

Hello from London,On,

Please add my name to your list of supporters for the Guelph Heritage Committee's recommendation for Part IV and Part V of the Heritage Conservation Designation that will come to city council on June 14th/2021.

I appeal to you as a Horticulturist, landscape designer and installer, 30 year volunteer consultant at the Arthur Ford Nature Park in London (first of its kind in Canada), editor of the self- guided tour booklet for the nature park, and a graduate of University of Guelph (first to receive the Horticulture Communications award, "spreading the horticultural spirit").

I am also a **strong** believer in horticultural therapy. In its day, the Guelph Reformatory was way ahead of its time in its initiation of a very successful rehabilitation program involving the inmates working with many kinds of perennials, trees, and waterways as well as building the unique dry stone wall and stone bridge. This beautiful landscape **needs** to be maintained as a public space for people of all ages, nationalities and mobilities so they can experience it with all their senses and understand and appreciate this fitting tribute to all the hard work that went into transforming this large piece of land into a memorable naturalized parkland. I am pleased that the new vision will include a much appreciated horticulture therapy place and a teaching centre for all ages.

I am confident that these well organized groups will support the stewardship of the Yorklands by respecting, recognizing and protecting native plants, aquatic species, indigenous people, water and land resources .

I understand there are 11 buildings on the site considered to be provincially significant heritage sites, especially the Arts and Crafts and Tudor ones.

From an outsider's viewpoint, I see Yorklands as a huge gem in Guelph's landscape, such a beneficial project historically, horticulturally, educationally, socially, artistically and architecturally.

Certainly a unique "drawing card" for tourists and I , as one, can't wait to see the progress.

FYI, my 4 grandparents and parents all lived in Guelph and now my sister has returned there and lives only 2 blocks from where we lived when little ! I visit Guelph whenever I can and certainly have connections to the city and University.

Alison Ferguson (better known as Cricket)

Gentlemen: Please save Guelph Reformatory Lands... and designate the property as Part 4 AND Part 5 under the Heritage Act. One of Guelph's greatest assets are it's parks and green spaces; it would be a real shame to lose even one of them...and land is not replaceable. The wild life who live there, the dogs and people who walk there and the people who fish there and enjoy the natural habitat will put up with the ventilating noises and abattoir smells. I doubt that residents in a new subdivision would be quite as happy. Please save this wonderful open space. Thank you for your consideration, John & Joan Morley.  
Ward One

This email is to inform you that I support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 and 5 of the Heritage Act) for the Ontario Reformatory lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

Thank you,  
Kimberley Stark

I support the recommendations of the Heritage Guelph Committee for both Part 4 and 5 as it will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District Plan.

Ruth Parent

Good morning Mayor Cam Guthrie and members of council,

I am writing you to show my support for the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee, because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND Part 5) for the OR lands, will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

My husband and two young children love to explore the Yorklands property, formerly the Ontario Reformatory lands. We have visited this beautiful property many times since the girls have been born, and hope to continue to do so as they grow up.

Thank you for your consideration, let's keep this beautiful piece of land accessible to the public for our future generations!

Regards,

Monica Holland

Dear City of Guelph,

Please consider protecting the buildings AND landscape of the Yorklands as a Heritage Conservation District. The lands and buildings contain so much history that our community and tourists deserve to learn about. I've enjoy visiting this location for years, exploring new trails every year. Most recently, my partner and I hiked there after he returned from completing his training at the Ontario Police College. We both find it fascinating and would love the opportunity for everyone in the future to have this experience. Over the last long weekend, it was a very popular spot for getting outside and exercising.

Best,  
Liz Teel

Dear Mayor Guthrie:

I am writing to you today to express my passionate request that you and the remainder of City Council act to protect and preserve the amazing green-space we Guelph citizens know and love as the Ontario Reformatory (OR), aka the Yorklands. This is a very special piece of land, for both natural and cultural history.

