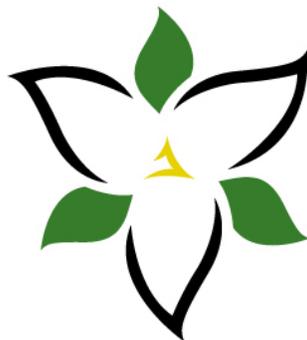




Transition Guelph Resilience Festival
10C Rooftop Engagement Summary Report

March 24, 2017

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

**Community Engagement – Transition Guelph Resilience Festival
March 24, 2017 5:30-8:00 pm**

Facilitators: Julia Grady, Joy Sammy, Bryan McPherson & Emily Davies-Robinson

of participants: 21

10C provided a rooftop presentation to Guelph community members as part of Transition Guelph’s annual Resilience Festival. A 30-minute presentation and engagement activity was followed by a facility tour and a soup social hosted by The Seed. The presentation examined greenspace in the downtown core, creating habitat corridors on rooftop spaces, rooftop analysis, case studies from NYC, Toronto, Vancouver & Chicago, benefits of rooftop greening, and programming opportunities to activate the site.

An engagement activity included asking the audience members to fill our questions sheets or to mark up rooftop aerial images. The activity was divided into 3 categories for information gathering – Who is involved (who should be our key allies?), Programming of the site, and Design of the site.

10C acknowledges the **Ontario Trillium Foundation** for their support on this project. Funds for the 10C rooftop initiative provided by the OTF Seed Grant.

WHO is involved?

1. Who should be the main users of the site?

Site could be managed by a couple of collaborative organizations – but open to the public
Bees & human beings

2. Are there organizations you think we should connect with?

OCO – Organic Council of Ontario
COG – Canadian Organic Growers
Julien Project
North End Harvest Market
School programs: co-op, section 23
Immigrant services
CRAFT farming (internship)
Access Alliance Multicultural Health Centre – they have an amazing multicultural rooftop garden
Katie German with FoodShare / School Grown
School Grown has rooftop garden @ Eastdale Collegiate Institute
Backyard Urban Farm Company (BUFCO) in Toronto
Jane Hayes (Garden Jane) – worked on rooftop projects at Carrot Commons, Daniels Spectrum & many condo sites – knowledgeable in growing & design
Arlen Throness @ Ryerson University – rooftop farm
Farm to Fork
Victor Dauls (Rec Centre)
Drop-in Clinic – provide recreation & food for clients
David McAulley
Yorklands Green Hub
Stop Restaurant Supplies – sell gently used equipment
Organic Council of Ontario
Urban Beekeepers Association
Tri-City Bee People
Educational schools & groups
Chefs & restaurants
Downtown Guelph Business Association
Guelph Urban Organic Farmers
Mike – Transition Guelph (local bees)
Schools / School Board

Scouts & Sparks
Shelters / Drop in Centre {rooftop as healing space}
Kids Right to Choose – GMO related

3. How would you (specifically) like to participate in the project?

** NOT REALLY ADDRESSED – BUT WILL BE WITH FUTURE ENGAGEMENT SESSION **

4. How should a network of rooftops be managed? What to do with the food?

A system to be designed that allows a fluidity for those working / planting / managing that allows them to navigate from one roof to another .. same protocols no matter the roof.

Planting strategies & inventory software to forecast potential yields and available harvest to offer / sell / donate

If food is sold it should have the goal of making healthy food affordable & accessible, and money goes toward not-for-profit OR food donated to Hope House, Chalmers, etc

Rooftop space is relatively small so garden efforts are not for large scale production

A pound per square foot per year

Will not get yields to support just a food effort unless over 5000 square feet

Keep it people oriented – community related

Connect with chefs & restaurants – herb focus {does not use as much space}

Downtown Business Association

Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Farming

Community garden groups

Develop CSA with specific expectation that it is small scale production

Rotate from month-to-month

Connect Julien project

Small social enterprise

Make products and sell them. Value added products with community kitchen & rooftop: honey, pesto {basil}

Use the money to buy seed, sun meshing and farm up-keep

Programming?

