

Ozzie the Duck Memorial Scholarship



Since 1949, Stanley Park has been a haven of natural beauty and tranquility for the Westfield community. The serenity of this special place was shattered on November 11, 2011 when Ozzie, the beloved Muscovy duck, was attacked and killed by a teenage boy. Within days of this event, an anonymous donor established a scholarship with CSF in memory of Ozzie and the peaceful sanctuary he symbolized. At the donor's request, this scholarship will be directed to students with humanitarian career goals, or those studying child psychology.

Ozzie was the most popular duck at the Stanley Park duck pond! One day about three years ago a park volunteer discovered a new addition to the park, a Muscovy duck. The big black duck with red "bubbles" on his head was escorted to the duck pond, and was quickly nicknamed "Ozzie." This new duck soon captured the attention of visitors of all ages! Upon his arrival, Ozzie was feisty, noisy, and bossy. Once he became more comfortable with his surroundings, Ozzie's personality improved!

It wasn't long before the other geese and ducks accepted him into their family. When the geese would walk up to the recreation field to eat and lay in the sun, Ozzie would be right along with them. Ozzie made sure his buddies were all set, then he would continue down the driveway to meet the staff member for his snack. When Ozzie was finished, he would walk back to meet up with his friends and they would wander their way back down to the duck pond area. It seemed that Ozzie thought he was a goose, too!

Ozzie was also the self-appointed protector of the duck pond. He would make his presence known when there was a dog in the area. More than one pup received a bite in the tail end from Ozzie! One dog did manage to get the best of him and dislocated Ozzie's bill. Park personnel took extra care in feeding Ozzie during his recovery from this injury. Consequently, Ozzie and the park staff developed a special bond.

Many say that Ozzie was an unusual duck because he didn't quack, he actually barked! He would wag his tail feathers when you talked to him, and he didn't look like any of the other ducks in the park. Ozzie was indeed a highlight around the duck pond for many. His personality was not only embraced by the staff, but by everyone that interacted with him. Ozzie's perseverance and personality helped him to become the unofficial mascot of Stanley Park.

Written by: Stanley Park staff and volunteers
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