



YORKLANDS GREEN HUB
opening green doors to the future

Welcome to the Yorklands community update!

Yorklands Community Update: 13 March 2026

March is here, and the YGH is pleased to share with you some events and activities planned for the coming weeks. We're also getting ready for our annual Seedy Saturday, taking place later this month.

Seedy Saturday – March 28

Visit the Old Quebec Street Mall for a day of workshops, education, connection, sustainability, and seed exchanging. Learn more about the event and sign up for the workshops below!

City Nature Challenge – April 24–27

Save the dates for this year's City Nature Challenge. Join the global event and help document biodiversity across Guelph.

Small Change Fund

Join us in protecting the Yorklands – our partnership with SCF helps us build our new model of urban conservation, biodiversity, and reconciliation.

Volunteer Opportunities

Want to join Yorklands and help build a greener community? Check out our volunteer opportunities below.

Thank you for your support,

The Yorklands Team



SEEDY SATURDAY 2026

PRESENTED BY YORKLANDS GREEN HUB & THE GUELPH TOOL LIBRARY



Saturday March 28
10 AM- 3PM
Old Quebec St. Shoppes
55 Wyndham St. N.
Downtown Guelph



*We are thrilled to announce over 20 local vendors
and an exciting workshop line-up!*

Nancy's Creations
Root Rescue
Canadian Biotechnology
Action Network
Gaia Organic Seeds
Saturday Seed Co.

Water Farmers
GW Master Gardeners
CoG: Healthy Landscapes
CofG: Natural Areas Stewardship
Royal City Nursery
University of Guelph Arboretum
Maude Stephany

Seeds of Diversity
Gaia Seeds
Guelph Public Library
Pollination Guelph
St. Ignatius Jesuit Centre Farm
Hawthorne Farms
Shadylane Greenhouses

Workshops:

Seeds for Bees - 10am - with Kiki Alwan

The Hobby Homestead - 11:15am with Amy Ellard-Gray

Easy to Grow Edible & Medicinal Plants - 12:30pm with Zhyfhs Millicent

Urban Gardening - 1:45pm with Nancy Hainsworth

A shopping, sharing, and learning experience dedicated to all your seed needs!



Seedy Saturday returns on **March 28, from 10am to 3pm, at the Old Quebec Street Mall!**

Hosted by the YGH and several community partners, this event brings the community together for a day of education, connection, celebration, and seed exchanges.

We're pleased to announce four workshops planned for the day. These sessions will offer participants opportunities to deepen their knowledge about plants, seeds, gardening, and sustainability.

The event also features over 20 local vendors, a silent auction, and opportunities to connect with community groups and local environmental initiatives.

The workshops are pay-what-you-can either by cash or credit at the workshop space. Attendees are welcome to attend multiple workshops throughout the day. The descriptions and registration links are listed below.

 Date/Time: Saturday, March 28, 10:00am-3:00pm

 Location: Old Quebec Street Mall: 55 Wyndham St N, Guelph, ON N1H 7T8

 **Check out the workshops and register today** 



SEEDY SATURDAY 2026

WORKSHOP

10 am - Kiki Alwan
Beloved By The Sky
Seeds for Bees



Beloved By The Sky: Seeds for Bees Workshop


Are you hoping to grow a pollinator-friendly garden?

In this workshop, participants will learn how to use pollen and nectar-rich plants to support bees, butterflies, and other essential pollinators. Designed for individuals beginning their own pollinator gardens, the event covers these foundational topics:

- Simple seed-starting methods
- Pollinator gardening basics
- Plant selection
- Habitat creation

Whether you want to support pollinators in a yard, balcony, or container, this workshop has your needs covered!

Event Details

 Date/Time: Seedy Saturday: March 28, 10:00am-10:45am

 Location: Old Quebec Street Mall: 55 Wyndham St N, Guelph.

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

Presenter Bio

Kiki Alwan is a lifelong explorer, horticulturist, garden designer, and florist. She is an active member of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) and the Ontario Horticultural Association, and is the owner of [Beloved By The Sky Gardening](#).

Through workshops and hands-on education, Kiki loves making gardening accessible and practical.



