

A GANDER AT THE GIANT CANADA GOOSE

The following article by Jerome J. Knap is reprinted from the Ontario Hydro News:

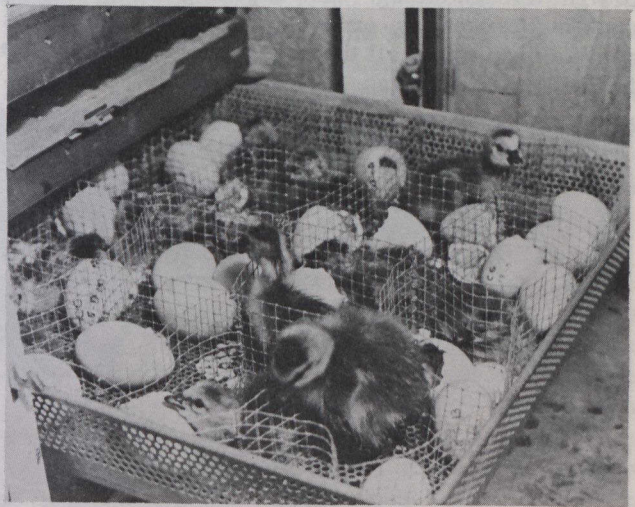
No group of birds stirs the imagination as much as waterfowl. This is probably a vestige of ancient times when man was a hunter and water birds meant food. Even persons whose senses have long been dulled by city and civilization will instinctively look skyward when they hear the honking of wild geese.

The welfare of waterfowl has been of concern to many men, from the great khans of Cathay to modern businessmen. This concern shows itself in many ways. The Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation, formed in 1961 by a group of businessmen under the chairmanship of W.C. Harris, a Toronto investment dealer, is one such manifestation.

Pride of the foundation, which is a non-profit organization, is the Kortright Waterfowl Park, part of a 100-acre wildlife sanctuary on the outskirts of Guelph. William H. Carrick, a noted wildlife photographer and naturalist, is its manager. The sanctuary incorporates both a research station and a public waterfowl park.

The Niska Waterfowl Research Centre provides field training for wildlife students. Currently, four Ontario universities are using the Niska facilities to conduct research on subjects ranging from mercury poisoning in ducks to nesting behaviour in snow geese.

The Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation, with the Department of Lands and Forests, is also re-establishing the giant Canada goose in Southern Ontario. Many of the free-flying geese from Niska disperse into the surrounding countryside to nest. In addition, 45 pairs of two-year-old birds were released last year on ponds of private landowners, in the hope that they would nest, migrate south with their young



Ducklings are hatched out in electric incubators at Niska, breeding ground of some rare species including the whistling swan.