

Help Nature Keep Her Balance

Resources for More Information




- Bird Studies Canada
www.bsc.org
- Ministry of Natural Resources
– Are You Feeding Wildlife?
www.mnr.gov.ca
- Long Point Waterfowl Research
www.longpointwaterfowl.org
- Friends of Presqu'ile Park
Birding Reports
www.friendsofpresqu'ile.on.ca

\$105 FINE

Under the Authority of
By-Law No. 044-2012
Town of Cobourg



DID YOU KNOW THAT FEEDING WILDFOWL

-  can lead to disease among their population
-  can lead to aggressive behavior toward humans
-  an artificial diet high in protein can lead to wing deformities especially in geese and swans called "Angel Wing" deformity. These birds usually meet an early death as they are eventually rendered flightless



Willow Beach Field Naturalists
PO Box 421
Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3
www.willowbeachfieldnaturalists.org

Keep Wildfowl Wild



**IF YOU CARE ABOUT
WATERFOWL, PLEASE STOP
FEEDING THEM**

By-Law No. 044-2012



Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West
Cobourg, ON K9A 2M2
905-372-4301

Perspective From The Willow Beach


Field Naturalists

People who feed wildlife usually do so with the best intentions. However, feeding waterfowl can create many problems for the birds as well as for the environment and almost always results in negative consequences for both humans and wildlife involved. This practice is discouraged by the Willow Beach Field Naturalists, since the notion that waterfowl cannot survive without human intervention is false. Ducks and geese have survived for thousands of years without handouts, and today many species are thriving. In fact, many of our urban parks are now over-populated with ducks and geese. The Mute Swans are a particular problem as they are not native here and have no natural enemies. Please enjoy our local waterfowl but view them from a distance and respect their wildness. By doing so, you will provide them with their best chance of survival.





Nature supplies all their needs

Reasons Not To Feed

 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.

 Providing food quickly attracts concentrations of waterfowl beyond what the natural ecosystem can support. This can reduce water quality and de-vegetate natural areas. As numbers increase, natural forage will decrease and individuals will only become more dependent upon handouts.

 Feeding can cause waterfowl to lose their natural fear of humans. Survival is contingent upon maintaining a healthy fear of humans. While the food provider may have the best of intentions, the waterfowl still have to survive in a world filled with hazards – dogs, cats, cars, people – waterfowl that maintains its innate wildness ultimately has the best chance for survival.

 Feeding waterfowl can lead to dietary and nutritional problems. Junk food can cause significant health problems, and even when fed fresh, highly processed foods provide little or no nutritional value and may actually contribute to starvation. Moldy bread can impact their health just as it does our own. Moving from location to location in search of a healthy natural diet, waterfowl build their reserves.

