

# Reasons not to feed waterfowl

- Feeding waterfowl can quickly lead to overpopulation. Left on their own, they will occupy areas that provide sufficient natural food. When local resources are low or depleted, individuals will move to new locations. Waterfowl remain static because of the endless supply provided by well-meaning humans. When a large amount of birds feed together they create large amounts of feces in grass, sand and water.
- Feeding may cause waterfowl to lose their natural fear of humans. Survival is dependent on maintaining a healthy fear of humans. While a food provider may have good intentions, waterfowl must survive with hazards such as dogs, cats, cars and people. Waterfowl that maintains its natural instincts has a better chance for survival.
- Waterfowl such as Canada Geese, Seagulls, Ducks, etc. create water contamination issues as their feces are often left along the waterline and can be washed in to the water causing contamination.



## The effects of feeding waterfowl...

- Aggressive behavior and loss of fear towards humans
- Loss of their animal instinct to hunt for their own food
- Overpopulation
- Spreads diseases
- Delayed migration
- Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD) in birds
- Unnatural behavior
- Reduce water quality and de-vegetate shorelines



## Keep Waterfowl Wild



**If you care about waterfowl, please stop feeding them.**



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# Canada Geese Facts

- Canada Geese are native to North America and can be found throughout North Kawartha. While some of these birds stay in Canada during winter months, the majority of them migrate south to the United States and Mexico. Canada Geese live in family groups and tend to nest near waterways such as streams, lakes and ponds.
- Geese have a very specific diet and when fed foods like bread by humans they do not obtain the essential fats, proteins, and nutrients that they require resulting in malnourishment. When humans feed animals they become dependent, which may jeopardize their survival.
- Feeding geese may potentially attract more birds to human habitats which may result in land degradation, water contamination, overpopulation, and increased instances of accidental death.

- To prevent the negative impacts associated with feeding Canada Geese, the Township of North Kawartha recommends "No Feeding" Canada Geese and other waterfowl around all waterfronts to preserve our pristine shorelines.

- By respecting this recommendation we will not eliminate Canadian Geese but the Township of North Kawartha will be supporting the prevention of overpopulation and water contamination in a few problem areas.

