



Double-crested Cormorant Management at Tommy Thompson Park

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Tommy Thompson Park
Toronto's Urban Wilderness



The
Living City
Foundation



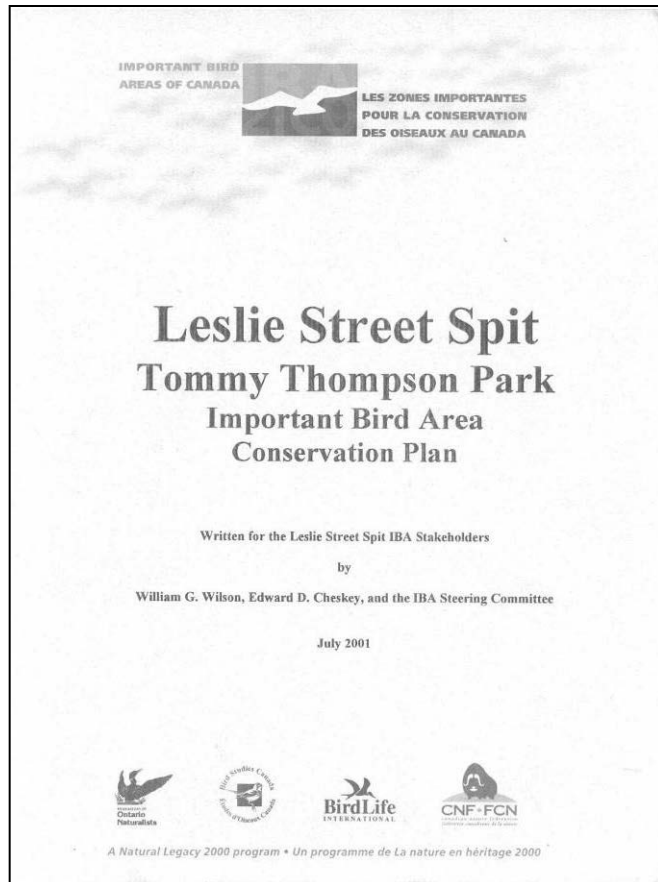
Toronto and Region
Conservation
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Double-crested Cormorants at Tommy Thompson Park/ Leslie St. Spit

- Cormorants arrived at TTP in 1990 with 6 pairs.
- Since then the population has grown across 3 of the park's 4 peninsulas and is the largest colony in North America.
- Management of the colony began in 2008.





- Toronto's only **Important Bird Area** – globally significant
- 7 Species of **Colonial Nesting Waterbirds.**
 - The largest colony of Double-crested Cormorants in North America
 - Significant colony of Black-crowned Night-Herons in Canada
- Concentration area for **migratory bird species.**
- Significant overwintering area for **waterfowl.**

Cormorant Impacts on Forest Communities





CORMORANT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

GOAL

To achieve a balance between the continued existence of a healthy, thriving cormorant colony and the other ecological, educational, scientific and recreational values of Tommy Thompson Park.

