

September 7, 2020

Mayor & Council, Richmond Hill
clerk@richmondhill.ca

Dear Mayor & Council

RE: COUNCIL MEETING SEPT. 9, AGENDA ITEM 12.2 BOULEVARD GRASS CUTTING EXEMPTION



85 DARIOLE DRIVE
RICHMOND HILL, ON L4E 0Z4



YREA has advocated for [naturalization](#) for years, so we were delighted to see this Richmond Hill sign recently and suggest there could be other opportunities to expand naturalization to our boulevards. We read in bylaw revisions that thistles and ragweed are still frowned upon, yet flocks of Connecticut Warblers have been seen during fall migration feasting on these exact plants.

Why not experiment with naturalization of a few boulevards to see what comes up? Just leave them unmown. It would be a way of creating a better relationship and perspective of nature if people were to be

made to understand the value of wild spaces in our urban areas. The cookie cutter landscapes we continue to feel we must maintain are a holdover of the need of man to dominate nature. We have in so doing, become disconnected with the natural world through urbanization. It is time we reconnected.

My wee front garden has a patch of wildness that just blew in without me lifting a finger. It is habitat for a tree frog, chipmunk and crickets and a lot nicer visually than dry boring grass. >

Naturalizing would be worth a try and wouldn't cost a penny.

Sincerely
Gloria Marsh, Executive Director
York Region Environmental Alliance
E: gloria@yrea.org

