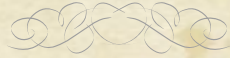


Did You Know?



Geese and ANCC

Over the years, the man-made ponds at Arlington and Fairfax have proven to be an attraction for Canadian geese. Unfortunately, the “calling cards” left by the geese have played havoc with the playability of some greens and fairways and caused health concerns. An adult goose is capable for defecating every twenty minutes and producing as much as 1.5 pounds of feces daily. Given that the average male Canadian goose weighs 8.6 pounds, this output represents over 17 percent of their body weight (think about it in human terms). Desperate situations can required desperate measures and among the methods ANCC has tried are:

- Dogs (with former Fairfax green keeper Tim Norris’s dog being the most noteworthy)
- Wires across the pounds (Fairfax 1992)
- A wire extended around the pound about a foot above the ground (Fairfax).
- Inflatable rubber alligators (Arlington 1994)
- Large pendants flown from poles around the pond (Fairfax 2015)

These approaches have had various degrees of success, but none have resulted in a permanent solution.

Maybe the next step will be to do what some Mid-West courses have done – introduce swans. It seems that swans are very territorial and are nasty enough to run off the geese, and possibly golfers.

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