OBJECTIVES

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



Management Approach

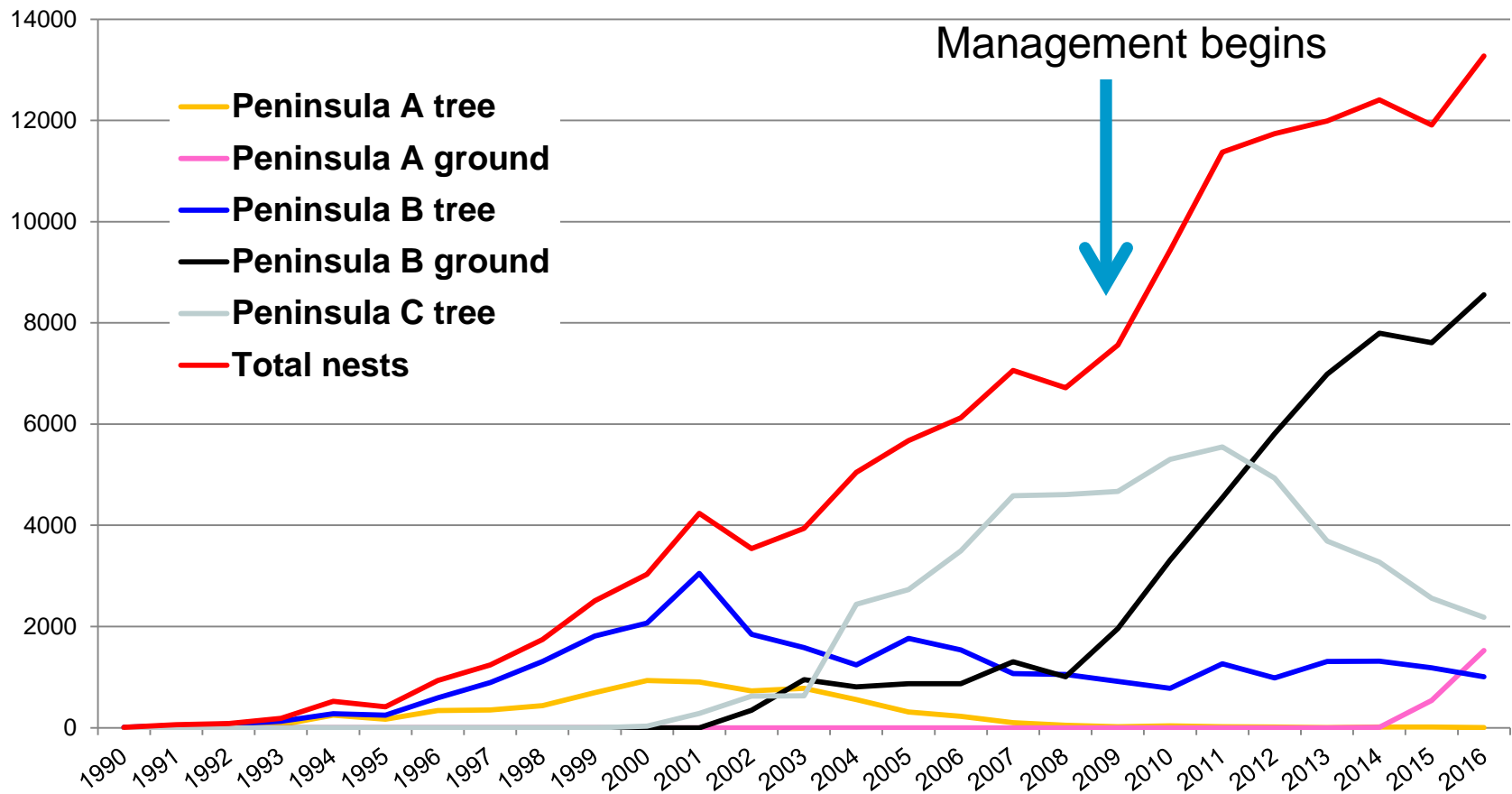
	Pen A	Pen B	Pen C	Pen D
Inactive Nest Removal (prior to breeding season)		*	*	
Enhanced Ground Nesting	*	*		
Pre-Nesting Deterrents		*	*	*
Post-Breeding Deterrents (as required)			*	*





