

Welcome to the Yorklands community update!

Yorklands Community Update: 16 January 2026

The Yorklands Green Hub wishes you a Happy New Year! Launching our first e-blast for 2026, we're excited to embark on another chapter with all of you.

❄️ 🛠️ The Quarry Story - January 24 - Join the YGH for our first walk of 2026 and uncover the intriguing history of the Quarry's connection to the Ontario Reformatory.

🤝 🌱 Small Change Fund - Our Small Change Fund partnership helps build our new model of urban conservation, biodiversity, and reconciliation. Come realize our next chapter for Yorklands, together.

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

🌱 Seedy Saturday - Save the date for this year's Seedy Saturday, scheduled on Saturday March 28, from 10am to 3pm.

Best wishes for 2026!

The Yorklands Team

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

The Quarry Story



Saturday January 24, 2026, 1:00-2:30 PM

***Rain Date is Jan 31**

Meet in the Barber Scout Camp Parking Lot Off Stone Road,
At the McQuillan Bridge

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


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>

* A rain date is scheduled on Saturday, January 31st, from 1:00pm - 2:30pm*

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.

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 to learn more!

 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





Volunteers Wanted

Be part of a growing community working together to support and restore our local environment.



LEARN MORE




www.yorklandsgreenhub.ca



YORKLANDS GREEN HUB
opening green doors to the future



info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

 We're Recruiting Volunteers!

We are seeking seeking enthusiastic volunteers to join our team of **Yorklands Stewards** and **to join our communications team**. We are also looking for new people to join **our YGH board**.

As a Yorklands Steward you will:

- Keep our site clean, safe, and welcoming by replacing garbage bags on-site 2–4 times per month, usually working in pairs on a rotating schedule
- The role requires about 1–2 hours per month on weekends

Who we're looking for:

- Community-minded individuals who enjoy working with others

As a marketing and fundraising coordinator, you will:

- Create inspiring content and videos for social media to raise awareness and support for our programs and initiatives
- Assist in finding sponsors for our programs and initiatives

Who we're looking for:

- Strong marketing and fundraising skills
- Expertise in creating content to build awareness of our programs and initiatives with ability to highlight YGH community impacts
- Availability of 2 to 4 hours per week

As a board member you will:



- Attend monthly meetings, review meeting materials and contribute strategic decisions for YGH

- Join one of our committees, assist with organization fundraising and 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 general environmental issues
- Marketing, fundraising, and/or finance experience

How to get involved:

-  **If you're interested or have questions, please reach out to info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca**
 -  **Apply here: <https://yorklandsgreenhub.ca/volunteer-form/>.**
-




SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday March 28th, 2026 -

10am to 3pm

An Initiative organized by Yorklands Green Hub and the Guelph Tool Library to promote environmentally responsible gardening, seed saving, use of heritage seeds and seed exchange.



 Seedy Saturday

Save the date for this year's annual YGH Seedy Saturday!

We're excited to bring the community together again for a day of education, connection, and seed exchanging. Stay tuned, as more information about the event and our partnerships will be coming soon!

MIDWINTER RIVER WALKS



Join Freshwater Conservation Canada for two midwinter walks to learn about local nature restoration efforts and to look for early signs of spring along the Eramosa and Speed rivers. **Check out the eventbrite links below to learn more!**

Freshwater Conservation Canada

  Midwinter River Walks

Freshwater Conservation Canada is hosting **two midwinter walks along the Speed and Eramosa rivers in Guelph, on February 1st at 10:00 a.m. and February 8th at 10:00 a.m.**

These events will include knowledge sharing, community building, and opportunities to help rehabilitate the two rivers!

Participants can expect to observe nature along wooded trails, wet meadows, and ecological restoration sites. Walk leaders will discuss local efforts to manage invasive species and enhance biodiversity. Native grass and wildflower seeds will also be distributed to the group during the walks.

Make sure to dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear, and bring your own snacks and refreshments.



Please visit the Eventbrite pages below to register (free) and for more details:

February 1st: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/signs-of-spring-river-walk-eramosa-river-tickets-1980119517781?aff=oddtcreator>

February 8th: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/signs-of-spring-river-walk-speed-river-tickets-1980191846117?aff=oddtcreator>





SUNDAY, JAN 25 2026

CELEBRATE NATURE in GUELPH

FREE FAMILY EVENT FROM 2:30-5:00PM
with a **free public swim** from 3:15 – 4:45 with the
City of Guelph at Victoria Road Recreation Centre
plus free temporary tattoos, sweets and nibbly
bits in the lobby! And more interactive activities
to celebrate nature in Guelph including about
your community park on the reformatory lands.

CELEBRATENATUREGUELPH.CA



COLLABORATORS:



MAIN SPONSOR:



WILDLANDS LEAGUE

 Celebrate Nature in Guelph: A Free Family Friendly Event

Wildlands League is sponsoring a free public swim with the City of Guelph **at Victoria Road Recreation Centre on Sunday, January 25, 2026 from 3:15 – 4:45** in collaboration with Urban Park Guelph and The Arboretum.

This is a free family event featuring a free public swim, free temporary tattoos, sweets, and nibbly bits! The event celebrates nature within Guelph, placing a special emphasis on the community park on the former reformatory lands and The Arboretum.

Come learn more about what makes these places special.

For more information on this event and to RSVP, please visit the Wildlands League [Facebook event page](#) or email them at info@wildlandsleague.org.

Don't leaf us behind!



Become a member today!

Join our community of members dedicated to preserving the Yorklands site and cultivating a greener, more sustainable future for all. **Don't leaf this opportunity behind! Scan the QR code to join!**



Scan & Learn More!



Members are the heart of Yorklands. **Their contributions fuel initiatives aimed at creating a more environmentally conscious community.** These initiatives protect

the historic Yorklands site, connect people to nature, uphold Indigenous collaboration, and champion environmental education.

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.

Don't leaf this opportunity behind! Become a member and be part of YGH's vision for a greener future!

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](#)

[Donate](#)

[Become a Member](#)



[Share](#)



[Follow](#)

Copyright © 2026 Yorklands Green Hub, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

42 Carden Street, Guelph

Ontario, Canada

N1H 3A2

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [unsubscribe](#) or [manage preference](#).