

Habitat Modification

Canada geese prefer to graze on grasses and lawns with open sight lines and access to water. Therefore, reducing grassy areas, planting hedgerows and shrubs, and reducing clear access to water may reduce goose presence in specific areas.

Other basic habitat modifications can discourage geese from nesting at specific sites. For example, to reduce the likelihood of geese nesting near buildings, eliminate any “bowl-like” features such as tires, planters, piles of leaves and debris, or coiled hoses. Permanent or temporary fencing installed prior to nesting can restrict movement of geese with young or in moult. At Cultus Lake you may see temporary fences up during moulting season. These are to help restrict the number of geese because if a potential nesting and grazing area is not attractive to them or does not seem safe for their young, they will find another place. Please do not damage the fences.

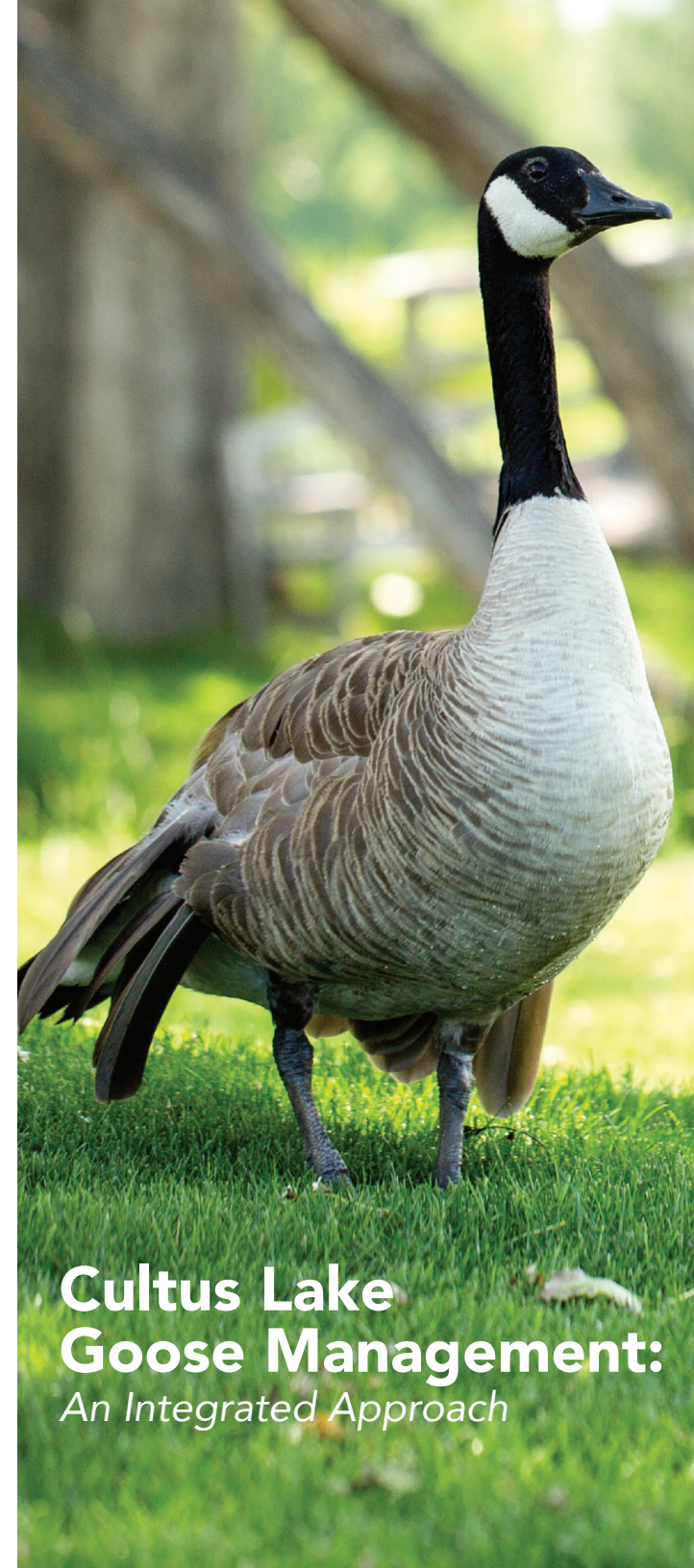


How can you help?

Please do not feed the Canada geese or other wildlife. Geese and other wild birds and animals need to eat their own natural diet in order to stay healthy. Human food can lead to disease and kill the wildlife.

If you live at Cultus Lake, consider habitat modification for your property.

Please respect any fencing that may be temporarily installed. It is intended to discourage the geese from coming to Cultus Lake beaches to moult and to encourage them to find a different location.



**Cultus Lake
Goose Management:**
An Integrated Approach

DID YOU KNOW?

The Canada geese at Cultus Lake are not native to our area. Prior to 1967, Canada geese were considered migrant and infrequent visitors to the Lower Mainland. By the 1970s, however, goose numbers had increased through management programs. Geese from various breeding stocks were transplanted to our area as flightless young.

Once outside their native ranges, translocated geese did not learn migratory patterns. They bred with geese they would not naturally encounter, and over time this new subspecies and their offspring nested in their new habitats. These hybrid geese do not migrate.

PLEASE DO NOT FEED
THE DUCKS AND GEESE



Goose Concerns

At Cultus Lake, the non-migratory Canada goose population can be pleasant to have around but can also be a public nuisance.

They negatively impact natural and cultivated park habitats, create conflicts with park users, and have a negative impact on water quality. Management costs create a burden on park budgets as well as for residents and other private landowners.

Conflicts include:

- Aggressive behaviour towards people and other animals and wildlife
- Turf damage and fecal deposits on private lawns and park fields

• Fecal deposits in water contribute to coliform counts and swimming advisories: one adult goose can produce one to two pounds of droppings a day!

- Environmental degradation from overgrazing of shoreline plants (loss of vegetation and beach erosion) and fecal matter in water (increased nitrogen and biological oxygen demand, BOD)
- Decreased biodiversity from aggressive territorial behaviour that prevents smaller native waterfowl from nesting

