

parents and, unlike other swans, have been known to attack snapping turtles who are after their young. Trumpeter swans are mature enough to start forming their own pair bonds at about 4 years of age though many don't mate until much later.



A bonded pair of Trumpeters.

LaSalle Harbour Habitat Under Threat

The Trumpeter Swan habitat at LaSalle Park is under threat because there is a plan to expand the small marina at the harbour and build a permanent break wall. This may cause many negative impacts including: causing the harbour to freeze for long periods which would be deadly for the swans; reducing space for the swans; restricting their flight path; damaging the aquatic vegetation they feed on and deteriorating the water quality.

The harbour area is rented by the city of Burlington from the City of Hamilton. The LaSalle Park Marina Association is a privately-run entity that has a joint venture partnership agreement with the City of Burlington.

We have reviewed the environmental

studies report that has been compiled for this project and find it does not adequately address the serious impact this could have on the Trumpeter Swans. For this reason we have asked the Ministry of the Environment to require a higher level of environmental assessment. Conservation Halton has made the same request.

We Need Your Help

BurlingtonGreen, OakvilleGreen, MiltonGreen and the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Group have joined forces as the Trumpeter Swan Coalition to ensure the survival of this species of special concern that has made Burlington their home. We would like you to join us. To find out more, please contact Bev at 289-813-1568 or email trumpeterswancoalition@gmail.com or go to our webpage at: www.trumpeterswancoalition.com

These magnificent birds have fought back from the brink of extinction and deserve our protection. Please connect with us to see how you can help. Thank you!

Report Sightings

Report Trumpeter Swan sightings to: trumpeterswan@live.com



Bev Kingdon has been volunteering with the Trumpeter Swan restoration effort for 30 years. She and her small team band the birds, take blood samples, track genealogy and collect data about their behaviour and habitats.

Back from the brink, the magnificent Trumpeter Swan



Learn about this beautiful bird and the most recent threat they face in Burlington



TRUMPETER
SWAN
COALITION

Introducing Trumpeters



A Trumpeter's wingspan can reach 2.4m or 8 ft. They are distinguished from the non-native Mute swan by their size and their completely black bills.

The largest swan in the world, the Trumpeter Swan, is native to North America.

Once hundreds of thousands of pairs of these birds nested in the northern areas of Canada and the U.S. in the summer and then migrated to warm southern U.S. marshes for the winter.

With the arrival of Europeans, these birds became widely hunted. Valued for their beautiful feathers, their meat and even for their feet which were used to make ladies' purses, they began to die out. In Ontario, the last Trumpeter was shot by a hunter in Long Point in 1886. By 1935, only 69 Trumpeters were counted in all of North America. It looked like these beautiful birds were about to join the long list of species that had been hunted to extinction but then there were two lucky breaks: a previously unknown flock was discovered in Alaska and people started to realize these birds must be protected. Thus a movement was born to save this species and its habitat and to try and reintroduce it to areas where it had been wiped out by hunting.

In the U.S., citizens led the way and governments followed. Hunting was banned and habitat was protected but in Ontario it seemed the Trumpeters were gone for good.

A Second Chance



In 2012, Order of Canada recipient Harry Lumsden also received the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement during a ceremony at Queen's Park for his efforts in restoring the Trumpeter Swans.

In 1982, retired Ministry of Natural Resources biologist Harry Lumsden made it his mission to bring the Trumpeters back to Ontario.

He was able to get eggs from northern Alberta and Alaska and convince some Ontario landowners to help raise the resulting young cygnets. Over time, enough were raised that they could be released into the wild.

Slowly over many years, these birds began to spread out and reestablish their territory.

Today, after 30 years of effort to bring back, the Trumpeters' population in Ontario numbers just over 800 birds. There are several reasons why their population remains low. Many Trumpeters have been lost due to lead poisoning that they get from accidentally ingesting lead shot and fishing lures while feeding in marshes. Others are lost to collisions with powerlines and, occasionally, some are shot by hunters although it is illegal to do so.

Habitat loss, especially of wintering areas, is also greatly impacting their restoration.

Why LaSalle Park Is Special

The first trumpeter swans to mate in the wild and migrate in Ontario in more than 100 years came to LaSalle Park in Burlington with their six cygnets in 1993. The female swan, nicknamed Pig Pen for her messy eating habits, was a successful breeder who returned for 11 winters to LaSalle Park with her offspring.

Today 200 Trumpeter Swans make LaSalle Park their overwintering grounds, the largest concentration in Ontario.

The harbour is perfectly situated to provide shelter from the cold north and easterly winds; it has a beach area where they can rest; there is an abundance of aquatic plants for them to feed on and the water is shallow enough near shore for them to tip to feed as they don't dive.

Human encroachment around the Great Lakes, the draining of wetlands and development have practically eliminated suitable overwintering grounds for Trumpeters. Without LaSalle, they have nowhere to go.

Family Life



Trumpeter swans mate for life. Females typically lay four to six eggs. They are good