

THE WILLIAMS MILL – VISION STORY

Original Vision:

Husband and wife duo Doug and Mary Lou Brock are long-standing residents of Georgetown. The Brocks hold a keen interest in visual arts and heritage buildings, and married these two interests through acquisition of the unique Williams Mill property. They believe in the importance of art to enrich our lives and challenge the way we see the world. They view heritage buildings as important in reminding us how things have changed while often staying the same.

The original goal at the Williams Mill was to restore heritage buildings and use them in a way that would ensure their preservation. That goal led the Brocks to use the buildings as artists' studios, providing professional artists with reasonable cost studio space.

Strategies & Resources:

The Brocks also have a goal to maintain a high level of artistic professionalism; to that end artists for the studios are selected very carefully. Early on, this meant having empty studios rather than fill them with artists who did not fit with our objectives. This policy did bring benefits in the long run, as the Williams Mill's reputation as a place for high quality art was established and maintained.

During the restoration process, there was some government funding available for various restoration projects, such as windows, roof, stonework. Most of the work was funded by the family, and they have put hundreds of hours of their own time into restoring, maintaining, and running the Mill.

Achievements:

A vibrant community of professional artists, where a lot of cross-pollination does take place. A place where the public comes to buy superb art pieces, and to have an experience visiting with the artists, and, it is to be hoped, to learn more about the process of making art.