

Skating Safety Alert: City Highlights Risks of Skating on Natural Water Bodies

MISSISSAUGA, January 13, 2011 – City of Mississauga cautions residents about skating on natural bodies of water such as rivers, streams and storm water management ponds.

“Skating on these ice surfaces is risky due to fluctuating water levels, rapid change in temperature, under ice water currents and potential salt content from runoff,” said Recreation and Parks director John Lohuis. “To ensure public safety, the City’s Parks Bylaw prohibits skating on ponds on City property which are posted as *Unsafe Ice Surface*.”

Lohuis added that residents of all ages can enjoy safe skating at any one of the City of Mississauga’s 12 indoor arenas on 25 ice pads and two outdoor artificial ice rinks during the 2011 winter season. The City offers skating lessons, ice-hockey and drop-in skating at convenient times and locations throughout Mississauga where people of all ages are encouraged to enjoy one of Canada’s favourite pastimes. The City also reminds the public to have their skates sharpened, wear weather appropriate clothing and a C.S.A. approved hockey helmet.

In addition to City ice surfaces, the City has 36 community natural ice rinks in Mississauga as of this date. The City’s Parks Division works with community volunteers and provides the rink boards, rink hut and shovels. Community volunteers provide the people power to prepare and maintain the rink. The conditions of the rink are, therefore, dependent on weather conditions and volunteer commitment.

Listings of rink locations can be accessed at www.mississauga.ca/rec&parks. Follow the “Skating” link to outdoor skating, or contact the City’s information telephone line by calling 311 (905-615-3411 if calling from outside city limits).

As Canada’s sixth largest city, Mississauga is home to 734,000 residents and 55,000 businesses, including 63 Fortune 500 companies with Canadian head offices or major divisional head offices. A diverse, progressive and award-winning municipality located on the shores of Lake Ontario in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area, Mississauga is one of Greater Toronto’s Top 90 Employers for 2010. Enhancing its citizens’ quality of life by providing superior services, revitalizing its infrastructure and conserving the environment, Mississauga is committed to innovation, operational excellence and fiscal responsibility which is reflected in its motto: “Leading Today for Tomorrow.”

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