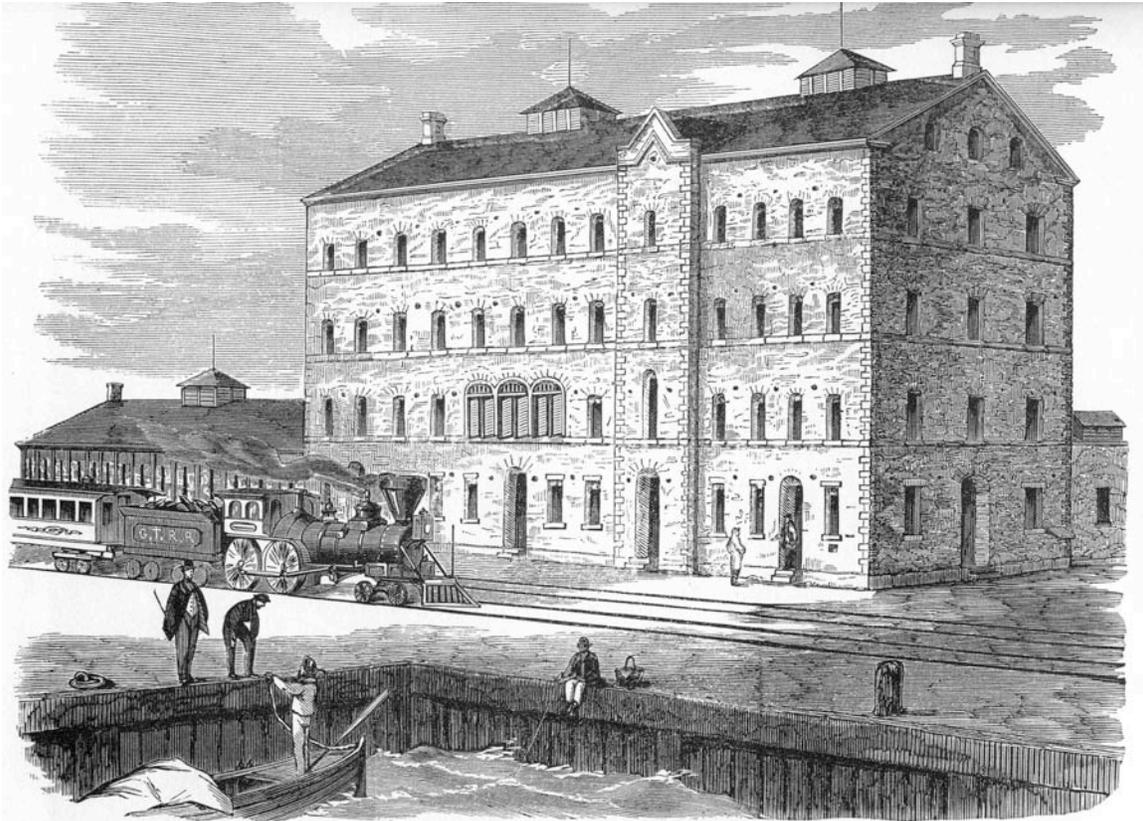


for February 19, 2007

Newsworthy



DISTILLERY OF MESSRS. GOODERHAM & WORTS, TORONTO: FRONT VIEW.

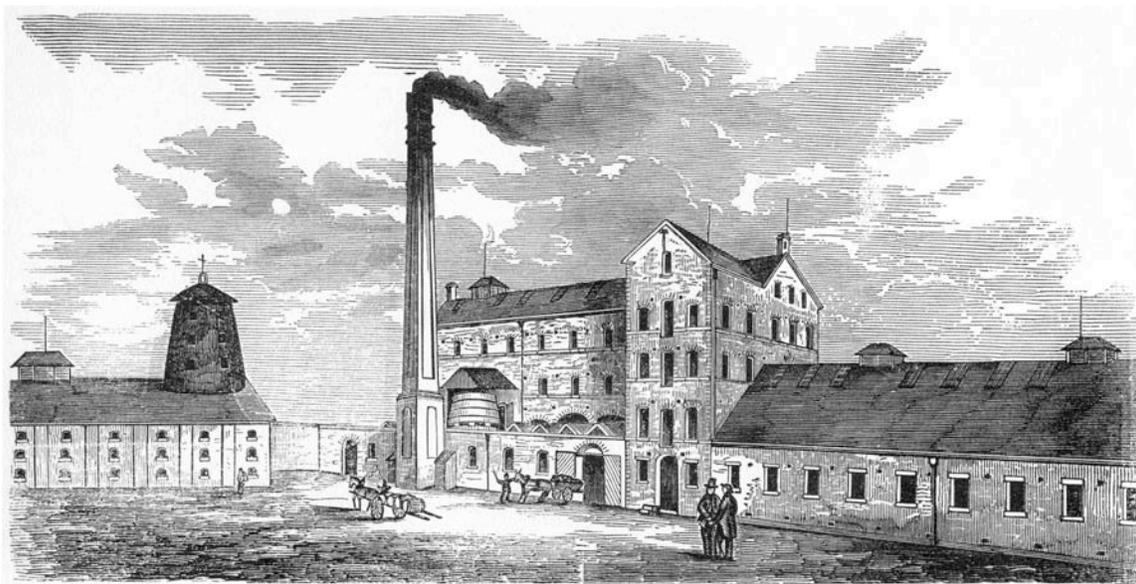
The Distillery District has been generating publicity right from the get-go. Take the Stone Distillery, which is the oldest surviving building on the site. Even before it was completed in 1861, *The Globe* of July 11, 1859 ran an article describing activity on the site, where four schooners were “constantly employed” in transporting limestone from Kingston to the nearby wharf and some 400 to 500 “labourers and mechanics” were involved in constructing the massive and expensive structure.

About two years after the Stone Distillery went into operation, the *Canadian Illustrated News* of April 25, 1863 published a comprehensive description of G&W operations. The reporter outlined the distilling process, lavished attention on both interior and exterior features of the new building, praised the skill of architect David Roberts Sr., and noted the exceptional cleanliness of the operations – “every room, pipe and fixture in the edifice is as clean and free from impurities as the most scrupulous house-wife could desire.” He was particularly impressed by both the expense of the building (\$150,000) and the annual excise taxes paid by the business (another \$150,000).

Nine sketches by D. D. Robertson of Hamilton accompanied the article, including the two exterior views reproduced here. The “front view” from the waterfront shows the Stone

Distillery before the dormers were added in the 1870s. New-fangled railway cars rattle along tracks immediately south of the building, about where our Stone House Walk now stretches ... and a local fisherman enjoys the proximity of the Bay.

The view of the north side of the building shows the old Windmill stripped of its “sails” and encircled by a newer building, the great chimney (with no scaffolding evident), and the new Malting House then rising just to the north. Despite its visual delights, this sketch is not completely accurate. Apparently, it was published only three weeks after Roberts completed the architectural drawings and before the actual Malt House had been built.



DISTILLERY; MALTING HOUSE; OLD WIND MILL; VIEW OF NORTH SIDE.

This is the second in a periodic series of heritage articles by Manager of Heritage Services, Sally Gibson. If you have any comments or questions, please contact her at sg@thedistillerydistrict.com