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Board wants creek action

By [Richard Rolke - Vernon Morning Star](#)

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Regional politicians are joining the fight to clean up one of the region's dirtiest water bodies.

The North Okanagan Regional District board is fully endorsing the District of Coldstream's grant application to the Okanagan Basin Water Board to improve water quality along part of Coldstream Creek.

"This is a little extra weight they are looking for," said director Will Hansma of backing Coldstream's bid.

The municipality is seeking \$17,000 from OBWB and another \$10,000 from the Environmental Farm Plan for the creek enhancements.

"It's the most polluted waterway in the region," said Gyula Kiss, a Coldstream director at NORD.

The municipality is concerned the creek, and ultimately Kalamalka Lake, is being contaminated by activities from residential, agricultural and industrial uses.

"Nutrients from fertilizers applied on agricultural lands could contribute to aquatic plant growth (milfoil) and algae blooms, sediment can increase turbidity and aggradations of the shoreline and contaminants (fecal coliforms) can cause increased risk to human health for recreational users and lead to increased costs for water treatment (chlorination) as there are two drinking water intakes in Kalamalka Lake," said Michael Stamhuis, Coldstream's chief administrative officer, in a letter to OBWB.

The project the municipality wants to proceed with involves the creek immediately upstream of School Road in Lavington.

That area is subject to erosion, livestock and drainage problems.

“In addition, test results on either side of these segments indicate water quality degradation impacts,” said Stamhuis.

Kiss is hopeful that the OBWB grant will be approved and improvements to the creek will proceed.

“Coldstream Creek is in dire need of improvements. We will look at ways of mitigating the various pollution sources,” he said.

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