



# York Region Environmental Alliance

*Advocating for green energy alternatives,  
waste reduction; raising awareness –  
pesticides & GMOs, ecological responsibility*

## 2022 Annual Report



*Ring of Fire, Ontario's Breathing Lands are at risk  
Photo ©Garth Lenz*

# YORK REGION ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

## WHO WE ARE

Incorporated in 2002 to campaign against the cosmetic use of pesticides, York Region Environmental Alliance (YREA), a registered charitable organization since 2008 #: 84559 0553 RR0001 has continually expanded its mandate to address ecological issues that impact our health and the health of our environment. We continue to engage the public virtually and through YREA's very popular quarterly e-news (over 800 subscribers) our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page (over 500 followers).

York Region Environmental Alliance is governed and administered by a volunteer board of directors. We employ an arm's length accounting service to provide an annual financial statement.



## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

Gloria Marsh, Executive Director

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Sylvia Halligan

Patty Ella, Accountant,  
PME Management Solutions

## INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that we are located on the ancestral lands, sacred gathering places and traditional territories of many First Nations including the Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples. First Nations, because they were here first, inhabiting this land for more than 12,000 years.

There are over 30,000 place names in Canada that are of Indigenous origin. These are often descriptive of the location named because of the inseparable spiritual connection First Nations have to not only land but also to water, air, plants and animals. They view their environment as sacred and feel a responsibility for its preservation for future generations. As Chief Seattle once said 'whatever befalls the earth, befalls the children of the earth'. May we follow the example of Indigenous peoples to honour and protect this Earth we call home.

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## 2022 ISSUES & ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS (ABRIDGED) SUBMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT

It has been a very difficult year with communications and advocacy addressing many troubling matters. Independently, as well as jointly with other NGOs, YREA made numerous appeals provincially, regionally, municipally and federally on issues of concern. A sampling of abridged YREA submissions:

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PRODUCTS CONTAINING COAL TAR

York Region Environmental Alliance (YREA) is committed to raising awareness of the dangers of toxins on the environment and human health. In our [2019 e-news](#) we discussed the detrimental use of coal tar asphalt sealants. Yet until there is a federal ban, people will continue to be convinced by door to door sellers that the product is safe.

In fact, the toxic sealants contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), are known carcinogens. They increase the risk of a wide range of cancers, tracking their way into homes where young children are most vulnerable. Scientists estimate that PAHs released to the atmosphere each year from applications of coal tar driveway sealants are similar to or greater than annual PAH emissions from vehicles. The PAHs of these coatings can leach into our waterways causing deaths of fish, amphibians, insects and other organisms, according to the [U.S. Geological Survey](#).

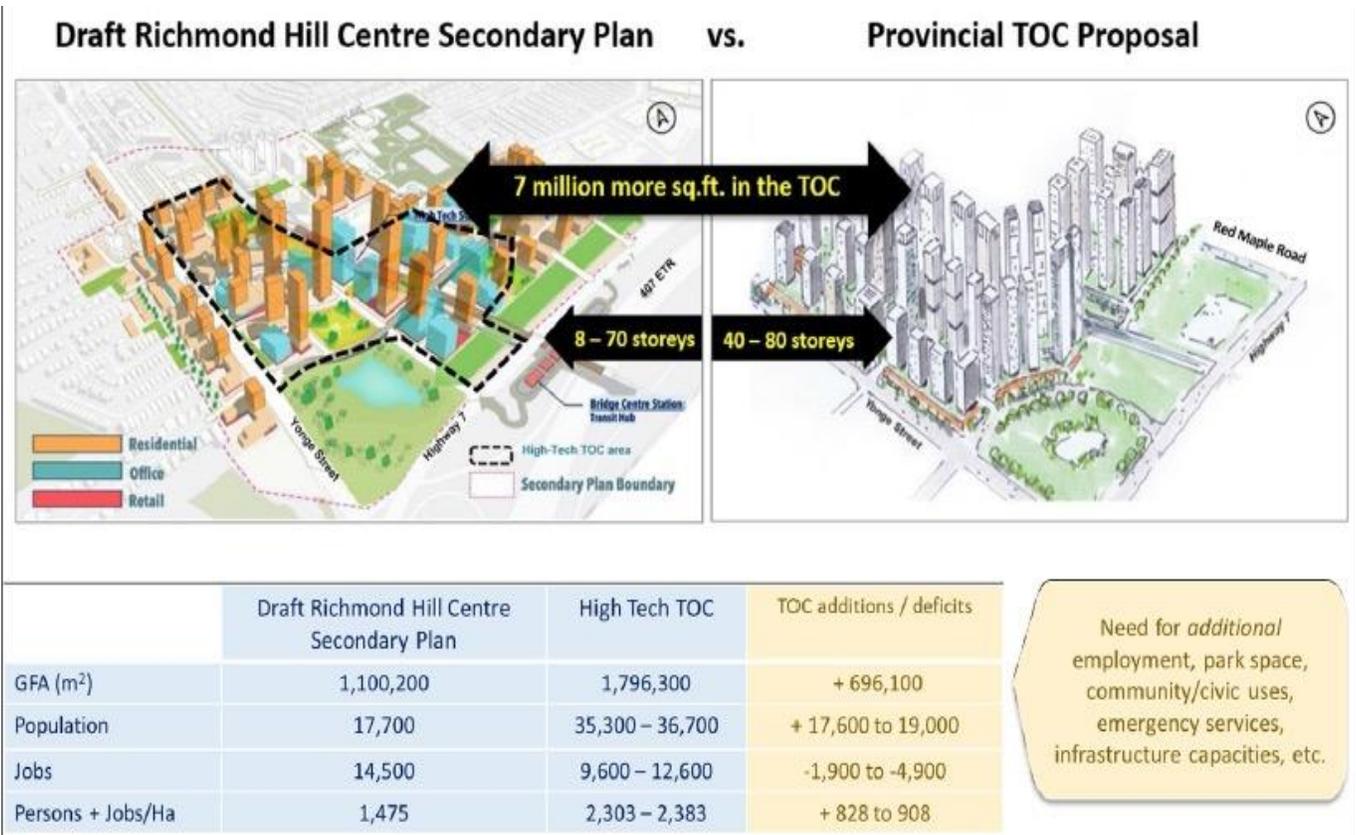
Instead of having piecemeal [bans on coal tar](#) as they do in cities, counties and states in the USA, it would serve Canada better to implement a nationwide ban to protect our natural environment as well as the health of all Canadians. In the interest of reducing global warming, we need to look at lighter coloured, more reflective paved surfaces so as to reduce the urban heat island effect with asphalt and tar roofs banned altogether in favour of white roofs, said to [reduce the urban heat island](#) by 2-3°C. Implementing a ban on coal tar sealants and asphalt and tar roofs would be another tool in getting us to our 1.5°C limit. York Region Environmental Alliance fully supports a ban on harmful coal tar sealants.



