



PEACEFUL
PARKS
COALITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JULY 26, 2005

***Slow Roasted Double-crested Cormorant Served at the
6th Annual Dalton McGuinty Golf and BBQ Tour***

July 26, 2005, Rockland, Ontario: Today at the Outaouais Golf Club in Rockland, golfers who paid \$500 for the opportunity to lunch and teeoff with Dalton McGuinty. They will be greeted by some of the finest chefs enacting a BBQ of double-crested cormorant. Double-crested cormorants are fish-eating, native migratory birds that nest in Ontario and winter in the southern United States.

Environmental and animal protection groups have organized a team of chefs to meet and greet arriving guests at Dalton McGuinty's Golf and BBQ Fundraising Tour to discuss his government's policy to kill tens of thousands of these birds.

"We will be travelling with Dalton McGuinty on his golf tour across Ontario, talking to his supporters and telling them that double-crested cormorants are being killed by the tens of thousands just to appease an irrational and aggressive sport fishing lobby," says Julie Woodyer of Zoocheck Canada.

The sport fishing industry has persuaded the McGuinty government to destroy cormorants, falsely blaming them for fisheries depletion, even though scientific research has repeatedly proven that cormorants have no substantial negative ecological impact on fish populations. In fact, the majority of their diet is alewife and round goby, both introduced species that have disrupted the natural ecosystem.

"The science and facts don't matter anymore," says AnnaMaria Valastro of the Peaceful Parks Coalition. "Double-crested cormorants are being killed because they are 'top-of-the-food-chain' predators, just like wolves, and anglers view these birds as competitors for their prized panfry."

To date, the McGuinty government has oiled thousands of cormorant eggs in the North Channel and Georgian Bay region of Lake Huron, shot dead thousands more at Presqu'île Provincial Park on Lake Ontario, and has allowed private landowners to kill nesting cormorants on their property across the province.

Next spring, it is most likely the McGuinty government will target the birds' last remaining refuge, Tommy Thompson Park in Toronto and the Lake Erie Archipelago Islands, making the province-wide attack on cormorants complete.

For more information, please contact Julie Woodyer: cell # 416.451.5976 or visit the Peaceful Parks Coalition website at www.peacefulparks.org or the Zoocheck website at www.zoocheck.com

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