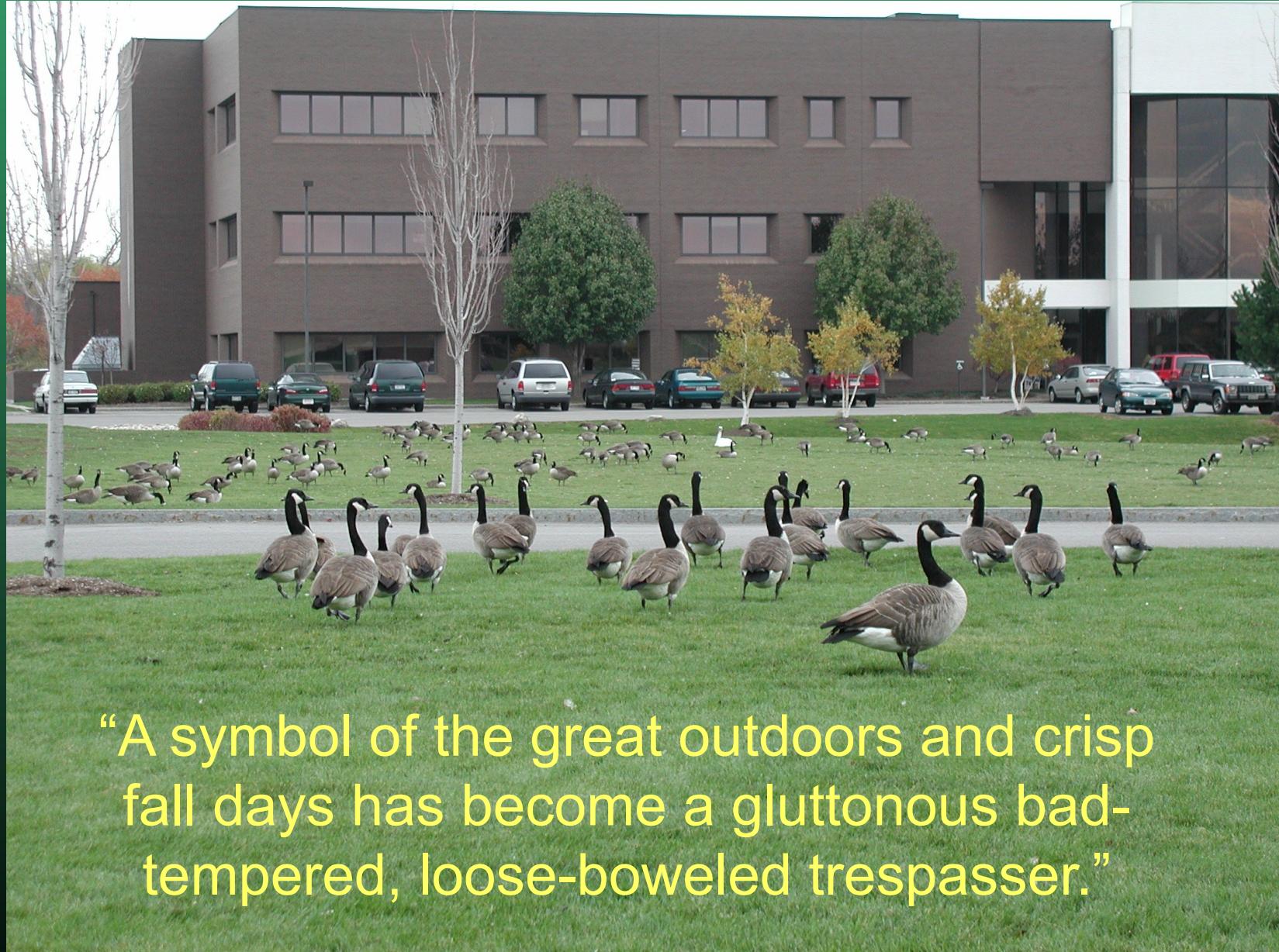


Problem Management of Canada Geese in a Suburban Township.

