

Adopting an Eco Park Strategy

by Fred Peters



In 2022, Markham Council is expected to review several activities that will improve residents' experiences in Swan Lake Park.

We anticipate that the most visible change, if it happens, will be the remodeling of the shoreline to create barriers that will limit shoreline access for the geese with their young and removal of some of the tall reeds that block views of the lake. It is hoped that this work will be approved and completed in 2022.

Discussions on finalizing a long-term water quality plan for the lake will continue. A core program was approved by council, but we are seeking improvements that if accepted should lead to restoration of

the water quality. At this point the basic reaction of the council for a restoration goal has been one of indifference, but at least discussions are continuing.

The City of Brampton recently initiated two programs that provide an integrated environmental focus for their parks and lakes. We are proposing that Markham adopt a similar perspective for restoring Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park.

Markham has many solid environmental programs, but they are constrained by a departmental focus. There seems to be no one individual, or department with overall responsibility for pulling together an integrated solution.

Brampton's approach is referred to as holistic,

assessing the whole. Their Eco Park and Lake Enhancement Strategies are designed to bring together all elements to achieve integrated community and environmental objectives for their parks and 14 lakes. We are encouraging Markham to adopt a similar "Eco Park" approach leading to an integrated environmental plan that meets the community goals for Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park.

We will need your support to make this a reality. Stay tuned! □

An Example of Community Driven Targets Brampton's Eco Park and Lake Enhancement Strategies



Eco Park Principles

1. Maximize ecological value
2. Provide opportunities for social services
3. Make nature visible
4. Design with nature
5. Integrate with surrounding community
6. Support innovation
7. Reflect local identity



LAKE ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

Lake Enhancement Goals (14 Lakes)

- A. **Natural Heritage:** Improve lake habitat and water quality
- B. **Parks:** Connect people with lake
- C. **Recreation:** Expand sustainable water-related programming
- D. **Communications and Engagement:** Engage community and park users and build awareness of Brampton lakes.

The Way We Were – Looking Back

While activities are still being curtailed, we hope you enjoy this trip down memory lane of the events and activities that brought so much pleasure to us all. For newer residents who have not yet experienced the social side of our village, this is a snapshot of "the way we were" and what we will be again.

In the December 2010 issue of *Lakeview*,

Gary Pennington outlined events for the year ahead—more than 20! Among them were The Year of the Tiger Celebration, The Winter Olympics, Celebration of the British Isles and Ireland Cabaret, to name a few.

We will enjoy activities and events once again. In the meantime, enjoy the reminders of the past on the following pages.