







YORKLANDS GREEN HUB
opening green doors to the future



Welcome to the Yorklands community update!



Yorklands Community Update: 13 February 2026


As we approach mid-February, we're pleased to announce a few upcoming events and activities. We also have a major follow-up about our Yorklands site post from two weeks ago.


  **Urgent Yorklands Site Update** - We have updates on the three pieces of City news we shared with you in the last e-blast. Please read it, share it and watch for further updates.

  **Made at the Reformatory: Virtual Walk** - Feb 26 - Join Susan Ratcliffe for a virtual presentation and discover the fascinating history of craftsmanship and industry at the OR!

  **City Nature Challenge** - April 24 - April 27 - Save the dates for this year's City Nature Challenge. Learn more about this exciting opportunity below!

  **Small Change Fund** - Our partnership with SCF helps us to build our new model of urban conservation, biodiversity and reconciliation. Join us to realize the next chapter for Yorklands together.

 **Volunteer Opportunities** - We have a few exciting positions open. Make sure to check them out!

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

Thank you for being part of our growing community,

The Yorklands Team



  Urgent Yorklands Site Update

Here are the recent updates regarding the urgent Yorklands News:

1. The Ontario Reformatory Conservation District Plan (ORHCD) and Guidelines
2. McQuillan's Bridge, located on Stone Rd between Victoria and Watson
3. The City of Guelph's Purchase of Land

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

Yorklands Green Hub thanks all those who wrote to the Mayor and Council, giving your generous support to remove "residential development" provisions in the Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District Plan and Guidelines (ORHCD). The City of Guelph held its Council Planning meeting on Feb 10th, and the outcome was what we had hoped for.

Council passed the following:

- "That City Council, in accordance with Section 41 of the Ontario Heritage Act, designate by by-law the area shown in Attachment 1 of this report, as the Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District (ORHCD) as amended:
- That staff remove mention and provisions for residential development from the ORHCD Plan and Guidelines included as attachment 2 of the staff report.
- That staff bring the amended ORHCD Plan and Guidelines and subsequent by-law to a future Council meeting for approval."

To learn more about the ORHCD, please see the following link:

<https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/city-amends-conservation-district-plan-for-most-complicated-piece-of-land-ever-11863536>

2. McQuillan's Bridge

An Open House was hosted by the City of Guelph on Feb 5th regarding the expansion of Stone Rd and Victoria Rd and the future of McQuillan's Bridge. Many of you attended the Open House and provided your feedback — we are grateful for that. We will wait to see what the City decides on the future of the historic McQuillan's Bridge. Stay tuned.

3. The City of Guelph's Purchase of Land

Regarding the strip of land currently being negotiated for purchase by the City, we have learned that the City confirmed that they will not be widening the road beyond the current 2 lanes. Bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides will be added, which will improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. At the meeting on Feb 10th, City staff confirmed that Clythe Creek will not be touched by the construction.

The construction will likely take place in 2028. We did inquire about access and parking during the construction. However, no answer was provided. We will keep you updated on the progress of the proposed construction.

To learn more about the purchase of land, please see the following link:

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

made at the REFORMATORY

The Craftsmanship and Industry of
the Ontario Reformatory

Presented by Susan
Ratcliffe

Thursday February 26
7:00pm-8:30pm

Hosted virtually via Zoom
link to register in caption



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  Made at the Reformatory: Virtual Walk


Are you curious about what was made at the OR?

Join Susan Ratcliffe for this year's Made at the Reformatory virtual walk – a deep dive into craftsmanship and industry at the OR.

Hosted on zoom, the presentation explores the history of skilled labour and production at the site. **Registration is free on Eventbrite – link below.**

Event Details:

 Date/Time: Thursday, February 26: 7:00pm-8:30pm

 Location: Online via Zoom

 Registration: <https://reformatoryvirtualwalk.eventbrite.ca>

Registered participants will receive a Zoom link closer to the event date.

Guelph City Nature Challenge

SAVE THE DATES

April 24 - April 27

For the first time, **Guelph is joining this worldwide citizen science event, the City Nature Challenge.** Community members who want to participate will be asked to make observations of nature in their neighbourhoods and local green spaces using the phone app, iNaturalist. Yorklands Green Hub is excited to organize this along with the UofG Arboretum and 12 other local organizations.



The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is an annual four-day nature census in which cities around the world use biodiversity recording platforms like iNaturalist to document nature in their neighborhoods.

These contributions become data to understand and protect nature worldwide.

Guelph is joining this census event for the first time this year.

Together with at least 13 other local organizations and their supporters, we will be providing pre-census iNaturalist training, walks and bio-blitzes in different natural areas of the City over four days from April 24 to April 27. Hope you can join us in this important citizen science event.

Save the dates and learn more in our upcoming e-blasts.

For more information, please see the following link:

<https://www.citynaturechallenge.org/>

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>



We have joined 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.

Funds drive our efforts to keep the Ontario Reformatory lands protected as public greenspace. Your donations will also support year-round community programming focused on stewardship activities for both young and old. 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



Volunteers Wanted

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



LEARN MORE




www.yorklandsgreenhub.ca



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info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

 We're Recruiting Volunteers!

We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to join our **Board and our communications team**.

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



As a marketing and fundraising volunteer, 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

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/>.
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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.



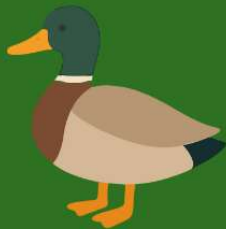
 Seedy Saturday

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!



Kortright Waterflow Park Lands Update



Friends of the Kortright Waterfowl Park Lands, Get Involved Guelph, and Environmental Defense are thrilled with the unanimous Council decision to protect 20 acres of conservation land that were once part of the former Frank Kortright Waterfowl Park.

At their February 10th planning meeting, Guelph City Council gave direction to staff to come forward in the next 5 months with a Planning Report and process for re-designating the 20-acre parcel back to open space and parkland, as was originally intended.



Butterflyway Rangers

The David Suzuki Foundation is seeking applications for Butterflyway Rangers!

Rangers are volunteers who lead community-driven efforts to turn everyday spaces into connected habitat corridors for wild bees and butterflies. They receive free online training and resources, a Butterflyway Ranger T-shirt and garden signs and ongoing support from us at the David Suzuki Foundation and a national community of Rangers.

Applications to become a Butterflyway Ranger are open until February 25.

If you've been looking for a hopeful, hands-on way to support biodiversity, build connection and help nature recover where you live, this could be your moment!

Learn more and apply at davidsuzuki.org/butterflyway.

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!



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