

Hello everyone!!

The Echo Lake Association is happy to report that we've installed a new **FISHING LINE / LEAD TACKLE / LEAD SINKERS / ARTIFICIAL BAIT RECEPTACLE** (that's a mouthful) at the water access area (at the intersection of Echo Lake Road and Hammond Road - it's by the bridge at the south-east end of the lake)!!!!

Please drop any unwanted fishing line, lead tackle, lead sinkers and artificial bait in the tube and we'll take care of the rest!

Tragically, we've lost several loons over the years from lead poisoning, drowning (after getting tangled in fishing line), and speeding watercraft.

As a result of our Echo Lake community's collective concern about the health and safety of our loons, turtles and other wildlife on the lake, we couldn't be more excited about this initiative!!!

It was a team effort

- Rob Preisner designed and built the tube (you may recall he also added a second loon nesting platform recently)
- Cheryl Francis, helped develop the concept, worked with the District of Muskoka to secure the permit for the new post and tube, and established a process for ongoing maintenance
- Don Lawlor, provided ad-hoc support and installed the new post

Rob has also kindly volunteered to handle the care and maintenance of the tube and its contents, and the Echo Lake Association Co-Presidents will act as backup. The tube must be put up on or shortly after May 1st and removed by November 1st.

Twice a year (more or less) the tube will be emptied and sorted as follows:

- Fishing line will be taken to the **Muskoka Conservancy** for recycling
- Usable tackle and artificial bait will be brought to the reuse depot at the dump (if in reusable condition)
- Lead sinkers will go to **All Ontario Recycling** in Port Sydney

It might hard to see, but there's a galvanized chain that's securing the tube from theft. Rob also put a small flower pot with a handle inside the tube to make it easier to retrieve the contents (very clever!).

Please tell any anglers in your household about this tube! We hope you are all as excited as we are to keep our lake detangled and lead-free!!

Have fun on the lake, and be safe out there 🙏

