



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Okanagan Valley Goose Management Program Begins Annual Egg-Addling Program

The Okanagan Valley Goose Management Program (OVGMP) is about to start its annual egg-addling program. Egg addling is an important population management method created to manage introduced populations of non-migratory Canada geese. These geese are overpopulated and increase the risk of water contamination in our local water sources. The program is already underway and continues until mid-May.

Egg addling involves shaking eggs or coating them with non-toxic biodegradable food-grade corn oil within 14 days of incubation to make them non-viable and returning them to the nest. Geese will then continue to incubate until they realize the eggs will not hatch, usually too late in the year to produce more. This population control method is supported by many animal welfare organizations. Geese are not harmed by the practice and will continue with their annual life cycle.

The key to success of this addling program is finding and accessing new nests. The public is asked to report lone geese, pairs of geese, or nest locations on private or public land by emailing coordinator@okanagangooseplan.com or calling 1-877-943-3209. While reporting these sightings is welcomed, the public is asked to keep away from nests and to not touch eggs.

“These Canada geese were relocated here from other parts of Canada and the U.S. as part of controlled introduction programs and they would not be nesting in this region naturally,” said Kate Hagmeier, Program Coordinator. “This addling program only affects these introduced species.”

The OVGMP egg addling program is responsible for preventing the goose population (an estimated 2,500 birds) from growing out of control. In the program’s 16 years of addling, more than 21,000 eggs have been added, equating to an estimated 11,000 - 16,000 geese not entering the population, not including the thousands of offspring that could have hatched over the years.

In addition to adding, the OVGMP assists communities through actions such as public education, population monitoring, habitat modification, and working with regulatory agencies to ensure OVGMP management goals align with federal and provincial objectives.

The OVGMP is a partnership between City of Vernon, Regional District of North Okanagan, District of Coldstream, District of Lake Country, Central Okanagan Regional District, City of Kelowna, Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, City of West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation, City of Penticton, Town of Osoyoos, Town of Oliver, District of Peachland, and District of Summerland.

More information about the program is available at okanangangooseplan.com.

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