

# MANAGEMENT OF COLONIAL WATERBIRDS AT TOMMY THOMPSON PARK

## CORMORANT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #3

Wednesday, April 23, 2008  
5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Mennonite New Life Centre,  
1774 Queen Street East, Toronto



# **CORMORANT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #3**

**Wednesday, April 23, 2008  
5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**



## **Agenda**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>       | Suzanne     |
| <b>2. Review of Public Meeting Report</b> | Suzanne All |
| <b>3. Potential Management Approach</b>   |             |
| · Presentation                            | Ralph       |
| <br><b><i>Supper Break</i></b>            |             |
| <b>4. Potential Management Approach</b>   |             |
| · Discussion                              | All         |
| <b>5. Next Steps</b>                      |             |
| · Authority Meeting                       | Suzanne     |
| <b>6. Wrap-up and next meeting</b>        | Suzanne     |

## **PARTICIPATION**

80 participants at the meeting, mostly members of stakeholder groups

42 individual comments

Support for the consultative, transparent process

## **GOAL**

Considerable support

Concern that “balance” can be interpreted in different ways



# OBJECTIVES

Most support for a) and d)

Support for b)  
if least intrusive methods used

Range of opinions on c)

# **METHODS**

Considerations:

Humane treatment of cormorants

- Avoid disturbing other species
- Some misunderstandings about purpose and effects of some methods
- Least support for egg oiling

## **APPLICATION OF THE METHODS**

- Various combinations were proposed
- Our proposed strategy reflects the community input received



# PUBLIC SURVEY

May 10 bird festival

To seek more input from park users and general community





# Refined Objectives

- a. Increase public knowledge, awareness, **and appreciation** of colonial waterbirds
- b. Prevent cormorant expansion to Peninsula D
- c. Limit further loss of tree canopy on Peninsulas A, B and C
- d. Continue research on colonial waterbirds in an urban wilderness context

# Proposed Strategic Approach

	Peninsula A	Peninsula B	Peninsula C	Peninsula D
Pre-nesting Deterrents			*	*
Post-Breeding Deterrents	*	*	*	*
Enhanced Ground Nesting	*	*		
Egg Oiling	*	*	*	
Restoration	*	*	*	*

# Proposed Strategic Approach

	Peninsula A	Peninsula B	Peninsula C	Peninsula D
Pre-nesting Deterrents			*	*
Post-Breeding Deterrents	*	*	*	*
Enhanced Ground Nesting	*	*		
Egg Oiling	*	*	*	
Restoration	*	*	*	*

# Proposed Strategic Approach 2007

	Peninsula A	Peninsula B	Peninsula C	Peninsula D
Pre-nesting Deterrents				*
Post-Breeding Deterrents			*	*
Enhanced Ground Nesting	*	*		
Egg Oiling		*		
Restoration	*	*	*	*

