

Welcome to the Yorklands community update!

## Yorklands Community Update: December 12, 2025

As the YGH e-blast wraps up for 2025, we'd like to share a few key updates with you. Keep an eye on your inboxes in 2026 — Yorklands will continue offering incredible opportunities in the new year!

❄️ 🛠️ The Quarry Story - This January, join the YGH for our first walk of the new year and uncover the intriguing history of the Quarry's connection to the Ontario Reformatory.

👉 🌱 Small Change Fund - We're pleased to announce our new Small Change Fund partnership. Help realize the next chapter for Yorklands, together.

🌍 Volunteer Opportunities - Looking to get involved while supporting our local environment? Check out our new YGH volunteer positions below.

🗣️ 📄 Request for Testimonials - Fill out our testimonial form and tell us how the YGH has touched your life. It only takes 60 seconds, or less.

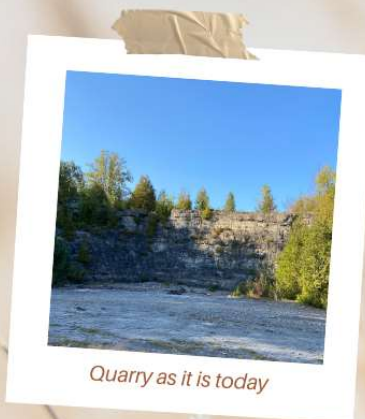
Wishing you a Happy Holidays and New Year! 🎄 🌟 🎁

The Yorklands Team

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# THE QUARRY STORY

Join Susan on a free guided walk  
of the Yorklands hidden gem,  
The Quarry.





**SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2026**

**1:00 - 2:30PM**

MEET IN THE BARBER SCOUT CAMP PARKING  
LOT OFF STONE ROAD,  
AT THE MCQUILLAN BRIDGE

To Register: <https://quarrystory.eventbrite.ca>



  The Quarry Story


**Celebrate the new year by attending the YGH's first 2026 walk!**

Join Susan Ratcliffe for a winter walk and learn more about the Yorklands hidden gem — the quarry!

Uncover the site's fascinating history and its connection to the Ontario Reformatory while walking through the beautiful, snowy winter landscape. Don't miss out on a perfect opportunity to experience Yorklands through a new environment and perspective.

**Fun Fact:** At the quarry, the granite was quarried there by the inmates to use for building the walls and most of the buildings on the property since the OR opened in 1911!

**Tickets are free!**

 **Date/Time:** Saturday, January 24, 1:00pm-2:30pm

 **Location:** 733 Stone Rd E, Guelph, ON N1L 1B8

 **Registration:** <https://quarrystory.eventbrite.ca>

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# Help Protect the Yorklands

Enjoy hiking around Yorklands?

Help us keep the reformatory lands open for everyone.

Partnering with the Small Change Fund, the Yorklands Green Hub is seeking donations to keep this green space open to the public and support innovative community programming.

Your donation supports our new model of urban conservation — to promote biodiversity, foster reconciliation, and enhance climate resilience.

Join us in bringing this vision to life.

**Scan the QR Code or read the text below to learn more!**



<https://yorklandsgreenhub.ca>



## **Let's keep building Guelph's climate resilience!**

As you probably have heard, we are joining forces with Small Change Fund on a fundraising campaign called [Revive the Yorklands: A Community Vision for Nature and Belonging](#).

**We need to keep the momentum on advocating for the protection of this beautiful gem in our city and for building a generation of caring stewards.**

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

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

Your donations will support year-round community programming focused on stewardship activities and help us hire two new essential staff members. Funds also drive our efforts to keep the Ontario Reformatory lands 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](mailto:info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca)





# Volunteers Needed!

Join our team and make a difference in our community!



**YORKLANDS GREEN HUB**  
opening green doors to the future

 We're Recruiting Volunteers!

Are you passionate about the environment and making a positive impact on our community?

We are **seeking enthusiastic** volunteers to join our **Events Planning Committee**

and to plan our monthly walks at Yorklands. We are also looking for **new Board members**.

