

**Statement from Save the Geese to the Scotia Village Board of Trustees  
June 14, 2006**

My name is Laura Brown. I am a Scotia resident speaking today on behalf of the Save the Geese group and the many concerned citizens of Scotia.

Mayor McLaughlin, honored Trustees of Scotia: at the May public meeting, over twenty people asked the village to utilize a wide variety of effective non-lethal alternatives for reducing the Canada goose population in Collins Park. These concerned citizens believed there was much substantiated evidence to prove that if the one-hundred-and-fifty geese in Collins Park were euthanized, more geese would return to take their place. Therefore, killing one-hundred-and-fifty geese would not effectively solve the village's perceived problem and thus would be an unnecessary and ineffective waste of life.

Further, there was no evidence to show that the high levels of coliform that closed Collins Lake last summer were linked to the geese. As of last month, according to the Schenectady County Health Department, coliform levels in the lake were normal.

Support for the use of non-lethal alternatives comes from Assemblyman Jim Tedisco (a Republican), Assemblyman Paul Tonko (a Democrat), Dr. Ward Stone, resident expert on wildlife and pathology in New York State, and over five-hundred Scotia residents who have signed petitions against the killing of the geese.

Using non-lethal methods similar to those employed by GeesePeace and the USDA, the Canada goose population was reduced from over one-hundred-and-fifty to less than twenty in two days through the efforts of about eight volunteers.

Though the Collins Park geese problem is effectively being solved this year through continued volunteer support, we believe that a long-term solution will require a more comprehensive non-lethal goose management program. We propose the village adopt a non-lethal goose management plan similar to ones used in other communities to manage goose populations with continued success.

(over, please)

We ask that the village adopt a resolution for next year that only non-lethal methods of reducing the goose population be used. Such a resolution should incorporate GeesePeace's methods, USDA hazing techniques, and the guidelines of the village's own non-lethal Canada Goose Management Plan (proposed on March 22, 2000 by Village Trustee William Seyse, Parks Director Jim Marx, John DeBrita, Ray Perry, Robert Powell, Mary Sue Reed, and Don Snell).

Such methods would include:

- (a) chasing the geese away through volunteers, border collies, USDA hazing programs, and organizations such as GeesePeace;
  - (b) revitalizing Collins Park to be a much less goose-friendly environment, which includes the creation of natural hazards;
  - (c) implementing non-lethal USDA hazing programs (again with volunteer support) to keep goose populations in check;
- and (d) educating the public on why the geese should not be fed, and how to keep a majority of the geese away year after year.

Our group of volunteers over thirty strong offers support to the village and surrounding communities to implement this plan for an effective present and future non-lethal Canada goose population management program.

We ask that you, the Board of Trustees, make a statement this evening acknowledging your commitment to working with us to implement non-lethal methods this year, next year, and beyond. Together, we can manage the Canada goose population in Collins Park through humane non-lethal means.

I thank you for your time.