

Frequently Asked Questions

Why not leave the geese alone — weren't they here first?

Non-migratory resident Canada Geese are not native to the island. These birds were introduced from Eastern Canada in the 60's and 70's for wildlife viewing and hunting.

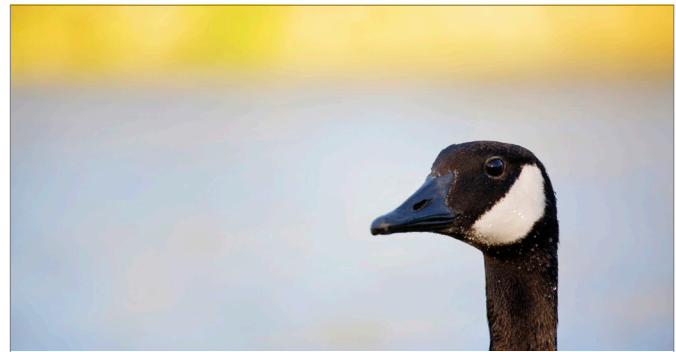
Are all geese being targeted?

No. Migratory geese that have used the capital region as part of their traditional and instinctive migratory pathway are not targeted in the Regional Goose Management Strategy. These geese stop over here for days or weeks in the spring and fall. They do not nest here or cause the conflicts we are addressing in this management program.

How can you tell the difference between resident geese and migratory geese?

Physically they look the same, but behaviourally they are very different.

- Migratory geese are not present in the summer.



Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy

August 28, 2012

regional canada goose
management strategy

- Migratory geese do not nest here.
- Migratory geese use traditional routes and habitats on those routes. They are rarely present in urban locations (e.g. Beacon Hill).

Will the geese be culled?

The short answer is we don't know. The goal is to humanely reduce conflict. Many approaches will be used to mitigate all the different impacts in the region. Environment Canada, the regulatory body responsible for geese, reviews the approaches and their effectiveness. Killing geese is the last option that will be considered by Environment Canada.

What are other approaches?

Examples include:

- assisting farmers with connecting to hunters who are interested in legally hunting geese within the regulated seasons;
- assisting farmers with applying for permits to allow them to scare or hunt geese on their lands;

- population control through egg addling;
- habitat modification to make some recreational or environmentally sensitive areas less attractive to geese.

How will these approaches be funded?

In 2013-2014 the goose management working group received a grant from the BC Agricultural Research and Development Corporation (ARDCorp) to test management techniques. Future years may involve partnerships between municipalities and stakeholders.

Why won't all the geese be killed if they were introduced?

Regardless of origin, all Canada geese are protected under the federal *Migratory Bird Convention Act* administered by Environment Canada. As such, it is illegal to remove geese without consultation with Environment Canada.

What are the problems with geese?

Some areas of conflict include:

- extensive farm crop damage from foraging, trampling and feces contamination;
- feces in water (reservoirs, recreational);
- damage to sensitive ecosystems (foraging, trampling, feces);
- aggressive when nesting (to people and other wildlife);



- aggressive geese prevent native species of waterfowl from using habitat and lower biodiversity;
- pose a known risk to aviation.

Do other places have this problem?

Yes. This is an issue throughout southern BC. Other areas in Canada and the US also struggle with geese. A lot of information is available on the internet about different areas, issues, and management techniques.

Resources

Capital Regional District
www.crd.bc.ca/parks/gooseman-strategy.htm

Environment Canada
www.ec.gc.ca/nature