



YORKLANDS GREEN HUB
opening green doors to the future

Welcome to the Yorklands community update!

Yorklands Community Update: 1 September 2026

Yorklands is excited to share our September E-blast with you! We're offering two new Yorklands walks and a Plein Air session. Several community events are also taking place across Guelph, including the Arboretum Expo and Guelph's National Forest Week.

Yorklands National Forest Week Walk - September 20

We have two walks planned for the day led by two tree experts. Join us and participate in National Forest Week!

Plein Air At Yorklands: National Forest Week - September 20

Calling all artists! Join us for a day of painting, sketching, and creating at Yorklands. More info below.

Take Action: Municipal Election - October 26

The municipal election is approaching. Learn how you can ask candidates about the future of the Yorklands.

Open Volunteer Positions

Want to join the Yorklands team? Read on to find out about our open volunteer positions.

Small Change Fund

Join us in protecting Yorklands. Our partnership with SCF supports our work in urban conservation, biodiversity, and reconciliation.

Thank you for your support,

The Yorklands Team

YORKLANDS NATIONAL FOREST WEEK WALK

Explore the trees
Discover the pollinators



**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20**

11 AM + 2 PM



SCAN TO REGISTER
FOR FREE



Uncover the trees, pollinators, and nature flourishing in the Yorklands greenspace!

On Sunday, September 20, join Yorklands for **two guided walks** through the historic site, led by two tree experts. Learn more about the site's special heritage trees while discovering the connection between the trees and the pollinators.

As part of Guelph's citywide National Forest Week, participants will have the opportunity to hang poems and quotations among the trees for visitors to discover along the way.

Come celebrate National Forest Week with us!

Registration is free and the link is below. Participants may register for the 11 a.m. slot, the 2 p.m. slot, or both.

Event Details:

 Date/Time: Sunday, September 20, at 11:00am and 2:00pm

 Meeting Location: Old Reformatory, 785 York Road, Guelph

 Duration: Approximately 1 hour per slot

 Registration: [National Forest Week Walk](#)

Please note: The bus stops at the main gate. There are no washrooms on site, but commercial venues are nearby.

The Event is presented in collaboration with:

Yorklands Green Hub • Pollination Guelph • Guelph Urban Forest Friends • Guelph
Tree Trust



Plein Air!

National Forest Week at the Yorklands

Come & celebrate the trees at the Old Reformatory!

Where?

Yorklands Green Hub is inviting all artists to the Old Reformatory, 785 York Road, Guelph

What?

Sunday September 20

Plein Air from 11AM - 4PM

Guided walks with YGH and Guelph Tree Trust

Walks begin at 11am and 2pm

How?

Check in at the main gate

Guelph city buses stop at the gate.

No washrooms on site, please use nearby commercial venues.

Opportunity to offer your art for display and/or sale - Guelph public library December 2026.



PLEASE NOTE:

You can create any type of visual art - paintings, sculpture, architecture, photography!

We encourage everyone to spend time celebrating the trees at the Yorklands!

**For more information
please visit:**

yorklandsgreenhub.ca

Or contact Irene at:

ihanuta@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

**Register on
Eventbrite:**



**YORKLANDS
GREEN HUB**



opening green doors to the future

Yorklands Green Hub is inviting all artists to visit the Yorklands site on **September 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, in celebration of National Forest Week!

You are encouraged to create any type of visual art, including paintings, sculpture, architecture, and photography.

Completed artwork may be displayed and offered for sale at the East Side Branch of the Guelph Public Library in December 2026.

Please note that there are no washrooms on site, but commercial venues are nearby. Guelph Transit Route 4 stops at the gate.

Event Details:

 Date/Time: Sunday, September 20, from 11:00am to 4:00pm

 Meeting Location: Old Reformatory, 785 York Road, Guelph

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

The Event is presented in collaboration with:

Yorklands Green Hub • Pollination Guelph • Guelph Urban Forest Friends • Guelph Tree Trust

NATIONAL FOREST WEEK

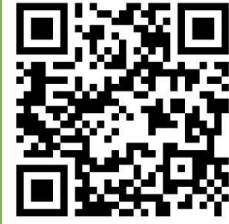


Canadian Institute of Forestry
Institut forestier du Canada

SEPTEMBER

Sat. 19th to
Sat. 26th, 2026

To register and
find more information:
Scan the code or visit
guffguelph.ca/events



Sat. 19 | Community Tree Planting

Join Trees for Guelph and OPIRG for a day of tree planting and community actions.

