

Border Collie program will control geese in community parks

To preserve the beauty and cleanliness of the community's parks and recreation areas, Canton has contracted with the company "Gooseworks" to provide environmentally friendly, humane goose control in the surrounding locations.

Gooseworks urges the geese to vacate the park areas through the use of highly trained border collie dogs and handlers, along with control tactics such as remote controlled boats, and mylar balloons. These methods are all endorsed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and do not harm the geese.

Canada geese prefer simple, open areas with low vegetation and a readily available water source. Such characteristics are commonly found at parks, soccer fields, and golf courses, thereby attracting a larger than normal geese population.

As a result, aesthetically- unpleasant goose droppings and aggressive, territorial behavior toward the patrons are common complaints in these areas.

According to Gooseworks, the most effective herding techniques are obtained when a combination of control methods are used in addition to the utilization of the border collie dogs and handlers. This prevents the geese from becoming accustomed to any one method. Gooseworks has constructed a "full complement program" for Canton in which the dogs will be used seven days a week, normally one or two at a time, along with a variety of scare tactics to humanely relocate the geese.

By implementing the border collie program, Canton hopes to achieve improved cleanliness and sanitation of its recreational facilities for the enjoyment of all residents.



Don't be surprised to see Logan, Dexter and Ellie, along with Kirk Mehlhaff, in Canton's parks. They are working hard to provide humane, environmentally-friendly goose control.