Orientation Guide to Kingston Community House aka “99 York”

Kingston Community House at 99 York

Hi – Welcome to Kingston Community House! We have written this brief guide to help you know what’s in the house and how people use it. Most folks refer to the house as **“99 York”** but the non-profit organization that owns and governs the house operation is the “Kingston Community House for Self Reliance”. The house is an affordable community rental space.

www.kingstoncommunityhouse.org

History

In March 1981, four women in the community purchased the house and donated it to the newly formed Kingston Community House non-profit organization. Since that time, a volunteer board of directors has governed the operation of the house.

There has always been an individual who orchestrates the day-to-day use of the house. Presently that is Harold Pickering. Harold can be contacted at: info@kingstoncommunityhouse.org

The Kingston Community House Mission

Today, “99 York” provides safe, comfortable, and inclusive meeting spaces for community groups and individuals. Since 1983, the house has served as a gathering point where people come together, learn from another, share resources, and trade skills. The house is open to members seven days a week, 365 days a year. We’re located on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat.

The 99 York philosophy is that everyone has the capacity to take responsibility for themselves when given the proper tools and encouragement. A typical day at the house might include a cooking class, a meditation group, and a film screening. Or an art class, a book club, and a 12-step program.

The house exists to serve those who value the importance of working together for a more interconnected and self-reliant lifestyle based on enriched relationships and communities.



99 York Front Entrance

99 York has several levels

Level One has a well-equipped kitchen (10 person capacity) and a smaller meeting room termed the “Den” for 6 -10 persons.

The Main Entry Level has the largest meeting room and holds 20 to 30 people.

Washrooms are on Level One and the floor above the Main Level. (The washroom on Level One will be accessible pending the installation of an exterior accessible door, hopefully in 2027)

The higher levels are rented to individuals and organizations.

There is a patio in the back garden with a picnic table.

What happens at the house and when is it open?

Grassroots organizations, families, and community groups gather, prepare and share food, play music, learn new skills, and encourage lively discussion. The board is committed to providing safe and welcoming spaces to meet the changing needs of the neighbourhood.

The front door is generally open from 9 am to 10 pm. Harold Pickering does all the room bookings and opens and locks the door.

