



PEACEFUL  
PARKS  
COALITION

## For Immediate Release - May 26, 2004

### *Biggest One day Slaughter in Ontario's History - Final Tally 1083.*

Brighton: The first day after the Victoria Day weekend government hired gunmen shot and killed more than 1,000 nesting double crested cormorants. "It is the height of nesting season and being dedicated to their nests makes them helpless sitting targets," says Anna Maria Valastro of the Peaceful Parks Coalition.

The ministry goal is to kill 6,000 cormorants before the end of nesting season. Despite heightened opposition the mass shooting is continuing again today.

"Is management by gun the best we can do?" questions Nancy Zylstra of the ProNature Network. "While it is obvious humans can play a huge part in the size of the cormorant population, why is this growth spurt here and why now? What part do the giant cat fish farms south of us, where the cormorants winter, play in this massive growth spurt?"

Zylstra also questions if the killing may be connected to fish farms south of the border lobbying to protect their stock from the migrating cormorants who summer in Canada and winter in the U.S.

The McGuinty government has issued a media blackout with no access by independent monitors to view the nesting site.

#### Contact

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Photos will be available to the media at <http://www.pronature.on.ca/cormorantpictures.html> compliments of The ProNature Network

(Link to Automated Cormorant Letter or use this template to write your own letter to the minister!)

press release

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