



Giving Thanks for Oshawa's Second Marsh

By: Suzanne Elston

Thanksgiving should be a time of great reflection. This isn't just about gathering with friends and family around a celebratory meal. It's about taking the time appreciate how truly magnificent our world is. This harvest season provides us with countless opportunities to appreciate nature's bounty and beauty.

Oshawa's Second Marsh is one such beautiful jewel. Despite being located within the boundaries of the City of Oshawa, stepping onto the paths of Second Marsh and the adjacent McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve can be a transformative journey. The jarring sounds of traffic on the 401 and nearby train tracks quickly fade. The silence is soon replaced by the sound of birds and other wildlife. As your walk takes you closer to Lake Ontario's shoreline, the sounds of the waves lapping against the rocky beach can be heard.

Once you reach the beach, take a seat on a piece of driftwood, and look to the horizon. On a clear day it looks as if the waters of Lake Ontario merge into an endless sky. On a windy day, the waves whip and crash at your feet, providing a musical symphony that is augmented by the seagulls and other birds circling overhead.

What makes this place so incredibly special is that all this beauty is available to everyone who cares to enjoy it. There is no admission fee. And the only rule for enjoying this local paradise is to take nothing by photos and leave nothing but footprints behind. And, to protect the wildlife that call these areas home, no dogs, even on leashes, are allowed.

“Oshawa's Second Marsh is a stunning natural area that always has something new to offer visitors. In the fall, what I appreciate most are the changing colours and the large variety of flying visitors heading south for the winter,” said Peter Taylor, President, Friends of Second Marsh (FSM).

“As I walk the trails, I am also thankful for the efforts put in by volunteers and supporters of Friends of Second Marsh. The efforts of these individuals and staff of the City of Oshawa ensure that we, our children and our grandchildren will be able to enjoy this haven for generations to come,” said Taylor.

FSM is a registered not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to encouraging the protection and appreciation of Second Marsh and our natural heritage system; to promoting a healthy environment through education, communication; and developing partnerships and fostering connections with all sectors of the community.

Support the *Love the Marsh!* Campaign. The goal is to raise \$ 500,000 over the next five years to protect and restore the integrity of Second Marsh and the adjacent McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve. Visit <https://www.secondmarsh.ca/love-the-marsh-campaign/>

Bio: FSM Board Member Suzanne Elston is a former environmental journalist, broadcaster, and policy maker, with over three decades of experience and commitment to preserving and protecting the environment.