## PROVINCIAL/MUNICIPAL TRANSIT ORIENTED COMMUNITY RICHMOND HILL

York Region Environmental Alliance strongly supports Richmond Hill's request that the Province align its TOC plan to the Draft Richmond Hill Centre Secondary Plan to create a livable, complete community. The current Provincial TOC proposal sees fit to reduce jobs - up to 4,900 less and to raise populations - up to 19,000 more so as to get people on the proposed subway, perpetuating a dated bedroom community model instead of a place to live, work and play. Yes, we need the subway but in transit rich Toronto there are still only 28% of the population who do not own cars with an average of .72 vehicles per household for apartment dwellers. It is therefore not unrealistic to assume that there will still be a lot of cars requiring parking at Richmond Hill Centre (and Bridge Station for that matter). The growth numbers in the RH plan as well as people from out of the area would support a subway without the need to cram in more.

Yes, we certainly need intensification but not at the expense of green infrastructure and human well-being. We suffer from nature deficit disorder because we have been alienated from nature by the sorts of TOC concrete wastelands proposed for High Tech Station by the Province.



Where are the majestic native trees, community gardens, playgrounds and parks that should be integrated throughout a community in any holistic, complete development?

Will millennials who plan on not having children or empty nesters be the sole residents? Because the Provincial TOC proposal is certainly not conducive to families. Affordability has been repeatedly mentioned but rarely implemented. Will this truly be made to work by scaling rent to 30% of income for each dwelling and entrenched into leases?

There is also the safety considerations of these skyscrapers. Will sprinkler systems be enough to deal with fires on the floors out of reach to firefighters? How will evacuation from the 80<sup>th</sup> floor be successfully accomplished? Are building codes keeping up with these soaring heights? What about

power failures? How are people supposed to manage climbing up and down 80 stories, especially seniors or the disabled?

It is well known that living too close to hydro transmission cables is a [health concern](#). Will measures be taken to mitigate exposure to electromagnetic fields by building a safe distance away? Will these high voltage lines, if buried, be a safe distance from the buildings above?

With the years of work and public consultation which has gone into the Richmond Hill Centre draft plan which the Province sees fit to circumvent without a fulsome consultation with council and residents speaks to a higher regard for development industry influencers than it does to local governments. We need a thorough review in consultation with Richmond Hill and its residents.

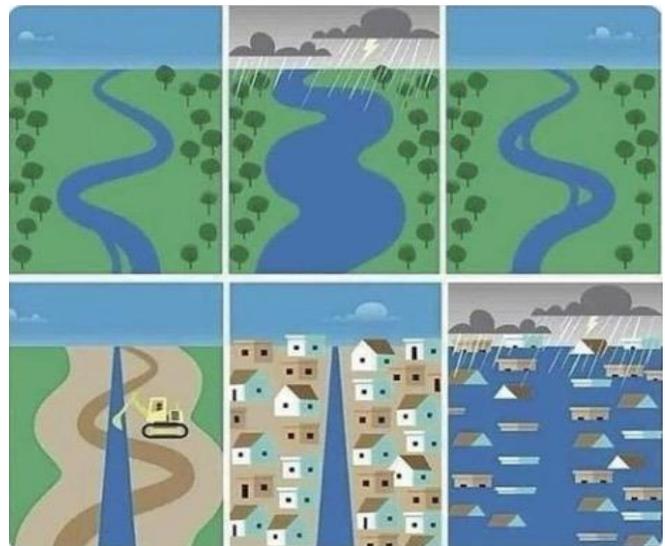
## YROP, RHOP, BAIF REVISED DEVELOPMENT YONGE/BLOOMINGTON

York Region Environmental Alliance (YREA) is in support of reasonable intensification in existing urban areas, but is concerned about development in environmentally sensitive areas on the Oak Ridges Moraine. We submitted [comments to the province](#) on this issue and can further add that the sewer smell in Oak Ridges has been there since the late 1980s when our population was under 10,000. Poor engineering, or inappropriate infrastructure in a vulnerable area?

