



The Green Door

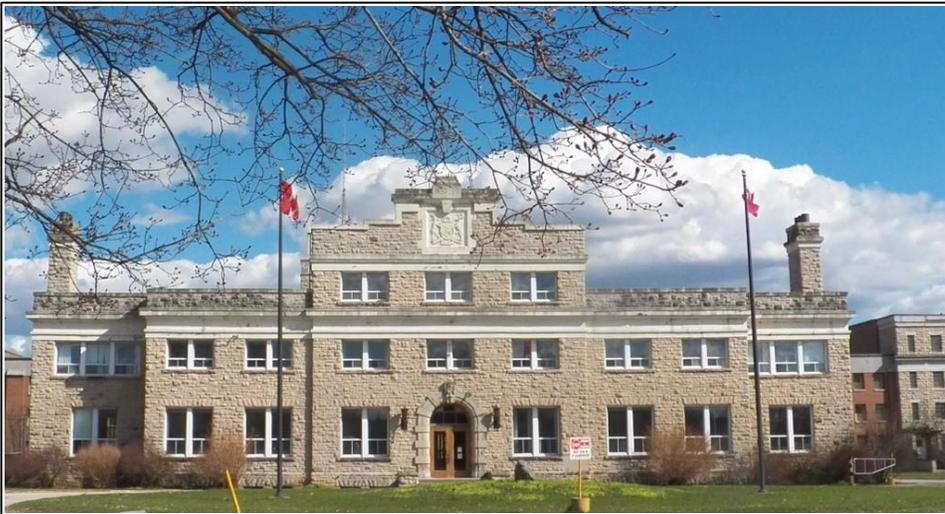
Citizens Supporting Ontario's Prosperous and Sustainable Future

The Yorklands Green Hub Newsletter

| September 2022 |

No. 23

Setting Yorklands Heritage Protective Boundaries: Last Chance For Your Input!



We have two weeks left!

Two weeks to input to the discussion of protective heritage boundaries for the Yorklands. Two weeks to decide how that enclosed heritage will be protected. Two last weeks to have our say. Once more, as YGH members and friends, our voices will be critical. **September 29 to October 13**

YGH member, local historian and Chair of Heritage Guelph Brian Skerrit reminds us of the importance of our input of public opinion and ideas for the Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District (HCD)

On Thursday, September 29th the City of Guelph will host a public Open House for the Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District Study. It's being held from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion at 57 Watson Parkway.

This is your chance to learn more about the Study, and comment on the on the proposed boundary for the new public Reformatory Heritage Conservation District – on the spot, or online if you prefer, between September 29th and October 13th.

Information gathered – including from the public – plays an important role in defining heritage site boundaries and protections; history, natural history, stories, lived

experience – and continuing voiced public concern. Urban conservation always faces challenges from competing interests, so once again we need to make our voices count. (con't p. 2 Setting Boundaries)

Let's Keep Reformatory District Parklands Public! Municipal Election is October 24: Ward 1 Boundaries Changed

The former Ontario Reformatory (OR)/Yorklands site is provincial property until it's sold; it will become part of Guelph Ward 1 when it becomes part of the city.

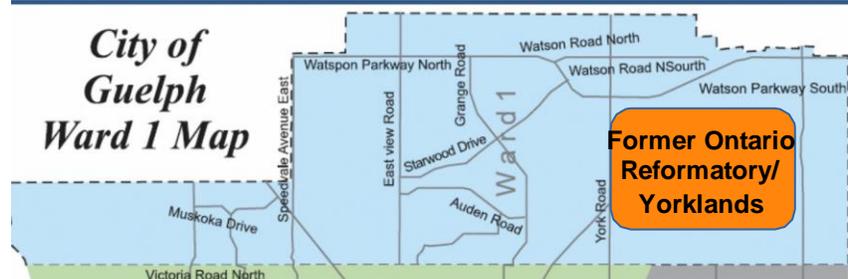
The Guelph municipal election is on October 24th. Few candidates know how important public parkland space is to people. At the OR, the trees and trails, fields, lakes, streams and ponds set among the heritage stone features have provided accessible outdoor space to support physical and mental health for many years now. They're also habitat for many species, a precious part of our city.

Watch for candidates that share our need for this landmark green space in Guelph. Please let your councilor know how much you value parkland, and wish for continuing public access to the Ontario Reformatory site.

If you've never been there, treat yourself to a walk at 785 York Road – a place that's been a well-loved city green space for 111 years! And vote for for a council that supports keeping it public parkland.

<https://vote.guelph.ca/candidates/registered-candidates/>

City of Guelph Ward 1 Map



Setting Boundaries (con't from p. 1)

What are some key features that make this site so special for conservation status? There's a wooden trestle bridge there, for instance, that was built in 1913. There's the Matthews Farmhouse-Springfield Cottage Farm building that should also be reviewed for inclusion in a heritage district. The old quarries on the south side of the property are of historical interest: they were not only mined by the prisoners for the limestone to build the administration building and jail, but also 50 years earlier for stone for Allan's Mill and dam on Arthur Street South.



The Brick Laying Trades building has not been identified by the province as a building of provincial significance. This despite the fact that it has "direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community." Another omission is the Lower Assembly Hall, which includes murals presumed to be Indigenous inmate art

The HCD study can review these things, but only if the consultants are aware of them. We still have time to call attention to them.

The story of the Reformatory itself is epic. It covers 100 years of crime and punishment – and reform. There were riots and escapes. There was brutality – but also art, education and salvation. There may be stories of Indigenous persons who were incarcerated on this land, but also venerated it. We need to keep engaging with the study authors open to hearing more of these stories.

The last round of public feedback generated nearly 150 entries on HaveYourSay.Guelph.ca. New information keeps coming to light. Personal anecdotes, photographs, news articles, land uses, and historical details and changes are creating a rich cultural tapestry that will be critical to defining why the Reformatory site should be a Heritage Conservation District – and how it is defined and protected.

You may have ridden your mountain bike at the Quarry as a teen, or fished in the ponds as a kid. You may have hiked on the trestle bridge last week or canoed up the Eramosa River to McQuillan's Bridge. What special knowledge, memories, stories or photos can you share?

The HCD study has the potential to strengthen existing protections, and identify features not included under current designation. It can also add wholly new elements to be recognized as important to the district. It can tie all these pieces together into a cohesive whole where the components add up to more than the sum of their parts.

As project consultant Joel Konrad said, a "Part V designation gives us the opportunity to not think of things just at a property level [but] to include larger landscapes, and really kind of understand that interplay between all the elements."

Come out in person. Or if you can't, the Have Your Say page will be open for two weeks following the Sept. 29th live event. You'll be able to see the material provided thus far at the Open House, as well as contribute comments and questions.

Please make the effort to come out – or write – to be part of the Heritage Conservation District study; it's critical that our voices be heard. <https://www.haveyoursay.guelph.ca/reformatory-district>



Community Composting Bigger and Better in Guelph

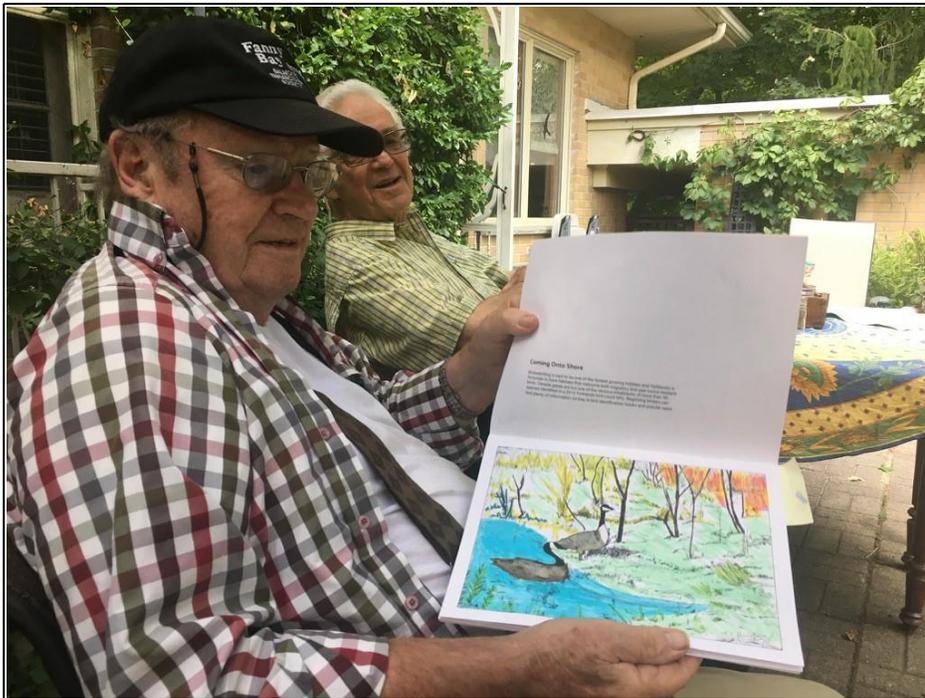
Thanks to the Royal City Brewing Company (RCBC) and the Compost Queens, Guelph now boasts an impressive new installation for community composting.

