



LAKE
WINNIPEG
FOUNDATION

LWF members receive national honour

News
LWF
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(l - r) Mike Stainton, Alex Salki, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and Al Kristofferson, in Ottawa; photo credit: WO Ronald Duchesne, Rideau Hall © OSGG, 2016

Congratulations to Alex Salki and Mike Stainton!

On June 23 in Ottawa, Alex and Mike, along with Al Kristofferson, were presented with Meritorious Service Decorations (Civil Division) by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada.

These prestigious decorations recognize Canadians who have performed an exceptional deed or activity that brings honour to Canada.

Alex, Mike and Al were each awarded a Meritorious Service Medal for their dedication to restoring the health of Lake Winnipeg through scientific research and public involvement.

In 1998, the three freshwater scientists helped establish the [Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium \(LWRC\)](#), a grassroots organization that continues to operate today. Their volunteer efforts enabled the LWRC to acquire a retired Canadian Coast Guard ship for use as a research vessel - providing the opportunity for researchers to monitor water quality and collect data in order to reduce toxic algae in the lake, as well as the chance for students to come onboard and experience lake science first-hand.

By recognizing the need to better understand and monitor this iconic body of water in order to protect it, and then acting on that need, Alex, Mike and Al were at the vanguard of Manitoba's local water movement. The LWRC was one of the first organizations focused on Lake Winnipeg's health, and the science-based education it provided to citizens sparked both curiosity and concern among the general public. In turn, these engaged citizens went on to get involved in solutions through other organizations - including the Lake Winnipeg Foundation, which was founded in 2005.

These men's dedication to water stewardship has remained unwavering over the years. Both Alex and Mike currently serve on LWF's [board of directors](#) and on our [Science Advisory Council](#), while Al is the LWRC's managing director.

Hats off to Alex, Mike and Al for this national recognition of your truly remarkable efforts. You make Canada proud.

For more information about the Meritorious Service Decorations or to nominate a deserving Canadian, visit merit.gg.ca.

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