YREA does not support the Baif revised development submission. Building in this flood plain by increasing the sprawl from 370 to 455 townhouses, thereby encroaching even further into ecologically sensitive areas does not align with the city's 'building a more sustainable Richmond Hill' environmental strategy.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

There are two provincially significant kettle wetlands surrounded by woodlands that are part of the Wilcox-St. George Wetland Complex on the northeastern portion of the subject property. They occur in a larger depression that extends all the way west to Yonge Street. These kettle wetlands are isolated with no outflows and are dependent on their surrounding catchment for overland surface water flows. Paving over much of this depression and filling it in as proposed with this development would seriously impact the water balance in these kettle wetlands. This is contrary to the PPS. Do we really want to risk replicating the scenario in this illustration?



Abutting the subject property on its east side there is a larger provincially significant kettle pond wetland in the complex which again could be impacted by alterations to their catchment which extends onto the subject property. Further east from this wetland there is a highly sensitive provincially rare kettle peatland. How will stormwater outflows from this development be dealt with in regards to these wetlands? Stormwater outflows from earlier developments to the northeast along Bloomington Road have already altered other provincially significant wetlands in the complex. (YREA previously [submitted comments](#) regarding negative development impacts on the Bayview site to this wetland complex). How will salt contamination be dealt with? Salt is water soluble. Salt laid down on roads and sidewalks in

this new development would get into stormwater ponds and into these kettle wetlands that support many sensitive amphibians. These frogs, toads and salamanders breed in these wetlands and could be negatively impacted by higher salt levels. How will the woodlot around the two kettle wetlands in the northeast be protected. Substantial buffers of 30m are required to ensure that their tree root zones are not damaged by development. Yet extensive grading encroachment is being proposed in only a 10m buffer area. Absolutely unacceptable! There are also several sizable regenerating areas in the central portion of the subject property that support numerous young trees, saplings and shrubs and would be considered woodlands. Will they be protected?

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND GREEN BUILDING FEATURES**

Building in an area with such a potential for negative impact, it would make sense to have as little paving as possible by **significantly reducing the number of townhouse units**. Allowing instead, the initially proposed 4 rental apartment blocks along Yonge to align with current Oak Ridges heights of **6 stories** would not alienate the community & would fill a much more important need for affordable rental housing while addressing Provincial & York Region’s intensification targets. However, unless a shuttle bus from Bloomington GO station to Yonge St. is put into service, this area will still remain largely car dependant.

Also mentioned in a previous YREA submission, [permeable paving](#) would help deter some of the flooding but we still need storm water ponds and as much green infrastructure as possible. Where green roofs are not feasible such as on townhouses, [white roofs](#) are one way of keeping our communities cooler by reducing the UHI effect. Dark surfaces such as asphalt roofs and paving absorb heat, only reflecting back 4%, while green spaces reflect 25%, white roofs and snow reflect up to 90%. See what [Montreal](#) has done.

If Richmond Hill is truly committed to a Community Energy and Emissions Plan then new construction needs to incorporate not only dual flush toilets but also geothermal, solar water heaters, low UV or photovoltaic windows, gray water recycling as well as permeable paving and white roofs. YREA has previously mentioned the need for 4m rather than 3m boulevards so that huge SUVs do not hang over sidewalks and roads impeding snow removal. This extra space would also accommodate a variety of our majestic native trees instead of the monocultures of lollipop trees so prevalent in developments such as Little Leaf Linden and Ivory Silk trees that provide little shade or benefit.

Richmond Hill has the lowest development charges of YR municipalities. How will there be enough money for parks, green space and green infrastructure? This does not seem to benefit home buyers but only the developers as townhouses are much more costly in Richmond Hill than elsewhere.

	Singles/Semis		Multiples		Apartments	
					<2Bdrm/<750sf	2+Bdrm/>750sf
<b>York Region</b>						
Aurora	\$	96,686	\$	77,731	\$	45,245
Richmond Hill	\$	91,403	\$	75,168	\$	42,464
Markham	\$	109,827	\$	88,318	\$	51,696
Vaughan	\$	126,268	\$	104,184	\$	58,893
Newmarket	\$	101,193	\$	82,300	\$	47,410
Stouffville	\$	94,835	\$	77,582	\$	45,230

Because so many landowners quickly submitted development applications before the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan came into effect so they could be exempt shouldn’t mean they are entitled to destroy our natural heritage and have so little regard for environmental protection.