# Prevent Cormorant Expansion to Peninsula D



# Cormorant Conservation Zones











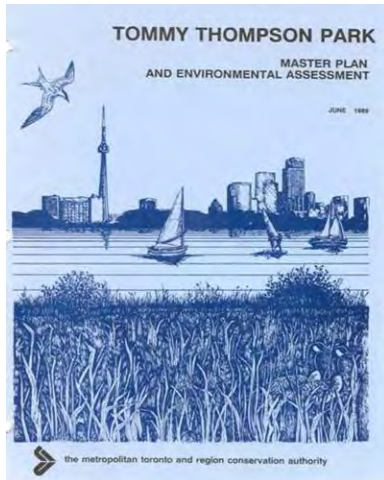
Enhanced Ground Nesting

Use of auditory deterrents

Banding lab relocation

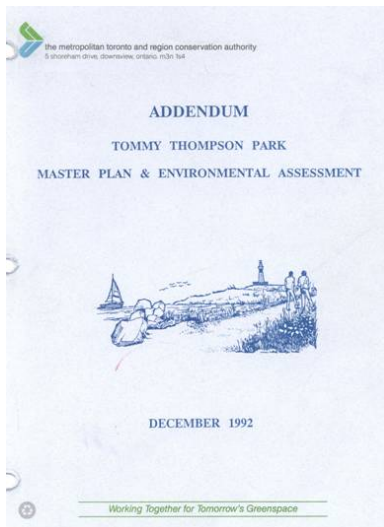
A,B as a sanctuary

# Master Plan (1989) and Addendum (1992)



## The goals of the Master Plan are to:

- To conserve and manage the natural resources and environmentally significant areas;
- To provide a unique, water-oriented open space which will assist in meeting regional needs;
- To develop public awareness regarding the significance of the Lake Ontario waterfront and Tommy Thompson Park.



