



The Green Door

Citizens Supporting Ontario's Prosperous and Sustainable Future

The Yorklands Green Hub Newsletter | November 2020 | No. 18



The former Superintendent's house at the Yorklands site, which we envision as our headquarters.

Yorklands Site Acquisition Next steps and appreciation for great support

YGH's Expression of Interest regarding our role in the future of the Yorklands site is now in the hands of the Ministry of Infrastructure Ontario. They currently have all of the remaining Guelph Correctional Centre property up for sale. The entire property with its many buildings will be sold as one unit to one buyer; our plan is to partner with whomever becomes the owner. Our intent is to lease the acreage we have designated, including the superintendent's house, for our sustainable environments centre. We are working with all levels

of government, interested developers and community groups to secure our place at 785 York Road.

Ontario Trillium Foundation Support

Ontario Trillium Foundation funds have strongly supported our recent development. Our OTF funding allowed us to complete many of our goals with the direction and help of Amy Barnes, our professional Manager of Operations, Outreach and Engagement. Amy worked with Scaled Purpose to collate information from our supporting organizations for writing our Partnership Proposal in preparation for the current sale of the property.

Many thanks to Amy for all her hard work in helping us advance our organizational goals, and we wish her the best in her future endeavours. *



Greetings from Our New Staff!
David Alton joins YGH as new chapter begins

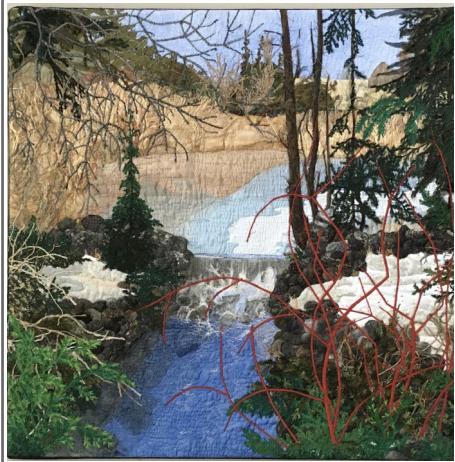


Hello Yorklands community! It is a pleasure to join you as we embark on this next chapter of the Yorklands Green Hub. I will be supporting planning and fundraising efforts as we work to secure a long-term lease for the site and expand our operations. I am a community planner and engagement specialist from Kitchener who has worked at Sustainable Waterloo Region, REEP Green Solutions and Willowgrove Outdoor Education Centre. I also consult with churches on their land-use planning needs.

Now that the property is up for sale, we have entered a new era of action. I hope that together we can rally the Guelph community as we secure partnerships, launch programming, and ultimately preserve the space for public use and sustainable design. If you have ideas or are looking to get more involved, please send me an email at dalton@yorklandsgreenhub.ca *

**David Alton,
Planning and Fundraising
Coordinator**

Artspiration 2020 A Smashing Success



Spring Thaw at Yorklands – Fibre art by Mary Katherine Hopkins.

Despite this year's disruptions with Covid19, our annual Artspiration exhibit and sale turned out to be a smashing success. Our amazing community of artists created a whole gallery full of beautiful works inspired by the natural wonder of the Yorklands site. Our astute event organizers worked out how to complement a limited-access live exhibit at the 10 C Gallery with an on-line auction sale.

The response was gratifying: we raised over \$3,000!

Thank you so much to those who donated art, to our dedicated volunteers who made this event happen – and to all of you who purchased art to support our project.

If you missed the show, you can see still see this year's beautiful artwork on our website. *

www.yorklandsgreenhub.ca/art-at-yorklands

COVID Challenges

We miss you.

Our absence from the Guelph Farmers' Market and other public events has reduced our memberships. Real-life connections gave us wonder-

Welcome New YGH Board Members

We are excited to introduce three new Yorklands Green Hub board members. Each of them comes to us with a well of experience and enthusiasm.



Tyson McMann is an economic developer with site selection and land development expertise. He has worked in both the private and public sectors. He is a firm believer in sustainable development, and believes the Yorklands Green Hub meets those objectives.



Dionne Daley currently works full-time as a VP of Consumer Research. After over a decade of interpreting attitudes and behaviors of individuals,

ful opportunities to collaborate and increase our numbers.

With Covid challenges to our programming, we will continue our walks in the winter wonderland at 785 York Road. (see p. 4). The promenade

she has gained an appreciation for how diverse perspectives and experiences can bring about positive change for organizations. As a BIPOC community member and avid outdoorswoman herself, she recognizes that connecting with nature can be inaccessible for some. With the YGH board, she hopes to introduce new opportunities for the Guelph community to learn from and enjoy outdoor spaces safely and inclusively.



Sophia Yanishevsky is a student at the University of Guelph, studying economics and finance, and pursuing further education in environmental economics and urban agriculture. She hopes one day to alleviate soil erosion issues stemming from the agriculture industry. She is passionate about nature and the environment, and is ready to work towards a sustainable future. Sophia is sitting on the P.E.P committee.

