



PEACEFUL
PARKS
COALITION

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Postman Rings Twice For Double-crested Cormorants

Toronto, March 23, 2005: The Peaceful Parks Coalition sent Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and his partner in crime, The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, a new commemorative stamp being issued today by Canada Post celebrating the double-crested cormorant. The cormorant is featured on the postage stamp to the United States, and is part of a commemorative series celebrating native birds and the work of wildlife artist John James Audubon.

Last year the Liberal government shot six thousand nesting cormorants in just thirteen days at Presqu'île Provincial Park near Belleville, Ontario, and killed thousands more in the Georgian Bay and North Channel region of Lake Huron by "oiling" their eggs. "Oiling" eggs is death by suffocation to the unhatched chick.

The Liberal government is buckling to pressure from sport anglers and hunters who blame cormorants for fisheries depletion, even though scientific research repeatedly exonerates the birds from excessive predation.

"We thought it was important that Dalton McGuinty and his friends retain a small token of the double-crested cormorant before they eradicate the cormorant population across the province" says AnnaMaria Valastro of the Peaceful Parks Coalition.

Double-crested cormorants are a native North American migratory bird that nest on the Great Lakes. They are black fish-eating birds that typically nest in large colonies of hundreds and thousands of birds. Cormorants almost disappeared from the Great Lakes thirty years ago because of high toxic pollution levels. Their near extinction resulted in the ban of chemicals such as DDT and PCBs. They have since made a stunning recovery, and are once again reoccupying their ecological niche.

"For most people the survival of the double-crested cormorant is cause for celebration because it signals cleaner waters and lots of fish. We are fortunate to have these birds grace our waters once again," says Valastro.

press release

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