

# A Mother Duck Saves Her Ducklings



## 母鴨救小鴨

選自溫哥華日報 2001年7月13日報導

Excerpted from *The Vancouver Sun*, July 13, 2001

王一丹 中譯 Translated into Chinese by Yidan Wang

Don't mention "bird brains" to Ray Petersen, because after what happened this week, he won't hear a word of it.

Petersen, a community police officer for Granville Downtown South, was walking in the 1500-block Granville Street (directly under the Granville Bridge) Wednesday morning when a duck came up and grabbed him by the pant leg. Then it started waddling around him and quacking.

"I thought it was a bit goofy, so I shoved it away," Petersen said in an interview.

But the duck, a female (he thinks it was a mallard), wasn't about to give up that easily. Making sure she still had Petersen's eye, she waddled up the road about 20 meters and lay on a storm sewer grate. Petersen watched and thought nothing of it.

"But when I started walking again, she did the same thing. She ran around and grabbed me again." It became obvious to him then that something was up.

So when she waddled off to the sewer grate a second time, Petersen decided to follow.

"I went up to where the duck was lying and saw eight little babies in the water below. They had fallen down between the grates." So Petersen took action. He phoned police Sergeant Randy Kellens, who arrived at the scene and, in turn, got in touch with two more constables. "When they came down, the duck ran around them as well, quacking. Then she lay down on the grate," Petersen said.

→ Continued on page 35



不要對瑞·彼得森說「鳥腦(註：影射笨頭笨腦)」，因為這星期這件事發生以後，他再也不想聽了。

彼得森是格蘭威爾市中心南區的社區警官。星期三早上，他在有1500個街段的格蘭威爾街（正對著格蘭威爾街橋下）行走，突然一隻鴨子走上前來，咬住了他的褲腳，在他的周圍搖搖擺擺，邊走邊嘎嘎叫著。

「我覺得鴨子有點怪怪的，所以把牠轟走了。」彼得森在受訪時說。但是這隻母鴨（他覺得是綠頭鴨）好似

沒有那麼輕易放棄，母鴨知道彼得森還在看著，就搖搖擺擺走到前方大約20公尺處，在暴雨下水道口的鐵條蓋上躺下了。彼得森看著，但是什麼也沒有想到。

「但我準備走開時，母鴨重複了上次的動作，又圍著我跑著，再次咬住我的褲管。」這回彼得森知道一定發生了什麼事，所以母鴨搖搖擺擺要再去下水道時，彼得森決定跟去看個究竟。

「我去了剛才母鴨躺下的地方，看見八隻鴨寶寶在下水道中，是從下水道口的鐵條蓋縫隙掉下去的。」彼得森馬上採取行動，打電話給他的上司藍迪·凱蘭斯警官。藍迪·凱蘭斯警官到達現場時，又聯繫了二位巡警。「二位巡警來時，母鴨繞著他們，搖搖擺擺地走，嘎嘎叫著，然後就在鐵條蓋上躺下。」彼得森說。

凱蘭斯從鐵條蓋向下察看時，母鴨坐在人行道的的水泥鑲邊上觀看著。二位巡警約翰·史其林和艾裏森·赫爾調來拖車，拉起鐵條蓋，用蔬菜濾水籃，把八隻鴨寶寶一隻一隻救起來。

→ 下接35頁

➔ Continued from page 46

While Kellens looked over into the grate, the duck sat on the curb and watched.

Then the two constables, John Schilling and Allison Hill, marshalled a tow truck that lifted the grate out of position, allowing the eight ducklings to be rescued one by one with a vegetable strainer.

“While we were doing this, the mother duck just lay there and watched,” Petersen says. Once the ducklings were safe, however, she marched them down to False Creek, where they jumped into the water. Kellens followed them to make sure they were all right, but elected to remain on shore.

The experience has changed Petersen’s mind about ducks. He thinks they’re a lot smarter than he used to. And while he never ate duck before, he says he wouldn’t dream of it now.

➔ 上接46頁

「我們救鴨寶寶時，鴨媽媽就蹲在那裏一直觀看著。」彼得森說。鴨媽媽看見孩子都得救了，就重整隊伍，帶領鴨寶寶向人造小溪走去，然後跳下水。凱蘭斯跟過去，以確保安全，不過他只留在岸上觀察。

這次的經歷，改變了彼得森對鴨子的看法，他覺得鴨子比他想像的聰明多了。雖然他從未吃過鴨肉，他說現在做夢也不會想要吃鴨肉了。