



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 28, 2020

Update regarding the Swans in Smiths Falls

Smiths Falls – The Town of Smiths Falls is sad to announce the passing of “The Duke”, the male swan who has spent the past three summers in the Victoria Park Basin.

“We were devastated to learn of the passing of the Duke,” said Art Manhire, Director of Community Services. “The Duke and Duchess captured the hearts of Smiths Falls residents. The swans were often photographed, and residents and visitors would make special trips down to the basin to see them. The swans were also known to wander, and we would have frequent calls from residents with their whereabouts. We know the swans mean a lot to the community, and we are committed to keeping their legacy alive.”

While at his winter accommodations, the Duke became ill and had to be euthanized on advice of a veterinarian. The Duchess will remain at the farm where they were housed for the winter.

With the warm weather approaching, the Town was able to quickly secure two new swans called “mute swans” that will be placed in the basin this week. Getting them in early will increase the chance of them nesting and mating, and in turn controlling the geese population.

“When we learned about the Duke, we worked quickly to try and find two new swans who could nest in time for spring,” added Director Manhire. “We are hopeful that the new swans will settle well, and will be a part of our community for years to come.”

Residents are reminded not to feed the swans, and to keep pets on leash so that they are not frightened from their nesting spot.

To pay tribute to the Duke and Duchess, we invite residents and visitors to share their photos and memories on the Town's Facebook page. The Town will also soon be launching a contest to name the new swans on Speak Up Smiths Falls. Additional details will be provided in the coming days.

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