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Money sought for goose program

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

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Attempts to reduce the Canada goose population continues to take flight.

The North Okanagan Regional District will apply to the Okanagan Basin Water Board for \$10,000 for the valley-wide goose management strategy.

“The concern is goose droppings on beaches and the health issues that come with it,” said Al McNiven, parks and recreation general manager.

The strategy provides information to residents on why they shouldn’t feed geese and egg addling to reduce the population.

Addling consists of eggs being shaken as a way of disrupting the development of chicks.

“Addling has been successful,” said McNiven.

Besides NORD, Kelowna and the South Okanagan will apply for grants, with \$30,000 being sought valley-wide. The total project budget is \$120,000.

The program is comprised of staff from greater Vernon, Lake Country, Kelowna, West Kelowna, Peachland, Summerland, Penticton, Osoyoos, Oliver and B.C. Parks.

Approval to addle eggs comes from Environment Canada and the Ministry of Environment.

Action was launched in 2006 because many geese aren’t migrating during the winter.

“There is quite a large number of geese that stay in the valley year-round,” said McNiven, adding that addling eggs as a control was chosen over shooting geese.


“That’s an option but in Vernon, we’ve never used it.”

After a recent visit to Polson Park, director Jack Gilroy is wondering if egg addling could be used for other waterfowl.

“Can we do it for ducks because there must be a thousand of them down there,” he said.

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