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Editorial

A bouquet for civic pride

Spring has sprung and Richmond deserves a bouquet for civic pride.

Anyone travelling around the city has no doubt noticed the beautiful bulbs that are blooming on the various boulevards and rights-of-way. All this is thanks to a city beautification program.

It doesn't cost much and year-after-year the beautiful landscaping contributes a lot to Richmond's civic pride and puts other municipalities to shame.

The concept of civic pride is important in many U.S. towns, where public buildings are top-notch and beautification projects are a priority. Up in Canada, many municipalities don't take the same care. As a result, public buildings and landscapes suffer. It's likely part of the "don't tax us" mentality, where some would rather take those nickels of tax money for tulip bulbs and put them into their tank-like SUVs.

The City of Richmond also took flak in some quarters for its apparently palatial city hall. It is, however, a stunning public building and functional, too, with its various meeting rooms for public use. It's also added a little grace to a road dominated by strip malls.

The civic environment is an important contributor to quality of life. Richmond is far from perfect. The "I'm going to turn this vacant lot into another mall" mentality still lurks out there and the city could use more sidewalks and green space.

But for those who think government has no place in the flower beds of the community, we say what's the point of paying low taxes when you live in a dump?