



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

Welcome to the Yorklands community update!

### **Yorklands Community Update: 30 January 2026**

As we settle into the new year and colder temperatures, Yorklands has a few community updates for you! Here's a quick overview of this week's e-blast:

❄️ 🛠️ The Quarry Story - Due to the weather conditions, our rescheduled walk has been cancelled until further notice.

🔔 🚨 Urgent News About The Yorklands Site - We have three pieces of breaking Yorklands news the share with you. Please read it, share it, and help us take action. Scroll down for more details.

🤝 🌿 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.

Stay warm!

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>

❄️ 🗑️ The Quarry Story Update: Cancelled

**Due to the weather on January 24 and January 31 the Quarry Story walk has been canceled until further notice. We apologize for any inconvenience this might have caused.**





🔔 🚨 Urgent News About The Yorklands Site

The City of Guelph is working on three issues regarding the Yorklands site:

1. The final version of the Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District Plan and Guidelines
2. An environmental assessment to determine whether to restore or rebuild the historic McQuillan's Bridge located on Stone Rd between Victoria and Watson.
3. Negotiations for the purchase of a 3.35 acres 10-12 meters wide strip of land along the southside of York Road.

### **1. Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District Plan and Guidelines (ORHCD)**

**Yorklands Green Hub is very concerned about the inclusion of residential development guidelines in the ORHCD regarding a large area of the Yorklands site.** The area under consideration surrounds the main buildings and a strip of land north toward York Rd. Previous planning documents for this site (including the Official Plan and the GID Secondary Plan do not mention residential development nor does this portion of land have the appropriate zoning for residential development.

The ORHCD, once approved by Council, will override the GID Secondary and Official Plan and development is more likely to occur without the community being allowed to provide any input if the land is sold to a developer. **YGH does not support residential development anywhere on this site and does not feel that this HCD Plan is the correct vehicle to even entertain residential development for this property.**

At the moment the property is still owned by the Province but once it is sold, the ORHCD plan would be in effect. We are urging people to speak/delegate to Council on Feb 10th at 4pm about this issue or write to them.

**Deadline to register online for delegating is Feb 6th 10am at [guelph.ca/delegation](https://guelph.ca/delegation) or submit written comments to [clerks@guelph.ca](mailto:clerks@guelph.ca) also by Feb 6th (10am).**

You can also write to [councillorsandmayor@guelph.ca](mailto:councillorsandmayor@guelph.ca)

If you are not comfortable with either, you can attend the meeting, show your support and listen in.

## **2. The City of Guelph's Purchase of Land**

The City is doing an environmental assessment of the section of Stone Rd and Victoria which includes the bridge for possible widening of the roads. They are examining different options to save features of the bridge or just completely rebuild. **We will be advocating for all of the key historical features of the bridge to be saved.**

**Attend the Open House – on Feb 5th 5-7pm at the Royal Canadian Legion 57 Watson Pkwy South.**

To learn more: <https://guelph.ca/living/construction-projects/york-road-reconstruction/>

## **3. McQuillan's Bridge**

**Regarding the strip of land currently being negotiated for purchase by the City, we have learned that the City will not be widening the road beyond the current 2 lanes.** However, they will be adding bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides which may have an impact on the heritage stone walls along the edge of the property. It is not entirely clear what impacts will occur on Clythe Creek which runs alongside York Rd.

To learn more: <https://guelph.ca/living/construction-projects/york-road-reconstruction/>



# 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: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=o3CoEPyiREw>

For further information, please contact us at: [info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca](mailto:info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca)

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# Volunteers Wanted

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



**LEARN MORE**




[www.yorklandsgreenhub.ca](http://www.yorklandsgreenhub.ca)



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[info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca](mailto: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](mailto:info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca)
-  Apply here: <https://yorklandsgreenhub.ca/volunteer-form/>.






## SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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!


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# 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>



# 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](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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