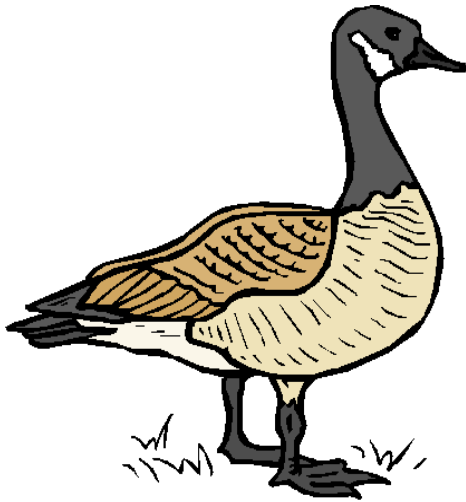


# WATERFOWL ARE FOULING OUR BEACHES

Canada geese might be a popular attraction for tourists; however, geese and other waterfowl like ducks and gulls have an significant impact on the water quality of our beaches.



## A SOURCE OF BACTERIA

The beaches are posted Unsafe for swimming depending on bacterial levels present in daily water samples. Studies have shown that waterfowl such as geese, ducks and gulls produce droppings with high levels of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), a bacteria associated with fecal matter that is harmful to human health.

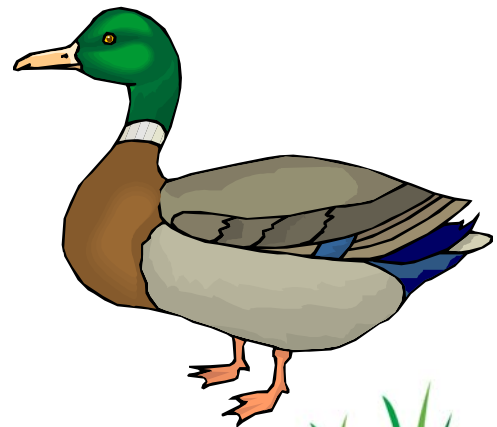
Waterfowl can also carry pathogens such as , *Giardia lamblia* (which causes beaver fever) and *Salmonella ssp.*

## A SOURCE OF NUTRIENTS

Waterfowl droppings are rich with nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Excess nutrients contribute to the eutrophication of fresh water. This means that the more nutrients you have in the water, the more plants will grow, especially algae. Too much algae growth uses up oxygen in the water making it unfit for plants, animals and humans.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Respect the signs and DON'T feed the geese, gulls or ducks near watercourses or at the beach.
- Don't leave garbage and left over food behind when you visit a beach.
- Educate others about the impact of waterfowl on our beaches.



City of St. Catharines

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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