# Deforestation on Peninsula A from 1990 to 2007

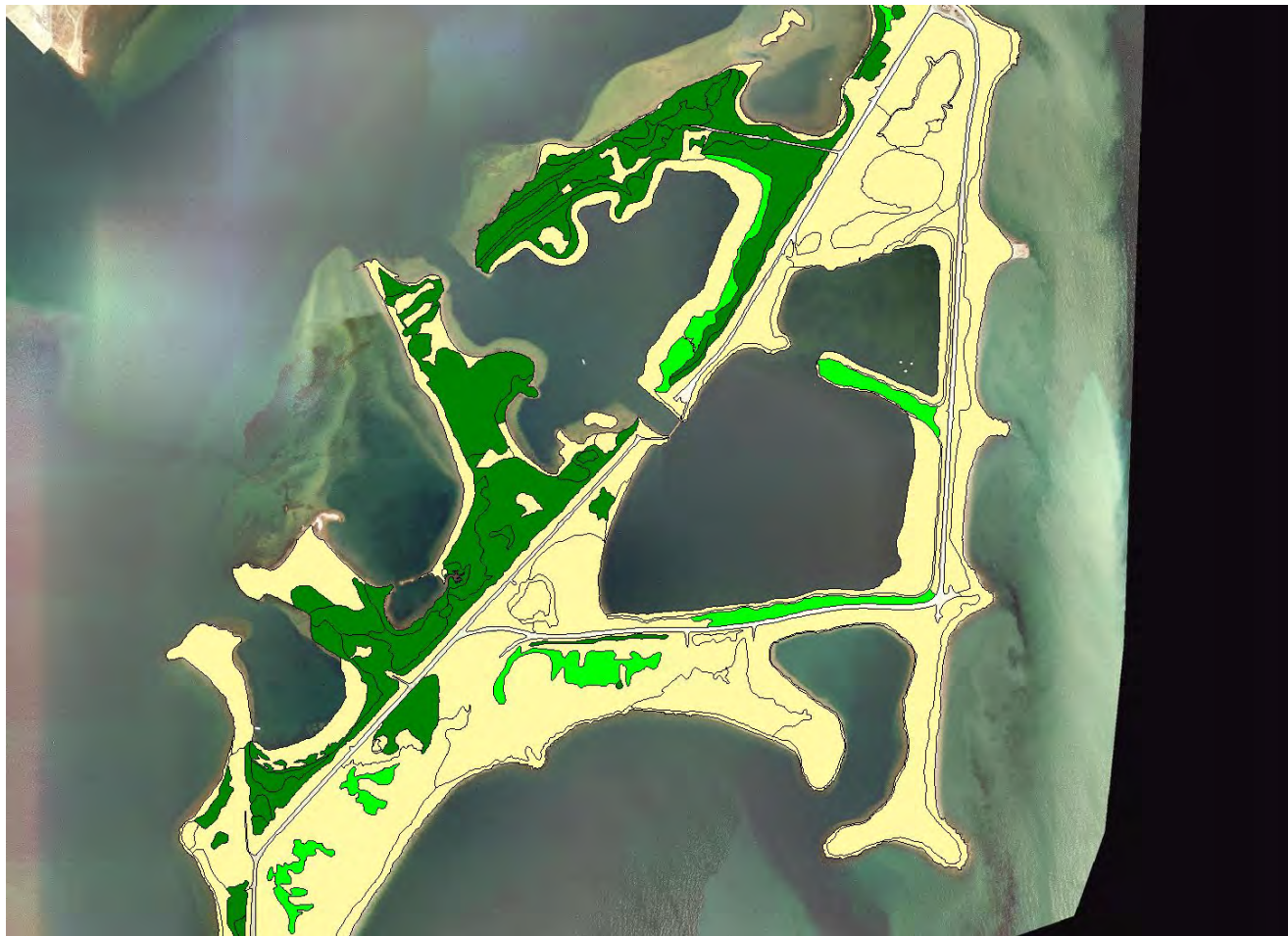


# Deforestation and Erosion on Peninsula B from 1990 to 2006



# Forest Decline on Peninsula C 2007



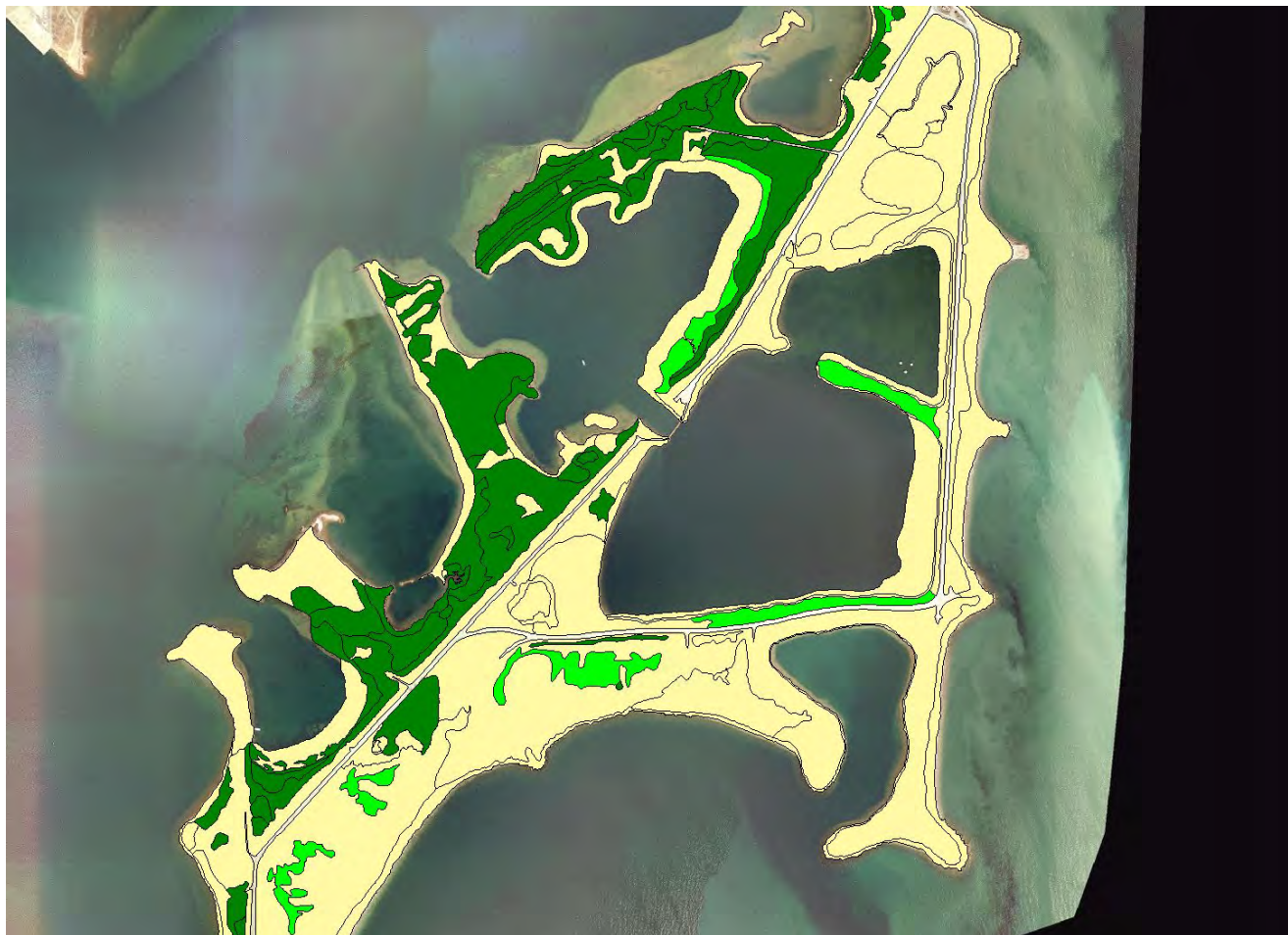




# Humber Marsh Colony

	2004	2005	2006
Trees	15	15	18
Nests	137	147	132







# Productivity

Hatching Success	Fledging Success	Morphological Deformities
81.03%	1.9 ch/nest	None (1500)





# Black-crowned Night-Heron

Hatching Success	Fledging Success	Morphological Deformities
-	~1.5 ch/nest	None (50)





# ADVISORY GROUP

## MANDATE

- Provide input and advice
- Ensure that all perspectives are considered
- Provide linkages with other stakeholders

## ACTIVITIES

- Identify values and interests associated with TTP
- Discuss existing conditions, concerns and need for management
- Discuss strategies to address concerns
- Help to evaluate any management options
- Help to plan and attend the public meeting
- Advise TRCA on recommended management plan, if appropriate
- If management actions are recommended, provide advice on implementation

# ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERSHIP

## **TRCA**

Restoration Services

## **Federal/Provincial**

Canadian Wildlife Service

Transport Canada

Toronto Port Authority

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

## **City of Toronto**

Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Public Health

## **Academia**

York University

University of Toronto

University of Minnesota

## **Interest Groups**

Friends of the Spit

Toronto Ornithological Club

Ontario Nature

Aquatic Park Sailing Club

Outer Harbour Sailing Federation

Local Enhancement and Appreciation of  
Forests (LEAF)

Toronto Island Residents

Cormorant Defenders International:

