



January 10, 2021

Subject: *Canada Geese/Mute Swan Program Petition*

Dear Lake Sherwood Waterfront Property Owner,

Lake Sherwood has been participating in a Canada Goose population control program since 1997, along with a Mute Swan program since 2012, as sanctioned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Each year we must re-submit our applications to the DNR for the program activities. The applications require a petition consisting of signatures that represents at least 70% of the lakeshore property owners. The petition is good for up to five (5) years.

Renewed petitions will be required in 2022, so we will be collecting signatures throughout 2021. Your signature below, approving all four programs, will assure our continued control over the Canada Goose and Mute Swan populations in Lake Sherwood. Our programs have successfully managed to keep the population of both species down to a reasonable number. In comparison, our lake previously had well over a hundred geese. We safely remove between 30 and 60 eggs per season and 46 eggs were removed last year.

The possible procedures consist of a Nest Program in April (removing eggs) to limit the population of goslings and cygnets, and a Goose Round-Up Activity during June (the summer flightless season) to relocate, geese only, to DNR specified areas if space exists. If there is no space available, the geese may be killed and/or processed as charitable food donations. It is important to note, that immediately after nests are destroyed, we encourage you to actively use scare tactics in encouraging the adults to migrate and leave the lake. In 2020 our efforts were dramatically restricted due to Covid-19, so next year it is likely we'll see an increased number of geese going forward.

Mute swans are not native to Michigan and are considered an invasive species. Numbers in the lakes areas have been increasing at an extremely fast rate. They can become extremely aggressive when protecting their nests or young. Nest destruction will not only control population it may also help alleviate aggressive behavior with boaters, jet skiers, kayakers and swimmers. For more detailed information of the impact swans have on our lake environment, visit the DNR website: [www.michigan.gov/muteswans](http://www.michigan.gov/muteswans)

Please check the activities you endorse, then sign, date, record your address, and **return this form with your Dues payment** to the LSA P.O. Box 63 Milford, MI 48381 or drop in the basket with your dues on Paul MacDonald's porch at 3097 Ravinewood Drive. You will NOT incur any added expense for this activity as it is already budgeted in your LSA dues. If a Round Up is deemed necessary, a professional company will implement the procedure and will transport the geese to the DNR specified areas if space exists as outlined above. The LSA newsletter, Email, and website will post more information about the specific round-up activities should they occur in June.

Sincerely,

Lake Sherwood Association Board of Directors

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Revised 12/21/2020

**“Your prompt response is appreciated as this is a huge undertaking”**

“We request a permit from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Division to: destroy nests and eggs on our properties, or roundup and capture and hold Canada geese from our lake or site. We understand that these geese may be killed and/or processed for use as charitable food donations. We assure the Michigan DNR that all lakefront landowners have been notified of the program. These signatures will be good for a period of five (5) years, but we understand that we must apply annually for this program.”

**Please check all programs you support:**

- I SUPPORT the Canada Geese **Nest Program** activity on Lake Sherwood and grant Lake Sherwood representatives access to my property to destroy nests located on my property
  
- I SUPPORT the Canada Geese **Round Up activity** on Lake Sherwood.  
This may include lethal removal if suitable release locations are not available.
  
- I SUPPORT the Mute Swan **Nest Program** activity on Lake Sherwood and grant Lake Sherwood representatives access to my property to destroy nests located on my property
  
- I SUPPORT a program removing overly aggressive Mute Swans that pose danger to residents that will include lethal removal

**Check below only if you do NOT approve of any of the programs above:**

\_\_\_ I DO NOT SUPPORT any of the programs above

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_