

Window On Wild Life

Canada Geese numbers grow

By ART BRIGGS-JUDE

They funnel out of the south end of James Bay like giant bees leaving a hive. But their pulsing wings are not carrying them on a honey gathering expedition. From their tundra summer habitat in this far northern area, they have been congregating on these big waterways for the past weeks. Now with a touch of frost on the trees and a bit of rawhide in the wind, the big Canada geese begin to take off. In flocks as small as four individuals, to huge waves of several hundred birds, they wing their way southward. Over the stunted willows they fly, climbing steadily till their wings seem to touch the ceiling of low cloud. Now the arrow formations set course for the great lakes far to the south, with a few traditional feed and rest stops enroute. Some geese stirred by an inner instinct, are up and away at the first hint of cold weather, while others linger till forced out by driving sleet, snow, and a general freeze up.

Before the rediscovery of the giant Canada geese in 1962, the hunting of honkers in southern Ontario was a hit and miss effort. Often it was by sheer luck or accident, that hunters got within range of the wary birds. The outlay of cash for decoys, calls etc., was just too much expense for the benefits derived by the average hunter. So the number of geese bagged by the individual sportsman could be counted on the fingers of one hand. During the past few years however, with the appearance of these large geese in local farmlands, airports, and waterways, the odds on taking some for the table have greatly increased. In fact, in some areas like the Toronto waterfront, Natural Resources personnel, have been taking eggs from nesting geese in an effort to alleviate already crowded conditions. Actually, it was eggs from such flocks and others at Morrisburg on the St. Lawrence that formed the nucleus of the giant Canada goose reintroduction programme.

That these efforts are paying off is quite evident by the numbers of Canada geese found nesting in the southern parts of this province. And despite the fact, a half a million wild geese were harvested by hunters during the 1977 season, there are actually more of these white-cheeked fowl in North America today, than there were when Champlain sailed up the St. Lawrence. This too is no accident. Rather, it's the results of far-sighted management, regulated hunting, wildlife reservations, and a great amount of research. Paid incidentally, in no small way, by the past and present hunters of this country.

Sunoco plans 'quiet' car wash

MARKHAM — Is there such a thing as a "quiet" automatic car wash? No, says Maurice Sanders, President of the Thornhill Ratepayers Association. Yes, claims Robert Doran, a spokesman for the Sun Oil Company of Canada Limited. The firm has applied for permission to install an assembly-type car-washing facility in a service station on Hwy. 7. To get the "green light", an amendment is required to the Town's Official Plan due to the fact mechanical car washes are not allowed adjacent to residential properties. Mr. Sanders was of the opinion such operations should be restricted to industrial areas. He said the Association had checked out 15 such plants. "Not one of them was what you could call quiet," he said. Mr. Doran argued that Sunoco's equipment was such that noise would be reduced to a minimum. To compare their units with others is unfair, he said. Planning Committee chairman Walter Grieve said the Plan, as it now stands, is too restrictive. He said the Town should be able to re-zone certain sites under special circumstances. In addition to the noise, Mr. Sanders said increased traffic would also pose a problem. "There's no way this planning committee can tell me a neighborhood is not going to be affected by traffic flow," he charged. Councillor Stan Daurio replied that if increased traffic was thought to be a hazard, then the application would be rejected. Earlier, Mr. Sanders said re-zoning could be obtained "at the drop of a hat". Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Scott, Ovida Boulevard voiced opposition to the proposal, saying traffic would be

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THREE DAYS ONLY

Editor's Mail
Gravel opponent blast pit supporters

What evil lurks in the hearts of our elected officials? Indians in the Dryden area survive on mercury-laden fish, facing the prospect of a painful death to further the financial interests of Reed Paper. Our provincial government responds by giving this corporation six years to clean up its act! In Sarnia, a nagging fine that does not even cover court costs is levied against Dow Chemical. The list of abuses in this province is endless. And now, it is, the people of Uxbridge Township at the hands of John B. Regan. What we do NOT need is another gravel pit, and on zoned agricultural land covered with trees yet! Is our council insane? Mr. Norm Lyons has openly argued against tax equalization whereby the southern area of the township burdened by most of the gravel pits has the added privilege of paying higher taxes. Now he also wants to give us an added cross to bear—a proposed pit licensed to extract one million tons per year, placing 200,000 trucks on our already overrun roads. Not only is this not neighbourly and inconsiderate, it is extremely poor business. All township residents will be forced to absorb costly road maintenance. In no time, insurance companies will simply refuse to replace cracked windshields in the Uxbridge area. Mr. Regan has offered 6 1/2 cents per ton extracted pending revision of a current Provincial act at which time he will pay the going rate set by the Province. At that time, all other pits will have to pay up also. This legislation is scheduled to go into effect during the coming year and no one in council knows what the figure will be. Before this proposed pit ever became operational, it is likely that Mr. Regan would never have to honour his agreement with the Township for even a week! What kind of bargain is that—offering something you know you will have to do anyway. At the moment, our existing pits are operating at a fraction of their capacity—why on earth should we create another blight on the landscape and destroy a forest at the same time? Mr. Regan points out that this gravel site is "special". Indeed it is; it is a replacement site for his current operation that is almost worked out and he needs new ground to continue operating. How can we let a man who deliberately flouted our bylaws last year take another slice of our township and rape it? What is good for John Regan is bad for Uxbridge Township. Our lovely town is plagued with gravel trucks coursing through it. The Presbyterian church is already suffering from a crumbling foundation due to the vibration of heavy truck traffic. Must the people of Uxbridge be sacrificed for the glory of a wider 401? The irony of it all is that the very people who destroy our roads sell us back our own resource to repair them! Talk about a self-perpetrating industry. They can't lose. And what do the pit owners return to the community in taxes—\$24,000 per annum in total for the lot of them! Why, one single block of Glen Acres residents pay more than that! We are in fact, subsidizing the gravel lords. Can we afford it? It is time, with the onset of local municipal elections, for the citizens of Uxbridge to alert their representatives and our provincial MP that we will not be ignored. It must be noted that our mayor, Gordon Davie does not support this gravel pit proposal. Mr. Regan has paid \$1,200,000 (a tidy sum) for his tract of land—he has a battery of lawyers and influence in high places giving him reassurance that his investment will be returned 50 to 1. He does not feel that he is

gambling one bit. However, he does not have the citizen's ballot and like the Reception Centre, he will be defeated. Our last municipal election demonstrated our determination. Collectively, we have the power to repel this intruding pit and we must if only to keep us from bankruptcy. Apathy is our worst enemy. When our gravel is exploited, we will be left with nothing but debts and bad memories. Must we wait until we wipe out a bus load of children before we get angry? We have had some close calls with gravel trucks already and with increased volume of traffic we are inviting the inevitable. Remember, that pit represents a potential of 200,000 additional truck loads per year! It is our responsibility to shape our destiny and fight off the invading gravel giant in our woods. Uxbridge Township is Neat. It's a great place to raise a family and worth fighting for. Jeanine Sheridan, R.R. 4, Uxbridge


Recommend pay hike

UXBRIDGE — The Twp. Council has recommended a pay increase for members, effective in 1979. If approved, ward councillors will receive \$5,500, up from their present \$5,000. Regional councillors will receive \$6,000, up from \$5,000 and the mayor will receive \$7,700, up from \$7,000. The only dissenting voice was councillor Norm Lyons. He felt the pay for ward members and regional councillors should be the same. But councillor Gary Harrema disagreed, pointing to the fact more time and travel costs were involved in the senior post. Mayor Gord Davie described the pay scale as "fair and reasonable". He noted that no increases had been forthcoming for five years.

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STOUFFVILLE
man hurt
STOUFFVILLE — A Stouffville man was injured, Tuesday, in an unusual accident on Main Street East. Police said Kenneth Wagg, 50, of Church Street, was getting out of his car when struck on the head by a side mirror of a passing truck. The vehicle was driven by Genevieve Cuthbertson of Altona. Mr. Wagg was taken by ambulance to Scarborough Centenary Hospital, treated and released.

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Monarch Cake Mixes or Icing Mixes 3 **\$1**

Young Turkeys 94¢ LB.

Round Steak Roasts 1.59 LB.

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Stewing Beef 1.39 LB.

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Side Bacon 1.79 1-LB. PKG.

Bearnaise Dressing 1.99 1-LB. JAR OR TUB

Bread & Butter Pickles 2 **\$1**

Casserole Bases 69¢ 1-LB. BOX

McConnell Tea Bags 1 **\$1**

Liquid Detergent 2 **\$1**

Wagon Wheels 99¢ 12 OZ. PKG.

Cadbury's Biscuits 69¢ 150-G PKG.

Dare's Candies 69¢ 200 TO 325-G PKG.

IGA Cheese Logs 2 **\$1**

Paper Towels 1 **\$1**

Pro Toothbrushes 3 **FOR \$1**

Shampoo or Creme Rinse 1 **\$1**

Good News Razors 3 **\$1**

Glad Garbage Bags 1.99 13 MIL POLY 26" x 36" SIZE PKG. OF 20

Bearnaise Dressing 1.99 1-LB. JAR OR TUB

Prune Plums 39¢ LB.

Spinach 59¢ 10-OZ. PKG.

Green Onions 39¢ 2 BUNCHES FOR

IGA Fruit Drinks 2 **\$1**

Mandarin Oranges 2 **\$1**

Whole Tomatoes 2 **\$1**

Libby's Beans 4 **\$1**

Corned Beef 1 **\$1**

Mixed Vegetables 3 **\$1**

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Baby Gouda Cheese 1.49 100Z PKG.

Soft Margarine 79¢ 1-LB. TUB

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