

October 6, 2015

Mayor Rick Goldring

Councilors: Rick Craven, Marianne Meed Ward, John Taylor, Jack Dennison, Paul Sharman, Blair Lancaster

City of Burlington  
426 Brant Street, P.O. Box 5013  
Burlington, Ontario  
L7R 3Z6

**Re: LaSalle Park Marina Wave Break**

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

Waterloo Region Nature (WRN) wishes to express its concern regarding the effect of the proposed construction of a permanent wave break and expansion of the marina in LaSalle Park on the overwintering population of trumpeter swans in the area. As you are aware, the trumpeter swan population in LaSalle Park constitutes a very significant proportion of the still-fragile Ontario population of trumpeter swans which has recently been restored from extirpation.

Our club has about 250 members residing primarily Region of Waterloo. The mandate of WRN is as follows:

- to acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history
- to protect and preserve wildlife
- to purchase and hold appropriate parcels of land for the advancement of conservation
- to support public interest in nature and its preservation by supporting the enactment of wise legislation and by other means that fall within the scope of the Corporation.

We feel that the *LaSalle Park Marina Breakwater Class Environmental Assessment Environmental Study Report — July 2013, City of Burlington & LaSalle Park Marina Association* does not properly address a number of concerns which may potentially adversely affect the trumpeter swan population which resides at LaSalle Park during the winter months. The following are issues of particular concern:

- Disruption of the swan population during construction if taking place during the wintering months of November to March.
- Significantly increased level of freeze over of the water of LaSalle Park due to construction of the permanent wavebreak as described as the preferred option in the Environmental Assessment Report
- Reduced wave action and water circulation resulting in a decrease in water quality. Potential for waterfowl fecal matter accumulation, undesirable increased aquatic plant and algal growth, potential increased accumulation of petroleum and other waste or discharged material from an increased number of boats in an enlarged marina
- Increased crowding of the swans due to marina expansion

We do not feel that it is prudent for the city to fund a detailed design plan for this project while significant concerns exist. The trumpeter swans survival is of importance to all citizens of Ontario. The City of Burlington is responsible for the stewardship of their care. Please do not permit this destructive development to proceed.

Sincerely,

Shayne Sangster  
Conservation Director  
Waterloo Region Nature  
317 Highland Road East  
Kitchener, ON N2M 3W6