



# FACT OR FICTION?

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**Fiction:** *The slaughter of 150-300 Canada geese will prevent more geese from coming to Collins Park next year, leaving the park free of their droppings.*

**Fact:** "Any geese removed from Scotia will be quickly replaced by more unless the village takes steps to make Collins Lake and Freedom Park a less attractive goose habitat. The \$2,800 they plan to spend to round up and kill geese would be far better invested in a long-term strategy that permanently resolves human-geese conflicts." (MAGGIE BRASTED, Director, Urban Wildlife Conflict Resolution, The Humane Society of the United States, Washington, DC; Albany Times Union, May 16, 2006)

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**Fiction:** *The Canada geese are responsible for the poor water quality of the lake.*

**Fact:** Last year, when the village board decided Collins Lake was unsafe to swim in, Mayor McLaughlin admitted he was **not sure why** high levels of coliform were detected. "...[I]t may be related to plant life reducing the circulation in the lake, and it just might be that the water temperatures are so high that [bacteria] can't be kept under control," McLaughlin said." (The Schenectady Gazette, July 2005)

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**Fiction:** *Canada geese will bring down local planes from the nearby airbase, so we should kill the geese.*

**Fact:** In the last 50 years since the geese were brought to Collins Park, there have been no known consequential interactions by the Collins Park geese with the nearby Air Force base.

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**Fiction:** *The Village of Scotia has done everything it can to humanely resolve this issue and is left with no other alternative than to kill the Canada geese.*

**Fact:** Although the Village of Scotia has engaged in "half-hearted efforts to limit the [goose] population...", it is clear that the efforts were neither sufficiently sustained nor multifaceted enough..." (Holly Cheever, DVM, The Schenectady Gazette, May 21, 2006) Numerous local and national organizations have offered humane and effective solutions for removing the geese from Collins Park. Mayor McLaughlin and the board have repeatedly declined these offers, preferring the ineffective "harvesting" solution that will cost taxpayers at least \$2800.

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Many Scotia residents are confused with the contradictory and misguided statements of the mayor and other village officials, indicating they are willing to use border collies and humane methods **next year**. This shows their acknowledgment that killing the geese will **not** manage the goose population of Collins Park and that they are throwing away taxpayer dollars and resources. **Collins Park can be free of droppings without killing the geese.**

**Scotia residents**, please sign a petition demanding the Canada geese **not** be killed. Alternative methods exist that are **humane** and **fiscally responsible**. Please visit <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/406106393>.

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For more information, visit our Web site:  
<http://save.thegeese.webhop.net>

