



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