



LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

Spring Water Awareness

The seasonal transformation from winter to spring creates unpredictable change to local waterways. Yet, as our rivers, lakes, and streams change, too often people continue their winter activities on the waterways. This leads to many accidents in which people, especially children, face life threatening hypothermia, and in some cases fatalities.

During the spring season, water currents are strong and dangerously cold. Ice conditions change daily, becoming thin and weak, and river banks are often slippery. Lower Trent's Conservation's basic message is to stay away from water and play safe during the spring season to prevent any tragedy from facing our communities. If children learn to recognize the dangerous areas in their neighbourhood and remember to stay away, accidents will be prevented.

Key Messages for Children

- You cannot tell the thickness of ice by just looking at it. Therefore, always have an adult check if the ice is thick enough before playing on it.
- Never play by water when you are alone, especially dams or water control structures.
- Always tell an adult where you are playing and when you'll be home.
- Always read, understand, and follow warning signs near water.
- For all water-related emergencies, call 911 or get a parent or guardian.

Children and water-related accidents facts:

- On average, 20 children needlessly drown every year in Ontario.
- 68% of water related rescue cases involve a child.
- 4 out of 5 children who drown in Canada enter the water unintentionally.
- 41% of parents in Ontario believe they can effectively supervise a child in the water without constantly watching them.

