

## **Trumpeter Swans on Franklin Pond, Cambridge, Ontario**

**NOTICE: The citizens of Cambridge and those adjacent to the Franklin Pond area of Cambridge are very fortunate to have the trumpeter swans and other wild waterfowl to observe in their own “backyards”. Please respect that the birds are wild and should not be approached, disturbed or fed.**



**Please Respect the Trumpeter Swans Nesting in this Wetland**

**The trumpeter swan is protected under the Canadian Migratory Birds Conservation Act. It is illegal to hunt, shoot at, or harass a trumpeter swan. If you witness this activity, please immediately report it to the Ministry of Natural Resources (phone 1-877-847-7667). Please remember these swans are not domesticated but are wild and self-sufficient.**



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## Re-introduction of the Trumpeter Swan

Once found from the Atlantic to the Pacific, trumpeter swans were almost wiped out when hunted for their meat, skin and feathers. They were thought to be locally extinct in Ontario. Since 1982, the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre in Midland, Ontario has been a main contributor to the re-introduction of the trumpeter swans in Ontario, under the co-ordination of Mr. Harry Lumsden. He was an employee of the Ministry of Natural Resources who established the re-introduction program in Ontario and continues to actively coordinate the program in his retirement. Locally, the Grand River Conservation Authority has been working on a trumpeter swan re-introduction program since 1999. Today, as a result of intensive conservation and

re-introduction programs, there are approximately 1,500 wild trumpeter swans in Ontario. They are a conservation success story and their future is bright!

Please DO NOT feed the swans

Breeding/nesting locations are selected by the swans with an adequate food supply nearby and any human involvement in their diet can cause the birds to get ill or die. In the winter, when Ontario swans are frozen out of their nesting wetlands like Franklin Pond, they travel only as far as they must to find open water and food. Most of them winter along the north shore of Lake Ontario.

## Fast Facts about the Trumpeter Swan

- Rarest swan and largest waterfowl species in North America with a wing span of up to 3 metres.
- Named after its deep, brassy, trumpet-like voice.
- Similar in appearance to the very common mute swan and the smaller tundra swan. Mute swans, true to their name, do not have a voice. Also, their bills are orange and have a distinctive “knob” on top, whereas trumpeter swan bills are black. Tundra swans have a yellow spot on their bills, just under the eye.
- Mate for life, but may choose a new mate if one dies.
- Live approximately 12 years but can live over 30 years in captivity.
- Adult female is called a “pen”; male is a “cob”. A baby swan is called a “cygnet”.
- Adults are all white in colour with a black bill and feet. **Often, a reddish-brown colour is present on their head and neck as a result of iron deposits in the soil and/or water that they feed in.**
- Juvenile trumpeters are distinguished from adults by their grey feathers which remain until their second year of life.