Animal Alliance of Canada

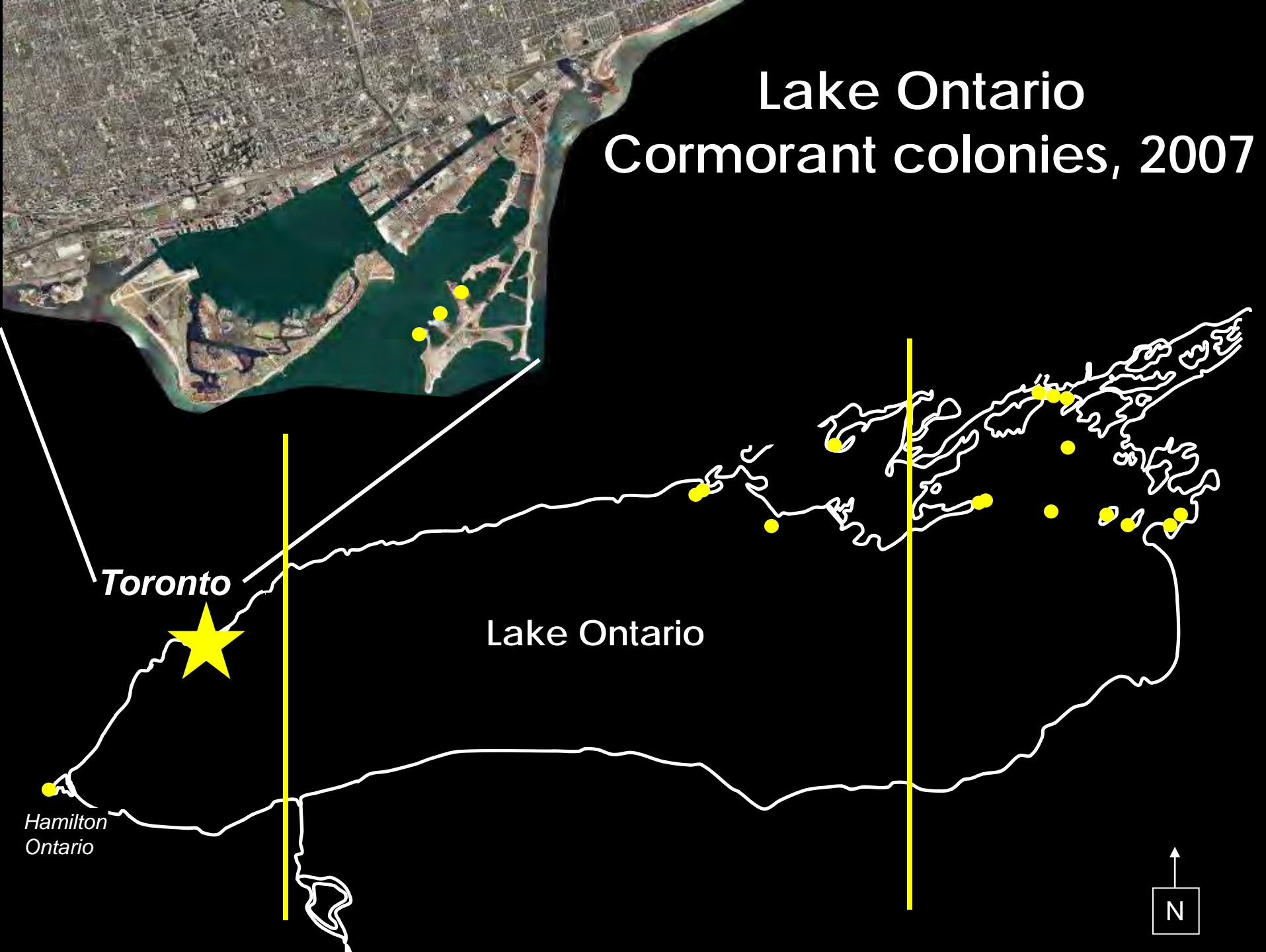
Zoocheck Canada Inc.