1. What type of activities do you envision for the rooftop site?

Community movie nights
Multicultural / diverse food production & programming – Guelph will be diverse if inclusive spaces are provided
Bees / apiary / beehives – campaign to get Guelphites to plant more pollinators
Outdoor gathering space – for reskilling, classes, yoga
Inclusive space for community members to site & enjoy the space
Making connections
Therapeutic program – partnership with CMHA, Self Help Alliance, UoG & WIC
Educational component – gardening / pollinator / beekeeping community workshops & programs
Incubator farm / CSA opportunities
Horticultural therapy
Drying veggies / herbs – food prep
Kite flying, but also experimenting with kites for wind energy
Bike deliveries
Drone delivery Canada
Bug food? Crickets
Herb gardens
Enabling garden
Meditation / restorative yoga
Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) – addiction counseling
Virtual reality with agriculture?
Eatery
Multiuse outdoor classroom
Movable gardens
Crickets
Wheel-chair accessible gardens
Café bar
Outdoor classroom with movable furniture & garden beds – changes the function / programming of the site
Strategy for seasonality – 4 season greenhouse, centre pavilion that is heated
Chickens
Aquaponics – fish waste used as fertilizer
Aquarium – koi ponds {serene}

2. What type of agriculture would you like to see?

Organic but not necessarily certified – seems like unnecessary expense for small food production area
Integrated / closed loop systems such as aquaponics
Vertical gardens – hops
Herb beds
Chickens
Crickets
Microgreens, tomatoes, potatoes, leafy greens, peppers

3. What are your top ethical considerations for the production and distribution of the food? (organic/certified/shared, etc.)

The food could go to community programs like Chalmers OR food to support 10C programs .. maybe onsite café
Small space for community gardens – could create an exclusivenss vs. one big garden for all
Not having to be certified organic – but focus on companion planting, permaculture practices and sharing of produce with local groups for poverty alleviation
Follow organic standards in Canada
Share with community

4. What will the rooftop activities help with or provide?

Community connections
Community education
Agriculture apprenticeships
Access to urban greenspace
Skills development
Re-connection with nature within urban environment
Access for young / new forms of entrepreneurship
Access to quality food
Employed urban farm educator to coordinate programming

Support from the Board of Ed & Community Living for growing support with students & community members
Sense of community
Joy & peace
Relationships
Funding opportunities
Creating own products (brand)
Bike delivery of goods
Drone delivery Canada – parts to communities
Local food sustainability

Design

1. What innovative ideas do you think we should explore? The sky's the limit!

Plaentarium
Use sub-irrigated planters to reduce water loss on a hot rooftop
Climbing wall
Bungee jumping
Use switch grass for mulch
Area of table-top gardens that are wheelchair accessible
Wind generation
Music stage
West façade
Activate street edges
Seedling areas & greenhouse
Sun shields to block out harmful UV rays
Solar light sources
Filter rainwater after gardens * research more *
Drums
All season interest
Sensory gardens
Stationary binocular light .. AKA the Bat signal ☺
Art installations

Crops against the façade – lighting it from the back
Illuminate the space – nighttime considerations
Wind generation
Greenhouse
Screen – movie nights | property
Stage for music
What can you see from the street – make it interesting from the street view –
pedestrians will think what is up there? I want to go check it out!
Rock-climbing
Seedling area
Sunshields to block harmful UV rays
Viewshed – sunsets
Incorporation with street festivals → dance festival, jazz festival, motion
festival, hillside

2. What urban form would you like to see? {garden, park,
greenspace, artistic}

3. What are some aesthetic considerations for the rooftop?

Make site visible
All season interest – winter functions?
Sensory experience
Hammocks
Seating
Yoga space

4. What features/fixtures do you see as being important for
the rooftop?

Accessible
Safety – keeping things grounded so things do not blow away
Incorporation with surrounding street festivals & events

Other factors to consider – side comments from the engagement session

What are the heating considerations? Integrate with existing HVAC?

Getting material to rooftop – move soil

Limitations – doors and entrances

Thinking of it as a system

Need carbon source – switch grass, woodchips or other {newsprint?}

Irrigation – fed from basement? Pulling from cistern?

Pump – 60' feet of head

Rainwater capture from the roof – there will be roof surfaces on the roof that will capture rain

Cistern water – for toilets, need to evaluate it after one year

Intermediate potable water on 4th floor (possibly a 1000 litres)

Vertical structures

Pigeons & Canadian geese problem

Mesh deck raised on parapet ends

Rainwater guide recommends NOT collecting water that has been filtered through green roofs / garden beds → water are possible design solutions for this? Gravel filtration on top of membrane?

City of Guelph – may not mind if it is filtered (OVC advices against it, but not restricted in this regard)

Half green roof but also commercial purpose

Some membranes can not be walked on – currently pavers on place

5 years use of current one until new membrane structure in place

Certification may be unnecessary expense – follow Canadian organic standards could be enough

Raised beds – easier to get organic certification (with traditional soil takes up to 3 years)