

# Loon changes looks in winter SEMTA fights reorganization

by Timothy Nowicki  
special writer

It will be several months before the northern Michigan lakes are free of ice again and people will enjoy fishing and canoeing again. Under the ice, fish activity is slowed. Ducks, herons and loons have moved south to open water.

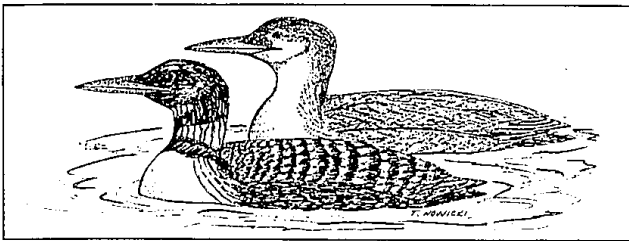
Many birds move from the inland lakes to the Great Lakes until the water freezes too.

The Detroit River is a good area to observe ducks and other water birds to stay until the water freezes. Canvasbacks, goldeneyes, redheads, scaup and other ducks can be seen from the shores of Belle Isle. Occasionally a loon will stop over and search for fish in the deep water of the channel.

COMMON LOONS in winter do not look like the loons cottage owners may see on their lakes in the spring.

During winter, loons are a light gray color above, with a white throat and a white chin. Winter plumage is markedly different from the elegant black and white pattern of spring and summer.

Most loons that nest in northern



Loons are known as "divers" in Britain because of their unexcelled ability to dive — as much as 200 feet.

Michigan and Canada migrate to the Atlantic coast where they always have open water. There they may dive as deep as 200 feet when pursuing fish. They themselves may also be preyed upon by sharks and angler fish.

LOONS ARE known as "divers" in Britain because of their unexcelled ability to dive.

Their strong legs and webbed feet are set far back on the body to provide the best propulsion through the water.

In addition their bones are not hollow like chicken bones or the bones of most birds. Solid bones contribute to their 6-8 pounds of weight, but also enable them to stay under water more easily.

At 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, the Detroit Audubon Society will sponsor a public program on loons. Dave Ewert will present color movies, slides, and current information on the status of loons in Michigan. It will be held in Dondero High School, Washington Street just north of 11 Mile in Royal Oak.

The Southeast Michigan Transportation Authority board wants SEMTA to remain a seven-county regional authority.

The board voted 9-4 to oppose Senate Bill 363, which would replace SEMTA with a smaller agency.

Supporters of SB 363, which was sponsored by Sen. Richard Fessler, R-West Bloomfield, are working to collect votes in the June duck session of the Michigan House of Representatives. The Senate passed the bill last spring.

FESSLER'S SB 363, introduced in 1985, is supported by members of the so-called "Big Four" — Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, Wayne County Executive William Lucas, Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy and Macomb County Board

of Commissioners Chairman Walter Franchuk.

Should the bill pass, SEMTA would be dissolved and could be replaced by three or more separate transit systems.

Critics of SB 363 told the SEMTA board the bill would add layers of bureaucracy involved in operating several transit systems in the region. They also cited the inevitable duplication of service that would result with several transit systems in existence and the costly fares involved in transferring between systems.

Don Lozen, representing the Center for Independent Living, also addressed the board. "A vote for SB 363 is a vote against the handicapped and a vote against the elderly," he said.

## LIT, OCC given Chrysler auto engines

Lawrence Institute of Technology and Oakland Community College were among 10 Michigan schools to receive a gift of a Chrysler 2.2-liter turbocharged engine to help support their engineering and automotive programs.

The gifts are part of a joint Garrett/Chrysler commemoration of the car maker's recent milestone of producing more than 500,000 turbocharged passenger cars.

The engines were presented to the schools' representatives by Frank M.

Clark, general manager of Power Train Operations at Chrysler, and Walt Ware, vice president and general manager at Garrett Turbocharger Division, a leading manufacturer of turbochargers. Garrett is part of the Allied Automotive division of Allied-Signal, Inc.

Other recipients were were Detroit's Cass Technical High School, Macomb Community College, Michigan State University, the University of Detroit, the University of Michigan, Wayne County Community College, Wayne State University, and Western Michigan University.

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