

Councillor Request Inquiry #32-2021

2021

Historical Ice Condition Information

Please provide additional information regarding the tragic loss of life that occurred at Village on the Lake in the 1980s, including the month it occurred, any prior knowledge of thin ice conditions at the time, and information on any warning signage posted at the time.

On Tuesday, April 13, 1982 Strathcona County Emergency Services responded to a call involving two boys who had fallen into the water at Village on the Lake Stormwater Management Facility.

One boy was found promptly in open water near the east end of the lake and was taken to hospital. The second boy was found by divers approximately 5 hours later and was also taken to hospital. Tragically both boys did not survive.

The open water was on the East end of the lake near a storm sewer outlet or inlet.

Signage was posted at the lake warning "DANGER THIN ICE" (see attached photo and article).

Attached for additional information is a Government of Canada environment and climate report for April 1982.

Jeff Hutton

Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Services
Strathcona County Emergency Services



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

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Daily Data Report for April 1982

EDMONTON INT'L A ALBERTA

Latitude: 53°19'00.000" N **Longitude:** 113°35'00.000" W **Elevation:** 723.30 m
Climate ID: 3012205 **WMO ID:** 71123 **TC ID:** YEG

DAY	Max Temp °C 	Min Temp °C 	Mean Temp °C 	Heat Deg Days 	Cool Deg Days 	Total Rain mm 	Total Snow cm 	Total Precip mm 	Snow on Grnd cm 	Dir of Max Gust 10's deg	Spd of Max Gust km/h
<u>01</u>	-10.3	-16.7	-13.5	31.5	0.0	0.0	5.4	5.4	37	18	46E
<u>02</u>	-12.0	-25.7	-18.9	36.9	0.0	0.0	I	I	38		<31
<u>03</u>	-12.2	-27.4	-19.8	37.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	38	13	39E
<u>04</u>	-10.2	-21.0	-15.6	33.6	0.0	0.0	I	I	38		<31
<u>05</u>	-4.5	-16.7	-10.6	28.6	0.0	0.0	I	I	38		<31
<u>06</u>	-3.9	-16.4	-10.2	28.2	0.0	0.0	I	I	38		<31
<u>07</u>	-2.0	-18.4	-10.2	28.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	37		<31
<u>08</u>	6.2	-7.8	-0.8	18.8	0.0	I	I	I	37	31	83E
<u>09</u>	0.3	-11.8	-5.8	23.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	34	15	41E
<u>10</u>	4.4	-3.9	0.3	17.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	34		<31
<u>11</u>	5.1	-4.7	0.2	17.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	32		<31
<u>12</u>	3.0	-6.1	-1.6	19.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	32	13	31E
<u>13</u>	7.5	-1.8	2.9	15.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	29	30	41E
<u>14</u>	3.5	-3.5	0.0	18.0	0.0	0.0	6.8	6.8	26	27	76E
<u>15</u>	7.0	-2.2	2.4	15.6	0.0	0.0	I	I	25	29	59E
<u>16</u>	6.4	-4.7	0.9	17.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16		<31
<u>17</u>	8.8	-4.8	2.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12	32	44E
<u>18</u>	5.5	-2.2	1.7	16.3	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	9	32	50E
<u>19</u>	6.7	-4.9	0.9	17.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4		<31
<u>20</u>	10.6	-1.8	4.4	13.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3		<31
<u>21</u>	18.1	0.1	9.1	8.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2		<31
<u>22</u>	19.4	-0.4	9.5	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	I		<31
<u>23</u>	16.4	1.7	9.1	8.9	0.0	2.0	0.2	2.2	I	34	78E
<u>24</u>	7.4	-0.2	3.6	14.4	0.0	0.0	I	I	I	29	48E
<u>25</u>	12.4	-4.2	4.1	13.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	I		<31
<u>26</u>	16.5	0.2	8.4	9.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	I		<31
<u>27</u>	20.1	-2.6	8.8	9.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	I		<31
<u>28</u>	18.6	0.7	9.7	8.3	0.0	I	0.0	I	I	27	61E
<u>29</u>	11.8	0.6	6.2	11.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	I	29	106E
<u>30</u>	14.9	-2.4	6.3	11.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	I		<31
Sum				556.5	0.0	2.0	14.4	16.4			
Avg	5.9	-7.0	-0.6								
Xtrm	20.1	-27.4								29	106
Summary, average and extreme values are based on the data above.											

Legend

- A = Accumulated
- C = Precipitation occurred, amount uncertain
- E = Estimated
- F = Accumulated and estimated
- L = Precipitation may or may not have occurred
- M = Missing
- N = Temperature missing but known to be > 0

- S = More than one occurrence
- T = Trace
- Y = Temperature missing but known to be < 0
- [empty] = Indicates an unobserved value
- ^ = The value displayed is based on incomplete data
- † = Data that is not subject to review by the National Climate Archives

Date modified:

2021-11-16

B2 EDMONTON JOURNAL, Thursday, April 15, 1982

A.M.

Artificial lake claims two boys, 4

By RICHARD HELM
and TOM BARRETT

Two four-year-old boys died Tuesday night after falling into the icy waters of a man-made lake in a Sherwood Park subdivision.

The body of John David Whenham was found about 7:30 p.m. in open water near the eastern end of the five-acre lake, the central feature of the new Village on the Lake subdivision.

The Whenham boy was rushed to University Hospital but revival attempts proved hopeless and he was pronounced dead soon afterwards.

The body of the second child, Aaron Campbell, was recovered at 12:53 a.m., after a five-hour search by scuba divers. He was pronounced dead on arrival at University Hospital.

Both boys lived near the lake, said Sherwood Park RCMP Cpl. Dennis Grotkowski.

Cpl. Grotkowski said voices had been heard in the lake area as late as 7 p.m. He speculated the boys had been playing on the lake ice and fell in a patch of open water near a storm sewer outlet.

Shocked residents of the subdivision called the accident the realization of everyone's deepest fear.

"I was worried all winter that something like this would happen," said Jean Yaremkevich, a mother with two small children.

"I kept having this nightmare about someone getting stuck under the ice and being unable to get out," she said.

"I'm so terribly upset about it. We all are."

Parents in the subdivision are constantly telling their children to stay away from the lake. Warning signs are clearly posted but many children still play by the water and on the ice.

"You know what kids are like when they get in a group," Mrs. Yaremkevich said.

Terry Hollimon, 8, says his father, Edmonton Eskimo football player Joe Hollimon, reminded him again this morning to stay away from the lake.

"I've only skated on it once and I never will again," he said.

Duane Hanis says he has forbidden his two small children to play by the lake but they still go sometimes.



Subdivision residents like lake but say it is a hazard

"I've caught them there a few times and they paid for it," he said.

Most parents say they like having a lake in their neighborhood even if it is a potential hazard.

"I love it," Mrs. Yaremkevich said.

"It's very beautiful — but it's dangerous."

Divers from the County of Strathcona fire department battled murky conditions and four-degree temperatures during the search.

"In that water, you can't see your hand if you touch your eye with it," Cpl. Grotkowski said.

Gordon Ross, one of three volunteer divers called in to spell the fire department team, had

been in the water only about 10 minutes when he found the body.

Three sharp tugs on a rescue line alerted those on shore of the discovery, and the boy's body was hauled from the river and rushed to a waiting ambulance within seconds.

Mr. Ross, a member of the Edmonton Wing Divers Club, said he has helped out on several such searches.

Sipping a hot cup of coffee with fellow divers, he said there was little luck involved in his quick recovery.

"Luck, I don't know if you'd call it luck or not — I've found too many," he said grimly.