



May 10, 2006

Mayor Michael McLaughlin
4 North Ten Broeck
Scotia, NY 12302-2280

Dear Mayor McLaughlin,

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is the nations oldest (and one of the most respected) animal protection and welfare organization. We are the organization featured on the Animal Planet network's Animal Precinct television show. We are not considered an animal rights or activist group nor do we have any authority or oversight of local SPCA's and other animal welfare groups.

Our national outreach department does, however, provide guidance, resources and support to animal shelters, rescue groups, and communities around the nation. As the Outreach Manager for the northeast region and a resident of the city of Schenectady, I extend to you the opportunity to utilize ASPCA resources and relationships to assist you with resolving the Collins Park geese problem in the most humane way.

The ASPCA acknowledges that ongoing encroachment into wildlife habitat makes it inevitable that some or even many wildlife species and populations must be accommodated or controlled. In such cases, the ASPCA advocates that humane considerations be given priority and that management and control efforts begin with such strategies as humane barriers, contraception or humane trapping and relocation. Lethal control may be employed only as a last resort to alleviate suffering, protect human life or the survival of an endangered species.

The need to reduce the negative impact the goose population is having on the ability of the community to enjoy Collins Park is very real and understandable. The amount of effort and research that has been done to determine options for solving the problem is commendable. Destroying the geese, however, should be a last resort considered only after humane alternatives have been pursued – even when these humane avenues are more challenging and expensive than humane euthanasia.

As a resident of Schenectady County who has often enjoyed Collins Park, I have always viewed the Scotia community as progressive and forward thinking. I hope this view is reflected in the method of control the village leadership chooses when dealing with the geese at Collins Park

The ASPCA is happy to provide you with any guidance and contacts you may need to make Collins Park enjoyable for the community without destroying the geese that currently reside there. Please feel free to contact me using the contact information provided below.

Best regards,

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