



# The Green Door

Citizens Supporting Ontario's Prosperous and Sustainable Future

The Yorklands Green Hub Newsletter

| January 2019 | No. 12



Members, friends, artists and supporters gathered at 10C Shared Space to celebrate five years of YGH work and vision.

## YGH Celebrates its Fifth Anniversary Art, Community and a Gala Evening

November 30 was a gala evening for the Yorklands Green hub. It was a celebration of the closing night of Artspiration 2018, a month-long show and auction of beautiful work donated by local artists to benefit Yorklands Green Hub's work and vision. It was also a lively gathering of members, volunteers, artists and supporters, who came to 10C Shared Space to celebrate YGH's fifth anniversary, a success story of collaboration that's kept its unique vision alive and flourishing.

Since 2013, when YGH first put forth the idea of repurposing 70 acres and a heritage building of the former Ontario Reformatory as a sustainable environments centre, that vision has inspired a remarkable outpouring of interest, ideas, and creativity. For five years, YGH has waited for the provincially-owned prison farm land to be put up for sale. Over that time, the organization has provided the impetus for an unending stream of outreach, partnerships, presentations, collaborat-

ions, charettes, pilot programs, fund-raising and researching best models and sustainable ideas for a green hub for Guelph.

Building a sustainable future and mitigating climate change are the big challenges of our times. YGH's chosen focus areas - renewable energy, urban agriculture, water conservation and heritage protection - have made it a draw for citizens, academics, researchers, nature-lovers, artists and government staff who support the idea of urban sustainability as a 21st century priority.

## Province to Fast-track Yorklands Site Sale: A Call to YGH Membership

The provincial government has decided to fast-track the sale of the Guelph Correctional Centre. This means we will need to scale up our activities. Your membership is vital. If you sponsor a new member as well as renew your own member-ship, you will both be entered into the special 'We ♥ Yorklands' draw on Valentines Day.

And if you have expertise to help on our committees, please contact us.

<https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/guelph-correctional-centre-on-fast-track-to-be-sold-under-new-provincial-plan-1149786>

After a last chance to review the art exhibit and make final bids, guests went upstairs for refreshments, conversation and networking. They also had a chance to review some of the latest excellent work from University of Guelph students on Yorklands site development and messaging. (can't p. 2)



YGH volunteers, Executive Director Dave Roewade and Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner mark five years of keeping the sustainability vision flourishing.

## Gala (con't from p. 1)

Executive Director and master of ceremonies Dave Roewade welcomed the assembled guests and presenters. Board member Alex Smith introduced local politicians including MPP Mike Schreiner, Guelph councilors James Gordon and Cathy Downer, who offered their congratulations and encouragement for works towards promotion of urban sustainability in line with the Official Plan of Guelph.

YGH chair Norah Chaloner invited representatives of local environmental organizations - Emerge (Evan Ferrari), Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral (Charles Simon), Focus on Nature (Bob Fanning) and Transition Guelph (Steve Tedesco) - to offer brief remarks on their work to the assembled group. She also took the occasion to honour the contributions of volunteers who have been part of YGH growth over the years, giving each a set of note cards featuring photography of Yorklands views. (Sets of 6 cards are available for delivery in Guelph, for orders over \$20. Contact us online.)

Pat Flood, lead organizer of Artspiration 2018 and recently retired professor from the University of Guelph, recognized and thanked the Guelph artists for their wonderful contribution to our fundraiser show: Oxanna Adams, Barbara Andrew, Barbara Bryce, Christopher Cape, Irene Hanuta, Joan Hug-Valeriotte, Tania Orton, Sharyn Siebert, Kristi Van Delft And James Walters. She then distributed the art pieces to the happy winning bidders who were among the guests.

Thanks to all those who attended the event, bought some beautiful art, volunteer to make YGH events possible, and offer their continuing support for and interest in the Yorklands Green Hub vision for the future. And to the Augusta-Louisa Bistro who provided delicious refreshments! 🍷

## For the Bees, the Water and the Climate Fall Enviro-Series Talks #3 and #4

The final two of YGH's four 2018 Enviro-Series talks were presented this autumn, completing offerings on our focus areas of water, energy, food and heritage.

### SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> ENVIRO-SERIES #3: WATER



Prof. Ryan Prosser speaks on aquatic invertebrates and the effects of pesticides.

Guest speaker Professor Nigel Raine of the University of Guelph School of Environmental Science described the detrimental effects of pesticides on pollinator populations. "Roughly one in three mouthfuls of food we eat depends on the pollination services of insects," he reminded listeners. Raine explained how pesticides are affecting both the numbers and abilities of pollinators to function, citing a growing body of research supporting Health Canada's expression of concern about the consequences of pesticide use. [Raine's lab](#) focuses on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on bees in particular. His research shows that pollinators experience diminished energy and ability to search out, find and pollinate flowering vegetation in proximity to pesticide use. This impact on a critically important ecosystem service provided by pollinators is a threat to both biodiversity and our food security.

The second speaker, professor Ryan Prosser, focused on water quality, and the effects of pesticide pollution on fish and on freshwater mussels, a threatened species in the food chain. Diminished populations and size are some of the effects noted in these species that live in waters that carry pesticides from agricultural runoff. These harmful effects on fish and invertebrate species then degrade the food chains of which they are a part.

Guelph is now one of Canada's [Bee Cities](#), committed to initiatives which will help protect our local pollinators. We are fortunate to have this strong guiding research as we confirm our intention to keep the Yorklands Green Hub site as an urban pollination park. Protecting pollinators will be part of our educational mission, with information boards along trails to increase knowledge about the importance of maintaining natural green corridors and clean waterways which support pollinator strength.

### OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> ENVIRO-SERIES #4: ENERGY



Proposed solar panels for Superintendent house roof.

Steve Dyck, President of Guelph Solar, opened the October energy presentation with an aerial image of the

Superintendent's house on Parcel 2 of the proposed Yorklands site. He spoke of the excellent potential of restoring this heritage house as a demonstration site for reduced carbon emissions. He proposed a grid-tied net-metering project that could make the building energy self-sufficient, reduce its future energy costs, and reduce its carbon footprint. See more details on the front page of our website. (Con't p. 3)





## Enviro-Talks (con't from p. 2)



Dave Roewade, YGH board member Alex Smith and Steve Dyck of Guelph Solar at the October Enviro-Series Energy talk.

Dave Roewade, our Executive Director, presented heartening data on the number of municipalities all over the continent that are increasing their use of renewable energy in order to reduce carbon emissions as quickly as feasible. Many municipalities are moving ahead, despite upper levels of government's slow progress on meeting future climate extremes. Dave complimented Guelph on its Community Energy Initiative and the Emerge program. Both of these are building our capacity for a clean and green city with huge reductions in fossil fuel use. ❖

## Rocks, Streams and Dreams

A Sustainable Vision in Your Neighbourhood



Paintings by Sharyn Seibert in support of Yorklands Green Hub's vision of a sustainable environments centre at the former Guelph Correctional Centre site

East End Library #1 Starwood Drive, Jan 3 to 31

## Remembrance Day Second Sunday Yorklands Walk Speedwell Hospital's Hopeful Post-WWI Legacy

Our regular Second Sunday Walks on the Blue Dot Trail have been a success in building appreciation of Guelph's Yorklands. The most recent one fell on November 11, Remembrance Day, with the walk's theme focused on the history of the site a hundred years ago.

Following World War I, the Reformatory was transformed for several years into a rehabilitation hospital for returning wounded and bed-ridden soldiers from World War I.

It also served as a skills-training centre for their reintegration into civilian life.

Through regular leisurely-paced explorations, we're helping the community get to know more of the natural and built heritage of this unique place that has been part of Guelph's history for over a hundred years. The people who come out for the walks often have stories or fascinating historical details to add as we ramble among the streams, ponds, meadows and wetlands, stonework and heritage buildings of the site.

Every Second Sunday walk has a different theme, and rewards us with seasonal sightings among the flowers, trees and wildlife. Our volunteers plan to continue presenting these monthly walks starting again in February of 2019. ❖



## Yorklands-inspired Art at East End Library through January 31 Your comment might win!

Visit the East End Library this month to view the beautiful paintings of Guelph artist Sharyn Seibert. Her exhibit, entitled "Rocks, Streams and Dreams: A

Sustainable Vision in Your Neighbourhood," takes its inspiration from her visits to the Yorklands. Sharyn has a box at the library to invite comments on her works. If you enter a comment, it becomes part of a draw: and you could be the lucky winner of a painting! A second painting by Sharyn will be won by a lucky entrant in our **"We ♥ Yorklands"** Valentine's Day draw. If you renew or bring forward a new member, you will both be entered in the draw. **Artist talk January 30 at 6:30.**



## YGH HAPPENINGS

### Fall-Winter 2018-2019

**2018 had lots of visitors to the site!**  
Besides those featured in past Green Door news, here are a few more from the last few months.



U of Guelph Landscape Architecture students, who created many design concepts that will be posted on our website.



Students from U of Guelph's multi-disciplinary Community Projects course presented excellent concepts on oral history, signage, and community engagement for YGH.



A beautiful white swan was sighted among the Canada geese in the fall, on one of the Yorklands ponds.



### Second Sunday February Walk

**February 10th - 2:00 pm**

Second Sunday tours recommence next month. We'll be there to meet you at the entrance gate of the Guelph Correctional Centre, 785 York Rd. (by the York Rd. bus stop). Come enjoy a winter walk!

### Rocks, Streams and Dreams: A Sustainable Vision in Your Neighbourhood - January 3 - 31

Yorklands-inspired paintings by artist Sharyn Siebert at the East End Library, 1 Starwood Dr. Leave a comment and you might win one! **January 30 at 6:30** Sharyn will complete the exhibit with a free artist's talk.

### Enviro-Series 2019 - #1 FOOD

**February 12 - 7:00 pm**

10C Shared Space, 42 Carden Street.

### We ♥ Yorklands Draw

**Valentine's Day - February 14**

Renew your membership - or bring a new member to us, and you'll both be entered in the draw!

### Guelph Organic Conference and Trade Show 2019

**Saturday-Sunday, January 26th and 27th** Trade Show at the University of Guelph University Centre. Visit YGH at our display!

Details at <https://guelphorganicconf.ca/>

## MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS HELP US WORK FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE!



**Join us!**

**Yorklands Green Hub**  
[yorklandsgreenhub.ca/become-member](http://yorklandsgreenhub.ca/become-member)



### Site-Themed Photo Cards A New Way to Support YGH

**3 for \$10 - Available at Saturday Guelph Farmers' Market until February 14 draw. Or order on line, 6 for \$20 minimum, with delivery in Guelph if desired.**  
[info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca](mailto:info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca)

"The Green Door" is a publication of the Yorklands Green Hub Promotions 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 at [ehoughton@yorklandsgreenhub.ca](mailto:ehoughton@yorklandsgreenhub.ca) or a member of the Board of Directors at [info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca](mailto:info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca)