

Welcome to the Yorklands community update!

Yorklands Community Update – October 17, 2025

We're excited to bring you the latest Yorklands Green Hub updates for the rest of the month! Take a look at what we've got planned:

👉 🌱 Small Change Fund - Fantastic news! We're pleased to announce our new partnership with the Small Change Fund. Discover the next chapter towards realizing our new future for Yorklands.

👁️ 🚗 Watching for 'Go' Boys: Matthew's Farmhouse Walk - Join Susan Ratcliffe this Saturday for a guided fall walk around the scenic Yorklands site. Uncover the story behind one of its heritage structures.

🌡️ 📊 Guelph's Community Climate Forum 2025 - Oct 26 - Join residents, experts, and community leaders, while we connect and take action on reducing Guelph's greenhouse gas emissions.

🗣️ 📄 Request for Testimonials - Let us know how the YGH has touched your life by filling out our testimonial form. It only takes 60 seconds...or less.

🌍 Volunteer Opportunities: Discover how you can get involved with YGH by exploring volunteer opportunities on our Events Committee team!

Enjoy the fall colours!

The Yorklands Team

Revive the Yorklands: A Community Vision for Nature and Belonging



At the Yorklands, native plants now thrive beside old prison walls. We imagine a living classroom deeply rooted in reconciliation, biodiversity, and climate action. Where youth lead nature walks, newcomers grow food, and Indigenous Elders share stories with students in the shade of heritage trees. With your support, this future is within reach.

Big news for Yorklands Green Hub!

We are joining forces with Small Change Fund on a fundraising campaign called [Revive the Yorklands: A Community Vision for Nature and Belonging](#).

Together, we're creating a model of urban conservation that supports biodiversity, fosters healing and reconciliation, and strengthens climate resilience.

A place where nature, learning, and community thrive together for everyone.

Your donations will support year-round community programming and help us hire two new essential staff members. Funds also power our efforts to ensure that the Ontario Reformatory lands remain protected as public greenspace. If you donate to our joint project, you will receive a tax receipt through the charitable organization, Small Change Fund.



Join us in bringing this vision to life —watch the video and visit our website.



Website: [Revive the Yorklands: A Community Vision for Nature and Belonging](#)



Video: [Watch below to learn more](#) 

For further information, please contact us at: info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca



WATCHING FOR 'GO' BOYS

A walk around the Matthew's farmhouse with Susan Ratcliffe



SATURDAY OCTOBER 18, 1-2:30 pm
MEET AT THE STONE GATE, 919 YORK ROAD

**Rain date will be October 19th, 10-11:30am*

18
OCTOBER





YORKLANDS GREEN HUB
Opening green doors to the future.

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

  Watching for 'Go' Boys: Matthew's Farmhouse Walk

Who doesn't love afternoon weekend walks during the autumn season? 🍁

Happening this Saturday, October 18, join Susan Ratcliffe for a walk around Matthew's Farmhouse, a heritage building on the Yorklands site. Susan will share stories of the building's former occupants, its purpose at the OR and the significance of these heritage buildings to our community.

We'll be meeting at the stone gate farther along York Road (919 York Rd). More specific instructions about where to meet will be emailed prior to the event.

➔ **Get your free tickets today:** <https://GoBoys.eventbrite.ca>

* Rain date will be October 19th, 10-11:30am.* This farmhouse walk is a re-scheduled walk from the summer. Our first walk had to be canceled due to thunderstorms.



COMMUNITY CLIMATE FORUM 2025

Learn. Plan. Act.

GCAN and its partners are taking action to ensure that Guelph has a robust, outcome-focused, community-led plan to manage and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in our community.

Sun., Oct. 26 • 1:30–4:30 pm
Social time from 4:30–5:30 pm
FREE • Italian Canadian Club

135 Ferguson St, Guelph • Free parking 🅿️

Meet with local environmental and climate activists

Learn from climate experts about local GHG emissions and GHG-reduction strategies.

Participate in activities to outline community climate priorities, which will be shared with Guelph City Council, MPP, MP, and our community.



