

# Fairy Lake ice fishing season opens

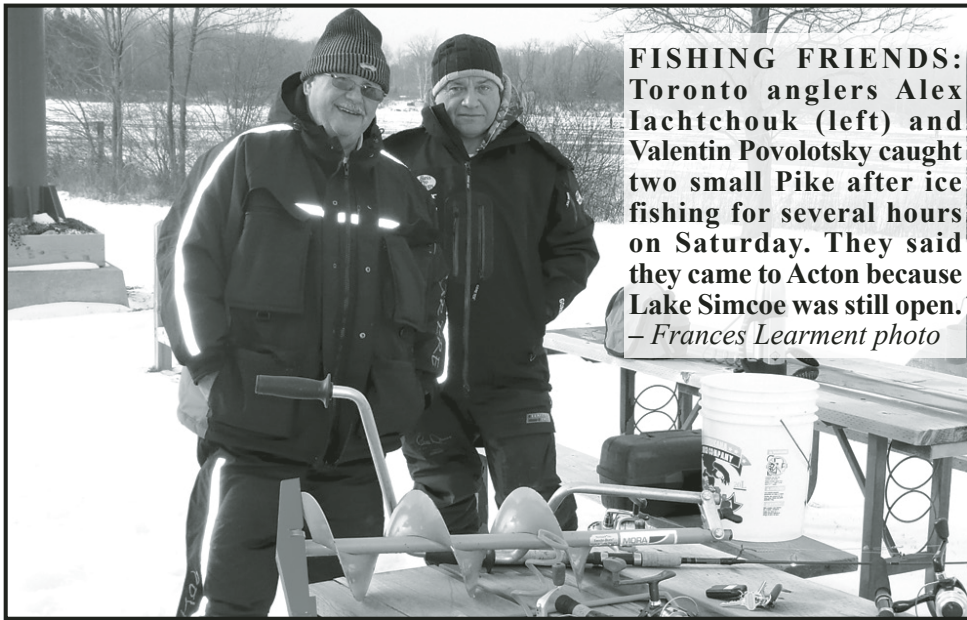
*“If you don’t know, don’t go”  
one angler cautions*

The ice was just 8-cm (3-inches) thick, and while 15-cm or almost six inches is the standard for safe walking, that didn’t stop approximately one dozen ice fishermen from venturing onto Fairy Lake on Saturday for the unofficial start of the Acton ice fishing season.

Acton fisherman Ted Saitz said he felt safe during his three hours on the lake, but added, “no ice is safe.” “The thickness is not uniform – it could be two inches somewhere else...like they say, ‘if you

don’t know, don’t go,’” Saitz said. He noted the ice thickness is checked every 10-feet or so by drilling or poking holes, and most ice fishermen wear survival suits with ice picks, and know that Fairy Lake is virtually current-free, except for the open water near the dam.

Saitz, a year-round angler who releases what he catches, including two 15-inch, one-pound Pikes on Saturday, said ice fishing in a hut provides “a different challenge” than fishing from a boat or the shore in



**FISHING FRIENDS:** Toronto anglers Alex Iachtchouk (left) and Valentin Povolotsky caught two small Pike after ice fishing for several hours on Saturday. They said they came to Acton because Lake Simcoe was still open. – Frances Learment photo

warmer weather, but is just as much fun. It will take all win-

ter for his fishing buddy Alex Iachtchouk to catch

tasty soup, half-joked Valentin Povolotsky on Saturday as the two To-

ronto men packed up in the Legion parking lot after fishing for five hours, catching two small pike.

“The water on (Lake) Simcoe is still open,” Povolotsky said when asked why they were ice fishing in Fairy Lake. “Last Saturday, I was told the ice here was unsafe,” Povolotsky said, but felt that the ice was now thick enough to be safe.

Although there were no signs of snowmobile tracks near the ice fishermen, across the lake to the Elizabeth Drive side, work was underway all weekend grooming a large rink built each year by the dad of several hockey players.