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Hanlon Creek Park, 505 Kortright Rd W

Sat. 19 | Storytelling Guild

Immerse yourself in the captivating story of the Ash tree, and unleash your creativity with an interactive art activity!

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Enabling Gardens, Riverside Park

Sun. 20 | Guided Tree Walks

Celebrate the Trees at Yorklands with 2 Guided walks detailing the close connections to our pollinators.

Hike 1: 11 AM, Hike 2: 2 PM

Meet at 785 York Rd E Entrance

Sun. 20 | Plein Air Forest Art

Join us for a day of inspiration among the trees as we explore, sketch, paint, and create in nature.

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Meet at 785 York Rd, Bring your own materials!

Sun. 20 | Mini Forest Tour

Explore how a Guelph local grew their own mini forest in the heart of downtown Guelph.

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

34 Dublin St. S

Tues. 22 | Seed Collection Event

Join us for a hands-on seed collection workshop and be part of a local effort to grow the next generation of forests.

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Ignatius Jesuit Centre

Tues. 22 | A Sustainable Urban Forest

Join a dynamic panel of local experts for an engaging discussion on the future of Guelph's urban forest.

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Doors open at 6:30 PM

OAC Centennial Arboretum Centre

Wed. 23 | Noon Hour Walk

Take a break and join us for a refreshing walk through The Arboretum with a focus on natural history of trees.

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Hayles McKay Shelter, next to the main Arb parking lots

Thurs. 24 | Restoring the Understory

Participate in a hands-on workshop that will bring you into the fascinating world of the forest understory.

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Ignatius Jesuit Centre

Thurs. 24 | Tree Bingo

Whether you're a nature nerd or just bingo-curious, this is your chance to mingle, learn, and laugh in great company.

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Red Chevron Club

Fri. 25 | Beaver Walk

Join Julianna van Adrichem for a fascinating guided walk along Marden Creek at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre.

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Registration Required, \$35/adult.

Pay what you can options available, kids are free.

Sat. 26 | Roots and Renewal Festival

Join us for a day filled with inspiration, connection, and hands-on experiences that celebrate the land and the people who care for it. **Tree planting demo's will take place throughout the day!**

12:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Ignatius Jesuit Centre



The YGH is excited to share Guelph's 2026 National Forest Week schedule. As a collaborative effort with several community organizations, we're excited for the opportunity to participate, connect, and celebrate the natural world that surrounds us.

If you're interested in any of the events, be sure to click the button below to learn more!

[Guelph's National Forest Week Schedule](#)



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TAKE ACTION

— MUNICIPAL ELECTION —

October 26 

ASK THE CANDIDATES:

Would you support the continued preservation of the former Ontario Reformatory lands and their development into a

NATIONAL URBAN PARK?

 **MORE QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES**

As the election nears and all candidates are now registered, many of you may be wondering who do I vote for? We at Yorklands Green Hub are non-partisan but would like to ask you as supporters of the Yorklands to raise a question with any candidates you meet up with at the door or at all candidates meetings:

The Ontario Heritage Act enables municipal councils to protect not only individual properties but also districts of cultural heritage value of interest as Heritage Conservation Districts. HCDs can protect and enhance a group of buildings, streets and open spaces that as a collection represent a collective asset to a community. The former Ontario Reformatory lands are now an HCD. Would you support their continued preservation and development into a national urban park?

If you don't have the chance to meet with each of the candidates in your Ward, you can also write to them or call them. Click the following link to find their [contact information](#).

Here is a link to the [map of the wards](#) to help you determine which ward you live in. If you're interested in more questions to ask candidates, we've created a [list](#).

Arboretum Expo

Tree Day & Plant Sale

Saturday, Sept. 12, 10 AM – 3 PM

20
26

Join Us!

A family-friendly event to support The Arboretum's mission to conserve biodiversity and connect people to nature through research, teaching, and community outreach.

