

From the Chair

Tiny House, Tiny School Big Ideas Moving Out

Since we were informed a year ago that the property we want to purchase may come to market in 2017, the Board has decided to focus on developing and implementing pilot projects to show what will happen at Yorklands Green Hub.

One of these project is the Mobile



A mobile tiny house. Photo used with permission of the Tumbleweed Tiny House Company.

Learning Lab (MLL), which is being developed and designed by the ICON (Ideas Congress) students in the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of Guelph.

What is the MLL? Think of a tiny home, on wheels, which can visit schools and other public spaces to provide interactive activities with a sustainable focus on urban agriculture, water conservation and renewable energy. Our goal is to help the community build resilience in the face of severe climate stress by demonstrating the benefits of choosing a low-impact and carbon-neutral lifestyle.

You will receive more information as the students prepare their designs; we expect to show these to the public

in April. Also, we are looking for volunteers with experience to work on building the MLL, with a target date of summer 2016.

We can't do this without your ongoing support.

1. You can actively participate in the planning and implementing of this project, either as a committee member or an ad hoc volunteer. Please email volunteer@yorklandsgreenhub.ca for further information

2. You can provide much needed operational funding by recruiting 5 new members from family, friends and community groups – their membership dues will help cover the cost of the administration of Yorklands. Anyone interested in becoming a member can do so by visiting the website at <http://yorklandsgreenhub.ca/become-member> or by contacting info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca for a membership form to be sent with a cheque by regular mail. ■

With great appreciation,
Norah Chaloner, Chair
Yorklands Green Hub

Designing Minds Brainstorm Yorklands Site's Future

A "charette" (according to the Urban Dictionary) is "a word used by the architectural and design community at large to describe any intense, on-the-spot design effort." This past October 17th, over 30 University of Waterloo landscape design students were invited with 20 community members to gather for such a one-day intensive. They were asked to pool their talents,



Design charette students in themed groups put their creativity to work.

training and imaginations to generate themed concepts for the Yorklands Green Hub site. Students from Professor Sarah Brown's UW Site Planning and Design Course were divided into groups around seven themes: adaptive reuse, brownfield remediation, wetland and natural area restoration, connectivity, eco-tourism, heritage revitalization, and urban agriculture. Each group was equipped with reference maps, paper, markers and rulers. Consultation with community members provided additional knowledge and guidance regarding the vision and values of YGH.

"The ideas and energy in this room are just fantastic," remarked YGH board member Bryan McPherson on the charette day at Guelph's beautiful Ignatius Centre. Students drew inspiration from the unique built and natural features of the heritage Guelph Correctional Centre site, which they had previously toured. YGH intends to acquire 47 acres on this heritage site near York and Watson Roads to create a 21st century public sustainability research, demonstration and education centre. Design proposals were wide-ranging. They included ideas for solar demonstration, nature trails to connect to future subdivisions, stone structures to complement existing features, and the reconnection of fragmented natural systems. (can't p. 2)

Designing Minds (con't from p. 1)



Design charrette day: community members and experts from a variety of fields worked with students over the course of the day at Guelph's Ignatius Centre.

Since its inception in 2013, YGH has worked to engage local talents of all kinds in creating a realistic, interdisciplinary vision for a model environmental centre with a core focus on renewable energy, water conservation and sustainable urban agriculture.

Offering students an opportunity to exercise their evolving design expertise on a community transformation project is one such example of creative synergy. Instructor Sarah Brown praised the charrette as an opportunity for students to discover what it's like to work with real clients: to balance their own perspectives with clients' on an actual local project.

Tunde Otto-Harris, program director at Willow Park Ecology Centre in Norval, appreciated the themed breakout group structure that let her and other community members give students feedback from a spectrum of expertise – in her case an ecological perspective. Lisa McTaggart, a landscape architect who also volunteered to work with the students, described the Yorklands site as “an incredibly complex piece of land,” and was impressed by the ideas

generated by the participants.