## NEAT & TIDY BYLAWS CONTRADICT COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT POLLINATORS

York Region Environmental Alliance (YREA) strongly supports and advocates for naturalized gardens and rewilding of public spaces for the benefit of birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators as well as the joy and wellbeing of humans who experience these areas and gardens. As noted in our [spring 2022 e-news](#), scientists at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières found that intensively managed lawns have been shown to have clear negative ecological effects, especially in urban areas. Municipalities across Canada need to align their good intentions with modernized bylaw changes and public education. London is not the only city in need of bylaw updates. [Smiths Falls, Toronto](#) and Waterloo have had similar challenges. See YREA's [autumn 2021 e-news](#) for what is starting to be done elsewhere. You cannot have a meadow, pollinator or habitat garden at 8cm. Time to decolonialize bylaws to align with nature's urgent needs.

YREA therefore asks that London ON PEC and Council withdraw Susan McKee's fine and expenses and update your bylaws so that citizens who want to support nature or even grow [their own food](#) will no longer be penalized but instead be encouraged. In the interim, so no further destruction ensues, your bylaw officers need to refrain from destroying pollinator gardens by not responding to complaints about the absences of cookie cutter lawns and instead provide educational information so residents will come to understand and appreciate the value of pollinator and habitat gardens.



## FEDERAL PESTICIDE REVIEW DISCUSSION DOCUMENT DIS2022-01

### OBJECTIVE 1 – FURTHER STRENGTHENING HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH MODERNIZED BUSINESS PROCESSES GOVERNING PESTICIDE REVIEWS

YREA supports maximum residue levels (MRL) **reductions**, not increases, given that the [EU Commission](#) proposes to reduce pesticides by 50% by 2030, thus jeopardizing Canadian food exports with higher levels of residue. Italy banned pre-harvest [spray of wheat in 2016](#) and set MRL at 10parts per billion while Canada continues to allow 5parts per million even as it considered raising those levels upon industry request. To modernize business processes regarding pesticides Canada needs to align with countries that plan pesticide reductions to truly strengthen trade, human health and the environment. We would have healthier Canadians, save billions in health care costs which could instead be earmarked for organic agriculture if we stopped exposing people and the environment to these toxic substances.

### OBJECTIVE 2 – IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY

Plain language is not the issue. Instead, deception needs to be replaced with transparent honesty i.e. - Government records released under access to information laws as follows: Agriculture Canada Officials outlined shameful plans to defend glyphosate - 'Recent media coverage of US court rulings linking glyphosate to cancer may increase stakeholder concerns with safety.' Email with subject 'OVERVIEW

OF THE CHEMICAL ROUNDUP, AND HOW TO COUNTER CLAIMS THAT IT CAUSES CANCER,' an Ag Can official worried the government's position on health risks 'may appear contradictory'. 'Can we qualify ... a bit to say that 'exposure to glyphosate through regular use is not a carcinogenic risk?' one official wrote. 'Or something like that.' Truly deplorable.

[Shiv Chopra](#), Canadian hero and whistleblower who, along with two colleagues, saved Canadians from bovine growth hormone attested in his book 'Corrupt to the Core' the unabashed subservience of Health Canada supervisors to corporate influence and serve the industry rather than concern for the public good. Unacceptable and must stop!

### OBJECTIVE 3 – INCREASED USE OF REAL-WORLD DATA AND INDEPENDENT ADVICE/ EVIDENCE

YREA previously submitted research study [Suborning science for profit](#): Monsanto, glyphosate, and private science research misconduct. To ensure that Canada, like the EPA is [no longer culpable](#), independent evidence needs to be the final authority. Pesticide companies that try to discredit [independent research](#) that disagrees with their 'science' and [journalists who expose them](#) should have their products banned.

### TIME TO STOP THE SPRAY ON FORESTS IN ONTARIO, NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA



YREA, Indigenous groups in Ontario, Stop the Spray Canada, Ontario, New Brunswick, Alberta, BC and others submitted this letter to federal, provincial and industry stakeholders:

There is a clear disconnect between the goals of the Federal government to plant 2 billion trees to mitigate climate change and the forestry industry pesticide spraying programs, which is backed by Ontario and most of the other provinces at huge ecological cost to the Boreal Forest, the extremely biodiverse Acadian Forest, the many First Nations whose traditional territories are harmed, including the plants, animals and waters within them whose health is central to their way of life, and to all Canadians.

Why hasn't this calamitous practice by the forestry industry been stopped? Other than in Quebec and more recently, Saskatchewan and Cape Breton, thousands of hectares of forest are sprayed annually across Canada with the toxic pesticide glyphosate to eliminate hardwood species such as aspen and birch in favour of more profitable conifers. Hardwoods burn less quickly than the glyphosate-resistant

coniferous trees, and experts say removing them is stoking the fires that now plague our forests annually in most of Canada. We cannot overstate the importance of stopping this abominable practice - to reduce forest fires, to protect the flora, fauna and biodiversity that is also affected, to reduce atmospheric pollution and toxic particulate matter that contributes to extreme weather events and climate change.

Quebec has not sprayed for over 20 years, has a thriving forestry industry as well as a flourishing [furniture industry](#) using local resources and the very species that are presently being destroyed elsewhere. Meanwhile, MNRF in Ontario continues to allow approximately 170,000 acres/year of forest to be destroyed by herbicides for a mere 1% profit margin increase.

