

**Statement from Save the Geese to the Scotia Village Board of Trustees
July 12, 2006**

My name is David Goldschmidt. I am not a Scotia resident, but speak on behalf of the Save the Geese group, which includes many concerned citizens of Scotia and surrounding communities.

Mayor McLaughlin, honored Trustees of Scotia: we appreciate your acceptance of the USDA's recommendation to *not* euthanize Canada geese in Collins Park this year. We also gladly accept your call to continue our "lawful volunteer efforts" throughout the remainder of this year.

Though many have declared us victorious in saving the geese of Collins Park, we are well aware of how attractive the park still is to the geese. As these beautiful birds take flight again over the next few weeks, setting their sights on Collins Park, we are prepared to once again chase the geese out of the park. By doing so, Collins Park will continue to be an ideal location for picnicking, boating, little league games, and so on—all for the benefit of Scotia taxpayers and park visitors, like me.

In your statement yesterday, July 11, you also state that the "decisions in 2007 will be no less difficult." Having shown that a small group of volunteers can successfully manage a Canada goose population without killing a single goose, I find the decisions in 2007 to be much more clear.

I'd like to reiterate our proposal made during the June meeting. We propose the village adopt a non-lethal goose management plan similar to ones used in other communities with continued success. We ask that the village adopt a resolution that only non-lethal methods of reducing the goose population be used in Collins Park, on the Mohawk River, and throughout Scotia.

(over, please)

Such a resolution and plan 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 should include:

(1) chasing the geese away through volunteers, border collies, USDA hazing programs, and organizations such as GeesePeace;

(2) revitalizing Collins Park to be a much less goose-friendly environment, including the creation of natural barriers and hazards;

(3) implementing non-lethal USDA hazing programs (again with volunteer support) to keep goose populations in check;

(4) redoubling egg addling efforts with the assistance of volunteers, and investigating new birth control methods applicable to the geese;

and (5) educating the public on why geese do not pose a threat, that geese should not be fed, and how to keep a majority of the geese away year after year using non-lethal methods.

Our group of volunteers offers support to the village to implement this plan for an effective present and future non-lethal Canada goose population management program. We are here to help and would be happy to work directly with Parks Director Jim Marx, who we often see down at the lake when we're watching for geese.

We ask that you, the Board of Trustees, make a statement this evening, for the record, acknowledging your commitment to work 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.

Thank you for your time.

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