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SAROS COWASJEE – WASCANA CENTRE PARK GOOSE ROUND-UP

AND

RAJA RAO MATERIAL

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Wascana Centre Park is Regina's largest park, it was established in 1962 and is nine square kilometers, or 2,300 acres in size. During the summer months the park is home to several thousands of Canada geese.

The birds migrate in the fall and return in the spring, begin pairing up and make ready the nest. Geese lay on average, between 5 and 7 eggs, sometimes as many as 13. Once the female goose has laid the eggs, she begins the incubation period which lasts about 28 to 30 days. The eggs hatch within hours of each other and remain hidden under the female for about 24 hours while their bodies dry. After this, the gosslings are led to the water and the family abandons the nest.

Geese returning to or passing through the park easily number in the thousands. The Wascana Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary is encompassed within the City of Regina and includes the 223 hectare marshland, Wascana Waterfowl Park. This large inner-city park is protected from many of the birds natural predators, and as park-goers continually feed the geese, some have become nearly 'tame'.

When the annual round-up occurs, the geese, young and old, sick, injured or otherwise are essentially corralled by volunteers, banded, put into crates and later released in the North of the province, in areas where they become prey to larger beast.

A long time supporter of the Regina Humane Society, a lover of all animals, Cowasjee advocates for the end of the present-day system of relocating these geese; these papers are evidence to his efforts and his concern for their well-being.

Raja Rao (1908-2006). Along with Mulk Raj Anand, R.K. Narayan and Ahmad Ali, **Raja Rao** is considered one of the greatest India-based writers to have gained international attention.

Educated at a Muslim school in Hyderabad, Osmania University, the University of Madras, and after winning a scholarship for study abroad he attended the University of Montpellier in France. His first stories were published in both French and English and his news articles, contributed to *Jaya Karnataka*, were written in his native language, Kanarese. Rao returned to India in 1939 and participated in the 1942 Quit India Movement, in 1943-44 he co-edited with Ahmad Ali, *Tomorrow*.

Rao's 1960 novel, *Serpent and the Rope*, won the prestigious International Neustadt Prize for Literature in 1988 and several of Rao's publications focus on Mahatma Gandhi: Rao's 1938 novel *Kanthapura*, tells of the impact of Gandhi's teaching on nonviolent resistance against the British; a short story collection, *The Cow of the Barricades*, published in 1947, and in 1998, Rao wrote a biography, *Great Indian Way: A Life of Mahatma Gandhi*.

Elizabeth Seitz, 2017

Scope and Content: This collection consists of Cowasjee's personal material relating to the Wascana Goose Round-up and includes a file of material relating to Indian writer Raja Rao (1908-2006). The collection was donated to the Archives and Special Collections in January 2017.

Legal Agreement: The donation agreement is pending.

Future Accruals: None are expected.

Access Restrictions: The file titled Papers from Novelist Raja Rao (photocopies provided by Rao's wife, Susan) is marked Closed until after the death of the donor, Saros Cowasjee.

Box 1	Wascana Geese / Geese Problem	
	1	Wascana Geese – Current Business 2012
	2	Geese Problem – Wascana Authorities – Bernadette McIntyre 2008-2010
	3	Geese Problem – Correspondence - 1. Bob Ewart, 2. Leon Brin / Jered Clark / Addresses and Inquiries 2005, 2008, 2009
	4	Correspondence – Petition – Dan Nieman 2008, 2009
	5	Wascana Geese Relocation Issue – Copies of Correspondence – Lorne Scott / Trevor Harriot 2009
	6	Geese Problem – City of Regina 2009
	7	Geese Issue – Correspondence – Christine Tell / Nancy Heppner / Ralphe Goodale / Virginia Potter 2008
	8	Geese Issue – General Correspondence Kim Epp / Kristan McEwen / Elizabeth Seitz 2009
	9	Geese Problem Statement “Morally Wrong” / Extra Copies of Correspondence 2008, 2009
	10	Geese Problem – Correspondence with Regina Human Society 2005, 2007, 2009
	Regina Humane Society	
	11	Placement of Cowasjee’s Ashes 2001, 2010
	12	Cowasjee’s Interest in Regina Human Society (file includes: Condolences from Regina Humane Society for Pet Cremation / Book Sale for Regina Humane Society / Cards (includes photographs (2) of book signing) n.d., 1995
	13	Odds and Ends / Addresses n.d., 2007, 2008
	14	Stories from the Newsletter <i>Voice of the Animals</i> 1996, 2001, 2002
CLOSED	15	Papers from Novelist Raja Rao (photocopies provided by Rao’s wife, Susan)