



The Green Door

Citizens Supporting Ontario's Prosperous and Sustainable Future

The Yorklands Green Hub Newsletter

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YGH Wins Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant Welcomes New Outreach Coordinator



Amy Barnes, YGH Outreach & Engagement Coordinator

We are thrilled to announce that the Yorklands Green Hub has received a \$72,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The OTF is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. OTF awarded \$108 million to 629 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario. **Thanks to the OTF grant we have started to take important steps forward to realizing our vision.**

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

As part of the OTF grant, we are happy to announce that we have hired Amy Barnes M.A., CAHP, as our new Outreach and Engagement Coordinator. Amy brings with her ten years of experience (con't p. 2)

ARTSPIRATION 2019



Artspiration guests enjoy the art and make their final bids.

Artspiration 2019 A Sparkling Evening of Beautiful Work and Community Spirit

It began in September with two days of inspiration among some fall-flowered urban landscapes (and a few fall showers, which did not deter intrepid creativity!). YGH organizers Pat Flood and artist Sharyn Seibert offered two Plein Air outdoor art days, inviting painters and photographers to come find their muse among the meadows, trees, waterways and wandering stone walls at the Yorklands site. Twenty-nine artists came out to work their creative magic. Many among them then contributed their work to YGH's annual fall Artspiration show and sale.

It ended on October 29th with a congenial evening of artists, art-

lovers, community supporters, YGH members and volunteers at the 10C Shared Space for a 'Meet the Artists' gathering. The final evening of our two-week art exhibit for this year was well-attended by people of all ages. They had a chance to enjoy the work, meet many of its creators, and make bids on their favourite pieces in a silent auction. They lingered to enjoy refreshments and conversation as they waited for the results of the final bidding. Our evening's auction manager Pat Flood then awarded the pieces to the highest bidders. (Con't p. 3)



Making our Path by Walking Winter Walks Share the YGH Vision for a Guelph Eco-Park

A very happy and fulfilling new year to all our members and friends!



2020 begins our sixth year of working to acquire a truly unique location for a sustainable environments centre for Guelph. To build a community connection to this ideal future park site, and model some of the educational activities we wish to offer on it, we invite members of the public to walk the site with us. The Yorklands is a great place to walk while pondering our environmental future together.

The York Road entrance beckons you up a wide, level, tree-lined driveway closed to traffic. It leads up a gentle incline to the turnaround at the top of the hill with a view over the two blue lakes. A notable feature is the fieldstone wall along the east side of the driveway, almost a kilometre long. It was built by the inmates of the Ontario Reformatory as part of their re-skilling in stone masonry, one of the trades provided to open employment opportunities for



On our January 12/20 walk we were joined by the Guelph Hiking Trail Club with their special focus on photography. These photos are from that day. You can enjoy more of their site photos at <https://www.guelphhiking.com/page-18289>.

these young men in a growing 20th century town.

The trees, meadows and waters of the Yorklands provide a rich urban habitat. On our December walk we spotted a northern goshawk and a raven, adding to the long list of species sharing this beautiful parkland. Sightings of eastern meadowlark, bluebirds, deer, otters, mink, turtles, skunk, fox, groundhog, birds and insects indicate a healthy ecological diversity at this heritage green space in Guelph. It's a landmark site that deserves our efforts to protect it as parkland for the public - as well as for our local wild nature!



To join our "OutWalking" group on Thursday mornings at 10 am, contact kiki@danninger.co. Come out and enjoy our special bit of country in the city!

We continue to offer a monthly Second Sunday Yorklands Walk (watch YGH on Facebook for details.) 🚶🚶🚶

TRILLIUM (con't from p. 1)

working in the field of heritage conservation, land use planning, cultural consulting, and public engagement. She will be continuing our efforts to build relationships, grow partnerships, explore new opportunities, as well as, provide organizational and operational advice. She will be working with Kitchener based consultants Scaled Purpose, Inc. to help the Yorklands Green Hub develop a solid strategy and for moving forward.

Amy will serve as a point-of-contact for our existing and new members and the general public. We are excited to have Amy on board. 🚶🚶🚶

We will be posting regular updates on our Website and Facebook page.

Do you have something to add to the conversation?

Or maybe you know someone we should be talking to?

We want to hear from you!

Please contact Amy at abarnes@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

ARTSPIRATION (con't from p. 1)

Many fortunate people went home with original art works that portray the beauty of the Yorklands – and also contribute to our efforts to raise support for the preservation and sustainability of this unique heritage site for Guelph's future.

Over 80% of the work submitted by the artists was sold, making our event both an awareness-raising success for the Yorklands, and an opportunity for our local artists to sell their work. Among this year's artists were nine students from John F. Ross collegiate; we were delighted that all of their work sold as well.

Many thanks to Pat Flood and Sharyn Seibert for all their hard work in organizing the Plein Air sessions and mounting the Artspiration exhibit and sale. And to all of the artists who participated, and the many volunteers who helped hang the work and assist with set up, sales and food for our Meet the Artists night. 🌿



Getting to Know the Neighbours Our "Ten Tall Trees" School Program

An important part of building community is getting to know the neighbours. The same is true for feeling connected to our local ecological community: getting to know the flora and fauna that are our nearby neighbours – and their connections – makes them feel like friends we know and appreciate.

