



The Green Door

Citizens Supporting Ontario's Prosperous and Sustainable Future

The Yorklands Green Hub Newsletter

| October 2019 | No. 14

YGH's Noticing Nature Program Delights Eyes, Minds and Hands Nature and art capture the creativity of three generations

Our summer program, Noticing Nature, led by artist and nature-lover Marta Orlowska, provided four summer mornings of exploration, discovery, creativity and fun. Each morning a group of children and their elders started with a song or two. Marta then led them on a walk along fields, trails or the water's edge to spot inhabitants of this nature-rich landscape. Under cedars or spruce trees, or along the Yorklands' walkways they looked for flora and fauna, and for natural materials to inspire the imaginations.



Some young artists show off their work inspired by guided nature observation of the Yorklands site.

One cannot plan for natural delights like finding a turtle burying her eggs, then carefully patting them into the ground and covering them with old weeds before ambling back to the water nearby. Seeing a Monarch butterfly having breakfast near a chrysalis on one plant, and



Kids, parents and grandparents crafted and drew after their Noticing Nature explorations of the Yorklands site with artist Marta Orlowska.

caterpillars on another was unplanned noticing at its best.

Each Tuesday and Thursday of the program the kids of all ages with moms, dads, grandparents or aunts found something special to enjoy in the natural world of our city.

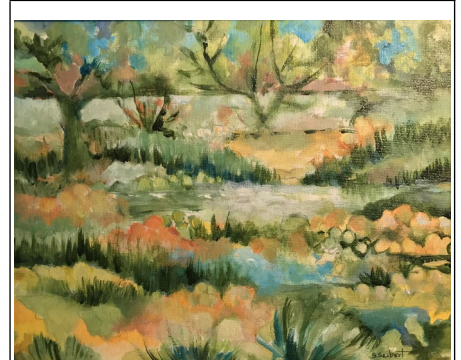
Following the group walk, everyone settled in the shade on blankets to create lovely sketches or crafts to take home.

The enthusiastic evaluation feedback by the adults who brought their children says it all, and guides us to offer another outdoor nature program next year.

Our thanks to the east-end business, Ceramic Décor, who generously subsidized the program, including our hiring of regional nature artist, Marta Orlowska to lead it. Her sparkling enthusiasm and skillful eyes for noticing little critters and parts of the ecosystems at the former Ontario Reformatory lead to charming results.

Watch for some of the art created by the children that may be on display in October at our Artspiration Show and Sale this year. 🍁

ARTSPIRATION 2019 Opens October 17!



Sharyn Seibert

It's Artspiration time again! We encourage you to come out for a very special exhibition of artwork inspired by the beauty and biodiversity of the Yorklands. Our annual art show will open at the 10C Gallery (can't p. 2)

ARTSPIRATION (con't from p.1) at 42 Carden Street on Thursday, October 17.

Organizer Pat Flood welcomes everyone to attend. "This year we have over 30 works from local artists who've been inspired by our site. Please come out, see the work, bid on your favorite piece and join us for a special 'Meet the Artists' night on October 29th. It's a wonderful and enjoyable way to support the Yorklands Green Hub!"

If you've never treated yourself to the pleasure of original art, consider how this could be an investment in both talent and the preservation of built and natural heritage. Or, if you've been thinking about perfect holiday gifts, a work of art that supports a greener future might be just the right choice for someone special.

This year's show will feature a section for children under 12.

October 17-29. Join us for our "Meet the Artists" evening on Tuesday, October 29 from 6 to 8 pm.

September, Forestry Week, A Time to Get to Know our Local Trees

On our September Second Sunday walk we discovered that there's real interest in getting better acquainted with our local trees. Recognizing trees by name is like getting to know your neighbours - and being on a first-name basis with your new friends in nature.

Our walk began under the beautiful tulip tree that grows beside Willowbank Hall, the gate house of the former Ontario Reformatory.

How many trees can you identify?

