

News

BLACK PRESS FILE PHOTO

Okanagan Basin Water Board officials are concerned that an early start to the milfoil growing season could create challenges in local lakes.



Milfoil blooms early

Morning Star Staff

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Eurasian milfoil is already being reported in Okanagan lakes.

"I received our first call last week about the weeds and then on Monday, I had a couple calls saying the weed had broken the surface of the lake and is starting to form mats," said James Little, Okanagan Basin Water Board operations manager.

"It is looking like a good year for milfoil, and that's bad for the rest of us."

It's believed early snow melt and warm temperatures have created ideal conditions for milfoil to grow.

Milfoil arrived in Okanagan lakes in the early 1970s and OBWB

employs three operators who spend thousands of hours trying to control the weed.

Besides turning off tourists, milfoil robs oxygen from the water, increases water temperature, slows the flow at the mouths of rivers, and increases polluting nutrients in the water. It has also been linked to fish kills and loss of biodiversity.

In the winter, milfoil operators rototill (uproot) the weed while it's dormant. The roots are then left to freeze and die. In the summer, the weed is harvested six feet below the surface collected and turned into fertilizer.

For more information, go to www.obwb.ca/milfoil or www.okwaterwise.ca/nature.

Goodale makes Vernon stop

Morning Star Staff

A senior federal Liberal is making his way to Okanagan-Shuswap.

Deputy Liberal leader MP Ralph Goodale will speak to the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce about economic growth June 27 at the Prestige Hotel.

The Saskatchewan MP is a former minister of agriculture, natural



Ralph Goodale

resources, public works and finance.

He was recognized by his peers with the inaugural award of Parliamentarian of the Year in 2006.

The chamber event begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration at 8:15 a.m.

The cost is \$25 for chamber members and \$35 for non-members. For more information or to register, call 250-545-0771.

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By Vernon Morning Star

Published: **June 17, 2015 01:00 AM**

Updated: **June 16, 2015 11:3811 AM**

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