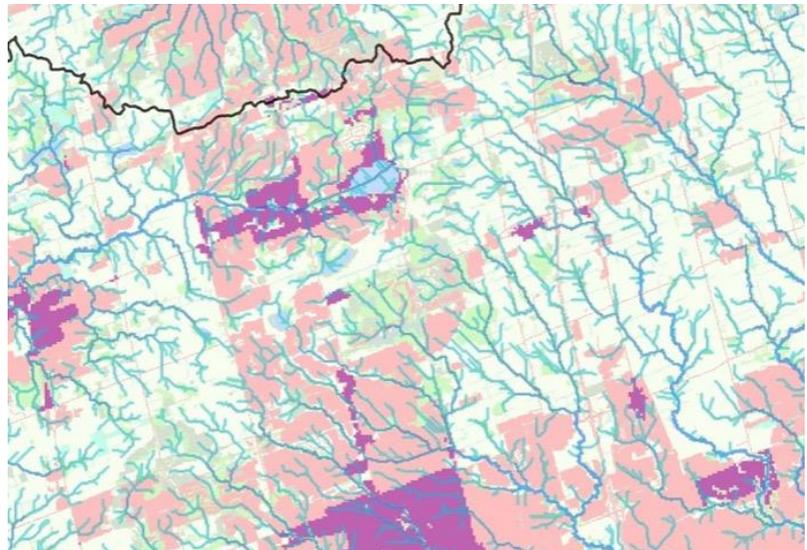
To our peril, how much longer will it be about profit over people and the long-term health of the forests and the planet? Instead, we must heed the wise words of Alanis Obomsawin - **'When the last tree is cut, the last fish is caught and the last river is polluted...you will realize too late, that wealth is not in bank accounts and that you can't eat money'**.

Indigenous groups continue to pursue this, [taking Ontario to court](#) over the destruction of the Boreal Forest on their traditional territories.

### **BILL 23 MORE HOMES BUILT FASTER ACT (MORE SPRAWL)**

York Region Environmental Alliance (YREA) is deeply concerned with this bill. In particular - the disregard for the preservation of our ecosystems by removal of 'conservation of lands' and 'pollution' as considerations in permit decisions, putting a freeze on development fees and possibly tapping into conservation lands to support housing. It would thwart the vital contribution of Conservation Authorities regarding climate change resilience and disaster prevention.

Breaking a promise by allowing Swiss cheese development in the Greenbelt would be to our peril. Any development on the Oak Ridges Moraine in Richmond Hill, Stouffville or Markham would be in a highly sensitive headwater area of the Rouge River Watershed with the lands serving as both a recharge and discharge area that provides critical base flows to this watershed. The lands are in a matrix of agricultural fields, with woodlots and wetlands aligned along many tributaries of the Rouge River. These tributaries form the basis for the



designated Natural Linkage and Natural Core Areas that are an integral part of critical wildlife corridors between the Federal Rouge Urban Park lands to the south and to the major east-west corridor of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Linkage areas support species at risk, cold water fish habitat, provincially rare species, flora and fauna, significant woodlots and numerous wetlands that are part of the Provincially Significant Rouge River Headwater Wetland Complex. The current mix of agricultural fields, wetlands, woodlands and regenerating fields help to sustain and support this highly diverse natural heritage system. Similar damage to other watersheds where Greenbelt development is allowed can be expected.

We have the ability to provide all our housing needs in existing designated areas so that we do not seriously imperil the ecological integrity of the Greenbelt/ORM or encroach on Conservation Authority lands. All the hard surfaces and pollutants that come with development instigates flooding (one reason we need Conservation Authority input) and detrimentally affects the recharge and discharge functions that are so critical to maintaining water quality and flow to all our watersheds. To service development, a network of new roads would repeatedly cut through natural linkage areas, woodlands and wetlands further exacerbating negative, irreversible impact further impeding critical wildlife corridor functions. Sewers and other related infrastructure would cost taxpayers billions, worsened by the elimination of development charges.

Have we completely lost our sense of humanity by allowing reductions, exemptions or freezes on the development charges, parkland charges and community benefits charges for certain types of new buildings and rental construction? Do we all not deserve to live in complete communities with greenspaces, amenities and crucial infrastructure? When a development lists a 1600sqft townhouse for \$529,000 then lists another 5 years later within walking distance for \$1,100,000, the only way to curtail corporate greed is to look to the non-profit sector such as [Options for Homes](#) so that all our citizens have affordable options and equal opportunities without compromises.

Over the many years that YREA has advocated for the preservation of farmland, our exact words were ‘what will happen when drought and climate change compromise agricultural capacity in the USA?’ While the province has given it no thought whatsoever, that time has come, as US fruit giants [Driscoll & Naturipe Farms](#) look north to Canada to establish berry farms in Quebec and Ontario. **This is the beginning of a wave of agricultural migrants.** If there had been enough visionary politicians to vote for a Markham Foodbelt 12 years ago we would be ahead of the game now. It is therefore urgently essential that we secure and expand farmland for healthy, locally grown food to support our population projections as well as any demands that we export our food south to areas no longer able to sustain farming.

