



PEACEFUL
PARKS
COALITION

For Immediate Release - July, 2008

Point Pelee National Park Visitors Decline After Cormorant Cull

Point Pelee National Park experienced a steep drop in visitors after Parks Canada announced they would dismantle the colonial waterbird colony at Middle Island by shooting thousands of nesting Double-crested Cormorants. The shooting of cormorants, scheduled for the next five years, began this spring.

Visitors from March through to May 2008 dropped 19 percent from the same period last year, with the month of May seeing the biggest decline at 17 percent from May 2007. Sales of the 'Early Bird Park Pass' also declined 9 percent from the previous year.

Point Pelee National Park, located just south of Leamington Ontario, has witnessed a steady decline in visitors since 1991, but steep declines from previous years are rare.

Almost 14,000 people decided not to visit Point Pelee during the spring migration this year, the hallmark of the park's appeal. "We know there could be many reasons why people decided to stay away this year. Tourism is down across Canada, but we also know that the vast majority of visitors to Point Pelee are from Southwestern Ontario, and don't need to travel far to visit, yet they still chose not to come," says AnnaMaria Valastro of the Peaceful Parks Coalition.

"We hope our campaign to boycott Point Pelee National Park has encouraged individuals to walk away from Parks Canada's policy to kill tens of thousands of nesting cormorants in a national park renown as a bird sanctuary," says Valastro.

The Peaceful Parks Coalition continues their boycott campaign on Sunday July 20 at the Home County Folk Festival in London Ontario from 3 – 5pm.

Note to the Editor:

Visitation and Early Bird Park Pass statistics for Point Pelee National Park were retrieved through the Federal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Visitors for May 2007 – 41,993. Visitors for May 2008 – 34,801

Since 1991, visitors to Point Pelee National Park have declined approximately 50 percent from 404,530 in 1991 to 231,592 in 2007.

press release

PO Box 326, Station B,

Toronto, Ontario

Canada, M5T 2W2

T: 877 785 8636

W: www.peacefulparks.org

E: ppc@peacefulparks.org