



The Green Door

Citizens
Supporting
Ontario's
Prosperous and
Sustainable Future

Yorklands Green Hub Newsletter

June 2014

[Volume 1, Number 2]

Greetings from the YGH Board

Summer greetings, friends of the Yorklands Green Hub. We are now official! Yorklands Green Hub has incorporated, and the list of our Board of Directors is now posted on our website.

We've set up an organizational structure to define the work of our members and volunteers. Our six designated working groups are Urban Agriculture, Wise Water Use, Energy Conservation and Alternatives, Business Planning, Fundraising, and Communications and Outreach.

interim access to the land and the superintendent's house in the summer of 2014. With the re-election of the Ontario Liberals, we look forward to continuing negotiations with the Wynne government to designate our proposed site as a common good.

We have now completed our Yorklands Green Hub Strategic Plan which will form a key part of our case to the Province of Ontario. It illuminates both the timely

Our immediate goal is to secure interim access to the land and the superintendent's house.

Consultation with government representatives has continued to be a core part our work. We've met with local MPP and Ontario Minister of Education, the Honorable Liz Sandals, who has advised us on gathering public support for a request to the Ontario Legislature. We also have talked with the Honorable Glen Murray, Minister of Infrastructure Ontario. We have also consulted with staff from the Ministry of Corrections and from the Ministries of Immigration and Citizenship and Tourism, Culture and Heritage. Our immediate goal is to secure

wisdom and the practicality of a self-sustaining research, education and business forum and demonstration centre that will address our climate change challenge through a focus on local food production, water conservation and a transition to more efficient and more renewable energy use.

We've now moving on to our business plan development, our governance structure and fundraising and applications for funding are underway.

City of Guelph Endorses Vision of Yorklands Green Hub

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Late in the evening on Monday May 12, YGH Board Member Lin Grist presented the vision for the Yorklands Green Hub to our forward-thinking Guelph City Council. The Council unanimously moved "to support in principle the vision of Yorklands Green Hub as part of the Guelph Innovation District Plan"

In her deposition to the City Council, Lin spoke about the ways that the Yorklands Green Hub vision both supports and is in alignment with the Guelph Innovation District Plan. She spoke on how the YGH will be:

- ✓ An Economic Driver
- ✓ A Tourism Centre
- ✓ An Environmental Exhibition Centre
- ✓ A Research Hub
- ✓ An Educational Resource
- ✓ A Heritage Site
- ✓ And a Community Hub

Jane's Walk Site Tours a Success



Participants in Jane's Walk at Yorklands Green Hub

On May 3rd and 4th, almost one hundred people came out to enjoy Jane's Walks led by YGH board members. Named in honour of celebrated urban visionary, Jane Jacobs, Jane's Walks have spread to many Canadian cities. The walks allow community members to share personally-researched aspects of local history, geography and urban culture with their fellow citizens.

The YGH site tours emphasized the history of the Ontario Reformatory. At the jail, inmates learned skills to prepare them for an improved life on the outside. From its inception in 1910, reformatory inmates learned to practice stone masonry, woodworking, farming and animal husbandry on the site's 1,000 acres. Over time, the trades included machine and tailoring shops, greenhouses and orchards, a woolen mill, a cannery and a bakery. Inmates produced food and a whole range of other

products for themselves and for the wider community.

The YGH Jane's Walks emphasized how in these days of disappearing local farmland, long-distance food systems, and a changing climate, the site has the potential to teach many lessons about sustainable agriculture, water conservation, renewable energy and best practices for resilient communities. As a provincial environmental research, education and demonstration centre, the reformatory's tradition of self-sustaining community is one that YGH wishes to continue into the future as part of Guelph's unique heritage. A salute to the spirit of Jane Jacobs, who taught so well how to connect people and place!

Clythe Creek Gets a Checkup



In early May, senior biologists from Ontario Streams made a visit to the YGH site. Ontario Streams is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the conservation and rehabilitation of streams and wetlands.

Ontario Streams were at the YGH to inspect the Clythe Creek, a tributary of the Eramosa River. As a tributary, the Clythe Creek is part of the Grand River watershed. The Grand is designated as a Canadian Heritage River.

In collaboration with the University of Guelph, the Ontario Stream's scientists said they look forward to developing a ten-year water improvement master plan. The protection and health of local water systems is among YGH's public education goals, along with local sustainable agriculture, and energy conservation.

Yorklands BioBlitz Finds Thriving Life



Young Members of Nature Guelph BioBlitz the YGH

With the exception of basic maintenance, the site of the former Guelph Correctional Centre (GCC) has been largely empty of a sustained human presence since 2002. What's nature been doing for 12 years? Nature Guelph, a club for nature lovers in the Guelph area, decided to find out.

Bioblitz is a quick biological inventory of an area's flora and fauna.

The YGH, they discovered, was teeming with life. Three types of snakes, birds, plants, insects and a pair of baby stoats were spotted.

BioBlitz - a quick biological inventory of the site's flora and fauna.

On Sunday June 8, as part of the opening events of the 2Rivers Festival, Nature Guelph and the YGH invited twenty conservation experts and volunteers to carry out a Bioblitz. The volunteers combed through the grounds looking under rocks, up trees, and in every nook and cranny they could find. The

The Yorklands Green Hub's Norah Chaloner called the six-hour Bioblitz "a fantastic success." You can read the full details on our website under recent news. (yorklandsgreenhub.ca)

Funding the Yorklands Green Hub

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The YGH intends to be a self-supporting organization. We are registered as a not-for-profit organization and are looking to becoming a charity. A Fundraising Committee is in place and we are exploring different ways to support our activities.

