

Goldfish are an invasive species and not native to Alberta!

Winter Lake storm water pond in Olds is overrun with a growing population of Goldfish upward of 30,000.

Measures need to take place in order to eradicate the Goldfish from storm water ponds and keep them from spilling into Olds Creek and onward to the Little Red Deer River.

One of the most frequent questions is “How did they get there?” The most likely answer is that local residents probably released aquarium or pond fish.

The first step to eradicating some of the Goldfish will see greenhouse growers Brian and Bill McLaughlin netting fish over the next few days to transfer them into an aquaponics system.

What is an aquaponics system, and how does it work?

Goldfish are netted and transferred to indoor tanks where they produce excrement. The water with the waste from the tank flows to a hydroponics tray where plants grow in water without soil. The fish ‘water’ is a rich plant fertilizer.

As plants absorb the nutrients, the water becomes purified and clean water is then circulated back to the fish tank.

Aquaponics is a natural organic production system and any kind of plants can be grown such as lettuce, strawberries, and various herbs.

The Town will continue to work with Alberta Environment to come up with a solution to eradicate all the goldfish from Winter Lake storm water pond and to reduce the risk of Goldfish being carried through overflow outlets into other storm water ponds and eventually the Alberta river system.

It is illegal to dispose any fish into Alberta water systems, and carries a fine of up to \$10,000.