

YORKLANDS GREEN HUB

Opening green doors to the future.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021





DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

2021 was an eventful year in spite of the pandemic. We held our first "We ♥ Yorklands" Walkathon which raised funds to hire a part time Development Manager for 6 months. David Alton's expertise and enthusiasm was instrumental in helping us organize and run a number of important events including our Foodsters school program at Sacred Heart Catholic School; Plein Air, Artspiration, Decolonizing the Outdoors, a panel on a culture of conservation for the City of Guelph, an Indigenous Support Gathering, and the 110th Anniversary of the O.R.

David also assisted us in preparing for a very important June presentation to City Council in support of Heritage Guelph and many other groups in asking the City to expand the heritage conservation designation for the former Ontario Reformatory site to include landscape as well as stone features. With your wonderful support, Mayor Guthrie and our City Council supported us and directed City staff to apply to the province for a Heritage Conservation District designation Part 4&5 for the former Ontario Reformatory lands. This is underway currently. Every one of you who contacted your councillor or the mayor in various ways, was important to this success. Thank you so much for supporting our 9-year effort to highlight this historical gem in our city. The iconic stonework and rolling meadows lined with trees and wildflowers along the trails and ponds will now be protected in some way for public use in our future. Stay on course. There is much pressure. It is being sold. Our work is not done.



In March, we set up a pilot program with the Wellington Catholic School Board and Transition Guelph for our Foodster Learning Centre at Sacred Heart School. This is an interactive environmental outdoor education program we are working toward offering the schools at the Yorklands with a dedicated outdoor space there and the Superintendent's House for the community classroom.

Thanks to Gail Bartlett and Ian Findlay from Transition Guelph for time, effort and creativity to build the kit, raised beds, and outdoor chalkboard to get us going.

The program is connected to the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum guidelines under various sections.

Due to Covid, the first few classes were delivered online, learning the basics of growing from seed, with volunteer gardening enthusiast, Kiki Danninger.

In May, the Grade 8 class transplanted and cared for their plants outdoors, continuing in the summer with volunteer students and help from our Federal grant student from U of Guelph Environmental Studies, Julia Harvey. In September, with a new class and the same teacher, Erin Clutton, the students harvested the crop.

We folded our Ten Tall Trees program into the Foodsters program including the full cycle of growing food for all species: insects, birds, soil microbes and humans. This program demonstrates the transfer of energy through food, water, air, soil and trees since tree diversity is critical for all healthy ecosystems. The fall students graded and planted burr oak acorns for saplings in 2022 since oaks are keystone trees for pollinator support.

Composting basics were also demonstrated by the Compost Queen, Karen Houle, at the Huron St Community Garden.



Decolonizing the Outdoors

To start a conversation on decentering whiteness from our conception of the outdoors, the Yorklands Green Hub was honoured to host representatives from the Guelph BIPOC Outdoor Gear Library and from Deyohahage Gihe' gowahneh/Two Row On The Grand to speak about their experiences this summer.

We discussed the need to free outdoor spaces and activities from the lens of colonization, the role of nature in healing and reconciliation, and the ways community members can create space for BIPOC joy.

Hosted Panel on Culture of Conservation

The City of Guelph is committed to a Culture of Conservation. To equip our community with the tools to engage more fully with that culture we hosted a panel that taught:

1. How to connect with the Ontario Reformatory Lands through our series of walking trails.
2. How to learn more about our treaty responsibilities by participating in the 2 Row Wampum on the Grand.
3. How to identify wildlife in your backyard using tools on your phone like Google Lens, iNaturalist, Merlin, & Seek.
4. How to learn more about local history by connecting with the Guelph Museum, Guelph Library Archives, & Guelph Black Heritage Society
5. How to engage in local advocacy and community engagement as a member of the Yorklands volunteer team.



Help us
meet our
goals!
Please
Donate
(click on photo)



In September we held the **110th Anniversary** of the former Ontario Reformatory with a full day of talks and walks to showcase the unique heritage of this site and our vision of a future environmental sustainability site to build urban resilience. Over 100 people took part in the activities on site including Mayor Guthrie.

Through the summer, we sold 90 copies of our Colouring Yorklands colouring book created by artist member and volunteer, Irene Hanuta. This lovely art book shares historical details as well about our landmark heritage at the former Ontario Reformatory. If you are interested in a copy contact us because we may do a second printing this year.

Thanks to other member volunteers who are also artists, Pat Flood, Sharyn Seibert and Katherine Elliot we were able to host our fifth year of our Artspiration Show and Sale in downtown Guelph. This followed our annual Plein Air which attracted artists from outside Guelph.

Walks on Sundays and Thursdays

Throughout the year we led six Second Sunday Walks, where we led guided tours on topics such as:

- Hidden Rivers
- Yorklands and Agriculture
- Prison Stories and Poetry
- Yorklands in the Future
- History of the Reformatory

If you haven't been out for a walk lately,
the views are amazing all year long.



