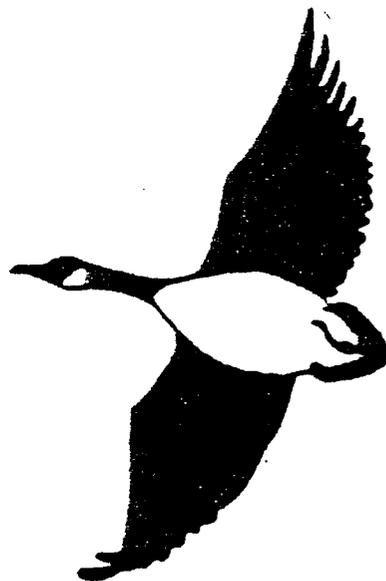


# Lessons from the Geese

by Milton Olson



*As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if the birds flew alone.*

*Lesson: People who share a common direction and a sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.*



*Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the uplifting power of the bird immediately in front.*

*Lesson: If we have as much sense as the goose, we will stay in formation with those who are heading where we want to go and we will be willing to accept their help as well as give ours to others.*



*When the lead goose gets tired it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the point position.*

*Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. People as well as geese are both interdependent creatures.*



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*The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.*

*Lesson: We need to make sure that the honking that we do from behind provides encouragement.*



*When a goose gets sick or wounded or is shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to protect it until it is ready to fly again or until it dies. Then they launch out on their own with another formation.*

*Lesson: If we have as much sense as the geese we too will stand by each other both in difficult times as well as when we are strong.*