➔ REGISTER HERE
GuelphCAN.ca

Guelph Climate Action Network (GCAN) and its partners are responding to the City of Guelph's Community Call to Climate Action Report by hosting the "Community Climate Forum 2025: Learn, Plan, Act." We are taking action to ensure that our municipality has a robust, outcome-focused, community-led plan to manage and reduce GHG emissions in our community.

At this event, participants will:


- Learn about local emission levels and targets
- Explore strategies to reduce local GHG emissions by using a whole-of-community approach
- Identify activities to take, collectively and individually, to reduce your carbon footprint


You are invited to attend. **Members and volunteers of the YGH will also be present at a display table during the event.**


Activities at the event will outline community climate priorities. This information will be shared with Guelph's City Council, MPP, MP, and the community at large. **Anyone concerned about the health of our environment and climate change should not miss out on this event!**

The YGH hopes to see you there!

Event Details:

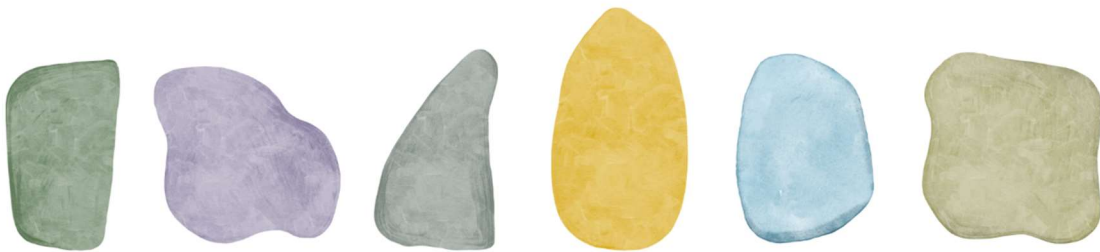
 **Location:** Italian Canadian Club, 135 Ferguson St., Guelph, N1E 2Y7

 **Date & Time:** Oct 26, 1:30-4:30pm, with time to socialize from 4:30-5:30pm.

 **Registration:** <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/guelphclimateactionnetwork3/1847467>

C U L T U R A L H U M I L I T Y

Presented by: Chloe Blair



Cultural Humility Training

We are inviting all of our volunteers to attend two upcoming Cultural Humility Training sessions facilitated by Chloe Blair:

- Part 1: Wednesday, October 22 at 7:00 PM (Online)
- Part 2: Wednesday, October 29 at 7:00 PM (Online)

Important: Volunteers must attend Part 1 in order to participate in Part 2.

These sessions teach you to actively reflect on yourself, explore cultural and societal identities and beliefs; bringing a greater awareness of one's own background and biases; and emphasizing the treating of others with openness, empathy and respect. A zoom link will be emailed to registered participants closer to the training dates.

Our focus in particular is on Indigenous peoples and cultures in these sessions as Yorklands is striving to work closely with local Indigenous groups to decolonize our

programs and narratives. If you have questions, please contact info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

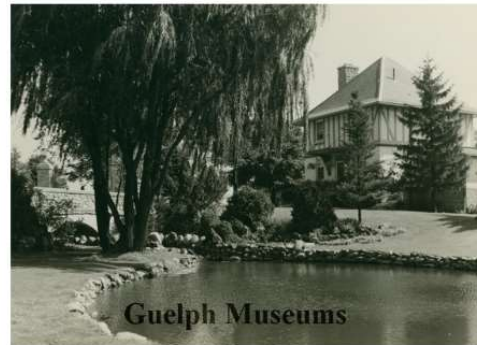
 **Click here to register:** <https://yghculturalhumilitytraining.eventbrite.ca>

**How has YGH
affected your life?**

**Do you have a
testimonial
you want to share?**





**TELL US HOW IN 60
SECONDS!
SCAN THE QR CODE TO
BE DIRECTED TO THE
SURVEY!**



“Yorklands Green Hub has positively impacted me by deepening my connection to nature and strengthening my sense of community. Walking the trails and witnessing the transformation of this historic site into a place of ecological renewal has been both grounding and inspiring...”

*Kim Wakeford,
Membership Coordinator*

  Tell Us Your Testimonials!

If interested, please fill out the form below and share your experiences! Your responses are extremely valuable for the YGH.

