



The Green Door

Citizens
Supporting
Ontario's
Prosperous and
Sustainable Future

Yorklands Green Hub Newsletter

January 2014

[Edition 1, Volume 1]

Welcome from the Committee

Hello Friends! Since you signed our petition or otherwise showed interest in this project, a lot has happened!

Our group formed in June, 2013 when we learned that the province was planning to reuse or develop the Guelph Correctional Centre (GCC) lands and buildings.

in varied ways. The site will promote learning in a shared space for all ages and cultures to develop and work at projects related to food and water security and renewable energies and their celebration.

Our petition is now online at www.yorklandsgreenhub.ca
Encourage your friends to

The Yorklands Green Hub vision aligns with the goals of public education, public health and urban sustainable agriculture in a time of great concern regarding food and water security.

We believe the Yorklands Green Hub (YGH) vision aligns with the goals of public education, public health and urban sustainable agriculture in a time of great concern regarding food and water security due to loss of farmland, diminishing soil and water plus climate stress. It also aligns with the carbon neutrality goals of Guelph's Official Plan and the local food promotion of Ontario's new Local Food Act.

The declining number of family farms and farmers in Ontario at a time when we must reduce our reliance on fossil fuel compels us to focus on local food production

add their names so that our politicians will see that many people in our province want a more resilient future.

Inform your groups to endorse YGH. Let's show our politicians that we need to move forward on resilient solutions to support this fragile planet for future generations.

Sincerely,

Norah, Lin, John, Dan,
Eduardo, Sally, and Michael

What is the Yorklands Green Hub?

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The Yorklands Green Hub is a non-partisan citizens group that is promoting an "Ontario Environmental Exhibition" at the former Guelph Correctional Centre (GCC). This will be a self-sustaining forum where institutions, groups and sustainable businesses can come together in a structured setting, with indoor and outdoor displays, rotating exhibits, demonstrations, lectures, videos and resource materials that promote greater understanding of the importance and possibilities for making the change to reducing carbon emissions.

Yorklands Green Hub Coordination Committee

- Norah Chaloner
- Dan Maitland
- Michael Shook
- Lin Grist
- John Dennis
- Eduardo Garay
- Sally Ludwig

You can send an email to info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

Support for the Yorklands Green Hub

Momentum Gathering for the YGH



GCC Administrative Offices to become home of Ontario Environmental Exhibition

The Yorklands Green Hub Coordinating Committee has been active in the community. Presentations have been done at schools, universities, service groups and businesses. We have had many groups endorsing the project and we continue to promote the YGH.

Environmental Exhibition in the old administration building of the Guelph Correctional Centre.

An Ontario Environmental Exhibition will stimulate food security, job creation and prosperity, as well as show leadership in

MPP Liz Sandals supports the YGH idea and has promised to take it to the Ontario Legislature if there is broad public support.

The committee met with our local MPP, the Hon. Liz Sandals- Minister of Education. She supports the YGH idea as a viable re-purposing of this small part of the Guelph Correctional Centre. She has promised to take it to the Ontario Legislature if there is broad public support.

The committee is now reaching out across the province for broader support for an Ontario

environmental stewardship by the province of Ontario.

With the support of the various groups, we will be joining other models of public institutions focused on renewable energy and local food initiatives that draw visitors from all over the world.

YGH Endorsements

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- Alison Blay-Palmer, Wilfrid Laurier University, Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems
- Karen Landman, University of Guelph, Landscape Architecture – SEDRD
- Martha Gay Scroggins, University of Guelph-OAC, Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Farming
- Rene Van Acker, University of Guelph, OAC - Department of Plant Agriculture
- Farm Start
- Future Watch EDEP
- Transition Guelph
- NetZeroCity- Guelph
- Guelph Environmental Leadership
- Grand River Environmental Network
- Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral
- Food and Water First
- Council of Canadians - Ontario Chapters
- Guelph Wellington Coalition for Social Justice
- For Our Grandchildren
- Ecological Farmers of Ontario
- Wellington Centre for Sustainable Agriculture
- The Food School Farm @ Centre Wellington District High School

Vision for the Yorklands Green Hub

To create for Ontario's public domain a self-sustaining education, demonstration, and research hub.

The Yorklands Green Hub (YGH) aspires to promote community well-being through education on lifestyles while supporting carbon neutrality. We have started engaging the public of all ages, schools and businesses.

YGH will be organized by many groups collaborating with the city, province and businesses to be a hands on and year-round, interactive educational site with measurable outcomes.

This heritage landscape and the buildings are on public transit and within the city built environment and provide a fine setting for this pursuit. YGH replicates the same spirit of reform that created this institution over a hundred years ago. We need that spirit now for environmental and economic solutions to increasing climate stress. The history and heritage of this provincial institution will be part of the education on site.

We are also promoting the reuse of 36 acres of the heritage lands on this provincially owned unused property to create an active green hub. People, groups and businesses will come together to develop, promote and learn

about resilient and sustainable innovations related to local food production, energy use and conservation, water use and protection, sustainable transportation and waste management.

The various buildings on the property will be used for demonstration and educational activity centres related to food, water and energy alternatives in moving our municipalities and lifestyles to carbon neutrality. These buildings, throughout the year, can host busloads of students, tourists and other groups. They will learn how our environment is an interdependent network of soil, wetlands and streams, vegetation and biodiversity that can support our economy and health for our future if we protect it as we use it now.

Sudbury and Toronto have Science Centres but neither is specific to the science and practical application of local food initiatives, water protection and renewable energies that we need for the 21st century and a more resilient future.

How will we support the Yorklands Green Hub?

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Costs, associated with retrofitting the buildings will be worked out with local businesses that are already interested in the YGH and want to demonstrate their expertise as part of the educational outreach.

We have also applied for incorporation. We will then register as a charitable not-for-profit organization so that we can fundraise for the YGH and be self-supporting within 5-10 years. We are in the process of putting together a coalition that will oversee and manage the project and we have excellent first responses.

