



FOCA's ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2022 GOES TO.... THE WOLFE LAKE ASSOCIATION WESTPORT

"Let's Get the Lead Out" initiative recognized!

During the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) in Toronto, held last week (March 4, 2023), their annual Achievement Award was presented to a cottage or waterfront property owners' association that has realized significant accomplishments and demonstrated innovation in its work with members and the community. And for 2022 the Wolfe Lake Association was the recipient with its "Let's Get the Lead Out" initiative and lead fishing tackle buy-back program, set up by Margie Manthey and Donna Garland.



Image courtesy: FOCA

Association was the recipient with its "Let's Get the Lead Out" initiative and lead fishing tackle buy-back program, set up by Margie Manthey and Donna Garland.

"Let's Get the Lead Out" initiative and lead fishing tackle buy-back program was launched in 2022 and by the end of the year, over 170 pounds of lead was collected, keeping this source of contamination out of the waterway. The program has been explained on our website, Facebook page and in last years Wolfe Lake Magazine.

Margie and Donna also partnered with neighbouring lake associations to join their initiative including Upper Rideau Lake, Chaffey's Area Lakes Association, Otter Lake, Charleston Lake, Bobs and Crow Lakes Association and also the Temagami Lake Association. A grant from South Frontenac Township helped to fund \$10 vouchers for each person who turned in lead fishing tackle. Learn more online at fishleadfree.ca.

Many local businesses were involved in helping the WLAW to collect lead: Norris Bait and Tackle (Westport); Big Rideau Tackle (Smiths Falls); Manotick Bait (Manotick); Bait Casters (Carleton Place); Westport Hardware (Westport); Atkinson Home Hardware & Building Centre (Hartington); Verona Hardware (Verona) and the Westport Lions Re-Use And Recycle Centre (Westport).

The award was accepted by Margie Manthey, who drove with her husband Brian from their home in the Finger Lakes region (USA) to Toronto amid a fierce winter storm for this special occasion. After accepting the 2022 Achievement Award road sign from FOCA President Ian Crawford, Margie said "On behalf of the Wolfe Lake Association Westport, a sincere word of thanks to FOCA for recognizing our group with this prestigious award. We are extremely honoured and grateful." Donna Garland attended the event on-line from her vacation location in Florida.