I understand that on June 14, a key decision will be made by the City Council which will determine if the OR lands will receive the necessary protection for the future public enjoyment of its unique parkland. This is an opportunity for the key parts of the OR lands to be preserved as a rare treasure - a large urban green space accessible to the public, to be protected in its entirety for current and future generations, and shared use.

Not only is the OR, aka Yorklands, a special piece of land for its special cultural heritage, but for the opportunity it provides for the modern public to get out and enjoy nature, enjoy being with family & friends, and make memories that will last a lifetime. The ponds, pathways, fields & forests of the OR have been an important part of many Guelphites' daily life thus far, and they should continue to be so. A very important step towards protecting this special piece of land is to offer it the full protection it deserves.

Please support the Guelph heritage Committee in their recommendation of Part 4, AND 5 as well, to protect the Culture Heritage Landscape of the OR. This combination of protections will guarantee that these heritage assets will be protected for future generations as a Heritage Conservation District, and will provide a greater chance of the Ontario Reformatory lands remaining in the public realm.

It is not just the buildings of this special, historical place but the lands themselves that hold so much meaning, both in the past and in the present. This cultural heritage should be preserved, and the landscape is a unique treasure that deserves to be saved as a whole for the people of Guelph and Ontario.

I ask you to support the recommendation for the Heritage Guelph Committee because designating the OR as a heritage Conservation District (Part 4 & 5 of the Heritage Act) will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District Plan.

Please keep this amazing piece of land within access of the public to continue to appreciate and enjoy. Please act to preserve the Cultural Heritage Landscape of the Ontario Reformatory so it can be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Andalyne Tofflemire

Dear Cathy and Leanne,

I urge you to support the recommendation of the Guelph Heritage Committee regarding the future of the site of the former Ontario Reformatory / Yorklands. I urge you to designate Part 5 of the Heritage Act as well as Part 4 and protect this property for future public enjoyment.

If you have time to read further, here is my thinking.

Yes, I applaud Council for wishing to protect several buildings on the site. But I feel it is also necessary to protect part of the property as a Cultural Heritage Landscape. The pandemic has made clear that such sites are essential to mental well-being, offering wonderful landscapes in all seasons with birds, animals, rare plants and trees. Please designate part of this beautiful historical and natural heritage as a Heritage Conservation District and so keep it public for everyone after its sale.

This is a Guelph treasure that we should not lose.

Yours truly,

Patricia Bell



Hello

We are non Guelph residents who often travel to your community to enjoy the grounds, trails and buildings of the former OR lands. While there, we visit local restaurants ( obviously for take out now) and do a bit of shopping and sightseeing.

We strongly encourage Guelph council to support taking over these lands and preserve and protect a truly beautiful and remarkable piece of Guelph's heritage.

Sincerely

Ralph and Kathryn Gastmeier

Good day,

This entire piece of land is an extremely unique part of the Cultural Heritage Landscape of the city of Guelph. Not only does it benefit the quality of life of the residents of our city but if done very carefully, part of it could also become an extraordinary tourist attraction which could help stimulate our economy. A section of it could also be considered as a valuable asset for research by the University of Guelph similar to "Jokers Hill" in King Township which was donated as a research center to the University of Toronto.

This irreplaceable part of our heritage must be VALUED and protected as a Cultural Heritage Landscape in perpetuity. The residents of this city have expressed that they have a tremendous amount of value for it, now we are counting on you!

The diversity of the landscape has allowed for a distinct, thriving wildlife habitat that is very important and in need of protection, YOUR protection. The highest level of environmental assessment conducted by a respected independent organization approved by the Yorklands Green Hub should be conducted to find out exactly what species reside here before any decision is made.

The pandemic is as a result of climate change and should be a wake up call for all of us to reevaluate our priorities and Mother Earth should be at the top of the priority list. We are all in this together and need to act now by working together to rebuild the depleted tree canopy, what wetlands we have left and focus on anything and everything we can do to protect the small amount of green space we have left in this city. The pandemic has proven that humans need green space for well being.

This land is our land.

Do the right thing.

Thank you,

Sandy Nicholls

As proud citizens of the green city of Guelph, we urge the City Council to designate the Reformatory lands under both Section 4 and Section 5 of the Heritage Act.

