

Busy Year Ahead for Swan Lake Park

by Fred Peters

Initiatives to increase housing density will trigger larger condo towers along Markham Road. However, uncertainty remains concerning the development funds available for the city to support area infrastructure, such as upgrading the Mount Joy Community Centre or restoring Swan Lake Park.

Nevertheless, 2023 will be a busy year for Swan Lake Park. In the spring, the equipment in the children's playground area will be upgraded and additional benches are expected to be added along the new pathway area.

The geese management program, which includes relocation and hazing and the phragmites removal program will continue. Work will resume on the redesign of the shoreline, and an engineering study of the feasibility of rerouting stormwater away from the lake will be initiated.

In 2023, Markham staff will be reporting to the council on research proposals by York University and Fleming College that we initiated regarding adding chemicals to increase oxygen levels, and a process for removal of chloride.

FOSLP Focus for 2023

The long-term water quality plan approved by Markham Council addresses the issue of excessive algae by reducing phosphorus through the geese management program, and a recurring chemical treatment program, with the next treatment scheduled for 2024. Although a good start, the long-term plan does not address how to remove chloride already in the lake, or how to improve oxygen levels.

Friends of Swan Lake Park will be focusing its efforts through 2023 on two critical initiatives. First, trying to identify cost effective ways to remove the 50 tonnes of chloride already in the lake, and second, identifying a sustainable long-term process for improving oxygen levels.

Welcome Markham Lions Club

We were pleased to hear that the Markham Lions Club has adopted Swan Lake Park as one of their local initiatives.

While Friends of Swan Lake Park is focused on the restoration of both the lake and park, we recognize it is critically important to have the city and the community commit to the long-term stewardship of the park.

The Markham Lions Club has a long history of stewardship for the parks they support. Welcome!



Thank You for Your Support!

The success to date of the Friends of Swan Lake Park is largely attributable to the demonstrable community support. Since our inception three years ago we have raised \$16,873 of which 73% came from individual donations. The balance of \$6,200 remaining is sufficient to cover current expenses. Thank you!

Cash Flow Summary 2020-2022		The funds enabled us to develop and print seven different reports and surveys to support our technical arguments before Markham Council. The funding provided the ability to broaden community awareness through mailings and the hosting of two large public meetings attended by council members. Funds were also used for a research summary by Fleming College on possible approaches to addressing water quality issues spurring more advanced detailed discussions with city staff.
Source of Funds		
Individual Donations	12,373	
Advertising	2,500	
Donation United Association - Local 46	2,000	
Total Source of Funds	\$ 16,873	
Use of Funds		
Research (Fleming College)	2,565	
Commercial printing, mailing	2,058	
Reports/Presentations (Printing supplies)	3,028	
Handouts (totes, dvd's, pins etc.)	3,022	
Total Use of Funds	\$ 10,673	
Funds Available December 2022	\$ 6,200	