

## Water Board funds goose program

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A \$10,000 grant from the Okanagan Basin Water Board will help ensure progress managing the Valley's Canada Goose population continues into 2011.

The Okanagan Valley Goose Management Program received the funding from the Water Board to heighten awareness about health issues related to limiting the goose population.

Municipal governments throughout the Okanagan partner to deliver the program.

"We are very grateful to have this funding in place," says chairman John Penrice, Urban Forestry Supervisor with the City of Kelowna.

"It's essential funding that permits us to build on gains we've made in parks, golf courses and beach quality in recent years."

The committee works to reduce the risk of potential human harm due to contamination of water and other public resources.

Efforts focus on reducing goose populations to naturally sustainable levels, where sufficient native habitat exists to support the goose population without problematic use of public park and urban lands, and educating people on the importance of allowing geese to remain wild.

The goal is to return goose behaviour to a native condition where they fear of humans and do not approach for food.

A crucial element of population management is the egg addling program.

During the past four seasons, at least 4,000 eggs have been prevented from hatching through this minimally invasive approach.

This program also entails a nest locating program and goose population surveys.

For more information about efforts to create a balance between people and geese in the Okanagan, go online.