

## **Wellesley Pond Restoration Project**

### **Wellesley Friends of the Pond**

#### **Wellesley Friends of the Pond (WFOP)**

WFOP is a group of Wellesley residents who share concern about the state of the pond. Like many residents, we are concerned about water quality, shoreline erosion, the invasive carp population and the overall quality of the pond habitat that is essential for a healthy pond. Our goals and objectives reflect these concerns and recognition of the importance of community engagement and collaboration.

WFOP is not a committee of the township. We are an autonomous and independent citizen advisory group. We do work closely with the GRCA, who is the administrative owner of the pond and the township who has responsibility for much of the maintenance around the pond. Ultimately, the rehabilitation of our pond will be a collaboration between the residents of Wellesley, the GRCA and the Township.

#### **Pond Restoration Project**

Last year we secured a grant from the Region of Waterloo so we could hire a consultant with expertise in pond ecology and design. A company named Waters Edge was selected through a competitive bidding process. Their task was to provide three design options that could

- Improve water quality
- Improve pond habitat quality and quantity
- And ensure that the designs allowed for maintenance of existing community function on and around the pond

We shared these designs at an open house last November. We received feedback from over 200 people with the biggest concern being the size of the pond in the proposed designs. We shared our feedback with the consultant in March and received a revised plan earlier this month which we have accepted as our working plan. Some of the design elements are

- Full dredging to remove all accumulated sediment. This will increase depth to about average 7 feet, improve water flow and temperature
- Creation of some naturalized areas to help improve water quality and shoreline habitat and stability
- Preservation of the overall appearance of the pond south of Queen's Bush Rd where the ponds maximum width will be about 350 feet. (equal to length of a soccer field)

Over the summer we will share the working plan, the design rationale and related information with the community so we can get your feedback and ideas.

We will use multiple methods to reach out including a public meeting, our facebook page, placement of materials where you can read hard copies and community presentations.

Thankyou for your interest in this project. The rehabilitation of our pond is a big project and will take the efforts of many people in our community. Please do get involved by learning about the project and contributing as you can. Together, we can ensure our pond is the beautiful centrepiece we want now and for many years to come