



Waterfowl Management Control Program

Town of Babylon
Phase II Program
South Shore Estuary
Council Member
"Preserve the Reserve"

The Problem With Canada Geese: Canada Geese are naturally a migratory bird, but have become permanent residents in the Town of Babylon. There is an ample source of food, plenty of grassy open space & no natural predators. The population of geese on Long Island has exploded, & since they eat up to 4 lbs. of grass a day & excrete almost 1 lb. of waste a day, it has caused a number of environmental problems and unsightly conditions at Town Parks.

What the Town is Doing

The Town has concluded that the geese need to be controlled and have established a Waterfowl Management Control Program. Components of the program include:

- Placing educational signs in several Town Parks to warn resident of the adverse effects of feeding geese.
- Employing handlers and their dogs to harass the geese. The geese are not harmed by the dogs. Dogs resemble natural predators and are able to chase them off of Town property.



- Oiling eggs, which is a humane way of preventing development of the egg, therefore slowing population growth.

Created by Adrienne Holmes, TOBDEC Aide

Environmental Impacts

- Overgrazing leads to increased erosion & sediment problems in our waters.
- Overpopulation & unnatural concentrations of geese cause the spread of diseases within their population, such as aspergillosis, an infection caused by a fungus.
- Their feces contain nutrients which generates algal blooms & bacteria that causes beach closures and contaminates shellfish growing areas.

History of Geese: The resident geese are descendants of geese that were used as live decoys to lure migratory geese into the area for hunting. By the 1960s the population of geese was threatened with extinction. The decoys were then bred in captivity to restore the population. Geese breed where they are born, so these geese didn't migrate back to Canada & since the habitat here is so suitable for geese, they never had to leave the area. The population quickly grew, not surprisingly since 2 pairs of geese will produce 108 offspring over 8 years!



Background Photo of Waterfowl Control Dog, Aries, by Marilyn Tighe



Don't Feed the Geese

Feeding Geese may seem like an innocent activity, but it is illegal to do so. Town Code §106-40 prohibits the feeding of waterfowl on Town property and is punishable by a fine of up to \$500! Feeding geese provides an artificial food source that is poor in nutrition and discourages them from migrating. Feeding them bread, chips, bagels, etc. not only changes their migration patterns, but actually can cause disease, and deformities.

Town of Babylon
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