The proposed YGH site is owned by the province of Ontario, part of a larger property being prepared for sale in the near future. YGH will begin a capital campaign in 2016 to raise funds for its purchase. The City of Guelph has expressed interest in seeing the remainder of the 1,000+ acre parcel developed as a work-live subdivision. The results of the charrette will become part of a conceptual mix to be shared with design professionals in creating final plans for the site.

YGH thanks all the students and community members for their great ideas and input, and will be displaying many of the designs on our website. ■



"The ideas and energy in the room are just fantastic," said YGH board member Bryan McPherson.

Drumlin Farm Fundraiser Brunch a Delicious Success

by Ashley Miller

Within two weeks of its announcement, all fifty reservations were filled. On August 23rd, Drumlin Farm, a 78-acre organic farm in Puslinch south of Guelph, hosted a special farm brunch as a seasonal fundraising event for YGH.



Beet and cucumber salad garnished with parsley and delicate blue wildflowers was one of the offerings.

The event began at 11:30 in the morning on a beautiful late-summer day, bringing the Guelph and YGH community together. While the food was in its final stages of preparation we had an opportunity to mingle over coffee, tea, herbal drinks infused with herbs from the farm, or Lighthouse lemonade from Rockwood.

The renovated period barn was beautifully decked out with sunflowers and black-eyed Susans in mason jars and crocks. Overhead hung green, red, yellow, and striped pennant banners with the Drumlin Farm Logo interspersed amongst them.

The brunch showcased the farm's produce with a beautiful spread of delectable dishes. There was tomato and basil frittata, made with eggs from (con't p. 3)

Farm Brunch (con't from p. 2)



Drumlin Farm guests line up in anticipation of a special farm-fresh brunch to benefit YGH.

the farm's hens. There was chicken salad, also courtesy of the flock, mixed with green onion, savory and the juicy tartness of apples. There were sweet roasted beets sliced with cucumbers and parsley, and a range of other farm-fresh choices to tempt the palates of lucky participants. After the savory fare, we were treated to a light desert of local peaches and lavender-infused cream.

Through a community supported agriculture (CSA) program, Drumlin Farm offers regular customers its organic produce, chickens and eggs from their flock, and honey from their hives. Gerry Stephenson, owner and operator of the farm, is also the chair of YGH's Urban Agriculture Committee.

Before brunch, Gerry and wife/partner Sue gave a speech about the farm, and recognized those who helped out during the past season. The brunch's other staff members, chef Sarah Feige and Sarah Dolamore, made brief appearances, and we applauded their efforts.

Not everyone who attended the brunch was involved in YGH, making the event an excellent opportunity for us to spread the word. Chair Norah Chaloner set up YGH's table-top display for the day, and while we ate, she outlined the organization's projects and objectives.

Proceeds from the brunch went towards YGH. ■

What is the Yorklands Green Hub?

The Yorklands Green Hub is a non-partisan citizens' group that is promoting the creation of an Ontario sustainable eco-centre at the former Guelph Correctional Centre (GCC). The goal: a self-sustaining forum where institutions, groups and sustainable businesses can come together in a structured setting to promote greater understanding and participation in making the transition towards a low-emissions, stable-climate future.

Board of Directors

Norah Chaloner, Chair

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You can contact YGH at info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

On Saturday, January. 30th, 2016

COME VISIT YGH AT THE GUELPH ORGANIC CONFERENCE !

Noon to 2:00 pm - Room 118, MacNaughton Bldg., University of Guelph

- Check out some of the site designs for YGH from University of Guelph and University of Waterloo students
- Give us feedback for our sustainable environments centre in the heart of Guelph
- Learn about our Mobile Learning Lab which is underway, and will be in use this fall

The Yorklands Green Hub will connect the public to local organic food production and food security, and showcase renewable energy and water protection on a 47 acre heritage site.

"The Green Door" is a publication of the Yorklands Green Hub Communications Committee.

We welcome news, articles and letters. Each must include the author's name and full contact information.

We reserve the right to refuse or edit all submissions. Questions should be directed to the editor or a member of the Board of Directors at info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca