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# Skating on Thin Ice

Ice on area ponds and lakes and in particular, Fairy Lake is still too thin for people to venture onto and children and adults, need to pay attention to the signs and warnings about staying off the ice. 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.

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 like using the lake as a shortcut. 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.



Open water does not always appear when ice is thin.

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 or 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 four inches for walking, six inches for snowmobile and a further 8-12 inches for a vehicle.

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