Contact Harold: info@kingstoncommunityhouse.org

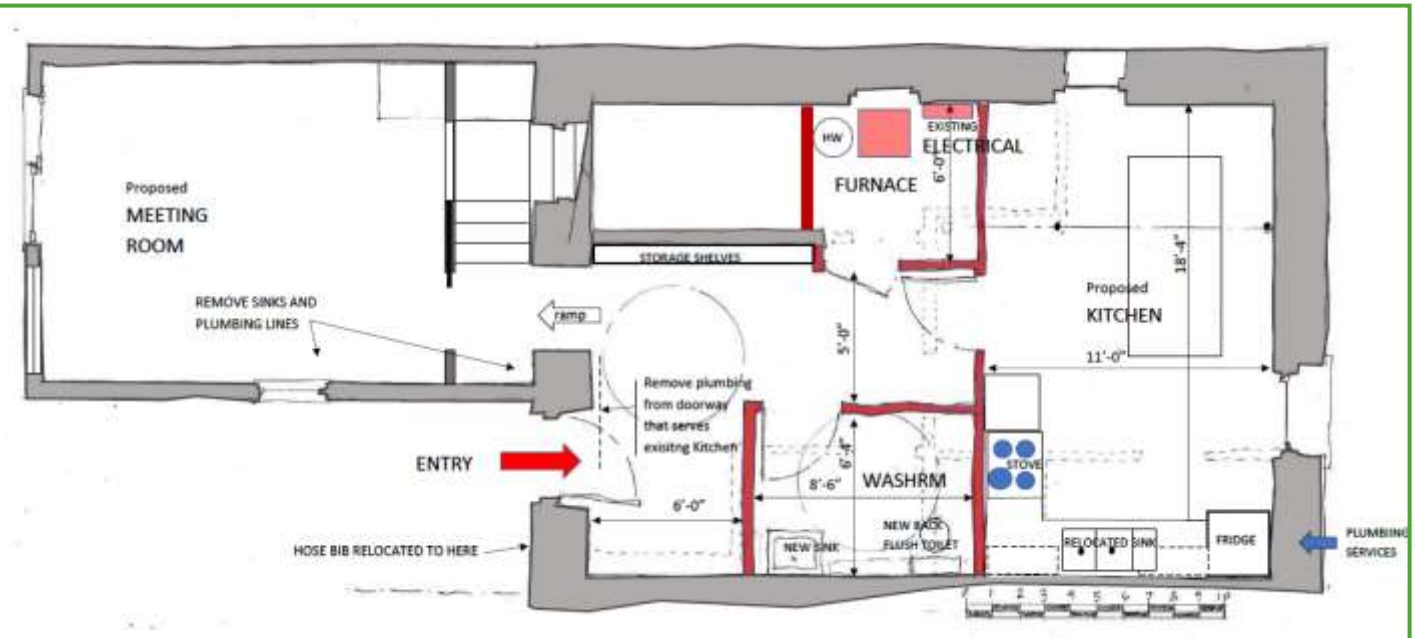
Membership

To use a room or the whole house, you or your group must be a paid up member of 99 York. Memberships are paid annually in April. Individual memberships cost $25 and groups $40. We prefer e-transfer payments to treasurer@kingstoncommunityhouse.org, but you can give a cash payment to our house coordinator Harold if necessary.

Future Plans

A major 2026/2027 renovation is underway to make Level One fully accessible. The accessible washroom is completed. The next step is to exchange a large window for an automated door which along with a short ramp will make Level One fully accessible via the grade level outdoor back patio.

Below is the projected layout of Level One once the outside door and interior ramps are complete. Post renovations, the kitchen will become a larger meeting room and be moved to a slightly smaller location that is currently the Den meeting room. The board is current seeking approximately $25,000 funding from donors and other agencies to complete these exciting alterations.



Level One 2026/2027 Renovation Plan

Donations

If you are in a position financially to support 99 York, any amounts are appreciated and a charitable tax receipt can be issued. Current renovations for improved kitchen, accessible washroom and roof repairs are in the order of over $50k. We are actively seeking donations so these needed improvements can be completed and appreciate contributions of any amount!

Membership fess, room rentals, donations and grants fund the ongoing expenses of operating 99 York. Our fixed expenses for daily organizing labour, insurance, utilities, taxes, cleaning, internet, etc., are approximately $30,000 annually, this is exclusive of major repairs or improvements such as the roof repairs of September 2026 and the ongoing accessibility washroom alterations.

The Kitchen

Book the kitchen through Harold if your group intends to prepare meals or do a specific kitchen based activity. The kitchen is fully equipped with a fridge, stove, coffee makers, tea pot, pots, plates, glasses, mugs, cutlery but does not have a dishwasher. If not in use by a specific booked group, feel free to make tea or coffee. Please do your dishes!

Other things to note about using 99 York:

First Aid Kit

There is a basic first aid kit in the Level One bathroom. Please let Harold know if you have used items from the kit.

If there is a medical emergency, call 911.

Fire Extinguishers

They are located on each level.

Leave the house and call 911 in the event of a fire emergency.

Alcohol/Smoking

There is a **no alcohol** and **no smoking** policy at the house.

Rear Garden

The rear garden/patio has a rental fee for group use, please let Harold know if you wish to book it exclusively. Otherwise it is available to anyone booking other spaces. There is a picnic table and the kitchen has a patio door walkout to the backyard.

Redecorating

If you move the furniture for your purposes, please put it back as you found it.

Other

There is a **folding table** available under the stairs, a **movie screen** and a **digital projector** can be made available.

FAQ

Can stuff be stored at the house? **Generally no**, the house has no additional ongoing storage space. If you have rented a room and it would help to have a particular item at the house before the actual room rental time, you can ask Harold how to organize that possibility. If you have rented office space, you can store things there, but please do not store perishable items such as food that will attract creatures. Do not store hazardous materials at 99 York.

Can I sleep at the house? **No**, we do not have that capacity.

If my group has rented a room, can we put food in the fridge? **Yes**, but take your remaining food with you when you leave.

If I rent office space, can I keep food in the fridge? **Yes**, but label the food with your group name and a contact number.