Event Features:

- Plant Sale
- Information Booths by Community and U of G Campus Groups
- Tree and Food Sustainability Demonstrations
- Nature Hikes and Guided Tours
- Family-Friendly Activities
- Food Trucks
- Live Music

Scan to Learn More:



Conservation of
Biodiversity



Education and
Research



Community
Connection



Arboretum Expo

Join Yorklands Green Hub at the Arboretum Expo on Saturday, September 12 at the University of Guelph Arboretum!

This annual community event is a celebration of nature, learning, and local action, with dozens of organizations and activities for all ages. Be sure to stop by our table to connect with us and learn more about our programs and vision for a sustainable future.



Event Information: <https://arboretum.uoguelph.ca/education-events/ArbExpo>

GUELPH MAYORAL CANDIDATE TOWNHALL

YOUR CITY.
YOUR VOICE.
YOUR VOTE.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

7 - 9 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM



ITALIAN CANADIAN CLUB
135 FERGUSON STREET

#14 BUS ROUTE – GRANGE | WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE | FREE PARKING



FREE EVENT: DONATIONS WELCOME
TO HELP COVER EVENT COSTS



**WHERE DO MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES STAND
ON ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU?**

Hosted by:



For more information: guelphwellington.cs@gmail.com



www.gwsocialjustice.com

National Day **for Truth and Reconciliation**

September 30



Canada

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Truth and Reconciliation Day (Sept 30th) was established in 2021 in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 80. It is a day to recognize and acknowledge deep harms committed on Indigenous children across Canada who attended residential schools and to honour those that survived as well as those that never returned home.

At Yorklands Green Hub, we want to remember and acknowledge not only these harms, but also the strength and resilience of residential school survivors, their families, and their communities. We are committed to working on building greater understanding, truth and harmony.

Between September 21 - 25, we invite you to watch these webinar lunch and learns from the truth and reconciliation commission to learn more about our shared history: <https://trw-svr.nctr.ca/lunch-and-learns/>



Join our e-blast!
Scan & Subscribe



Know someone who'd love Yorklands?

Share this newsletter with someone who would enjoy updates on nature, conservation, community events, and more!





SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YORKLANDS

Help steward the
Yorklands for future
generations. Don't miss
out and join today.

Collaborate. Conserve. Contribute.

yorklandsgreenhub.ca/volunteer



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Open Volunteering Postions

We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers to join our finance committee and to join our board!

As a finance committee member, you will:

- Meet quarterly or monthly depending on needs of the organization
- Review and assess financial statements, reports, budgets and funding needs
- Work on financial policy development

Who we're looking for:

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

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

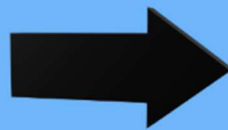
 Apply here: <https://yorklandsgreenhub.ca/volunteer-form/>.

GRASSY NARROWS RIVER RUN RALLY



SEPTEMBER 23RD 2026
SAVE THE DATE!

Scan here to
RSVP



Grassy Narrows River Run Rally

On Wednesday September 23rd 2026 at 12pm, Free Grassy Narrows invites you to walk with Grassy Narrows youth and community members to show that you are with them on their path to achieve mercury justice and freedom!

Grassy Narrows people are powerful leaders in the movement for Indigenous sovereignty and environmental justice. They have shown that together, people can fight for justice against all odds and make real gains. But so much is still needed to right the wrong of mercury poisoning in Grassy Narrows.

Scan the QR code to RSVP. Your RSVP helps Free Grassy Narrows plan for the day, but it is not required to attend the event.

 Link To Website: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/river-run-2026>

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

Grow Green Help The Team!

≡ *Become a member today!* ≡



**Become a Member,
Make Yorklands a Place to Remember**

Join our community of members
dedicated to preserving Yorklands
and cultivating a **greener, more
sustainable future for all.**



Scan to Join!



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

advocating for the protection of the historic Yorklands site, connecting people to nature, upholding Indigenous collaboration, and championing 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.

Become a member. Help make Yorklands a place to remember!

Email Liana De Francesco 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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Our mailing address is:

42 Carden Street, Guelph

Ontario, Canada

N1H 3A2

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