Canadians for Snow Geese

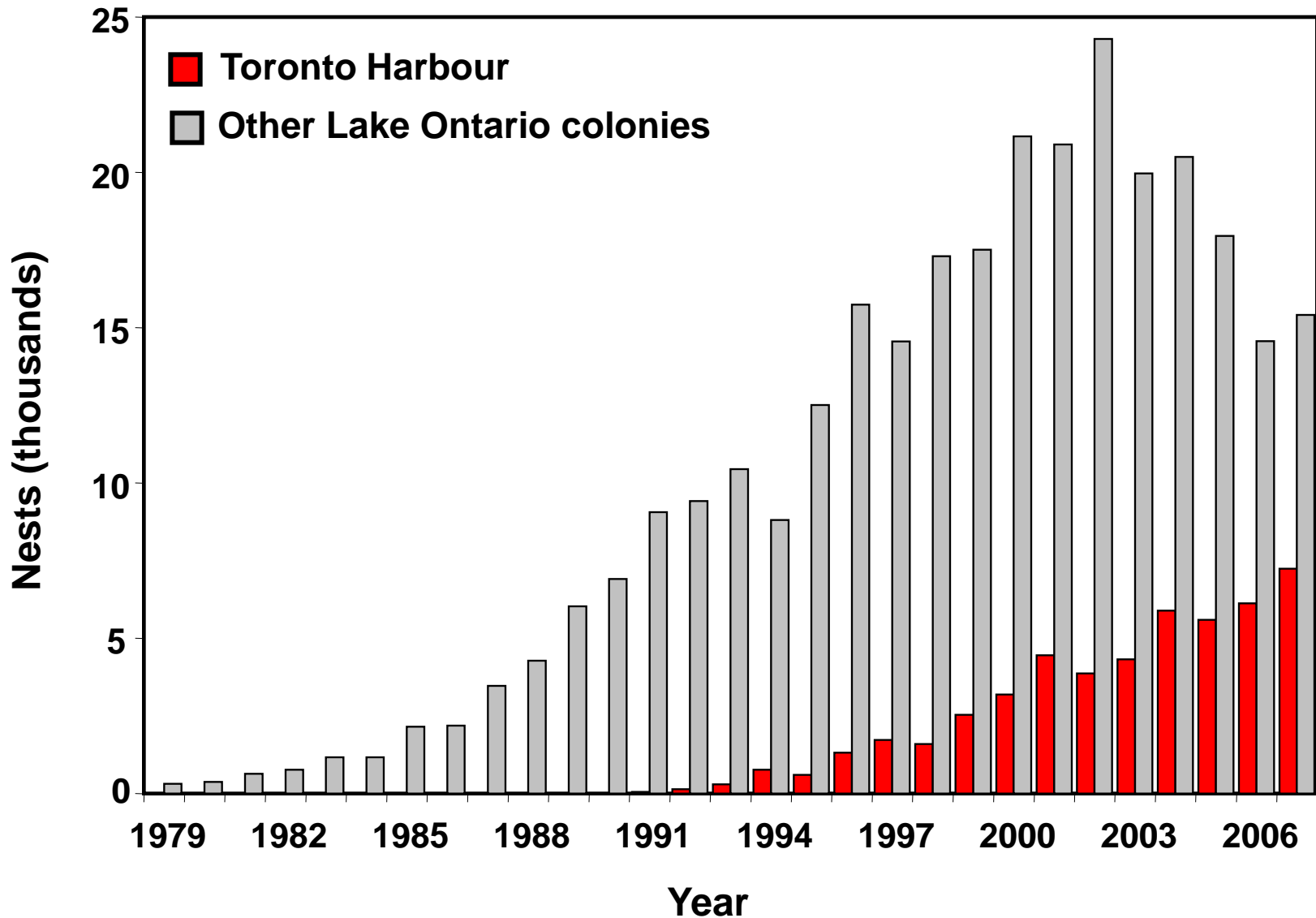
# PROPOSED TIMELINE

<b>Advisory Group Meeting #1</b>	Thursday January 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Values and interests</li><li>• Conditions and concerns</li><li>• Need for management</li><li>• Strategies to address concerns</li></ul>
<b>Advisory Group Meeting #2</b>	Tuesday February 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluate management options</li><li>• Propose alternative approaches</li></ul>
<b>Public Meeting</b>	Tuesday April 1 <i>or</i> Thursday April 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present existing conditions, concerns and alternative management approaches</li><li>• Provide feedback on alternative approaches</li><li>• Develop consensus on preferred approach if possible</li></ul>
<b>Advisory Group Meeting #3</b>	Tuesday April 15 <i>or</i> Thursday April 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review public response</li><li>• Formulate management plan, if any</li></ul>
<b>TRCA Watershed Management Board</b>	Tbd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present report for Authority action</li></ul>
<b>Advisory Group Meeting #4</b>	Tbd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review implementation workplan, if any</li></ul>