SEEDY SATURDAY 2026

WORKSHOP

11:15 am - Amy Ellard-Gray
The Hobby Homestead
*Seeds to Supper: How Families
Grow Food Together*



The Hobby Homestead Workshop: Seeds to Supper: How Families Grow Food Together

Want to grow your own food at home?

This workshop introduces you to the world of homesteading – a lifestyle of self-sufficiency and sustainability, where people grow and prepare their own food from garden to table. This family-friendly event covers several homesteading basics designed to help individuals and families get started. Participants can expect to learn about:

- How families decide what to grow (calories vs joy vs storage)
- Crops kids can “own,” like beans, peas, potatoes, squash, and herbs
- Simple succession thinking – using one bed for multiple harvests
- Harvesting and using food basics

This workshop is a great introduction for anyone curious about homesteading!

Event Details



Date/Time: Seedy Saturday: March 28, 11:15am-12:00pm



Location: Old Quebec Street Mall: 55 Wyndham St N, Guelph.



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

Presenter Bio

Amy Ellard-Gray has been growing food her entire life – on a farm as a child, and in an urban/suburban setting over the last 20 years. She is passionate about sustainable gardening and teaching others, so much so she turned her hobby into a business. Through [The Hobby Homestead](#), Amy teaches others to grow food in any space, from balconies to large homestead gardens.



SEEDY SATURDAY 2026

WORKSHOP

12:30 pm - Zhyfhs Millicent
Planting Radiance
*Easy-to-Grow Edible & Medicinal
Plants to Improve Health &
Sustainability*



Planting Radiance Workshop: Easy-to-Grow Edible & Medicinal Plants to Improve Health & Sustainability

Do you want to grow plants for tea, food, or to support your personal health?

Led by Zhyfhs Millicent, a registered clinical herbalist and professional member of the Ontario Herbalists Association, participants will discover the healing and restorative attributes of edible plants, accessible right in your backyard.

In this workshop, participants will learn about the kinds of medicinal varieties that can be grown in Guelph. On top of looking great in your garden, these edible plants have proven, evidence-based medicinal qualities.

Bring your questions for an engaging, educational session.

Event Details

 Date/Time: Seedy Saturday: March 28, 12:30pm-1:15pm

 Location: Old Quebec Street Mall: 55 Wyndham St N, Guelph.

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

Presenter Bio

[Zhyfhs Millicent](#) is a registered clinical herbalist and professional member of the Ontario Herbalists Association. With extensive knowledge about the medicinal qualities of various plants and 'weeds', she has been leading medicinal plant walks for a number of years in the Guelph area, helping people learn about local plants and effective herbal medicine techniques for improving one's health.



SEEDY SATURDAY 2026

WORKSHOP

1:45 pm - Nancy Hainsworth
Nancy's Creations and Seeds
Urban Gardening



Nancy's Creations and Seeds: Urban Gardening Workshop

Always wanted to garden, but don't have the space? Living in an apartment? Small backyard? No problem!

In this workshop, participants will learn the essentials of planting, nurturing, and harvesting their own fresh produce, even in the most awkward spaces. Perfect for beginners and hobby gardeners alike, this session will cover soil prep, seasonal planting, and simple techniques to help your garden thrive.

This session offers a great starting point for anyone curious about urban gardening.

Event Details

 Date/Time: Seedy Saturday: March 28, 1:45pm-2:30pm

 Location: Old Quebec Street Mall: 55 Wyndham St N, Guelph.

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

Presenter Bio

Nancy's passion for urban gardening began in childhood. As she trained to work in Social Services at university and, later, working for various non-profit organizations, Nancy gained a love of supporting the community. Over time, she realized growing food in urban spaces does not always mean we get traditional garden spaces. She started collecting native plants, unusual varieties to increase biodiversity and seeds which were able to grow in small, urban spaces.



YORKLANDS GREEN HUB
opening green doors to the future

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN OUR TEAM



Join our collaborative community working to support and restore our local environment.




READY TO JOIN?



TO APPLY

- Scan the QR Code
- Email info@yorklandsgreenhub.ca
- Visit our website

 We're Recruiting Volunteers!

