support of the Delta Fair later in the month. We're also working out the details for a special Fund Raising Dinner to be held in August. While the Mill officially closes on the long weekend in September, we are organizing a Harvest Festival on October 3 (a week before Thanksgiving) to be an amalgamation of our traditional Thanksgiving Festival and previous Breadfests. And finally, as always, the Mill and the Town Hall will be open to support Celebrating the Season activities in November and December.

Coupled with plans to continue to upgrade our facilities and develop new exhibitions, this is an ambitious programme for an entirely volunteer, community operation. Our Board of Directors,



Our Miller

Chris Wooding, our miller, is a man of many talents. Not only does he grind grain with our 200 year old millstones, he also grows that grain (heritage Red Fife wheat) and makes his own bread with the stone ground flour.

It's well worth a visit to the mill to have a chat with Chris on one of our milling days (see schedule on back page)

committee members, and other volunteers have been working hard over the winter to put together this plan but we will require help to deliver it.

If you have some free time and want to get involved with a bunch of great people, like Anna Greenhorn featured in this Newsletter, let me recommend the Delta Mill Society. We can use help on an ongoing basis or simply event by event.

Likewise, we always need more money. Buying a DMS membership and/or making a donation means that you are supporting the operations of the Society, the maintenance of our two vintage buildings, and facilitating our website and other communications.

We look forward to seeing you join in the fun in 2015 and, if you can help out with time and/or money, that would be greatly appreciated.

Dann M. Michols
President, The Delta Mill Society

VOLUNTEER

It's Fun - It's Rewarding

We understand that time is a precious commodity these days, but the truth is, without the generous support of volunteers, the Delta Mill Society would not be able to function as well as we do. If you think you might be interested in volunteering with us, we have several different areas where you may be able to help. Listed below are three of our most critical needs.

For a listing of all our volunteer positions and how you can contact us, please visit our website at www.deltamill.org

Tour Guide

As the name suggests, tour guides tell our story. They provide interpretation about the equipment in the mill, the milling operation and the mill's role in the history of Delta. We need volunteer guides for off season events such as our Maple Syrup Festival, Harvest Festival and Celebrating the Season and also to supplement our summer students during in-season special events. If you have an interest in learning about the mill and the history of Delta, have good communication skills and can work with minimum supervision, then we'd love to hear from you. Volunteer tour guides usually work 3hr to 4hr shifts and we will provide training.



Ruth Sheridan-Griffith, volunteer Lunch Server and Treasurer of the DMS.

Special Events Helper

As the name implies, special events helpers are required at our various events throughout the year such as the Maple Syrup and Harvest festivals. We have lots of volunteer jobs such as event set-up and teardown (tables, chairs, etc.), selling baked goods, books or other donated items, BBQing, or serving food. If you're comfortable handling small amounts of cash and dealing with the public then this is a good "starter" position.

General Office Assistance

These volunteer positions entail assisting with general office duties such as filing, mailings, and telephone calls (making and receiving). Volunteers will take direction from the Executive Committee and should be able to work with minimum supervision. Hours are on an "as required" basis.

- Doug Cowley
Chair, Volunteer Committee

Note: The photos on this page represent a few of our volunteers with some of the many hats that they wear.



Chris Wooding, volunteer Miller and Sally Wanless, volunteer Tour Guide and Chair of the Collections & Exhibits Committee.



Moel Benoit, volunteer Flour Bagger and Chair of the Maintenance Committee with Mariska Kriebel, volunteer Flour Bagger and Chair of the Membership Committee.



Paul George, volunteer Hot Dog BBQer and Curator Emeritus with Dann Micholls (in background), volunteer BBQ Helper and President of The Delta Mill Society.

Featured Member/Volunteer Q&A by Mariska Kriebel

Anna Greenhorn

Anna has been a volunteer with The Delta Mill Society (DMS) for almost 50 years. She has served as a Director for most of that time and is currently Secretary of the DMS. She was made a Life Member of the association in recognition of her long time volunteering in many roles with the DMS. She is known for her infectious energy, enthusiasm and her drive to accomplish.



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

Shortly after 1963 I drove back and forward from Brockville where I worked as a Teacher at the Prince of Wales Public School. So I passed the Old Stone Mill every day. I was fascinated with it and thought it was a shame that such a glorious structure was going to waste. When I heard there were plans to tear it down I immediately became an advocate and supporter. One day I was walking through Delta and I was stopped by Myrla Saunders, an energetic and vibrant lady. She introduced herself as one of the founders of the Delta Mill Society. She said "you do not know me but you know Millie Sweet, who also was one of the founders of the Delta Mill Society, and I heard you are interested and just love to come and help us." Initially I thought I would be baking cookies or something alike but by the second meeting I was already appointed as the Treasurer.