Carolyn and Don Johns

City Council, Mayor Guthrie,

I am asking you to preserve and protect the Yorklands. These beautiful lands need to be preserved for nature, for the wild creatures who live therein and for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. Once destroyed we will never get them back. These cultural heritage lands are a part of Guelph's history. Natural landscapes are filled with wildlife, ponds, water features and scenic spaces. So many natural areas are being destroyed for development. Please don't let this happen here. There are several groups working hard to purchase and protect these lands. Please don't sell as one parcel to developers!

You have a chance to save and protect this area within our City for the enjoy of many instead of lining the pockets of developers. It's time to put the interest of your citizens first. This delightful area needs your protection....for perpetuity.

A very concerned citizen.

Dianne Mackie

I support the efforts of the Heritage Guelph Committee regarding the O.R. property on York Road.  
Thank you,  
Janet Alilovic

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Council:

I would like to remind council of the following decision of Council on in 2014

**Jail lands vision gets thumbs up from Council:**

<https://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/5868629-jail-lands-vision-gets-thumbs-up-from-council/>

And here's what the minutes of the meeting say:

**First Amendment**

8. Moved by Councillor Laidlaw Seconded by Councillor Burcher

1. That Council express support in principle, Yorklands Green Hub's vision for the use of a small portion of the Guelph Innovation District Secondary Plan to showcase environmental education and green technology demonstration.

2. That staff continue to discuss Yorklands Green Hub's submission with the group.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Mayor Farbridge, Councillors Bell, Burcher, Dennis, Findlay, Furfaro, Guthrie, Kovach, Laidlaw Piper (Now Caron), Van Hellemond and Wettstein (12)

VOTING AGAINST: (0)

I delegated at this meeting; council has already unanimously voted in favour of supporting Yorklands.

Sincerely

E. Lin Grist

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Councillor Bell,

I am adding my voice to the people of our city who would like to see the Ontario Reformatory Lands be designated a Heritage Conservation District (part 4 and 5 of the Heritage Act).

Many years ago while I was a student at the University of Guelph, I volunteered at the OR. I was part of a group called Focus on the North which brought in educational materials for the Native Sons program. I remember being intimidated at first to go into the prison. But over time I learned so much from the First Nations inmates, particularly about the land and our need to honour and protect it.

I hope you consider how valuable and necessary the OR lands are to the people of Guelph, and also vital to the natural life of this area. As Guelph continues to grow we need to conserve these well loved green spaces that many of us have been using for years.

Thank you for your time.

Jacqueline Gilbey

Recognition of the historic value of the buildings is a good start, but it is not enough to save this whole landscape from the incursions of insensitive development. The buildings alone do not tell the whole story. If you have walked between the dry stone walls, or around the beautiful ponds, or explored the Eramosa River banks, or the amazing walls of the old quarry, you know this landscape is a unique treasure that deserves to be saved as a whole for the people of Guelph and Ontario.

Under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act, a municipality can protect a landscape along with all the structures and buildings by designating it as a Cultural Heritage Landscape (CHL) or a Heritage Conservation District (HCD). This designation could preserve the whole 225 acres, along with the historic jail buildings, the ponds, the Clythe Creek with its waterfalls and bridges, the dry stone walls, the quarry area, the banks of the Eramosa River and the wooden trestle bridge.

I support the support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee, because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

Evelyn Schmitz-Hertzberg



Re: Ontario Reformatory Lands

I strongly support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee, because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

Hamish Duthie

**Protection of Ontario Reformatory lands**

City Staff are recommending designation of several of the buildings on the OR under Part 4 of the Heritage Act which will only protect the buildings. The Guelph Heritage Committee is recommending Part 5 designation as well to protect the Cultural Heritage Landscape as a Heritage Conservation District which would include the heritage building and the lands that surround them including elements like the dry stone walls, the bridges, the quarrylands, etc. This combination of protections will be a strong guarantee of protection for future generations.

I support the recommendations above because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

Sincerely

Lynn C. Allen