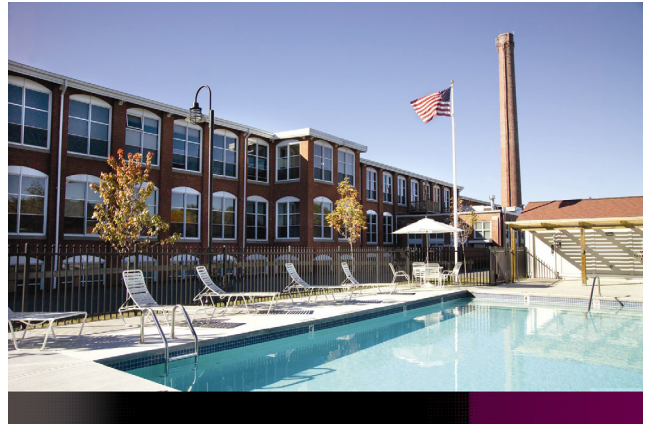


## The Last Mills of Millbury

BY JOSH FARNSWORTH

*Below is an excerpt of an article that ran in the May 6, 2010 issue of The Millbury-Sutton Chronicle regarding the evolution of mills in the Millbury Sutton area and profiling the renovation of the Cordis Mill project.*

As functionality of idling mills declines, some owners have taken on the task of re-inventing the historic buildings. Nowhere is the evolution of the mill's function more evident than Cordis Mills – once a powerhouse of a business along Canal Street as W.W. Windle Wool Co.



R.H. White Construction purchased the mill and converted the Millbury relic into luxury apartments. The upscale living quarters were designed to combine comfortable living years after the building shed its laborious nature. White has, in fact, utilized antique parts to breathe character into the residence. Old steel beams have been kept up and installed as handrails. Pieces of an old woolen mill apparatus hang from the spacious ceiling as visitors. A restored smokestack now pumps out coverage as a cell tower. Even the various unique housing units bear the names of Millbury's historical past – such as Bramanville and The Lapahams. Although the role of Cordis Mills has changed, Millbury Historical Society President Frank Gagliardi said, the dedication of the owners to maintaining significant Millbury heritage is commendable.

“The Historical Society really appreciates what they did,” he said. “We are proud of what they have done. It is nice to see it operating and not left to deteriorate.” Property Manager Colleen Cannon said the mill still gets visitors all the time from an older generation reminiscing about their visit to the former workspace as children. What they are met with are 21st century amenities, including a heated pool, 24-hour fitness center, and common area with wireless internet.

“We have people that just want to see the inside and remember where they were as kids,” said Cannon. “I think the fact that the building is not condemned makes them proud and happy.” Cannon said, no expense was spared to maintain the restored mill. All the power-washed wooden ceilings, framed pictures of the once-industrious building, and multitude of restored artifacts were made with the intention of décor and history, not exploitation.

“We did not cut corners,” she said. “It has turned out to be a little bit of a Millbury museum.”