Jim Eckler, Bureau of Wildlife, Region 8, Avon

*NYS Department of Environmental
Conservation
Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources*



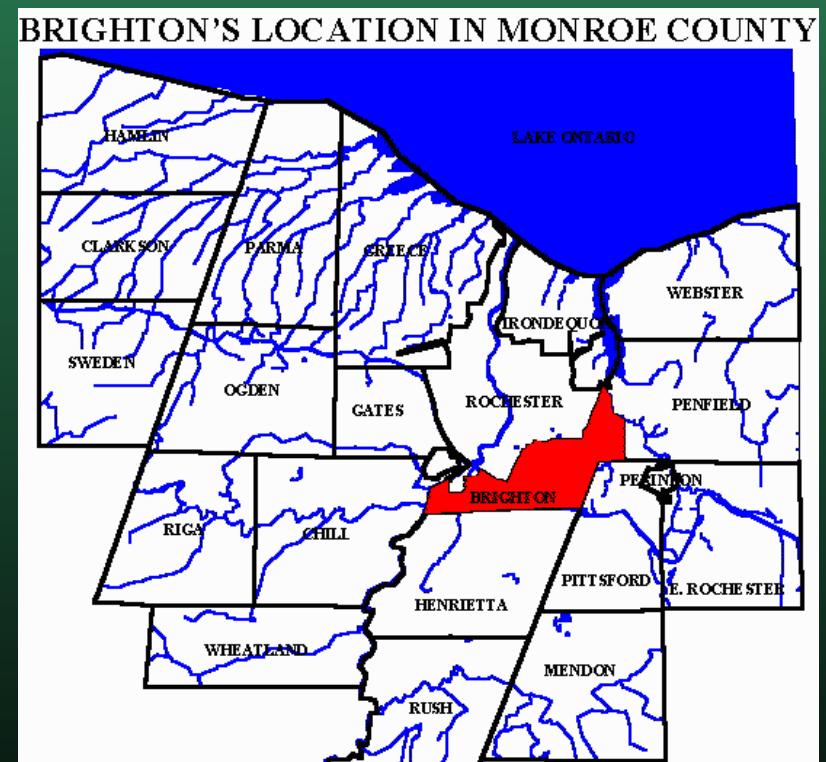


“A symbol of the great outdoors and crisp fall days has become a gluttonous bad-tempered, loose-boweled trespasser.”



Town of Brighton

- 15.6 square miles
- 35,000 residents
- 1/4 park/open space
- Gun discharge ordinance
- 300 geese





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A photograph of a large, modern red brick building with multiple stories and large windows. The building is surrounded by a parking lot filled with cars and is situated behind a grassy area and a pond. The sky is overcast. In the foreground, there is a paved path and a grassy slope leading down to the water.

Meridian Center

Complaints

- Traffic risks
- School playground, fields
- Over grazing lawns
- Slippery sidewalks
- Aggressive nesters



Public Meeting



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Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

- Objective-based
- Identified problems and sites
- Recommended 4-points of action
- Timeline
- Evaluation



Abatement Techniques

- No Feeding
- Encourage Hunting
- Modify Habitat
- Wire or line Grids
- Fencing
- Remote Control vehicles
- Laser
- Sterilization
- Noisemakers
- Repellents
- Dogs
- Egg Oiling
- Capture and remove
- Decoys – swans, alligators
- Fountains



Abatement Techniques

- **No Feeding**
- Encourage Hunting
- **Modify Habitat**
- Wire or line Grids
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- **Remote Control vehicles**
- Laser
- Sterilization
- Noisemakers
- Repellents
- **Dogs**
- **Egg Oiling**
- Capture and remove
- Decoys – swans, alligators
- Fountains



Plan did not include:

- Pyrotechnics
- Flagging/balloons
- Removal of domestic geese
- True fence
- Hunting/Round-up



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

- **Site alteration**
 - Monofilament fence
 - Plantings
- **No feeding**
 - Signs
 - Ordinance
 - Direct contact



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

Egg oiling

- Followed HSUS protocol
- FWS and DEC permits (now website registration), landowner permission
- Training: 10-12 college students, Zoo, Town Animal Control and task force members
 - How-to
 - Equipment: corn oil, umbrella, waders, data sheets, ID cards



CAGO Timeline – Brighton, NY

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mating												
Ice off												
Nesting												
Egg oiling												
Egg removal												
Goslings												
Molt												

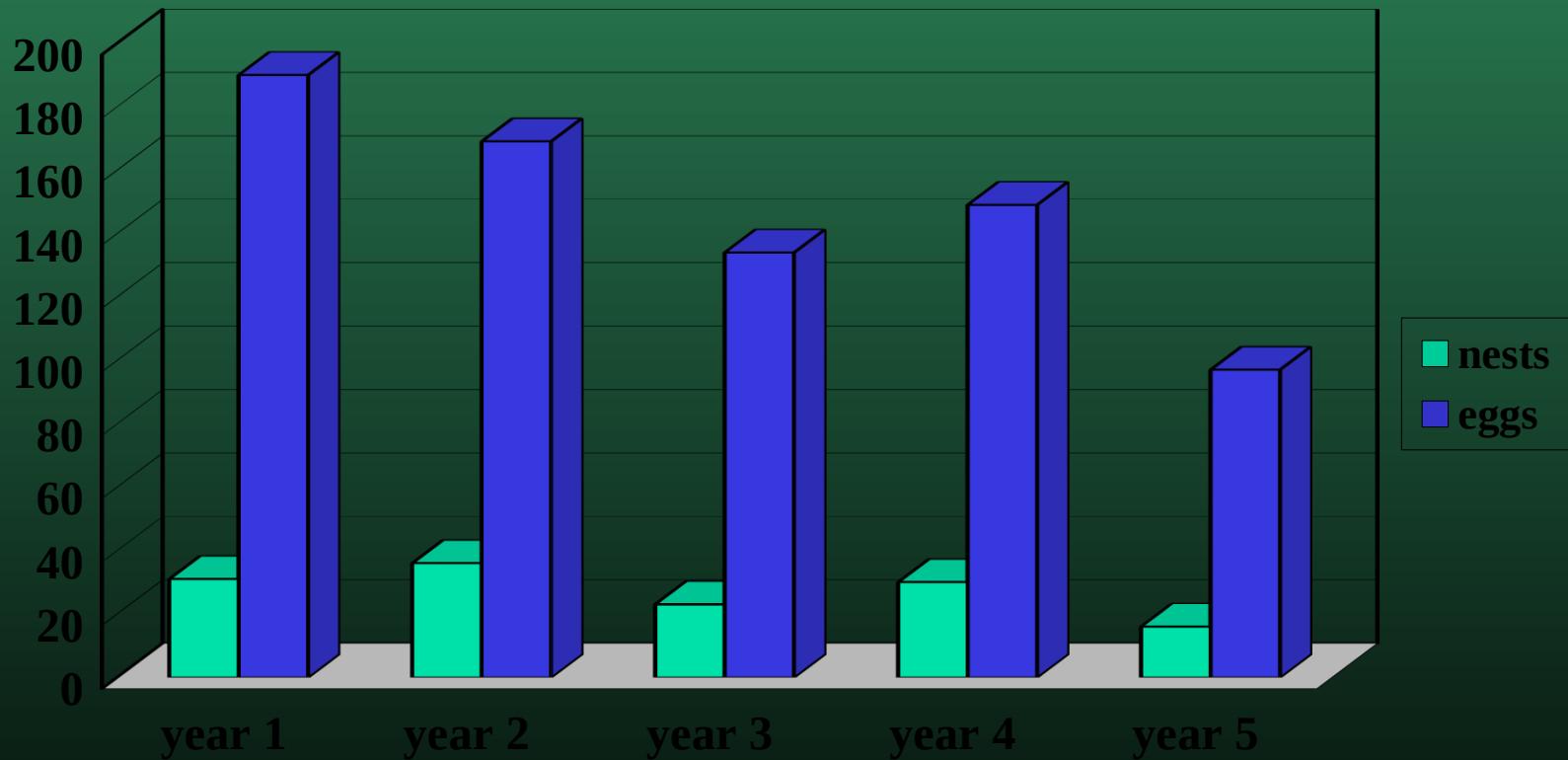


Egg oiling results – Year 1

- Treated 31 nests
- 190 eggs
- 100 person-hours
- 70% decrease in goslings at Lac de Ville