Link to the form is here: <https://form-can.keela.co/testimonial-form>




**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**



Make meaningful contributions to our community and help build a stronger, more sustainable, and environmentally conscious future for all!

Email us at: info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

 We're Looking for Volunteers!

Want to get involved with Yorklands Green Hub?

Want to make meaningful contributions to the community, meet new people, and help cultivate a stronger, more sustainable and environmentally conscious future for all?

Look no further – such opportunities are available to YGH volunteers!

We're currently seeking volunteers for our events committee! The new events committee is similar to the old PEP (Programs, Events, and Promotions) committee, which offered a lot of fun to previous volunteers.

Whether you love connecting with the community or organizing communications or events, we'd love to hear from you!

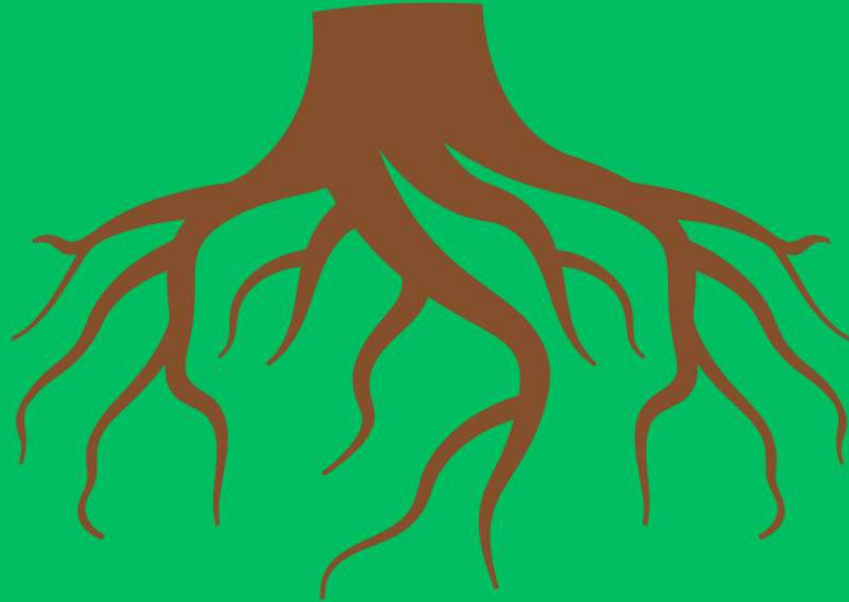
Email us at info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca to learn more or apply here: <https://yorklandsgreenhub.ca/volunteer-form/>.



We've decided National Volunteer Week is too short to celebrate all the wonderful people that make our work possible. Every week we'll be introducing you to some exceptional YGH volunteers in each bi-weekly e-blast. This week we're pleased to introduce our Foodsters school program facilitator, Amy!

"Amy Ellard-Gray is a community educator who teaches people of all ages how to grow food and connect with the natural world. She has led the Foodsters program in schools, guiding students through hands-on activities that build curiosity and confidence in gardening and food systems. Amy brings an engaging, accessible approach that inspires learners to see themselves as capable growers and caretakers of the environment."

WE'RE ROOTING FOR YOU TO JOIN!



Become a member today

Join our community of members dedicated to preserving the Yorklands site and cultivating a greener, more sustainable future for all. **We're rooting for you!**
Scan the QR code to join!



Scan & Learn More!



Become A Member: Preserve and Protect Yorklands

Our members play a pivotal role in Yorklands Green Hub's operations. Their contributions support the historic Yorklands site, connect people to nature, support Indigenous collaboration and champion environmental education in our community.

Each membership strengthens our efforts to build a more sustainable, green future for generations to come.

By becoming a member, your contribution fuels programs and initiatives that make Yorklands thrive. **We offer both monthly and annual memberships with various tiers of support.** This allows members to select the tier that best fits their interests and capacity. As a token of our appreciation, **every membership comes with exclusive perks and rewards.**

We're rooting for you to join! **Become a member and help transform our community.**

Email Kim Wakeford at yghmembershipsecretary@yorklandsgreenhub.ca, scan the QR code above, or click “become a member” below.

A special thank you to our sponsors at the Guelph Museums and The Neighbourhood Group for supporting our membership programs!



[Click here to visit our website](#)

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