## YREA SIGNED ON TO THE FOLLOWING JOINT SUBMISSIONS:

### THE PROBLEMS WITH BILL 23 & PROPOSAL TO REMOVE LANDS FROM THE GREENBELT:

- Do little or nothing to address the shortage of truly affordable housing
- Facilitate expensive urban sprawl and inappropriate high-rises at the expense of more diverse housing types designed for all stages of life and ranges of incomes
- Divert limited construction materials and labour away from building mixed and affordable housing and direct them instead towards sprawl development, creating fragmented agricultural and natural landscapes
- Remove from the Greenbelt thousands of acres of valuable natural areas and agricultural land and turn them into sprawl development
- Undermine the protection of wetlands, woodlands, rivers, streams and wildlife habitat across Ontario
- Destroy key land use planning processes that Ontario municipalities, conservation authorities and residents need in order to protect, manage and plan for climate-resilient ecosystems and communities
- Create an ecologically vulnerable “Swiss cheese” Greenbelt by allowing land speculators to develop the lands that the government would have removed from Greenbelt protection

[Read full statement](#)

### ERO 019-4867 REDUCE EA REQUIREMENTS FOR 'ADVANCED RECYCLING'

Proposal to reduce environmental assessment requirements for thermal treatment such as burning plastic or waste management facilities. Reclassification that purports turning waste to fuel is nothing but disposal. [Read full submission.](#)

### ERO 019-4974 PROPOSED CHANGES TO ONTARIO'S BUILDING CODE

Requesting provisions to reduce bird collisions with buildings. [Read full submission.](#)

### ERO 019-4485 INADEQUATE SCOPE OF PROPOSED GREENBELT EXPANSION

Narrow, minimalist and inadequate proposal ignoring over 6000 members of the public. 62 groups signed on to this submission. [Read more.](#)

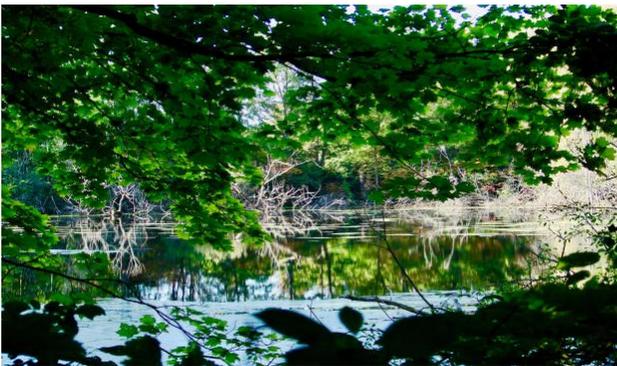
### ERO 019-6160 PROPOSED UPDATES TO ONTARIO WETLAND EVALUATION SYSTEM

- Misguided purpose of encroaching on wetlands to build 1.5 million new housing units.
- Wetland complexes to no longer be recognized or considered.
- Endangered and threatened species to no longer be recognized.
- Provincial government oversight and coordination to be removed from OWES
- Inaccurate and misleading analysis of regulatory impact. [Read full response](#) from 70 groups.

### ERO 019-6217 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GREENBELT PLAN

78 organizations strongly opposed the removal of 7,400 acres of Greenbelt land for development, destroying vital wildlife corridors, negatively impact woodlands, wetlands, water courses with the loss of over 5000 acres of farmland. [Read full submission.](#)

### ERO 019-6161 OPPOSING ONTARIO'S NATURAL HERITAGE OFFSETS



56 groups expressed concerns regarding the offsetting policy, which purports the notion of a net-gain. Decades of evidence has shown that even no net loss is a risky trade-off, a rarely achieved compensation for the destruction of natural heritage features. [Read full submission.](#)

### EXPAND THE ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK IN LIEU OF A PICKERING AIRPORT

Over 70 group and individual signatories submitted a request to the Prime Minister that the Pickering Federal Lands finally be released from any airport plans and added to the Rouge National Urban Park. An action that would advance reconciliation, protect essential farmland and bring greater ecological security to the GTA. [Read submission.](#)

### FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVE EMISSION REDUCTIONS BY 2030

Letters were sent to both the Prime Minister and Jagmeet Singh alerting them of the threat to their [agreement](#) in the wake of Ontario's announcement to build new gas-fired power plants that would increase their GHGE more than 375% by 2030 and more than 600% by 2040. [Read full submission.](#)

YREA is a member and/or supporter of these organizations:

Alliance for a Liveable Ontario	Land Over Landings	Ontario Zero Waste Coalition
CBAN	Ontario Clean Air Alliance	Organic Growers of Ontario
Canadian Organic Growers	Ontario Greenbelt Alliance	Rodale Institute
Food and Water First	Ontario Headwaters Institute	Safe Food Matter
Friends of the Earth Canada	Ontario Nature	Stop the Spray ON/Canada

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## A SNAPSHOT OF YREA'S 2022 E-NEWS & MEDIA COVERAGE

YREA continues to connect with many hundreds of people digitally via our quarterly newsletters. This platform enables us to provide subscribers with information on our advocacy work. We promote an understanding of sustainability issues through information to help us think of our choices in terms of their impact on human and environmental health, our natural resources and our planet.

