



December 13, 2022

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Ice Monitoring and Ice Guarding - Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

This memo is to provide you with an overview of the approach to monitoring ice hazards and the associated ice lifeguarding. As temperatures drop Aquatic Services staff monitor and provide public awareness regarding ice accumulations at lakes and ponds in parks across the City.

Monitoring begins once temperatures drop a few degrees below zero overnight and remain low throughout the daytime for three or more consecutive days. For example, staff began monitoring the most recent ice conditions commencing December 2 at Trout Lake. The following sites are monitored as ice conditions develop:

- Jericho east and west ponds
- Vanier upper and lower ponds
- Beaver Lake
- Devoneon
- Lost Lagoon
- Ponds around the aquarium
- Sun Yet Sen Gardens
- Trout Lake
- Everett Crowley
- Queen Elizabeth Park upper and lower ponds
- Charleston
- Granville Island ponds at the entrance

When is it safe to go on the ice?

Ice needs to reach 18-21 centimetres (7-8 inches) of thickness before it is safe to walk on. This is based on guidelines from the Lifesaving Society and Red Cross.

Board of Parks & Recreation Ice Safety Response

When ice forms at any of these locations “Danger Thin Ice” signs are posted. Working with Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS), staff share the ice response plan and communicate mitigation measures that are implemented and in particular work closely with fire hall #9 (Grandview-Woodlands) due to the proximity to water bodies.



When ice reaches a thickness of 8 cm (3 inches) lifeguards are deployed to three key locations: Jericho, Lost Lagoon and Trout Lake. The roll of the lifeguards is to focus on prevention and education; they are equipped with rescue equipment should there be cause to perform a rescue. Staffing at these three sites continues until the ice melts.

As weather drops, Park Board Communications staff provide information and updates on social media regarding the thin ice hazard and the City of Vancouver amplifies these messages via City channels. As we approach the holidays another cold weather front is anticipated, and therefore messaging and monitoring will commence, as outlined in this memo.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Donnie Rosa". The signature is somewhat scribbled and loops around.

Donnie Rosa (*they/she*)
General Manager - Parks and Recreation

/pf/sk/jk

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
Peter Fox, Tony Syskakis & Tanya Donaldson
PB Communications