

Make a Lead-Free Pledge to save our Loons

Adult loons die when they ingest lead fishing tackle. Ingestion of lead fishing jigs (hooks with a lead weight) is the leading known cause of death for adult loons. Ingestion of lead sinkers is the second leading known cause of death. Survival of adult loons is the most important factor in ensuring the viability of our lake's loon population.

- **Even a single small lead split shot sinker is fatal to loons, which will die within 2-4 weeks of ingesting a piece of lead fishing tackle.**

Saving our loons does not come without a price. A small package of lead-free sinkers will cost \$20 compared to \$3 for the lead sinkers. It is a sacrifice we ask you to make. Collect and discard your lead sinkers and jigs with molded lead weights. When you buy new lures, check the packaging. You will see that many contain lead. Demand lead-free products from your suppliers.

Our loon chick population is down. The loon count committee lead by Lori Bailey is going to erect nesting platforms to see if this helps increase the number of chicks. But we won't have chicks if our loons do not survive into adulthood. On average, loons do not breed until their sixth or seventh year of life, and then only produce an average of one chick per pair every two years.

Thanks for making a difference. Please share the results of your lead-free pledge with your Lake Association, Mary Kainer Environment Chair mkainer@sympatico.ca.