We set out to introduce our walkers to ten of the many species of trees that grow on the Yorklands site. We talked about the importance of urban trees in creating a cooling, air-cleaning, carbon-sequestering canopy of green. And of building our knowledge of local species.

Next on our list for sightings and

leaf identification were Norway maple, beech, red oak, silver maple, spruce, red cedar, white cedar, ginkgo, and basswood.


The goal of our project at the Yorklands is to build a more knowledgeable, sustainable and active citizenry ready to take on the ecological challenges of this century. Getting to know nature is one important part of that goal. 🍁



Under the tulip tree. Our September Second Sunday walk was a tree identification walk. How many species can you name? Photo James Walters

YGH Enviro-Series 2019 Continues Creating a Heritage Landmark Park for Guelph


The Yorklands Green Hub wants to make history by preserving some of Guelph's most unique built and natural heritage as a landmark park and working eco-centre! On October 28 we will present the next of our Enviro-Series talks, featuring four very diverse speakers. (Con't p. 3)



2019 ENVIRO-SERIES

CREATING A HERITAGE LANDMARK PARK FOR GUELPH
at the former Ontario Reformatory

October 28th, 2019 - 7 - 9 pm
Evergreen Seniors Centre, 683 Woolwich St, Guelph



Presenters:

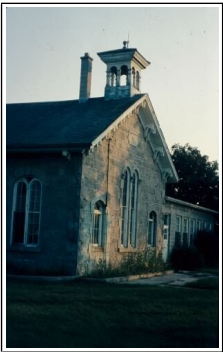
- * Alex Smith, Yorklands Green Hub board member. Introduction to the Past and Future Site
- * John Valeriotto, retired lawyer with family connections to the Ontario Reformatory site
- * Annel Mowland, former art director of Prison Arts at the Guelph Correctional Centre (GCC)
- * Connie Shaw, retired Coordinating Chaplain, GCC, memories and community support work

Come with your memories, pictures, artifacts and stories to share. Display tables available. Refreshments will be served.

ENVIRO-SERIES 2019

(con't from p. 2)

YGH board member Alex Smith will open the presentation with some history of this biodiverse site with its heritage house, and our vision for its future. John Valeriote, retired Guelph lawyer, will talk about his family's connection to the site, and share some fascinating imagery. Artist Arend Nieuwland, who taught art to inmates for 25 years, will give some of his unique insights into the inner life of the Reformatory.



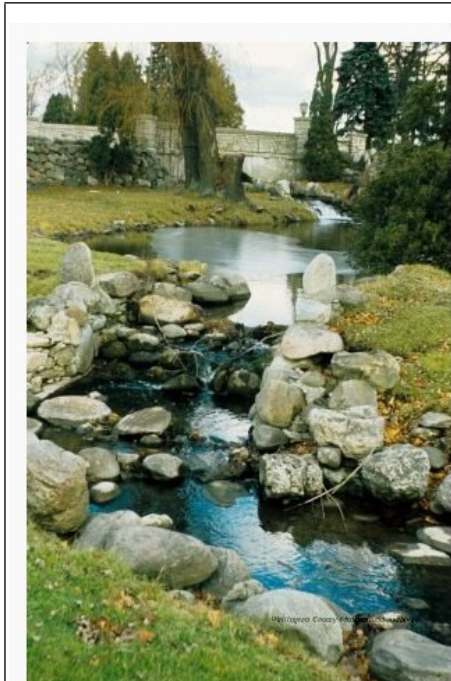
And the former coordinating chaplain of the Guelph Correctional Centre, Connie Shaw, will share some memories and stories of community support work.

Please join us as we travel from the past to the future of this beautiful urban treasure that we wish to preserve for people and nature into Guelph's future. ♣

A Live Look Back at the Yorklands Guelph's Much-loved Destination Parkland

During much of the 20th century, the Ontario Reformatory lands that fronted onto York Road (King's Highway 7), were manicured, lush green lawns laced with waterways that spilled over stone weirs, charming bridges, and endless stone walls and borders. The OR site was a popular destination for visitors, who even sent postcards of the grounds to share their experience with friends. They also took pictures - and home movies!