Cormorant Population

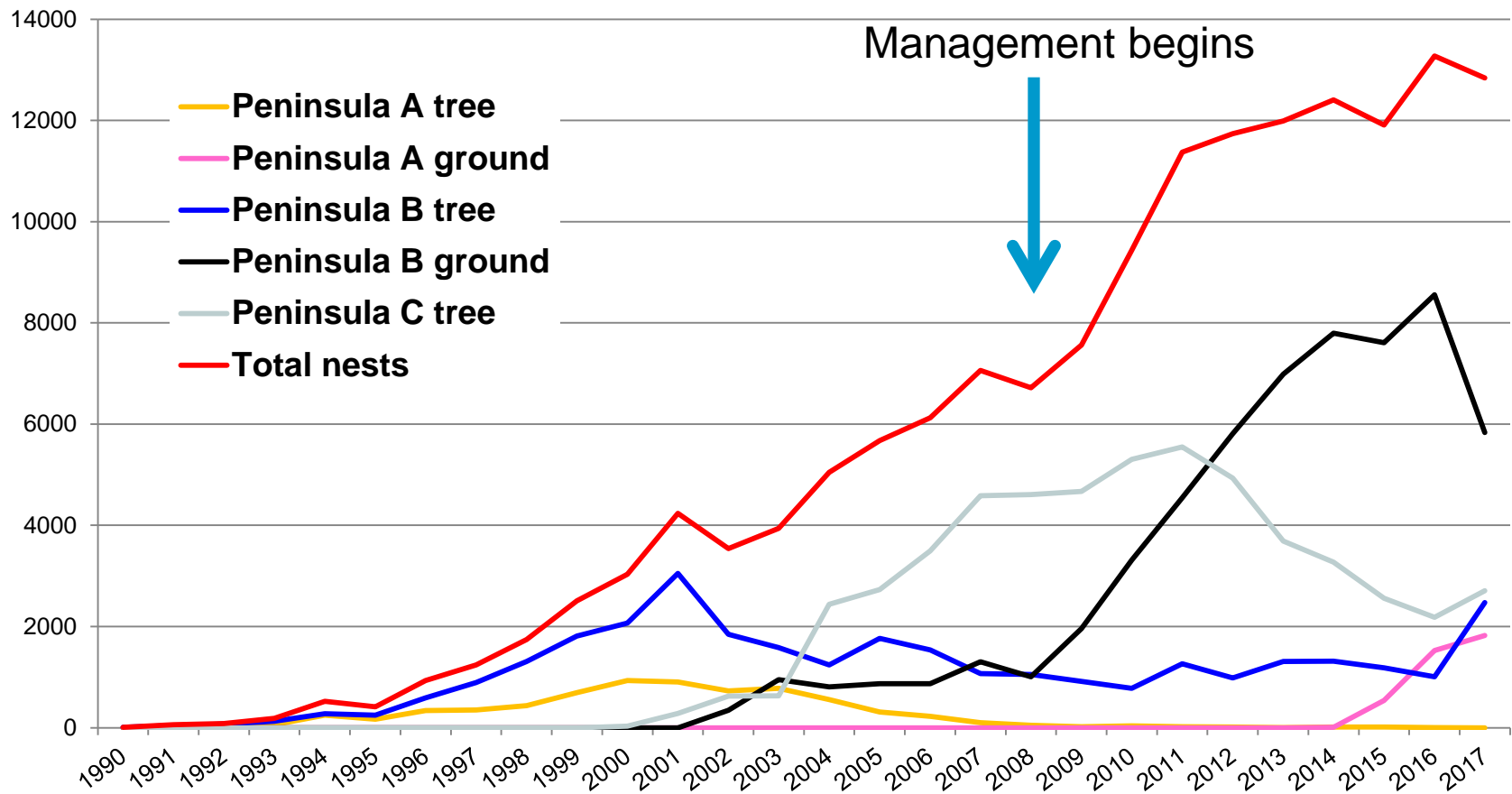
In 2016 70% of the colony nested on the ground.
Overall population increase is supported solely by ground nesting.





Cormorant Population

In 2017 60% of the colony nested on the ground.
Lake Ontario high water levels complicated management efforts.





Cormorant Nests by Peninsula



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Pen A tree	101	49	22	39	19	13	5	14	14	4	0
Pen A ground	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	541	1525	1821
Pen B tree	1072	1050	917	781	1262	982	1310	1316	1184	1007	2474
Pen B ground	1302	1009	1957	3310	4547	5812	6986	7799	7608	8555	5836
Pen C tree	4584	4609	4668	5304	5546	4934	3689	3270	2561	2184	2710
Total	7059	6717	7564	9434	11,374	11,741	11,990	12,409	11,908	13,275	12,841



Ground Nesting





Ground-nest Expansion



G. Fraser



2017 Lake Ontario High Water Levels





Authority Board Recommendation

- THAT staff report and present to the Authority biennially regarding the management of Double-crested Cormorants at Tommy Thompson Park or more frequently should the management strategy be significantly changed.

Financial Implications

- Estimated cormorant related management costs \$55,000 annually
- Funded through City of Toronto levy, plus Remedial Action Plan grant



THANK YOU!



G.Fraser