

## PROTECT OUR LOONS

We are very fortunate to have loons in the Domain and they were here first! We must be careful to share the waters with them and to protect them however possible. **Loons are protected by federal law.**

During the summer of 2005, one of the Lac Bataille loons was found completely tangled in fishing line, complete with hook and, after rescue, its prognosis was not good. We are not sure of the eventual outcome and so, this article is to restate how you can be careful and preserve these beautiful birds.



**SLOW BOAT TRAFFIC** – Loons nest in small protected bays close to the water's edge or in marshy areas. The wake or waves from a boat could easily swamp a nest. A nesting loon could also be distracted to leave its nest with the eggs unprotected by a canoeist or kayaker.

**GIVE THEM SPACE / STEER CLEAR** – Parent loons will focus on feeding their chicks. If you see them out on our waters, stay as far away as possible – you would not appreciate strangers circling you and your youngsters.

**USE AND RETRIEVAL OF FISHING LINE** – The Lac Bataille loon was caught up in a night line (a baited hook suspended from a floater). These are illegal and clearly dangerous. A loon cannot preen itself or dive if entangled in fishing line and it will eventually die.

**USE LEAD FREE TACKLE ONLY** – Small pebbles are ingested by loons to help digest their food. They will suffer from lead poisoning if they mistakenly swallow lead sinkers. Your tackle shop offers lead free alternatives.