



Doors Open 2007

Inside the Distillery District From Top to Bottom



In this 175th anniversary year, the Distillery District has added two new venues to the ever-popular Stone Distillery and Rack House D open in previous years.

High Spirits at the Scale Tank Loft (Building 61)



For the energetic heritage enthusiast, the Tank Scale Loft offers a unique experience. On the third floor of Building 61, alcohol piped across Trinity Street, poured into three 25,210-litre tanks where it was weighed on enormous, and classically elegant, Fairbanks Scales. After weighing, the product was piped to a variety of other locations, depending on its future use. The scale loft was in continuous use for over a hundred years, from the 1870s until the 1980s. When you return to ground level, be sure to look at the complex network of exterior pipes linking the industrial buildings. On your way out, be sure to look at the series of paintings documenting the history of the site from the 1830s – 1890s, located on the second floor and in the lobby of Building 58.

Kiln Furnace and Barrel Vaults (Building 36)



Plunge into the depths of the Distillery District for another unique architectural experience. Take the elevator or descend the stairs to the cellar of David Roberts Sr.'s 1863-'64 Kiln Building. Here sprouted barley was converted into the malt essential for making grain alcohol. First, inspect the decoratively functional brick furnace housing two fireboxes manufactured by pioneering brewery architect and engineer, Fred W. Wolf of Chicago. Then, take a deep breath, and peer into one of the five barrel-vaulted tunnels now fondly known as “the catacombs.” Whether created for structural strength or additional storage space, these vaults stretch over 100 feet under The Malt House (Building 35) until hitting the north wall of The Cooperage (Building 34). Whatever their original purpose, the catacombs encourage the active imagination to fill the space.

Stone Distillery (Building 5)

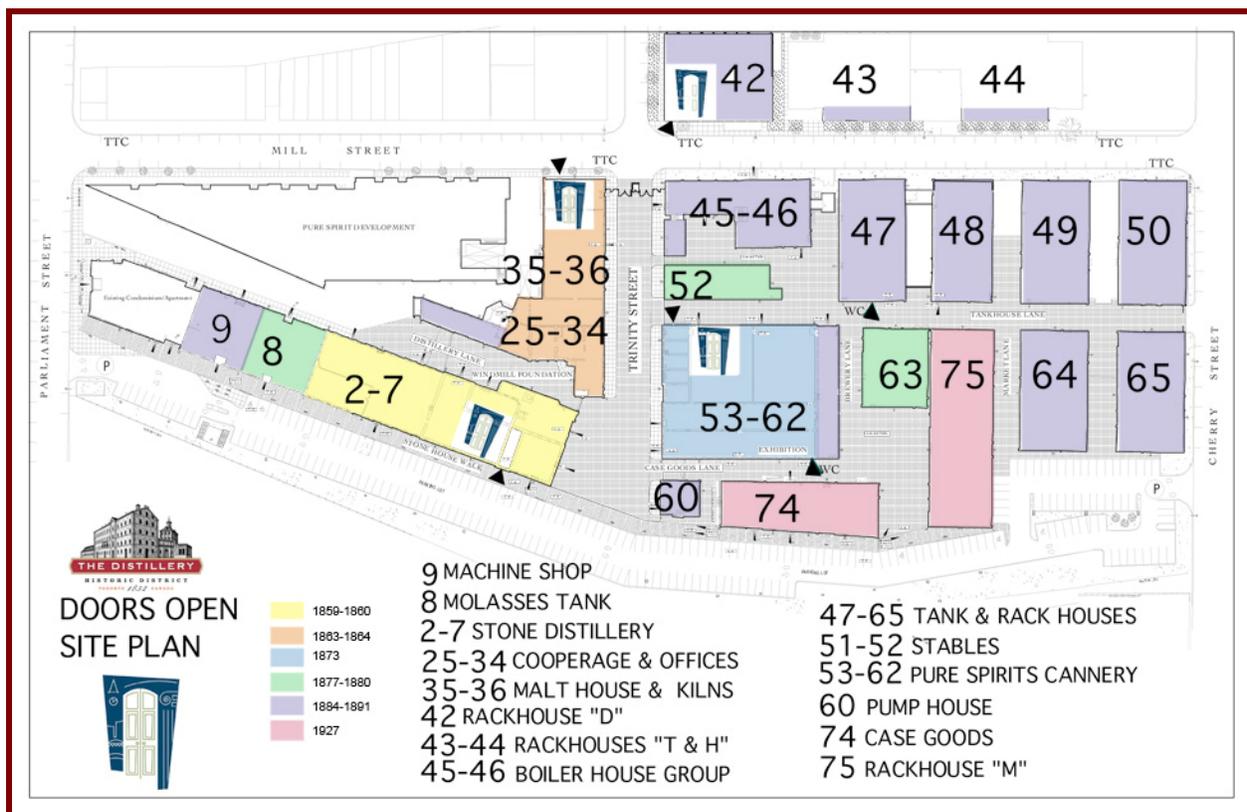


The Stone Distillery (Building 5) is the oldest surviving building on the site. Designed by David Roberts, Sr., the 5-storey Stone Distillery was built between 1859 and 1860 of Kingston limestone conveyed across the Lake by schooners. Milling, fermenting and distilling occurred in the linked buildings. On October 26, 1869, the Stone Distillery went up in flames, destroying most of the interior but luckily not damaging the machinery or the thick exterior walls. By May 1870, the Stone Distillery was again up-and-running.

Rack House D (Building 42)



Rack House D is the largest Victorian storehouse on the site. Designed in 1890 by David Roberts Jr., Building 42 commands the northeast corner of Mill and Trinity Streets. The six-storey building was a bonded warehouse where 10,000 barrels of alcohol could be stored, under lock & key and keen surveillance by both the producers and the resident excise officer. Of particular interest are the freight elevator, massive barrel hoist, sprinkler system, explosion-proof lighting, and the fact that the building is supported by its own racking structure.



Doors Open 2007 falls on **Saturday, May 26th** and **Sunday, May 27th**, so be sure to mark your calendar. We are also looking for **volunteers** to greet visitors at each site, give out information about the buildings, and generally monitor the people and the buildings. If you enjoy meeting heritage enthusiasts and sharing your own knowledge about Toronto's history, please contact Manager of Heritage Services, Sally Gibson sg@thedistillerydistrict.com.