## When is ice safe?

When is ice thick enough for some fun, like walking, skating, snowmobiling or ice fishing? That depends on a variety of factors, according to the Canadian Red Cross,

15-cm (6-inches) for walking or skating alone and ice fishing

20-cm (8-inches) for skating parties or games

25-cm (10-inches) for

after calling for help, resist the immediate urge to climb back out where you fell in because the ice is weak in this area.

- Use the air trapped in your clothing to get into a floating position on your stomach and reach forward onto the broken ice without pushing down, kicking your legs to push your torso on the ice.

- When you are back on the ice, crawl on your stomach or roll away from the open area with your arms and legs spread out as far as possible to evenly distribute your body weight. Do not stand up but head for shore.

### Safest rescue

Rescuing another person from ice can be dangerous and the safest rescue is from shore. Call for help, and consider how fast trained professionals (police, fire fighters or ambulance) or bystanders can get there. If you can reach the person using a long pole or branch from shore, lie down and extend the pole to the person.



**FROZEN FUN:** A dozen ice fishermen drilled holes and set up huts on Fairy Lake on Saturday – the first time they felt the ice was thick enough to hold their weight. – Frances Learment photo

including the type of water, location, time of year and environmental factors like water depth and size of body of water, currents and tides.

Other factors include chemicals including salt, fluctuations in water levels, logs, rocks and docks that absorb heat from the sun, changing air temperature, and shock waves from vehicles travelling on the ice.

The colour of ice may be an indication of its strength with clear blue ice being the strongest. White, opaque or snow ice is half as strong as blue ice. Opaque ice is formed by wet snow freezing on the ice. Grey ice is unsafe – the greyiness indicating the presence of water.

The Red Cross says ice thickness should be:

snowmobiles.

### Life-saving tips

- Check with local authorities before heading out and avoid going out on ice at night. If you get into trouble on ice and you’re by yourself



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Halton District School Board

## School Year 2013-2014 Junior/Senior Kindergarten

### REGISTER NOW

**Note:** If your child is currently attending one of our schools for Junior Kindergarten, do not register for Senior Kindergarten.

Junior Kindergarten	Senior Kindergarten
must be 4 years old by December 31, 2013	must be 5 years old by December 31, 2013

To determine your designated home school, access our website [www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca) and click on the “Schools” tab, then “School Locator”. Call your designated school to find out which dates have been established for Kindergarten registration.

### Please bring the following original documents with you to register:

- Proof of address: lease or purchase agreement or current property tax bill.
- Proof of age: birth certificate or passport or baptismal/faith document for your child.
- Proof of citizenship: birth certificate or passport or Record of Landing (IMM 1000) or Permanent Resident card.
- Proof of immunization or philosophical or religious exemption forms (completed medical authorization where necessary).

If you are not the child’s parent, or if you have sole custody, please bring proof of custody (court order).

Parents should contact the Principal/Vice-principal if they require accessibility accommodations in order to register their child for kindergarten.

### Please register your child by February 19, 2013.

### For further information, please contact:

Phone: 905-335-3663  
Toll free: 1-877-618-3456

Burlington: ext.3294  
Halton Hills: ext.3435  
Milton: ext.3307  
Oakville: ext.3271

**Note:** The Ministry of Education is introducing the Early Learning Program (all day, every day kindergarten) over a five-year period. Information regarding which Halton schools will be participating in 2013-2014 is available at elementary schools and on the Halton District School Board website at [www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca)

If you require language assistance registering your student for school please contact Halton Multicultural Council (905) 842-2486.

Si necesita ayuda en su idioma para matricular a su hijo/a, por favor llame al Halton Multicultural Council (Centro Multicultural de Halton) al (905) 842-2486

如果您需要语言协助办理您学生的学校注册, 请联系荷顿多元文化中心 (905)842-2486

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إذا كنت تعاني من صعوبات أو مشاكل لغوية وتحتاج للمساعدة لتسجيل الطالب/الطالبة في المدرسة، الرجاء الاتصال بمجلس هالتون المتعدد الثقافات 905-842-2486 على الرقم: (Halton Multicultural Council)