*A huge thank you to all of
our dedicated volunteers!!*

INDIGENOUS SUPPORT GATHERING



To stand in solidarity with Indigenous Nations grieving the deaths of thousands of children to the Residential School System, we gathered on the former Ontario Reformatory Lands.

More unmarked graves are still being discovered, with the search at the Mohawk Institute in Brantford just beginning.



Photo Scavenger Hunt

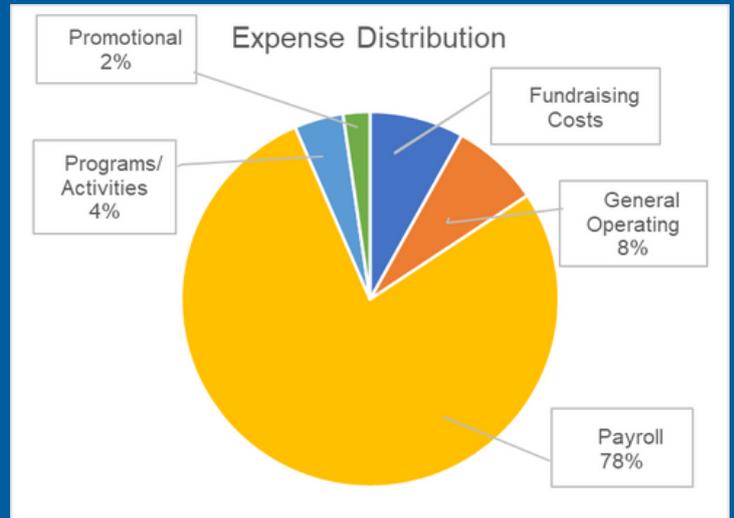
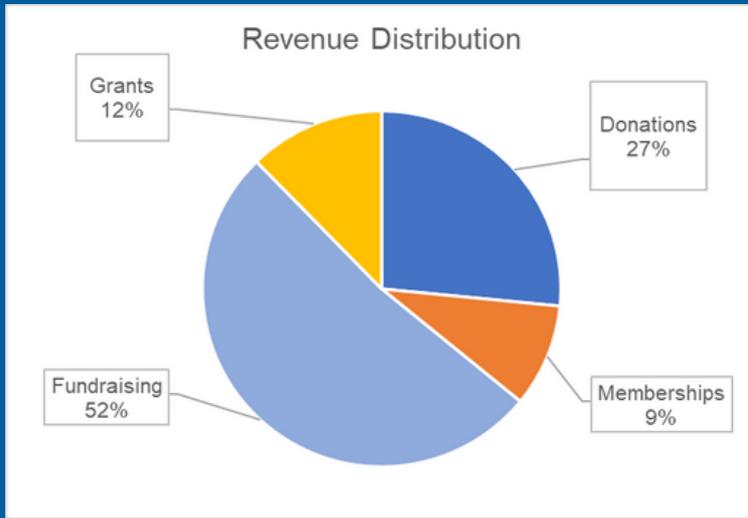
To celebrate the natural beauty of the Yorklands, we held a Photo Scavenger Hunt. Participants took pictures of various natural features to demonstrate their knowledge of the local environment.

We also have been collecting photos every month to show how the Yorklands evolves throughout the year. If you have a photo to share, please submit to noticing@yorklandsgreenhub.ca.

To celebrate the joy of winter, we also encouraged people to make snow sculptures all winter long. You can see our favourites from each month on our website. Our latest ones are on our Facebook site.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT



	2021	2020
REVENUE		
Donations	10,219.62	9,315.00
Memberships	3,605.00	3,595.00
Fundraising	19,935.00	3,935.00
Grants	4,740.00	7,950.00
Total Revenue	\$ 38,499.62	\$24,795.00

	2021	2020
EXPENSES		
Fundraising Costs	4,158.99	603.88
General Operating	3,920.16	4,592.22
Legal & Professional		36,169.47
Payroll	40,141.21	30,300.30
Programs/ Activities	2,167.65	1,155.92
Promotional	1,180.22	4,648.53
Total Expenses	\$ 51,568.23	\$77,470.32
In Year Deficit	\$ (13068.61)	\$(52675.32)



OUR VISION STATEMENT:

Our vision is to cultivate a sustainable environment through education and research on renewable energy, water conservation, and urban agriculture on our chosen site with its fields, wetlands, streams, and ponds.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

At Yorklands Green Hub our mission is to work in partnership to promote the repurposing of the Superintendent's House and a portion of land on the former Guelph Correctional Centre in order to create an interactive sustainable environmental centre.

Active Committees

- Governance
- Programming, Events and Planning (PEP)
- Marketing and Communications
- Finance and Fundraising
- Land Acquisition

