



Doors Open 2009

Up and Down at the Distillery District

May 23 & 24

The Distillery District is especially delighted to be participating in Toronto's *Doors Open* celebration of the city's built heritage, Toronto's 175th birthday, and *Doors Open*'s 10th anniversary. Back by popular demand are three intriguing venues: the Kiln Building, Rack House D, and the Scale Tank Loft. Each offers insight into the built heritage and operations of Gooderham & Worts distillery (1837-1990).

High Spirits at the Scale Tank Loft (Building 61)

For the energetic heritage enthusiast, the Scale Tank Loft offers a unique encounter with industrial artifacts. On the third floor of Building 61, alcohol piped from the Stone Distillery and across Trinity Street in the green pipe bridge, poured into three 25,210-litre copper tanks. There it was weighed on enormous platform scales featuring massive machinery under the wooden platform and classically elegant Fairbanks scale-beams. 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 through the 1980s. Decals from government inspections remain affixed to the scales. On your way down, be sure to inspect the series of paintings that document the history of the site from the 1830s to the 1890s. Six large images are displayed along the second floor corridor and in the lobby of Building 59. When you return to ground level, look skyward to see the network of overhead pipes linking various buildings.



Photo by Sally Gibson

Kiln Furnace and Barrel Vaults (Building 36)

Plunge into the depths of the Distillery District for a 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 1880s 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 vaults now fondly known as "the catacombs." Created as fire-proof storage places for barrels of whisky, these vaults stretch a 100 feet under The Malt House (Building 35) until hitting the north wall of The Cooperage (Building 34). Regardless of their original purpose, the catacombs encourage the active imagination to fill the space.



Photo by Pete Paterson

Rack House D (Building 42)

Rack House D is the largest Victorian storehouse at the Distillery District. It was designed by well-known Toronto architect, David Roberts, Jr., who also gave us the magnificent Gooderham office building at Church and Wellington and the George Gooderham mansion (now York Club) at Bloor and St. George. Opened in 1890, Building 42 still commands the northeast corner of Mill and Trinity Streets and expresses Roberts' elegant but functional approach to industrial architecture. The six-storey, red-brick building was a bonded warehouse where 15,000 barrels of alcohol could be stored, under lock & key and keen surveillance by both the producers (who didn't want to lose any whisky) and the resident excise officer (who didn't want to lose any taxes). Since barrel storage required little light, there are no windows on either the north or south facades. Of particular interest are the freight elevator, barrel hoists, extensive timber racks, and the fact that the roof is supported by that very racking



Photo by Pete Paterson

And don't forget to visit Doors Open at Artscape (Building 74)



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Lit City at the Distillery District Sunday, May 24, 2009

Noon: *Wind & Fire*

Heritage consultant and author **Sally Gibson** has written three books about the history of Toronto, including *More Than an Island: A History of the Toronto Island*, *Inside Toronto: Urban Interiors 1880s to 1920s*, and, most recently, *Toronto's Distillery District: History by the Lake*, which emerged from her work as site historian. Naturally, she'll focus on *History by the Lake*.

Twelve-thirty: *Toronto During Mackenzie's 1837 Rebellion*

Anne Hume grew up in Toronto where she absorbed the background for her first novel. *Against All Disaster* is set in Toronto during the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837 and is aimed at young adults. Anne and husband George, who is an architect and industrial historian, moved to the Gooderham & Worts / Distillery District in 1999, excited to be living in the midst of a unique, Victorian industrial site.

One O'clock: *Creation on Lake Ontario*

Winner of the City of Toronto Book Award in 1991, **Katherine Govier** has published eight novels and three short story collections. Her most recent novel is *Views of Crystal Water*. Today she's reading from *Creation*, which imagines an undocumented period of John James Audubon's life when he journeyed up the wild Labrador coast in 1833. Katherine was such an early lover of the Distillery District that she launched *Creation* at Balzac Coffee in 2003 when the parking area was little more than ruts and mounds of mud.

One-thirty: *Toronto's Industrial Waterfront*

Heritage consultant **Christopher Andreae** knows the Distillery District well, having assessed hundreds of Victorian industrial artifacts in the mid-1990s. Without this bible, the current site historian would be completely lost among the artifacts. Today, he's drawing on an essay that appeared in *Toronto: A Short Illustrated History of Its First 12,000 Years*.

Two O'clock: *Law & Disorder in Victorian Toronto*

Maureen Jennings is the creator of two successful detective series, one featuring Victorian Toronto detective William Murdoch and the other a contemporary forensic profiler, Christine Morris. The Murdoch series has inspired a television series that has been filmed, in part, at the Distillery District. The sixth and latest Murdoch book is *A Journeyman To Grief*. Maureen's Heritage Toronto walks are legendary.

Two-thirty: *A Grotesque tour of Toronto*

Medical reporter and local historian **Terry Murray** will read from her first book, *Faces on Places: A Grotesque Tour of Toronto*, a book that has raised Torontonians' eyes and spirits as they wander around the city looking for gargoyles, griffins, dragons, angels and portraits of important personages.

