

The Editor,
The Hamilton Spectator,
44 Frid Street,
Hamilton, ON
L8N 3G3

May 5, 2016

Re: LaSalle Park - Expanded Burlington Marina Raises Questions

BurlingtonGreen believes that the overarching question for LaSalle Park is one of responsible land use planning. The City should not be providing endorsement or making such a significant decision about a private entity proposal (the permanent break wall and marina expansion) that has far reaching and potentially irrevocable implications without first preparing a master plan for the park, a key part of which includes gathering meaningful input from the public about how they want to use the park going forward

The City's recently adopted Strategic Plan states that "Parks and green spaces are multi-use. Residents and visitors will be able to use them in a number of ways." The initiative to achieve this is "The Parks Master Plan will be updated to reflect growth objectives and changing density in the city". We understand that there is currently no Master Plan for LaSalle Park where the importance of the aquatic habitat and use of the waterfront can be addressed by ALL the users of the park – present and future.

Burlington could showcase to the world how local volunteers have managed to rescue the Trumpeter Swan species from extinction by shining a light on the remarkable population that overwinters at the park. Not many cities can state that. This would help preserve Canada's biodiversity right here at home and provide a focus for eco-tourism and potential for various other significant benefits. The marina has coexisted with the swans and other wildlife for 35 years and while we recognize they have challenges, we suggest that these challenges should not trump the interests of wildlife or the citizens of Burlington.

Thank you,



Gloria Reid
Advocacy Team Chair
BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association