



## HISTORY, IN THE MAKING

The Distillery District is a national Historic Site and represents the largest and best preserved collection of Victorian Industrial Architecture in North America.

Formerly known as The Gooderham and Worts Distillery, this facility has played an important role in the growth and wealth of both the city and nation, at one time contributing more to the Federal coffers than any other enterprise in the country.

Founded in 1832 by William Gooderham and James Worts, the Gooderham and Worts Distillery eventually became the largest distillery in the world.

In 1859, the construction of the new Gooderham and Worts Distillery on Mill Street east of Parliament was heralded as the most important contribution to Toronto's manufacturing interests. The imposing main building which accommodated the steam mills and distillery stood 5 stories high-topped with a 100 ft. chimney.

In 1871, the Gooderham and Worts Distillery's annual whiskey and spirits production totalled a whopping 2.1 million gallons - close to half of the total spirits production in all of Ontario.

The distillery's fortunes would be severely affected by World War One. Canada's short lived prohibition era brought production of alcohol beverages to a standstill. In order to support the war efforts, the Distillery converted its operations to manufacturing acetone.

In 1923, Harry C. Hatch purchased the Gooderham and Worts Distillery. Three years later he purchased Hiram Walker & Sons Ltd. and in 1927, the companies merged under the parent company of Hiram Walker - Gooderham & Worts Ltd.

In 1957, Gooderham & Worts stopped producing rye whiskey, and concentrated instead on the distilling of rum products. In 1986, the conglomerate Allied-Lyons, bought Hiram Walker - Gooderham & Worts Ltd.

In 1990, after 153 years of continuous operation, the Gooderham & Worts Distillery - once the largest distillery in the British empire - ceased operations. During the 90s, the complex became the number one film location in Canada, and the second largest film location outside of Hollywood.

In late 2001, more than a decade after its demise as a distillery, Cityscape Development purchased the Gooderham and Worts site, later partnering with Dundee Realty Corporation. In May 2003, The Distillery Historic District was officially opened, establishing a new chapter in the site's history as a pedestrian-oriented arts, culture and entertainment neighbourhood.

Today, the vision of its owners is being realized, as the District continues to receive global accolades and local support, becoming one of Toronto's best known- and most loved- locations.