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MEDIA RELEASE

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Skating on Thin Ice

Ice on area ponds and lakes and in particular, Fairy Lake in Acton is still too thin for people to venture onto. Children and adults alike, need to heed the signs and warnings about staying off the ice as it is not yet thick enough to be on. A very popular spot for the venturous, Fairy Lake has a number of open-water areas for the waterfowl and the dam making a number of locations very dangerous to be near.

This past weekend, the Peterborough area investigated the death of at least one snowmobiler who plunged through ice that was still too thin. Children are a little less wary and are fairly eager to get onto the ice for a number of reasons. Using the lake as a shortcut to school or home is not a safe alternative to the sidewalk. Give the ice a bit more time before venturing out for shinny hockey, snowmobiling or ice-fishing. This is an opportune time for parents to have a family chat giving reminders about unsafe ice.

Year after year, tragedies occur because of people going onto the lakes before the ice is thick enough to support them. Whether it be walking, snowmobiling tor driving the vehicle to the fish hut, it is still too soon. It is also becoming more and more common to venture onto these areas at night with little to no visibility of open water.

Pay attention to weather reports, media warnings, municipal warning signage and if nobody else is out there, maybe that is telling you something as well.

To give you a little information about estimating ice thickness, Canada's Lifeguarding Experts recommend a **minimum 4 inches for walking, 6 inches for snowmobile and a further 8-12 inches for a vehicle.**

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