[WINTER 2022](#) provided a snapshot of Joyfully Organic Farm a local, CSA veggie provider as well as the growing movement towards human-scale agriculture; recycling problems and contamination; our submissions to government; measuring well-being instead of GDP; beginner's guide to winter camping.

[SPRING 2022](#) drew attention to the need to rewild urban spaces; tips on how to SHOP LIKE THE PLANET'S WATCHING along with workshop announcement; report from Ontario Clean Air Alliance on how to achieve a zero-carbon electricity grid by 2030; right to repair laws in effect in the EU; where to partake in maple syrup festivals.

[SUMMER 2022](#) pointed out 'chemical recycling' is just greenwashing for incinerating plastic; a partnership between Canadian Organic Growers and Nature's Path to promote climate-friendly regenerative organic farming; Stop the Spray gaining momentum; what to plant for birds and bees; recommended experiencing Indigenous culture and the Pow Wow season.

[AUTUMN 2022](#) drew attention to the risks of mining in the Ring of Fire, developing EVs in the context of a circular economy; defended the Manitoba Maple; the need for regulation of gene edited foods; our request for an MZO to stop a wetland development; defunding the lawn police in support of habitat and pollinator gardens; where to experience the best autumn colours.

[SOLSTICE GREETINGS 2022](#) asked that we all look at ways to take positive actions to address climate change; suggested waste free and environmental sustainable gifting.



YREA provided links in our e-news to our government submissions (14 this year) so subscribers, members and donors are able to access our responses to matters of concern. In each issue we highlighted an outdoor or nature activity.

### **MEDIA COVERAGE HELPS YREA'S ADVOCACY REACH A BROADER AUDIENCE**

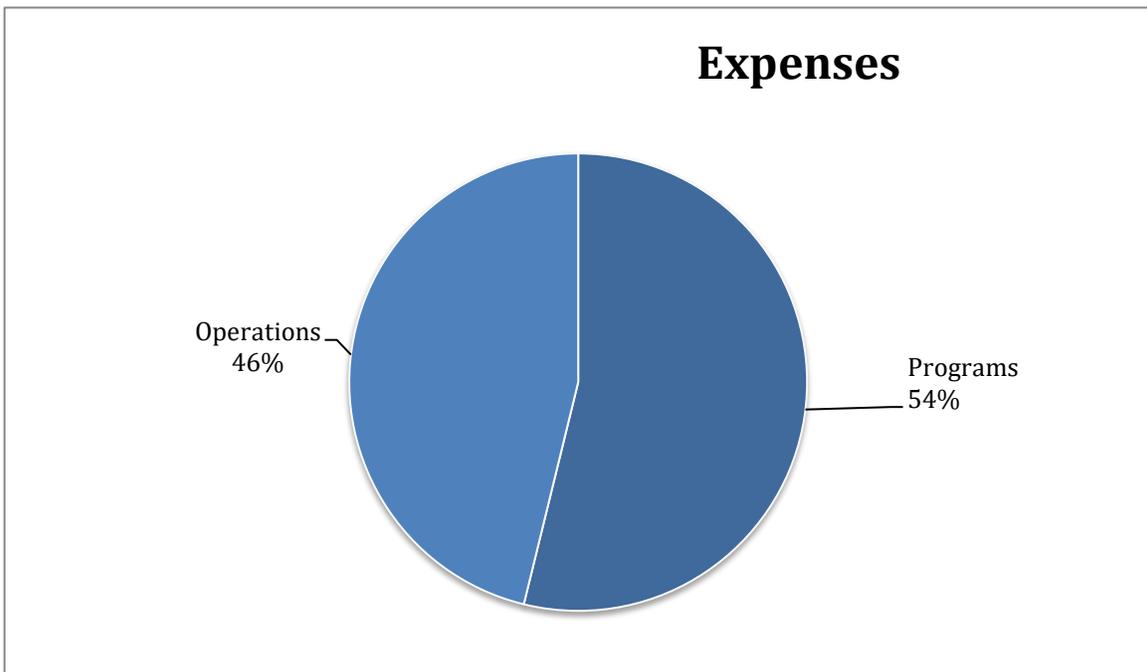
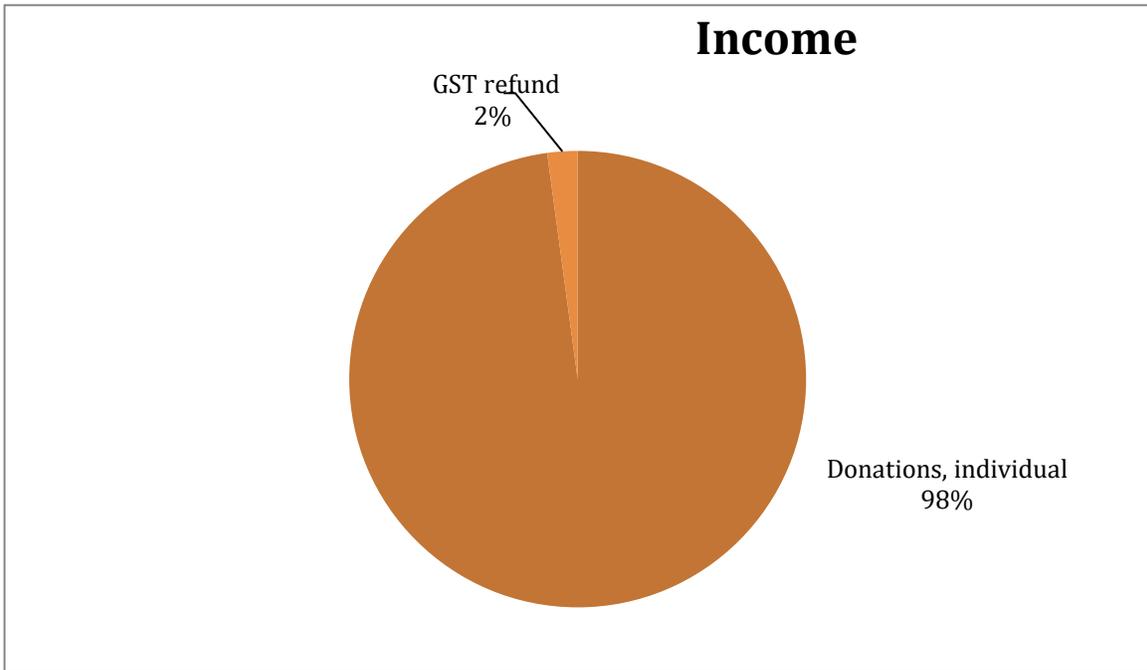
The following news stories were picked by multiple media outlets, a big help in spreading the word -

Naturalizing for pollinators: [Is a perfect lawn all its cut out to be?](#)  
YREA's [Are solar carports coming to York Region?](#)

Group outrage over Bill 23: [Voices unite against Ontario's Greenbelt, Bradford Bypass and Bill 23 plans](#)

# YORK REGION ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

## 2022 FINANCIAL YEAR END





**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS AND ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUSTAINED YREA WITH ANNUAL DONATIONS WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE**

**GUARDIAN \$2000 & MORE**

**PROTECTOR \$1000 - \$1999**

Marilyn Isaac Stewart  
Gloria Marsh (donation in kind)

**CUSTODIAN \$500 - \$999**

Gloria Marsh

**STEWARD \$200 - \$499**

Leslie Atkinson  
Dream.ca  
Sylvia Halligan  
Diane Keating  
Spencer Lanthier & Diana Bennet



**KEEPER \$100 - \$199**

Abdullah Abbas  
Mike Gurski  
Angela Marsh & Justin Keating  
Donna Pearson  
Susan Sigrist & Mark Hubbard  
Leah Taylor Roy  
Tom Waechter  
Anonymous (2)

**FRIEND \$25 - \$99**

Marney Beck  
Tanya Marsh  
Corey Stinson  
Canada Helps

YREA does not utilize costly and unsustainable paper mailings or separate email solicitation requests for donations, which makes us doubly grateful for the kindness of our donors

Big thanks to our board members for their continued volunteer commitment to YREA

## LOOKING BACK AT 2022 & AHEAD TO 2023 FOR YREA

2022 was an appalling year for our natural heritage in Ontario. Democracy was trampled, with little regard for environmental conservation and the real needs of an equitable society. For profit trumped for the people at every turn. Yet many of us remain undaunted, forming new alliances in our pursuit of a better tomorrow. The cry of nature will not go unheeded.

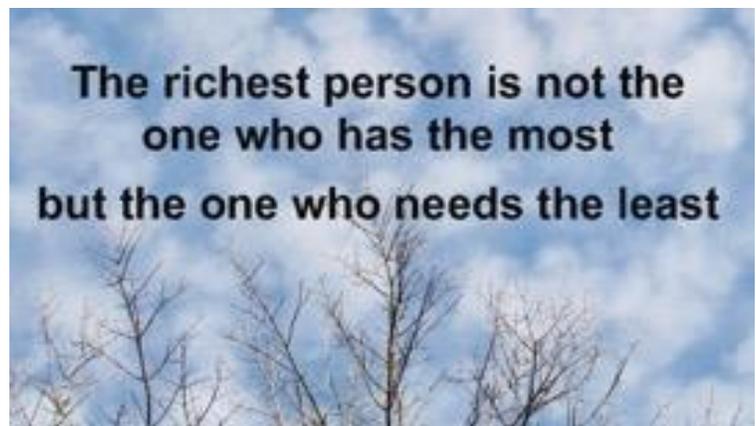


YREA was still able to get the word out with 3 workshops regarding [Pesticides & GMOs](#), a Review of the Science and [SHOP LIKE THE PLANETS WATCHING](#). Virtual presentations continued to enable us to reach a wider audience in 2022, including a business lunch and learn during Earth Month.

### YREA's 2023 ADVOCACY FOCUS:

Some issues take a long time to be resolved or implemented, so we will keep at it.

- Reversal of Ontario Bill 23
- Organic food education
- Farmland protection
- Ban on glyphosate use in Canada
- Solar covered parking lots
- Rewilding and naturalization
- Provide our workshops upon request



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ABDULLAH ABBAS  
President



GLORIA MARSH  
Executive Director

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