What do you find most rewarding of a being a volunteer for The Delta Mill Society ?

If you are interested and passionate about something you just go ahead and do it. I think my greatest reward is to see the beautiful state of the Old Stone Mill how it is today. Another joy is the interaction with the public. Meeting people from all over the world. And last but not least is working with the students who are the summer staff. Although I prepare and train the students for their job I actually learn a lot from them on a daily basis.

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

To me it is the architecture and the social history. The fact that William Jones used the Oliver Evans technology and adapted the Georgian architecture to an industrial building. Another significant aspect to me is the choice of the location between the St. Lawrence Lowlands and the Frontenac Arch.

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

First of all it is the only stone grist mill in Canada designated as a National Historic Site of Canada. Secondly, we can showcase a way of life in the past through the Old Stone Mill. It seems to me that people are longing again for a slower and healthier way of life. I think that is why the grinding and sale of the flour and home made bread is so popular. We have to take pride in the past and preserve what we have for future generations.

Besides the Old Stone Mill, do you have any other favourite museums?

The Railway Museum in Smith Falls. Also the Museum of Science & Technology, the Museum of Civilization and the Museum of Nature in Ottawa.

Thank you Anna!



Neither snow nor rain nor heat (nor cold) nor gloom of night shall keep Anna from conducting informative and entertaining tours of the Old Stone Mill. Here we see Anna in December 2014 taking visitors on a tour of the mill.

2015 Special Events at the Old Stone Mill

(see www.deltamill.org for updates)

OLD STONE MILL 2015 Milling Schedule (starting at 1 pm)

Day	Date
Saturday	May 23
Sunday	May 24
Saturday	June 6
Saturday	June 20
Saturday	July 4
Saturday	July 25
Saturday	August 1
Saturday	August 15
Saturday	August 29
Saturday	September 5
Saturday	October 3

DELTA FAIR Thurs-Sun, July 23-26

We will be participating in the annual Delta Fair. The millstones will be turning on Saturday July 25 and we're working on some possible displays in the mill and Old Town Hall. Lots of activities throughout Delta—come and celebrate one of Ontario's oldest fairs—see www.deltafair.com

HARVEST FESTIVAL Saturday, October 3 NEW DATE!!

Please note the new date. We'll have the full details in our next newsletter

Mother's Day Saturday AFTERNOON TEA Saturday May 9



A MOTHER'S DAY VICTORIAN TEA will be held on Saturday May 9 in the Old Town Hall from 2 pm to 4 pm. The tea will be hosted by "Mrs.

Denaut" and will feature a delicious selection of sandwiches and tea treats. You'll be entertained with a wonderful period costume fashion show and more. Treat your Mum to something special. Tickets are only \$20 and can be purchased in advance by contacting Cathy Livingston 613-928-2796 or by email cathy.livingston@sympatico.ca

FISH FRY Saturday, July 4, 4-6 pm

There will be a Fish Fry fundraiser at the Old Town Hall from 4 pm to 6 pm, featuring Mike Mundell's tasty fish, chips, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls, plus a homemade dessert

FUNDRAISING DINNER Saturday, August 22

We're working out the details for a Scottish themed event (hint, there may be whiskey involved).

We'll have details up on our website as soon as they are available.

SEASON OPENING Saturday, May 19

DOORS OPEN Sat & Sun, May 23 & 24

We'll be open from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm for Doors Open with blacksmithing on Saturday and milling demonstrations starting at 1 pm on both days. Plus a special **Ploughman's Lunch** (11am to 2pm)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday, June 9, 7 pm Old Town Hall

Our AGM will feature a visit by **Sir John A. and Lady Agnes Macdonald**, expertly portrayed in full costume by **Brian and Renee Porter**.

It promised to be a fun and interesting evening, with Sir John A. giving a speech focusing on Delta and the 1864 by-election.

A coffee house with social time will follow. Please join us, **everyone is welcome!!**

CELEBRATING THE SEASON Saturdays, Nov. 21, 28 and December 5, 12, 19



Brian Porter, as a member of the 1862 Brockville Infantry, stands guard in front of our millstones during our 200th anniversary celebrations in 2010.