2026 booking rates and room capacity:

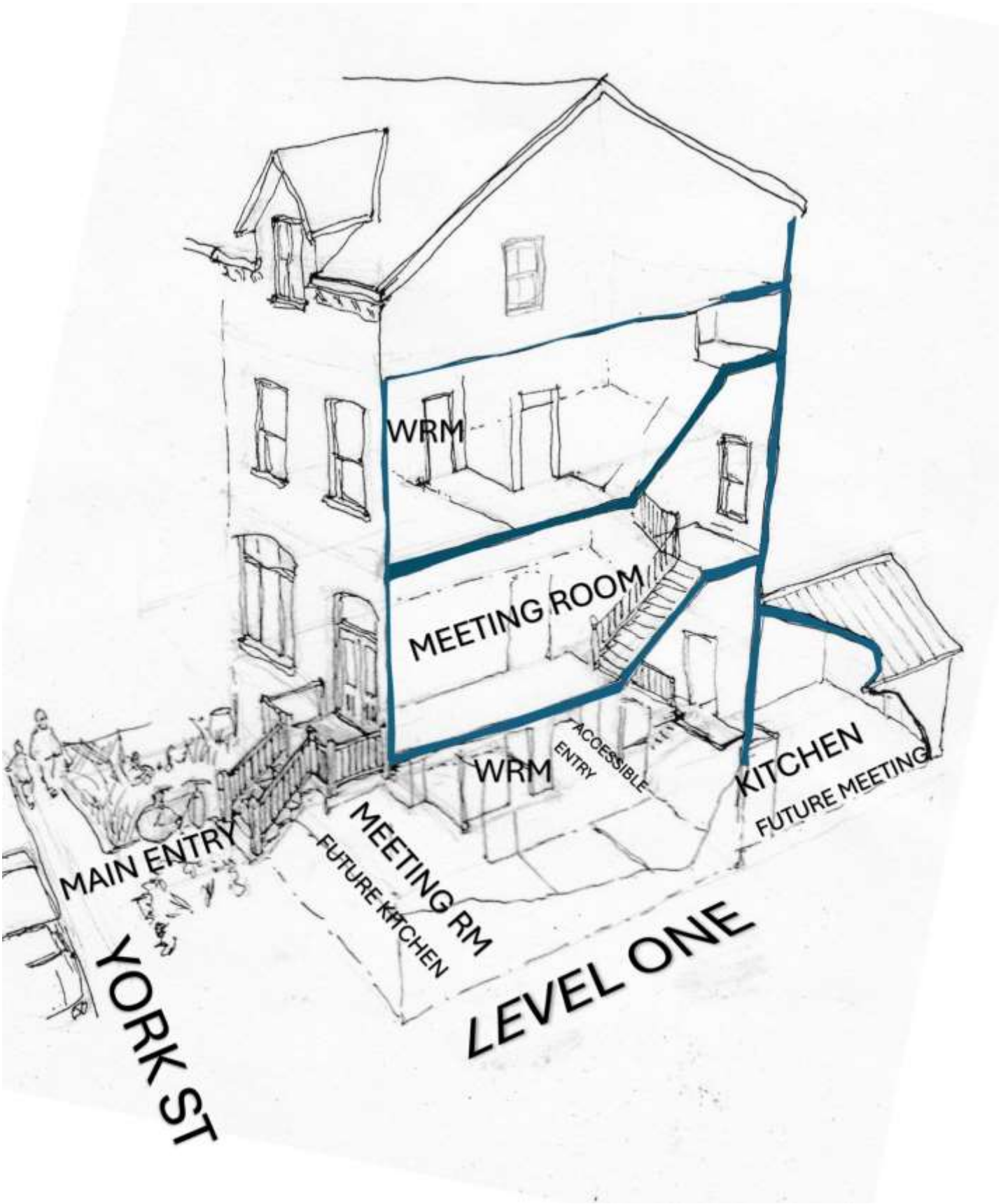
- Living Room (Main entry level)- $25 / 4 hours (20-30 capacity depending on seating arrangement)
- Kitchen (Level One)$20 / 4 hours (table can seat 10 to 12 in a pinch)
- Den (Level One) $15 / 4 hours (6 – 10 capacity)
- Whole House, all rooms, $60 / 4 hours
- Slightly higher rates apply if you have an event where you are selling something. $25/hr rooms, $60/hr whole house

Office spaces on upper levels

Please contact Harold if you are interested in one of the three upper level office spaces.

Contact

Please reach out to Harold if you have any issues with using the house. info@kingstoncommunityhouse.org



We hope you love using 99 York!

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