



## Resident Canada Geese Facts

- Canada Geese were introduced to this area by human activity including captive breeding and use of live decoys for hunting in the early 1900's.
- Canada Geese were subsequently protected from hunting under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Canada Geese, like salmon, are hard-wired to return to where they were born to nest and rear their young.
- There is no known genetic distinction between the Migratory and Resident Canada Geese populations.
- Resident Canada Geese do not fly to Canada to nest and rear young, thus they are locally present year-round.
- Resident Canada Geese have a life span of up to 25 years.
- Canada Geese lay an average of 6 eggs per nest, but nests with up to 11 eggs have been reported.
- Over 8 years, 2 mating pair of Resident Canada Geese and their offspring can produce more than 108 Canada Geese, all hard-wired to nest locally.
- 1 Canada Goose can produce up to 2 pounds of fecal waste a day.
- A Canada Goose can eat up to 4 pounds of grass a day.
- The resident Canada Goose population increases at a rate of 10–17% each year.

## Why Does My Town Need Resident Canada Goose Population Stabilization?

Because Resident Canada Geese contribute to environmental, economic and aesthetic degradation in the following ways:

### Water Quality:

- Increasing concentrations of geese and their droppings contribute to beach and shell fishing closures due to high bacteria counts.
- Nutrient enrichment and depletion of oxygen in water bodies.
- Erosion caused by removal of ground cover leads to loss of soil and sedimentation of water bodies.
- Potential for water-borne disease transmission.

### Agricultural Lands and Crops:

- Destruction of crops during the growing season resulting in economic loss and subsequent soil erosion.
- Destruction of cover crops in the winter again resulting in economic loss and subsequent soil erosion.
- Contamination of open sources of irrigation water and potentially crops.
- Deposition of waste directly on crop lands and areas used for agri-tourism.

### Public Health and Safety:

- Increasing risk of aircraft/goose collisions. USAir flight 1549 landed in the Hudson River in January 2009 after colliding with a flock of geese.
- Increasing risk of motor vehicle/ goose collisions.
- Increased risk of water-borne diseases to humans.

### General Nuisance:

- Aggressiveness & Noise.
- Droppings on athletic fields, golf courses, walkways and other areas used by people.

## What Is the GeesePeace Egg Oiling Method?

This method is used during nesting season (late March to mid-May) to limit nest productivity and help stabilize populations.

- Request and receive permission from property owner to locate nests on any given property.
- Locate nests, gently coerce geese from nesting area using an umbrella to protect teammates and passively dissuade geese from attacking.
- Test eggs for development stage by placing eggs in a bucket of water. (This step makes this procedure humane by PETA and Humane Society standards.)
- If the eggs float they are too far along in development and WILL NOT be oiled.
- Eggs that sink will be coated with corn oil. (These eggs are in the early stages of development and, once oiled, will not mature or hatch.)
- Place eggs back into the nest and collect and report data such as GPS data, number of eggs in nest, number of eggs oiled, etc.

**To find out what you can do to help with your town's resident Canada Goose problem, to report a nesting location or to volunteer to help oil eggs please call Jessica at 401-816-5667 or email ERIConservationDistrict@yahoo.com**