We are seeking an enthusiastic volunteers to **join our board** and to sign up for our **Clean and Green day, on April 18, from 9:30am to 11:30am.**

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.


Clean and Green Day Volunteers:

- Join us on April 18, from 9:30am to 11:30am, as we come together to help clean up the Yorklands site and welcome the spring season.

Event Details:

- Yorklands will supply gloves and bags.
- Kids are welcome to come and help out.

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/>.



Join the



City Nature Challenge Guelph

April 24-27, 2026

Explore Guelph
and capture
images of wildlife

Share your
findings by
uploading your
discoveries to
iNaturalist



Brought to you by:



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Participating Organizations:

University of Guelph Arboretum
Freshwater Conservation Canada
Nature Guelph
Pollination Guelph
Focus on Nature
Bird Safe Guelph
Guelph Public Library

St. Ignatius of Loyola
Guelph Climate Action Network (GCAN)
Wellington Catholic District School Board
Upper Grand District School Board
Royal City Science
rare Charitable Research Reserve
Guelph Outdoor School

Scan or visit
Yorklandsgreenhub.ca
for more information



  The City Nature Challenge

The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is an annual four-day nature census. Cities around the world will 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.**

Join us for this important citizen science event. **Save the dates and learn more in our upcoming e-blasts.**

 Website: [City Nature Challenge](#)

HELP PROTECT YORKLANDS

Keep this green space open for everyone

Donate Today

SCAN HERE



  Small Change Fund Partnership

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



JAMES RAFFAN *presents:*
THE ACCIDENTAL CANADIAN
A musical exploration of 50 years of Arctic travels in pictures, stories & songs

FRIDAY | **7PM** | **TICKETS \$25**
May | **OAC Centennial** | 
1st | **Arboretum Centre**

*A fundraiser to support the 30th Anniversary of the
Community Environmental Leadership Program*

The Accidental Canadian: A CELP Program Fundraiser

As a fundraiser for the [Community Environmental Leadership Program \(CELP\)](#), James Raffan's one man performance celebrates 50 years of travel in the Arctic through pictures, stories and music. Writer, explorer, speaker, paddler, musician and

original Guelphite and John F. Ross graduate, Raffan is an engaging and gifted storyteller.

He is the author of numerous books on Canada's North and the impact climate change is having on its environment and cultures, rich canoe history, and Canadian Geography. Raffan is a winner of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society Camsell Medal for his work.

For more information, or to hear samples of James' talks or to get tickets, go to jamesraffan.ca



Registration now open!

Indigenous Wisdom & Pollinator Conservation

Join us for our biennial celebration of pollinators and their conservation. Register now and guarantee your spot!

This year's symposium opens with a smudging ceremony by Elder Maani Aana Cheesequay, followed by five inspiring speakers exploring traditional ecological knowledge, storytelling, and Indigenous-led stewardship projects. Wrap up the afternoon with a Q&A session with the speakers.

Enjoy free lunch (vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options available), refreshments, local vendors, and more!

Visit pollinationguelph.ca for more information.

COST:

Regular rate: \$80 (+fees)

BIPOC rate: \$30 (+fees)

Student rate: \$30 (+fees)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Deadline: April 4, 2026

Eventbrite: 2026-PG-Symposium.eventbrite.ca

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PollinationGuelph.bsky.social

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photo by: Karin Davidson-Taylor

On **April 11 from 9:00am to 4:00pm**, join Pollination Guelph for a day of learning, networking, and more!

For over 10 years, Pollination Guelph has gathered experts, gardeners, and nature lovers to explore the world of pollinators through various themes. Every two years, they select a new theme that challenges participants to look at conservation through a new lens. For 2026, the theme is **Indigenous Wisdom and Pollinator Conservation**.

Whether you are a seasoned researcher, a backyard gardener, or a curious community member, this symposium offers something for everyone.

Registration is open until **April 4**. General admission is \$80, with discounted rates available for students and members of the BIPOC community.

Learn more: <https://www.pollinationguelph.ca/local-events>

Register: [Pollination Guelph 2026 Symposium](#)

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](#)

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