Costs, associated with retrofitting the buildings, carrying out education projects, farming, land and water remediation 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.

Volunteer!

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We continue to look for volunteers for this important work. Please contact us if you are interested in helping out on this worthwhile project. Visit our website at yorklandsgreenhub.ca or look for us on Facebook

Going Up... A Video Win to Get the Word Out !

The Elevator Project

Guelph's Community-Building Launchpad

On Tuesday March 25, Citizens Groups from around Guelph gathered at the River Run Centre for the first "Big Show". This event was the culmination of the first round of the Guelph Elevator Project. The Project was created to match groups with great ideas to make Guelph an even better place.

YGH submitted its project proposal of building a green hub at the former Guelph Correctional Centre, and received \$2,700 in-kind mentorship with

Many thanks to Michael Shook who lead the efforts on the Elevator Project for the YGH. Also thanks to the organizers of the Big Show who coordinated 52 diverse groups that night. The YGH made a number of valuable contacts that we look forward to working with in the future.

We have begun working with Innovation Guelph's Mark Goldberg and the Guelph Community Centre,

YGH Wins People's Choice Award

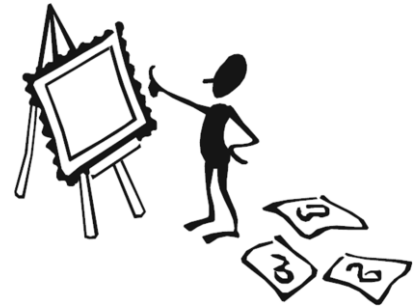
Mark Goldberg of Innovation Guelph and David Thornley as well as a 2 minute animated video donated by HandOnAWhiteBoard.com

YGH was also voted the "People's Choice Award" in an online poll. We received \$500 for being the most popular group entered!

along with David Thornley on development of our business plan.

Work is also currently under way with Devin Smith of handonawhiteboard.com on creating our video. We hope to debut it soon on our web page.

YGH Logo Design Contest!



The Yorklands Green Hub is calling on the talents of local artists and graphic designers to help us promote our vision of an "Ontario Environmental Exhibition." This summer, we are sponsoring a logo design contest to produce a graphic image to identify us, our values and our project. The winning logo will appear on our website, our promotional materials, our newsletter, our letterhead, and our site signage.

Interested designers are asked to visit the Yorklands Green Hub website early in July to download the Artwork Submission Form and read up on the vision, philosophy and goals of our proposed project.

Deadline for submissions is August 15, 2014 and the winner will be announced at a festive public event in the fall of 2014, date and venue to be announced.

Help Us Keep YGH Support Growing



Public support for our request to the Province to repurpose the proposed heritage site and two buildings for an Ontario Sustainable Environments Centre has been gratifying.

Through networking and attendance at events and public places, we have so far gathered over 2000 individual petition signatures, and 40 organizational endorsements. Many thanks to all of you who have signed, endorsed our request, or helped attract more supporters to our cause!

If you belong to or know of organizations not yet represented on our list and who you think would be glad to be counted among our endorsing groups, please encourage them to visit our website and find out how they can be.

The petition and information on endorsements are on our website at www.yorklandsgreenhub.ca.

Our goal is to show our politicians and the Province a level of support that proves that the idea of a permanent, public “Ontario Environmental Exhibition” is truly one whose time has come. Please sign!

RECENT ENDORSERS OF THE YGH

National Farmers Union (Ontario)

Upper Grand District School Board

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

Endorser Profile



For Our Grandchildren

We want you all to know, we can't do this work without you. The Yorklands Green Hub, if it succeeds as a vision, will depend entirely on working together. So in each newsletter, we will feature one of our endorsers in order to connect you to all the others.

This newsletter, special thanks to **For Our Grandchildren** (www.forourgrandchildren.ca) whose vision is “to connect and empower grandparents and prospective grandparents who are concerned about the impending effects of climate change, and enable them to join a movement to counter and prepare for these effects on behalf of all of our children and grandchildren.”

You can see – and be inspired by and grateful, with us, to all of our other endorsing groups on our web site. Many thanks for joining with us in creating a resilient, sustainable future!

Anti-Spam Legislation Comes into Effect on July 1, 2014



Canadian Legislation around Canada's new anti-spam legislation comes into effect on July 1, 2014. This legislation requires us to obtain your consent to continue communicating with you electronically.

Depending on your relationship with us, our electronic communications with you in the past could have included our bulletin, program related e-mail updates, and invitations to our events.

We value our relationship with you and would like to continue providing information that is relevant to you and/or your organization through electronic communications. In the next few weeks, we will be sending out emails asking for you to consent

to continue to receive information from us.

If you have not consented by June 30th, 2014, we will unfortunately have to remove you from our mailing list.

In this event, you can easily re-subscribe to the mailing list by visiting our home page and entering your e-mail address in the appropriate location.

You can withdraw consent at any time by replying to our e-mail and entering 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

"The Green Door" is a publication of the Yorklands Green Hub Communication Committee. We welcome news, letters, and articles. Each must include the author's name and full contact information. We reserve the right to refuse or edit submissions.

Questions should be directed to the editor or a member of the Board of Directors at info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

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 Sustainable Eco Centre" 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 Board of Directors

- Norah Chaloner
- John Dennis
- Eduardo Garay
- Lin Grist
- Sally Ludwig
- Glynis Logue

You can send an email to info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca