



The Green Door

Citizens Supporting Ontario's Prosperous and Sustainable Future

The Yorklands Green Hub Newsletter

| March 2024 |

No. 28

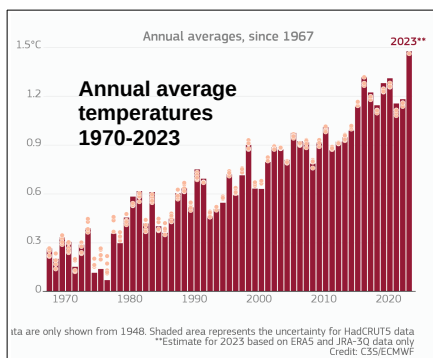


Launch of Community Climate Survey at the Guelph Farmers' Market

Amid Alarming Temperature Records, Where is Canada's Big Conversation on Climate Mitigation?

Local efforts lead the way to start our own

On Tuesday, March 5, 2024 we broke the temperature record in Ontario set on the same date sixty years ago (10.6 C), not by one or two degrees, but a whopping nearly 7 degrees. Last year set yet another "hottest year" record "by far," according to NOAA, passing 1.5 degrees of warming. Crocuses are blooming now in early March. We see birds returning earlier and earlier. But it's not only this March or last year.



The ten last years have been the hottest temperatures since records began. In 2019 alone, 400 all-time temperature records were broken in

29 countries across the northern hemisphere.

How many more successive "hottest yet" years can we tolerate without an urgent, organized response?

We're on the brink of run-away climate change and massive species loss. In a crisis for humanity and all life on Earth. Scientists call it the sixth extinction. In less than fifty years we have eliminated 60% of the mammals, birds, fish and reptiles that populated the Earth in less than a single human lifetime.

News of alarming climate-related events, with far too little news of effective global-scale climate action, can make us just want to look away.

But we need to know what's happening to act. And talk about it.

In recent years, relentless heat waves have hit the Southwest U.S., Southern Europe, and China. Devastating wildfires tore through Greece, Hawaii and Canada.

(Con't p. 2)

An Urban Park Guelph Update

by P. Brian Skerret

There's been so much positive activity in the past few months it's hard to keep track. Without a doubt, the most significant news was the receipt of a Letter of Support from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Chief Clair Sault wrote in her letter:

"This place offers a profound opportunity for Healing, Conservation, Restoration, and a Connection to Nature. We call on the Federal Government, the Provincial Government, and the City of Guelph to work with Urban Park Guelph and the Mississaugas of the Credit toward this goal."

Significantly, two former incarcerated Indigenous inmates, members of the Native Sons group within the prison, have stepped forward with support. Freddy Taylor, a founding member of Native Sons, gifted a painting to Urban Park Guelph of an updated version of the Native Sons logo, a variation of an image he created in the mid 1970's.



And former inmate turned Native Liaison Worker, Cliff Summers, said he offers "100% support (to) efforts to turn GCC (Con't p. 3)

TEMPERATURE RECORDS (con't from p. 1)

Record-breaking droughts devastated Chile, the Horn of Africa, and the Amazon, while torrential rains caused catastrophic flooding in parts of the U.S., Libya, Spain and India. Around the world, we are seeing bleaching coral, rising sea levels, thawing permafrost, melting sea ice, retreating glaciers, out of control wildfires, and massive 500-year flooding events. We need to act and get others to act.

Acting begins with talking about how. What should we be calling on our governments to do?

In 2020, 198 scientific organizations formally stated that climate change is caused by humans. Eighteen scientific societies in the U.S. issued official statements on climate change. The IPCC makes it clear that our climate crisis is led by our burning of fossil fuels. We urgently need a just transition towards changing the way we power our economy and our lives, yet we still have no government-led all-out response. We need to reduce our fossil fuel emissions with everyone on board to do it: governments, corporations, manufacturers, transportation sectors, agriculture, education, individuals. Crises require leadership. But where is Canada's big public conversation on urgent climate mitigation? When and how will we all get on board together to be part of it? This is the question for which we need, urgently, conversations that help us pool our answers and ideas.

Guelph Climate Conversations

And there is no better place than home to begin such conversations. We are fortunate to have dedicated people here in Guelph who are leading the way in gathering public opinion on directions for climate action. On Saturday, March 2nd a group of members of the Guelph Climate Action Network and the Guelph-Wellington Coalition for Social Justice launched their **Community Climate Survey** at the

Guelph Farmers' Market. We are all invited to be part of it.



Take the Community Climate Change Survey

For more information email: GuelphClimateActionNetwork@gmail.com

tinyclimate.com/communityclimate2024

Thanks to our supporters!






TAKE THE GUELPH COMMUNITY CLIMATE SURVEY

Are you concerned about – and do you have opinions about – climate change? If so, you and all our YGH members and friends are invited and encouraged to participate in the Community Climate Survey. It's short and succinct. And the Guelph Climate Action Network wants to hear from everyone! It's clear that we need to take action now, and not wait for governments. Every voice adds to a much needed public dialogue.

Go to the survey link at:
<http://tinyclimate.com/communityclimate2024>

Please complete your own Climate Survey – and share the link widely with your friends, family, neighbours and your workplace. Our voices together make our actions stronger. **Survey closes on March 31, 2024.** Results will be revealed in May (see below).

SPRING CLIMATE EVENTS

The Guelph Climate Action Network /Guelph-Wellington Coalition for Social Justice groups have four followup events scheduled

to invite further community action and engagement.

Climate Action Network Guelph Events

- * Saturday, April 6, 1:30 pm at Bookshelf Cinema, 41 Quebec St. **2024 Film Screening and Discussion - 2040: Climate Solutions to Act On**
- * Saturday, April 20, 12 – 1 pm, Guelph Market Square, Carden St. **Earth Day Event: It's Not A Day. It's a Movement.**
- * Saturday, May 4, 1- 4 pm, Italian Canadian Club, 135 Ferguson St. (at Morris)

Community Climate Forum 2024 – Every Degree Matters. Every Action Counts.

Survey results will be shared! Carbon Conversation Plan announcement.

AND... Launching May Carbon Conversations – “Living with the Climate Emergency”

Take this opportunity to sign up for Climate Conversation Group followup sessions!

Mark your calendars and come out to be part of Guelph's growing climate response!

The big climate conversation Canada needs -- needs us all to be part of it.

Yorklands Green Hub ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, April 25, 2024

7:00 – 8:15 pm, 10C Shared Space, 42 Carden St. Guelph

Featured Speaker:

David Fields of

Trout Unlimited Canada

URBAN PARK UPDATE (Con't. from p. 1)
[the former Guelph Correctional Centre] into a National Urban Park Guelph. It was a beacon for Healing & Culture for me and many, many others ... for me this helps to continue a rare instance (& symbol) of "Justice" & "Healing" for Indigenous People ... don't do what was done to our children at Indian Residential School, kill them and bury them. Turn the former GCC into the Guelph Urban National Park."

This support from Indigenous former inmates that commemorates a place that was known to be one of pain and suffering, is incredibly powerful.

MPP Mike Schreiner received a letter from Infrastructure Ontario regarding the Indigenous murals inside the Correctional Centre. We were glad for the opportunity to respond and correct some outdated information, including attribution of one of the paintings. Since then, we were able to confirm another mural was painted by Ray Nobis, Jr., who was also known to be an early member of the Native Sons.



Our Petition before Parliament closed on January 18th, 2024, with 3,191 signatures. MP Lloyd Longfield read it in the House of Commons on January 31. The government has 45 days to respond, so we are hoping for forward motion and

direction from the Minister of the Environment.

The project has been endorsed by almost 40 local, provincial, and National organizations including Wildlands League, Ontario Parks Association, and Trout Unlimited Canada. City Council's Tourism Advisory Committee supports a National Urban Park at the former Ontario Reformatory for its potential as a "driver for tourism and destination development."

Urban Park Guelph and our partners are continuing to build out an inventory of species on and around this property, including several species-at-risk. This information will be essential as part of the Conservation, Restoration and Ecological Education components in the years and decades to come. We've received dozens of wildlife images from project supporters.

Ultimately, what we have come to understand in the last few months is that this is more than a once-in-a-lifetime chance; to borrow an Indigenous framework, this is a once-in-seven-generations opportunity.

The Bridges Across Guelph's Yorklands Waters

In its Reformatory days, the Yorklands was a place where young men were trained in a variety of trades. One was stonework and masonry. The inmates quarried stone on site, and built most of the buildings including the Administration building. They also landscaped the site with fieldstone walls, and cut stone stairways, walls and bridges. Walking the Yorklands today, you can enjoy this heritage landscaping that makes the site a unique piece of our urban heritage, which we are working to preserve for Guelph's future.



Artspiration
Yuan Yao, detail

Entranceway bridge over creek waterfall



Former footbridge over Clythe Creek



Wooden railroad trestle over the Eramosa River

(Con't p. 4)

Artspiration
Yuan Yao, detail



YORKLANDS BRIDGES (con't from p. 3)



Little stone arc bridge between the ponds – a lovely place to run!

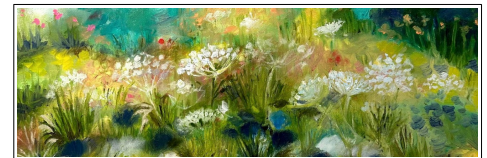


Small stone bridge across Clythe Creek and stone border walls



Seedy Saturday

March 23rd, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Dublin St. United Church,
 68 Suffolk St. West, Guelph
 Come for a day filled with seed vendors, gardening tips, and community building! 22 tables of info to inspire gardeners. Event supported by Coyote Hollow Farm, The Stone Store, Guelph Solar and Rebel Food providing snacks. Many businesses. Raffle prizes. Yorklands Green Hub draw. **Fun for all!**



Artspiration Show

April 14th, 1-4 pm
Artworks Gallery,
 404 York Rd, Guelph
“Rocks, Streams and Dreams”
Opening Event.
 Exhibit and sale of art works inspired by Yorklands landscapes - by gallery and student artists. Mike Schreiner in attendance 2:30-3:30 pm. With Ontario Trillium Fund recognition and gratitude from Yorklands Green Hub.

Volunteer with the Yorklands Green Hub!

Help us with our goal of transforming a heritage site in Guelph into a National Urban Park. We're a citizens' non-profit, and we offer public events to raise awareness and support for our project.



- * Share your talents.
- * Meet dedicated people.
- * Be part of an important environmental and cultural project.

yorklandsgreenhub.ca/volunteer/

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