

MEDIA RELEASE

“Let’s Get the Lead Out” to protect wildlife

Here’s a sobering fact... An estimated 16 million aquatic birds die every year from lead poisoning, and in some regions, 40% of all loon mortality is directly attributed to toxicity from ingested lead fishing tackle. *It takes just one tiny lead sinker to kill an adult loon or eagle.*

The solution to the tragic yet completely avoidable destruction of wildlife from lead tackle poisoning is quite simple but it requires all local communities to step up.

For example, the Wolfe Lake Association (West-

port), in partnership with the Westport Area Outdoor Association, is leading a grassroots initiative to reduce the accumulation of toxic lead fishing tackle in the environment where it poisons loons, eagles, swans, ducks and other vulnerable wildlife. The Lead Fishing Tackle Buy Back Program received funding through the South Frontenac Lake

Ecosystems Program and launched on March 31st. It is designed to incentivize anglers to exchange their lead tackle for a \$10 voucher to be used on the purchase of lead-free tackle at participating retailers. The program also spreads public awareness on the dangers of fishing with lead tackle and promotes the use of lead-free

alternatives made from environmentally safer materials like bismuth, tungsten, tin, and steel. It has amassed a growing list of supporters, including other lake associations. For more information on the initiative, including a list of participating retailers, visit fishleadfree.ca or reach out to Margie Manthey, WLA Fishing Director at they.margie@gmail.com

The hope is that other communities will get on board with this initiative, as this issue, much like the loon and the eagle, recognizes no borders.