Well-known Guelph lawyer John Valeriote, with multigener-



Clythe Creek runs through a manicured landscape at the Reformatory, 1964.

ational family roots in Guelph, has shared a family film clip from the 1940s, shot in the beautiful gardens along York Road on each side of meandering Clythe Creek. (*Watch for it on our website.*)

An uncle of John's once visited the family from the US. What prettier place to take him for a Sunday afternoon walk than these gardens - and make a home movie?

The inmates had worked very hard to dig out the two lakes in the wetlands and create waterfalls and horticultural beauty along York Road. Though required to work, they took great pride in their results as they learned the skills of landscaping with stone walls, bridges and waterfalls. Their training there often led to employment after their sentences were served.

For decades, these public gardens attracted visitors from miles around. They were also a very popular site for wedding pictures.

John's grandparents, Edwin and Emma Hammond, lived in one of the

original farmhouses on the Victoria Road side of the OR. As a child, John's grandmother had walked to the schoolhouse at York and Watson Roads. His mother Velma Valeriote Moyer grew up in that same family house.

The OR inmates cut the Hammond's grass and maintained their garden. John's grandmother was grateful, and made delicious baked treats which she left on the windowsill for the inmates to take back to the cell blocks. She called them "her boys," and believed many were simply victims of the Depression. John retains a handmade Westminster chime engraved on the back with "To Emma from the boys on Level B." Quite a different world.

We are working to keep these beautiful lands part of Guelph's heritage into the future. ♣

Art in Nature in the City Guelph Artists Join YGH for two September Plein Air Sessions

The beauty of nature inspires great art. So what better place to gather to seek out inspiration for nature art than the acres of fields, streams, ponds, stonework, trees and wildflowers of our urban Yorklands?



On two Sundays in September YGH organizers and artists Sharyn Seibert and Pat Flood

welcomed fellow creatives for a tour of YGH's proposed 70 acres of the former Guelph Correctional Centre.



This was followed by a Plein Air ("plein air" means "outdoors" in French) session where they were invited to paint, draw or photograph the many lovely features of this green, rolling urban landscape.

Pat and Sharyn are also the organizers of this year's Artspiration show and silent auction which will

run at the 10C Gallery at 42 Carden Street from October 17 to 29. Participating artists at the Plein Air were welcomed to submit their work to be part of the show.



The Plein Air is one of the many activities that YGH has organized to invite people to experience and appreciate the unique features of this special place.



Come and see the results of the participants' work - and that of other talented local artists - at our Artspiration show from October 17. A portion of the proceeds will support YGH's work. 🍁



ARTSPIRATION 2019

Art show and silent auction, with a percentage going to benefit the Yorklands Green Hub operations. Opens October 17, runs to October 29. Beautiful original artworks by local artists. 'Meet the Artists' night on October 29 from 6 to 8 pm.

10 C Gallery, 42 Carden St., Guelph. Weekday business hours.

ENVIRO-SERIES 2019

'Creating a Heritage Landmark Park for Guelph'

Continuing our series of talks that reflect YGH's key focus areas, we offer one on our built and natural heritage. Get to know more about one of Guelph's most unique heritage sites. Four diverse speakers offer a fascinating range of perspectives on the history and future potential of the former Guelph Correctional Centre lands.

**October 28, 2019, 7-9 pm.
Evergreen Seniors' Centre, 683
Woolwich St., Guelph.**

Volunteer with YGH!! And become a member.

Our members and our volunteers are the wonderful people who make the Yorklands Green Hub's work possible.



Join us to make a piece of Guelph's heritage land into a working sustainable environments centre within 70 acres of parkland. Visit us at: 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 or submissions should be directed to a member of the Board of Directors at info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca