



c/o 10780 Concession #3, Zephyr, ON, L0E 1T0
www.northdurhamnature.com

July 21st, 2020

Mr. Dan Andrews,
Land and Resource Planning Technician
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 3W3

Dear Mr. Andrews,

I am writing to you on behalf of North Durham Nature, in regards to our concern on the impact that LSRCA's current mowing and trimming of the edges of the Beaver River Wetland trail has on wildlife.

We acknowledge that periodic mowing and trimming of edges is essential to keep trails open, safe and useable by the public, however we feel that mowing should be done at an appropriate time of year when it will have the least impact on the natural environment.

A number of breeding birds nest in vegetation immediately beside the trail through May, June and July and even into early August. Active nests are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. Wildflowers along the trail support butterflies, bees, beetles and a whole host of other pollinators throughout the summer.

Assuming that maintenance to keep trails useable is only needed to be done once per year, we believe that it would be best if mowing and trimming were done in September to avoid breeding birds and the majority of pollinators. The plants would not grow much after September, consequently the trail would be in good shape for hikers in autumn and spring, and for snowmobiles in the winter. We feel that this approach should also be considered elsewhere where mowing and trimming are done through natural areas.

We understand that you have a lot of lands to manage, and that it is a challenge to balance schedules with labour availability and other factors to accomplish what you need to do. Nevertheless we should try to minimize our impacts where possible. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Cara Gregory
President
North Durham Nature
www.northdurhamnature.com