YGH has introduced a program called Ten Tall Trees to several Guelph elementary schools. Our pilot program took place in 2018 with support from Karen Acton, the lead environmental teacher for the Guelph Wellington Upper Grand District School Board. A learning focus on the importance of trees is at the heart of our ecological systems, and links with the Ontario science curriculum for grades 5/6.

Since one third of the food we eat is dependent on our pollinators, we need to have lots of habitat for them to increase and multiply – including

good tree diversity. Our urban forest is critical for our water and air quality. But it is also vitally important for the survival of many birds, butterflies, moths, bees, and other useful insects.

With the numbers of birds and insects decreasing from climate stress and loss of habitat, this program can make an important contribution to environmental stewardship.

After students are introduced to tree species outdoors on school property or nearby, we gather back in the classroom to further study leaf shapes and differences.



Just as monarch butterflies have a specific need for milkweed plants, many pollinators have a direct need for a specific tree leaf for their egg-laying stage and caterpillar food.

JOIN THE YORKLANDS GREEN HUB!!



WIN A BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE PAINTING

by noted Guelph artist
Sharyn Seibert

All new and current members will be entered in a draw held April 24 at our AGM.

If you're not yet a member of the Yorklands Green Hub, consider joining now!

Your name as a member will be entered into a draw for a beautiful work of art art generously donated by Sharyn Seibert.

Oak trees are needed by over 500 species of pollinators alone! Are these in the neighbourhood?

Starting from individual trees, the program aims to connect students to the importance of biodiversity in our urban forest. Being able to know oak leaves from maple leaves, or spruce trees from tamaracks, gives young people a greater appreciation of any gaps in their own neighbourhoods.

For an excellent reference on teaching children about many unexpected wonders and connections of trees, see forester Peter Wohleben's book

Can You Hear the Trees Talking?: Entering the Hidden Life of the Forest

Being able to identify a few tree species enables students to be tree detectives on their own streets to see how diversity needs are being met. Trees, even in urban settings, don't exist alone: they are part of complex ecosystems that work together. Learning to notice what is growing or missing in our neighbourhoods is an introduction to urban ecology.



The final part of the Ten Tall Trees program reinforces tree identification with some Canadian artists' famous paintings of trees. What better way to remember the golden tamarack in the autumn than by enjoying the "Tamaracks 1915" painting by Tom Thomson? We then encourage the students to draw, paint or compose their tribute to their favourite tree.

Our team worked with grade 5 students at Ken Danby P.S and William Winegard P.S., with help from Moritz Sanio of Trees for Guelph, and volunteer Kiki Alwan.

This year the Ten Tall Trees program was supported through the generosity of the Stone Store in Downtown Guelph.



U of Guelph students Nida Nausedas, Jaspreet Sagoo and Jessica MacDonald

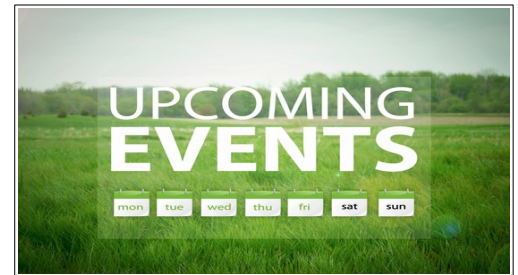
Students from the John F. Wood Centre for Business and Student Enterprise at the University of Guelph have been working hard to give us research on engaging local corporations and businesses to support the environmental stewardship goals of the Yorklands Green Hub. 🌳

Ten Tall Trees Needs Volunteers!

Volunteers are a necessary part of our continuing with this valuable program.

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact us. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Allison Mitchell, will be happy to get you connected to the Ten Tall Trees program.

amitchell@yorklandsgreenhub.ca



YGH at the GUELPH ORGANIC CONFERENCE – U of G

Sat & Sun, January 25th and 26th
Main floor in the Daily Grind

YGH will be there at the 2020 Guelph Organic Conference at the University of Guelph. This is an inspiring event for people who are interested in growing, eating or learning about sustainable local foods. There are over 40 workshops to choose from if you register, or you can just enjoy the trade show which has the latest in all things related to great food. Full schedule at

<https://guelphorganicconf.ca/>

ENVIRO-SERIES 2020: FOOD

Tuesday, February 25th at 7 pm
Victoria Road Recreation Centre,
Oak Room, 151 Victoria Road
North, Guelph

Join us to learn more about the essential connections between trees, pollinators and food. Our guest speaker is Victoria MacPhail, a pollination biologist with extensive experience on many aspects of pollination. She investigates the value of citizen science data to help answer pressing ecological questions related to biology and conservation of bumble bees, as well as how citizen scientists can help in species conservation. She is a founding member and co-chair of Pollination Guelph.

Come for the quiz – and prizes!

"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