Tyson, Dionne and Sophia join Norah Chaloner, Alex Smith, Abdelsalam Elfahal, Lynn Bestari, Beth Shier, Hillary Schlaht and Susan Ratcliffe to complete the 2020-2021 slate of directors of the YGH board. *

is an ideal place to enjoy the outdoors away from traffic. The countryside landscape there connects us to the calm of seasonal changes in nature.

We hope you'll keep in touch and renew your YGH membership! *



Creating a Yorklands Food Hub



Our organization has passed Phase 1 of the Guelph-Wellington Urban Agriculture Challenge grant. The “Yorklands Food Hub” is our plan to showcase sustainable urban agriculture and local food products alongside an East End Farmers’ Market. It would be located at 785 York Road, beside the parking lot at the top of the hill. Such a hub would act as an incubator to help “Emerging Foodsters” overcome barriers and strengthen local food security. We are currently working on the Phase 2 application which is due December 11.

Our vision for the Yorklands Food Hub hinges on a lease with the owner of the site in 2021, or on another nearby site on York Road. We have assembled a working group of urban agriculture experts to work out these details and get the grant across the finish line.

You can read about all five applicants for this grant – and send your comments to encourage more of these initiatives that build our local, circular, food economy – at <https://kitchentable.foodfuture.ca/group/2/ideas/> *



On Giving Tuesday: Be part of our 'Invite a Friend' Membership Campaign



December 1st is Giving Tuesday. It's a day to celebrate the generosity of our local community, and highlight our many valuable organizations.

This year, rather than asking for donations, we at YGH are encouraging people to join our community and give the gift of membership. We are hoping to welcome 100 new members before the new year.

You can help by inviting a friend to join the Yorklands Green Hub as a member. Do you have friends, family, co-workers or acquaintances who share your passion for environmental sustainability, heritage preservation, outdoor education or urban agriculture? Share the love – and invite them to get involved!

We will be sending a template email on December 1st to make it even easier for you to share with your friends. Keep your eyes on our social media as well to help spread the word. Make sure to share this link to our membership page:

<http://yorklandsgreenhub.ca/become-member/>

Kites for Yorklands

Congratulations

to our winners!

This August and September, as a covid-safe activity, we invited people to make nature-themed kites to celebrate biodiversity at the Yorklands. We suggested they fly them in the large field at the crest of the hill in front of the Administration Building's parking lot. Just in time, we learned that this apparently ideal site was within the one-mile no-fly safety radius from the Guelph Airpark. So kites were flown in local parks and green places where it was safe.
(Con't p. 4)



KITES (con't from p. 3)

Congratulations to our winners!:

Mowat Kim	Diane Hurst
Paul Neelands	Elise Houghton
Keith Brown and Pat Flood	
Nora and Peter Owens	

Each of the winners received a \$40 gift voucher to redeem at their choice of Wild Birds Unlimited, the Bookshelf or Wyndham Art Supplies.

We are thankful to Polycon Industries/MAGNA for their generous support for this fun initiative promoting nature connections. *

Ten Tall Trees program postponed



Our "Ten Tall Trees" school program had to be canceled this fall due to Covid19. Kiki Danner, however, is standing by to deliver this program again in 2021.

Developing a connection to trees is central to strong protection for biodiversity. If you'd like to be involved with this program, please contact us in the early spring. *

Our Generous Business Community

We are thankful for kind donations from **Magna/Polycon Industries**, **The Stone Store**, and **Ceramic Decor** that contribute to our operational budget.

Having support from a caring business community is vital to our success.

Wish you had your own Root Cellar? Here's your chance! (now through March 31, 2021)



Are you a veggie gardener who never has enough fridge space for storing your harvest? Do you like supporting local food producers? Like to have a supply of nutritious local food on hand all winter long? Are you interested in increasing your food resilience, saving energy, and making a positive impact on the environment?

If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, here's an idea for you!

Lead-builder **Ian Findlay** of **Woodside Root Cellars** and **Transition Guelph** are teaming up to invite you to find out how you could have your own passively-cooled root cellar! This (literally) cool new project is made possible by a **Seeding our Food Future** grant.

In these times of disruption, we can find an important opportunity to improve local food resilience and food sovereignty by adopting the ancient technique of root cellar and cold-room storage. Passively cooled root cellars have many (literally!) cool benefits: they're sustainable, require no electricity (except for a light if desired), keep fresh foods stored comfortably through our long northern winters, and are a still-great component of a local living economy. **Want to know more?** Check this out: [root cellar benefits](#).

Interested in a free estimate? Give Transition Guelph a shout at info@transitionguelph.org. *



Second Sunday Walks

2 pm on Dec 6th, Jan 10th, Feb 14th. Join us at 785 York Rd entrance with your walking sticks as we continue Noticing Nature in winter weather. Cancellation for severe weather will be posted on FB and at the gate.

Make a Snow Sculpture!

Win a \$25. gift certificate in our monthly draw for your snow creation along the Blue Dot Trail.(Dec, Jan, Feb, March) **Special \$40 prize for nature themed snow creation.** Send your photos to noticing@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

Coming Soon: Our Passionate People Pollinators webpage.

Dedicated to the special people who have inspired us and others to environmental stewardship and sustainable choices, to build a strong community. Donations welcome in remembrance and appreciation of their creative and caring inspiration that motivates us to change. Please contact us at noticing@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