Egg Oiling Results



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

Herd^{ing} dogs

- 3 sites
- 1 or 2 visits/day
- 6 months



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

Development guidelines

- Rocky shoreline
- Landscaped



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

Measure and Evaluate

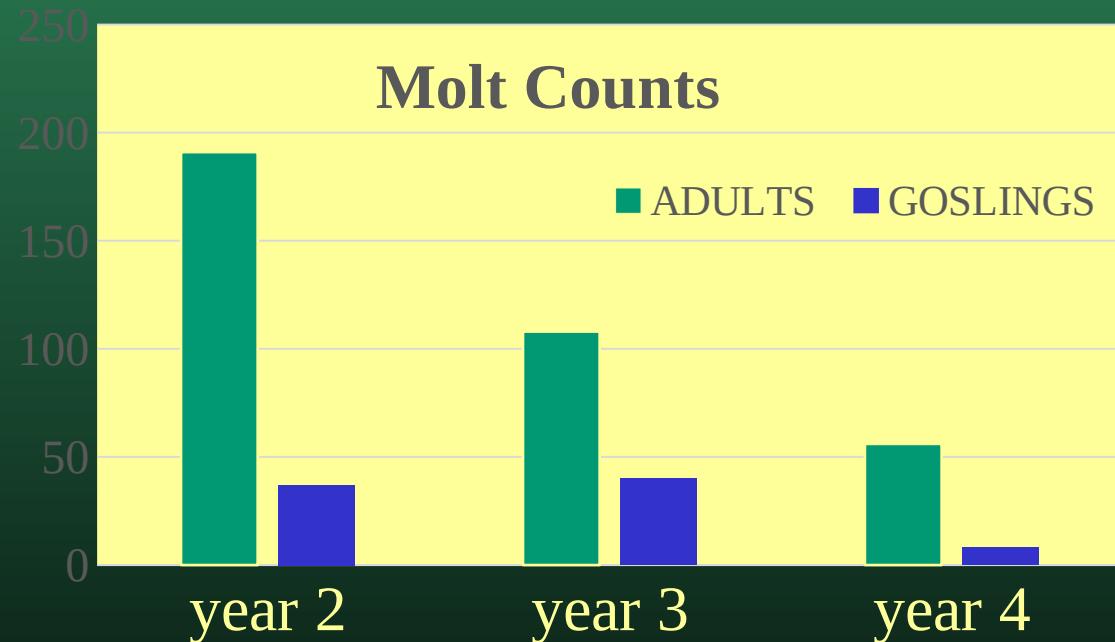
- Complaints
- Qualitative site assessments
- Nests and eggs
- Student research
 - Hazing techniques
 - Banding
 - Telemetry



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

Monitor numbers

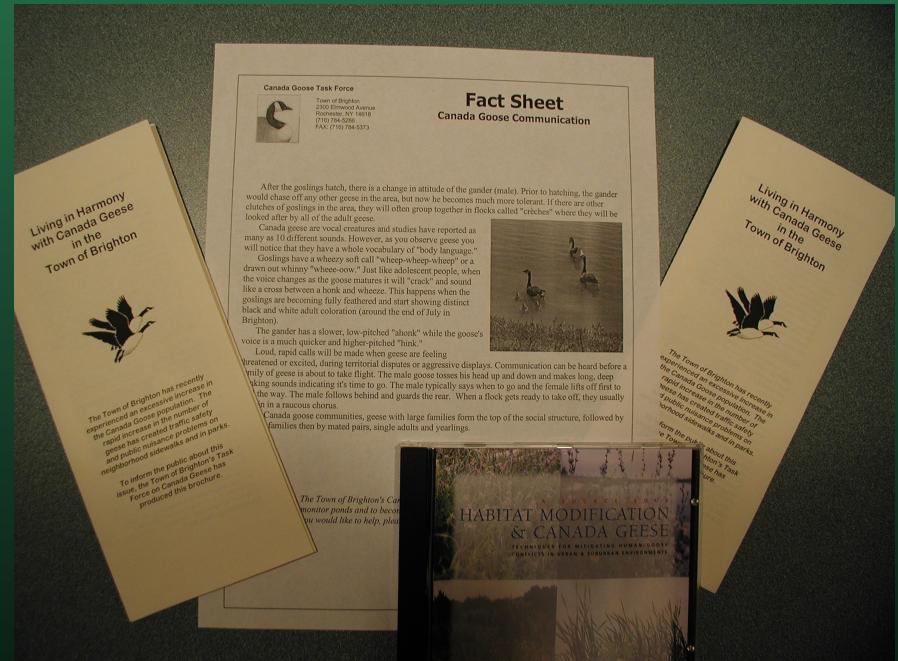
- Volunteers
- Molt counts (geese, goslings):
 - Year 2 – 191, 37
 - Year 3 – 108, 40
 - Year 4 – 56, 8



Brighton's Comprehensive Plan

Public outreach

- Informational brochure - CD
- Fact sheet
- Town meetings
- Video
- Cable access
- TV



Identify the Challenge

- Who has a problem and where?
- Property ownership
- Land use and habitat type
- Numbers of adults and goslings
- Seasonality
- Any public feeding?
- Local tolerance for abatement methods, including lethal control
- Human resources



Important



- Understand Goose behavior/biology
- Apply site specific solutions
- Write up a Plan
- Involve everyone,
Tell everyone,
Measure everything



Thank You

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