**As an events committee member you will:**

- Assist in coordinating themed walks at Yorklands
- Help with logistics, outreach, set-up, and promotion
- Apply your creative ideas to craft memorable experiences
- Build valuable skills and connections in a friendly environment

**Who We're Looking For**

- Community-minded individuals who enjoy working with others
- People who are organized, creative, or eager to learn, with a Canva skill set
- Individuals familiar with event planning and/or environmental issues
- Available for meetings and tasks leading up to and on walk dates (weekends)



**As a Board member you will:**

- Attend monthly meetings
- Review meeting materials and contribute to making strategic decisions for YGH
- Join one of our committees which will also meet monthly
- Assist in fundraising for the organization
- Act as a Yorklands ambassador

**Who We're Looking For:**

- Community-minded individuals who enjoy working with others
- Individuals committed to working towards protecting the site and/or environmental issues in general
- Marketing, fundraising, and/or finance experience

## How to Get Involved

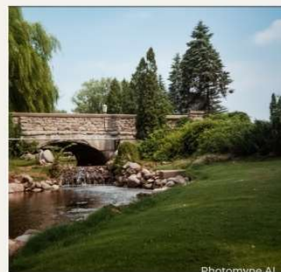
-  If you're interested or have questions, please reach out to [info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca](mailto:info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca)
  -  Apply here: <https://yorklandsgreenhub.ca/volunteer-form/>.
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# How has YGH affected your life?





*“Yorklands Green Hub has positively impacted me by deepening my connection to nature and strengthening my sense of community.”*

Kim Wakeford,  
Membership Coordinator



Tell us how in 60 seconds!  
Scan the QR code to be  
directed to the survey!



  Request for 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>



As we near the end of 2025, the Yorklands Green Hub wishes to extend our gratitude to everyone who made this a memorable year.

Whether you volunteered, donated, served on our Board, attended our events, or supported our work in other ways, the YGH is truly grateful for your commitment and participation.

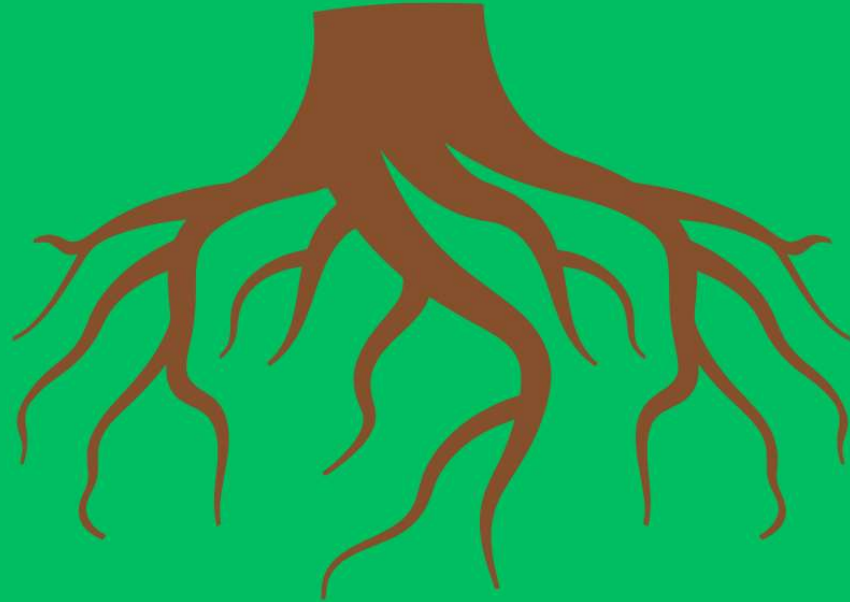
*Your support and generosity drives our vision to bring a greener future for all.*

As we pause our e-blasts for the holidays, we wish you a joyful, restful season. We look forward to reconnecting in the new year. Our bi-weekly e-blasts updates intend to resume on the second week of January.

*Warm wishes from all of us at the Yorklands Green Hub.*



# 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**

Members are the roots of Yorklands Green Hub. Their contributions nourish Yorklands, helping it grow and flourish.

By becoming a member, **your donation fuels initiatives that make Yorklands thrive.** They protect the historic Yorklands site, connect people to nature, uphold Indigenous collaboration, and champion environmental education.

*Each membership strengthens our efforts to create a more environmentally conscious community.*

We offer both monthly and annual memberships with several tiers of support. Members can select the tier that best fits their interests and capacity. As a token of appreciation, **every membership tier comes with exclusive rewards.**

We're rooting for you to join! Help grow a greener future for all!

Email Kim Wakeford at [yghmembershipsecretary@yorklandsgreenhub.ca](mailto: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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**Our mailing address is:**

42 Carden Street, Guelph

Ontario, Canada

N1H 3A2

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