

What the duck?

Monday, September 26, 2011 6:56 AM -

I'm sure you all read the council story in Wednesday's paper and perhaps the duck issue caught your attention.

I have lived on the east side of the Miami-Erie Canal for nearly my entire life. We didn't have ducks when I was younger. Muskrats – not ducks.

I've heard the whispers on how they came to be here. You know it only takes two. They're kind of like rabbits or gerbils. The numbers can add up quickly.

Over the years, they've moved from one end of the canal to the other and everywhere in between. It doesn't take much for them to settle in.

I've fed the ducks and given stuff to others to feed them.

I've thoroughly enjoyed having the ducks in my backyard — on the canal — in Delphos.

I've had them nest in my yard, make themselves comfortable in my flower beds, cover my yard with feathers and chase each other around in the spring when they're feeling frisky.

I've waited patiently for them to cross the road. If it was a mama with babies, I sighed and said, "Aaww."

Then those babies grew up and so did every other mama duck's babies and pretty soon, here we are with a whole lotta ducks.

Now they just kind of take over. They go where they want, do what they want and leave a mess behind.

A few summers ago, we couldn't even use our backyard because of the feathers and duck doo-doo.

They trampled everything in their path to our bird feeder and ate our tomatoes.

No matter how much you like them, there are just too many.

I don't like the options I heard and I hope a few more will be explored.

I had someone stop me while I was walking Ringo Friday and tell me they would hate to see the ducks go to a soup kitchen or the likes or be dispatched, the term that was used. I gotta tell you, it kind of freaks me out more. There are at least 140 of them.

Left unchecked, there will soon be 200 and I'm not going to insult your intelligence by not realizing you know where this is going.

I don't know about you, but I don't want 140 of anything in my backyard and that's just this year.