

Thursday, June 3, 2021
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



WELLAND GOOSE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Welland, ON – The City of Welland is working with Municipal Wildlife Services to control the growing number of geese along the Welland Recreation Corridor (WRC).

Canada goose populations across Ontario have been on the rise since the mid 1990's. The City of Welland has initiated an integrated, humane and professional program to maintain a healthy balance between geese and people along our WRC. This program involves a number of management techniques implemented on an ongoing basis to maintain healthy environments in our outdoor recreational settings.

The City is working to improve public enjoyment of our parks, water quality and our waterfront parks. All members of the community can help with the Goose Management Program by not feeding birds, ducks, geese, gulls or swans. Here's why:

- Bird feces can be a potential health hazard and contain bacteria hazardous to humans.
- Feeding can attract many birds, resulting in large unnatural amounts of birds congregating in an area, where droppings accumulate in the grass, sand and water. Birds will also consume their own feces making them ill.
- Birds that are fed food scraps can become ill and these scraps will attract vermin such as rats and mice.
- Birds that eat food scraps do not get all the nutrients found in their natural diet. As a result, they may be less healthy and become dependent on people.
- Most birds fly south in the winter to find other sources of food. Feeding birds may encourage them to stay here longer and rely on human food to survive and disrupt their natural migration and transient process.

The City currently undertakes a number of federally-approved goose management methods, including:

- Dog patrol
 - These dogs are exempt from the Animal Control by-law as services are contracted with the City.
- Avian dissuader laser light
- Avian distress call
- Shoreline park patrols
- Pyrotechnics
- Egg and nest depredation
- Relocation services

Frequently Asked Questions about a Goose Management Program:

1. Are any geese harmed during the City's Goose Management Program?
 - a. No geese are harmed by the City's program. Trained and qualified staff under authorization of a Canadian Wildlife Service Permit use humane methods to move geese off the waterfront parks and into more natural environments without harming the geese or goslings.
2. Is this a one-time program, or does it continue?
 - a. In 2019, the City adopted a Goose Management Program which is contracted through a licensed Municipal Wildlife Management Professional and permitted by the Canadian Wildlife Service (Federal Government). This ongoing program will continue to reduce the resident goose population which will improve the use and enjoyment of parkland on the waterfront park spaces.
3. How often are the control services completed?
 - a. The program is designed to effectively reduce the number of resident Canada geese on designated sites, within the City's budget parameters. Services are conducted under the professional advice of the contractor operating within the budget, to maintain pre-determined objectives. Daytime (daylight) and evening (twilight) services are conducted using various tools and techniques to meet the program goals and objectives.

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