# Lake Ontario Cormorant colonies, 2007

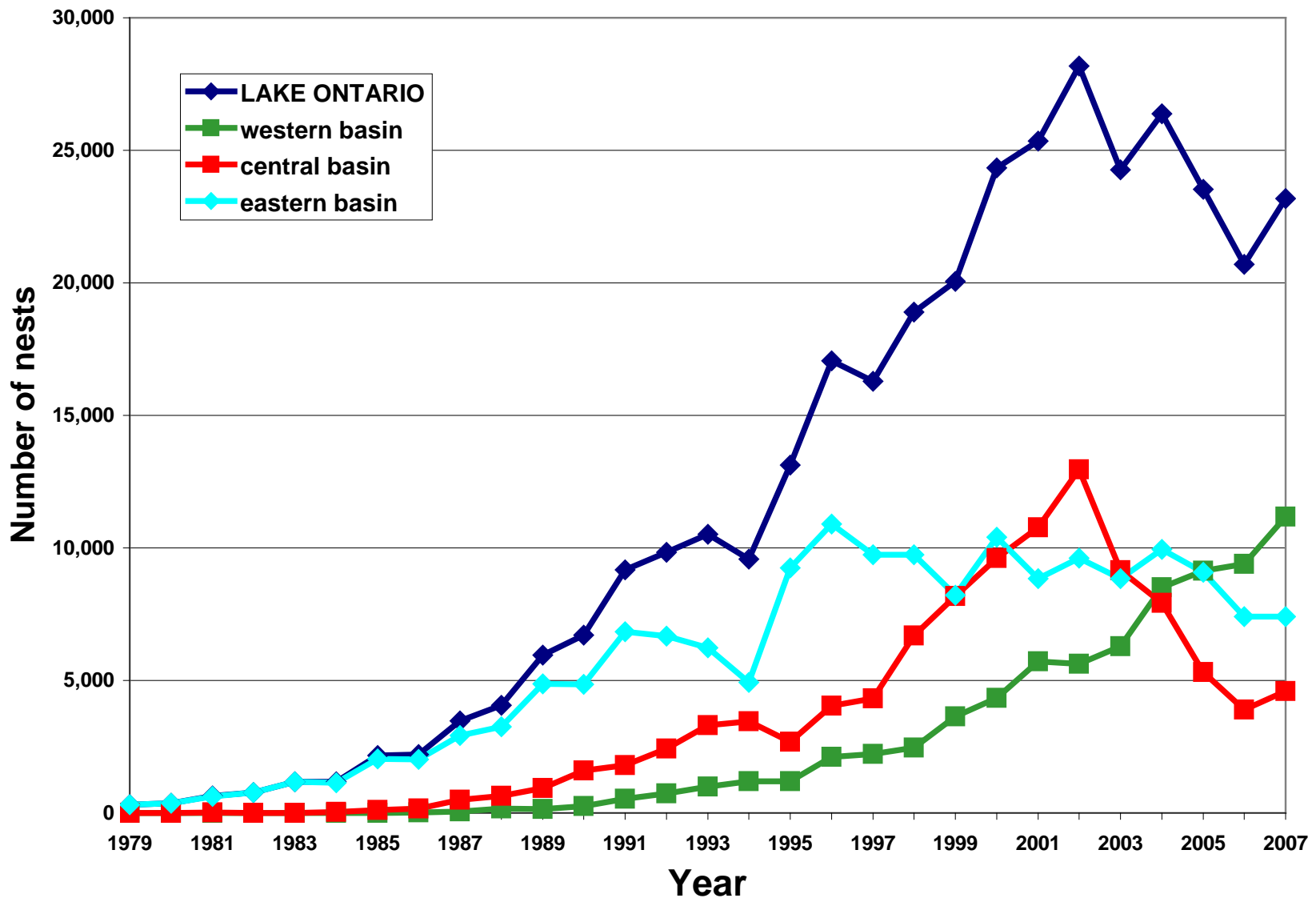


# Lake Ontario cormorant nests, 1979-2007.



Source: CWS unpublished data and TRCA

# Lake Ontario cormorant nests by Lake basin, 1979-2007.



Source: CWS unpublished data and TRCA



# DCCO Nest Numbers 1998 to 2007

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>A</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>1307</b>	<b>1814</b>	<b>2071</b>	<b>3138</b>	<b>1844</b>	<b>1582</b>	<b>1241</b>	<b>1763</b>	<b>1535</b>	<b>1139</b>
<b>B ground</b>					<b>344</b>	<b>*990</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>1302</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>2439</b>	<b>2728</b>	<b>3494</b>	<b>4699</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1743</b>	<b>2509</b>	<b>3034</b>	<b>4510</b>	<b>3543</b>	<b>3942</b>	<b>5855</b>	<b>5674</b>	<b>6125</b>	<b>7241</b>

• Peninsula A 42, and Peninsula B 948