



SOUTH PEEL NATURALISTS' CLUB

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January 23, 2014

Mayor Rick Goldring

Councillors 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 Councillors,

South Peel Naturalists' Club 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 with about 200 members residing primarily in Burlington's neighbouring cities of Mississauga and Oakville has as its mission to encourage the enjoyment and study of nature, promote conservation of our wildlife and foster awareness and education of our natural surroundings. Many of our members visit LaSalle Park to observe the abundant waterfowl population that inhabits this area.

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 the right thing and desist from allowing the breakwater project to proceed.

Sincerely,

Don Morrison,  
President, South Peel Naturalists' Club