

## Morris Township's Wildlife Management Activities

By Thomas Kenny, Special Projects Coordinator

Morris Township's Wildlife Management Program has hit its stride, beginning with the success of last season's deer culling program. Initially, the Township's goal for 2005 was to cull 200 deer, but due to the efforts of over 35 volunteers and the leadership of Township Patrolman Steven Summerer, this goal was exceeded by 42%. This culling, combined with projections on reduced deer reproduction, means there will be almost 700 fewer deer in Morris Township this spring.

Hopefully, our success will continue as we enter the second year of the Township's Canada geese management program. Last season our focus was more on information gathering and education regarding how to properly manage our exploding Canada geese population. However, the Township intends to make this year a more active one in terms of reducing, but not totally eliminating, resident geese.

In January 2006 Township officials filed the required paperwork with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for permits to properly handle the Canada geese and the eggs they produce. Township staff also contacted many large private and corporate property owners in our community to determine their interest in receiving training in the handling of goose eggs, as well as gaining access to their land so that management activities can take place. So far, twelve landowners have expressed an interest and will be contacted directly to notify them of dates/times for our various activities.

In late March 2006 the Township partnered with the Morris County Park Commission (MCPC) for training in the proper handling, or adding, of Canada goose eggs which causes the eggs to cease to be viable. Subsequent to training, in early spring some of the larger property owners in the Township, working under the Township's depredation permit, began investigating the presence, or lack thereof, of nests and eggs. In June or July, in partnership once again with the MCPC as well as the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, a Township-wide roundup of adult geese will commence. This process involves physically removing the Canada geese from problem areas.

In late summer, the deer management program begins again under the continued supervision and guidance of Patrolman Steven Summerer. If culling is to occur in your neighborhood, please be on the lookout for flyers announcing such activity, as well as bright, orange signs posted to trees and poles warning that deer management activity is taking place in your area. Feeders will be strategically placed in areas where deer congregate the most to begin the baiting process. As the deer get used to locating the feed (i.e. corn), hunters will return to cull, or thin, the herd. To augment the Township's deer management efforts, the MCPC will continue its own deer management program at Loantaka Brook Reservation, Lewis Morris County Park, and Fosterfields Living Historical Farm.

Deer season's duration is approximately five months long beginning in early September and running until February. The use of bow and arrow begins the hunting season with the possible introduction of firearms in late November.

If you have any questions regarding our deer management plans and activities, please contact Patrolman Steve Summerer at (973) 326-7450 or (973) 539-0777. Volunteers are needed for our 2006 Canada geese management activities. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Thomas Kenny, Special Projects Coordinator at (973) 326-7427.



Steve Miller, Executive Director of the Morris Museum, and students from the Riverview School in Denville turn the soil at the Museum's groundbreaking ceremony. Photo courtesy of Morris Museum.

## Morris Museum Breaks Ground For Historic Expansion

By Kimberly Tauriello

On March 20th the Morris Museum broke ground on its \$8 million expansion and renovation project, scheduled for completion in the summer of 2007. Museum officials, architects, elected officials, and members of the community gathered at the museum for the historic event.

The catalyst for expansion is the world-renowned Murtoth D. Guinness Collection of 700 rare mechanical musical instruments and automata dating from the late 16<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. A new wing for the Guinness Collection will provide a permanent, public exhibition & research facility with a gallery, viewable storage, and resource center.

In addition to the Guinness wing, other important improvements will include a grand, two-story Entrance Pavilion, a Family Discovery Place, and a Science Learning Center, as well as the restoration of the museum's historic main building, the 1913 Frelinghuysen Mansion.

The museum trustees have embarked on a \$15 million capital and endowment campaign, *Assuring the Future*, which includes this \$8 million project. As of March, 2006, they have raised \$5.8 million.

Serving more than 200,000 visitors each year, the museum celebrates creativity in the arts, sciences, theatre, and history, with a focus on education. The Morris Museum is located at 6 Normandy Heights Road in Morris Township. Admission to the museum is always free for museum members and is free to the public every Thursday from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm. For more information, call (973) 971-3700, or visit [www.morrismuseum.org](http://www.morrismuseum.org).