And who are the Compost Queens? They tell us, "The Compost Queens of the Royal City' is a sub-project of The Art of Soil Collective. We believe (we know!) that real, lasting, positive social and ecological change for the better can happen if it is: a) beautiful (artful! inspiring to behold!); b) collective and involves c) local players, humans + soil + trees + insects + birds + + + + +."



A great composting collaboration! The Art of Soil Collective (<http://artofsoil.ca>) and the Yorklands Green Hub partnered with RCBC to shine a spotlight on a more sustainable Guelph. Our team effort produced a huge new organic waste composter for public use. (Con't p. 3 Composting)





Calming Colouring for Cozy Fall Days

The “Colour Yorklands” colouring book created by artist and YGH member Irene Hanuta turned out to be a huge success. Her first printing sold out completely, giving much pleasure to many, and making a generous contribution to YGH’s work.

Guelph visitor David McCleary, who remembers the OR from childhood, has been enjoying personalizing Irene’s drawings: he tells us he’s spent many happy hours with the book in his studio.

Now “ColourYorklands” will be back by popular demand with a second printing imminent. This history/colouring book about the Ontario Reformatory and Yorklands captures

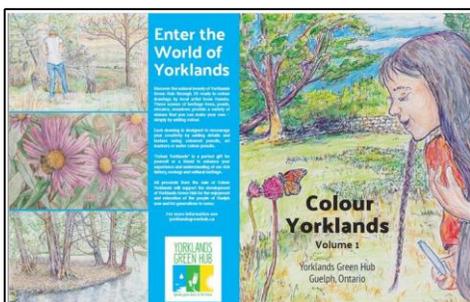
the natural beauty, unique heritage and popular uses of the Yorklands.

Signed copies from artist Irene Hanuta are available on request. It’s a great colouring book for all ages. You can order your copy from info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

Composting (con’t from p. 2)

We also installed a demo PolliPatch on the site to educate composters about the simplicity of providing welcoming mini-habitat for butterflies and pollinating insects.

Please drop by with your organic waste, and enjoy this surprisingly artistic addition to the 785 York Road Yorklands site. And read more about the project at <https://royalcitybrew.ca/blogs/news/art-of-soil-collective-the-compost-queens>



The 2022 We Love Yorklands Walkathon raised \$3,090. Many, many thanks to all those who participated: you make our ongoing work possible!



FOREST CELEBRATION

Sat., Sept 24th 1-3 pm at the Yorklands, 785 York Road
Bring your favourite tree quote or poem, or take one of ours and tie it on one of our silver maples. Music, tree walks and the arts for all ages.

THE ONTARIO REFORMATORY 111TH ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

Sun., Sept 25th 2-3 pm at the Yorklands, 785 York Road
Forest Ecologist Will Barbour will lead a heritage tree walk. What was here in 1921 under the reign of King George V, as the province was moving incarceration to a model of reform? Come and find out.

TEN TALL TREES SCHOOL PROGRAM continues...

We welcome new volunteers for 3 hours per week. Contact Kerry-Lynn, kwilkie@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

HOMEWORK: Check out Guelph Politico in the weeks ahead as Adam Donaldson interviews the candidates in the election. Are they aware of the vast potential for this city if we keep a significant part of the OR site as a Heritage Conservation District? <https://guelphpolitico.ca/2022/08/22/9candidate-questionnaire-erin-caton-ward-1-councillor/>

“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