

Feb 1, 2022

Township of Havelock Belmont Methuen  
For urgent attention of Members of Council

**Follow up Regarding Winter Safety Concern on Jack Lake**

This is further to my letter of Jan 27. I did listen in to the video discussions this morning at your Council meeting at which time a motion was put forward and supported by Council to pass this serious hazard issue over to the Jack Lake Association (JLA).

The reason I actually wrote to you was that JLA did not favorably respond to my suggestion that they write you to install signs... and indicated that they would and since did.... issue a warning communication to JLA members who would make up a small fraction of the snowmobilers affected that are at serious potential risk.

As you heard from JLA President Alex Kostiw, JLA does not intent to take on this safety risk issue but does support need to have signs installed but not by JLA and clearly indicated to Council that this this safety issues should be addressed by local or provincial governments. I agree. Cottage association role through volunteers should not involve taking on the responsibility and liability of any level of government.

I am struggling to understand which level of government will step up and do the right thing before another tragedy occurs.

We also have learned over the years that the jurisdiction on lakes is complex and sometime shared with various government levels which is called concurrent jurisdiction. These thin ice signs are common in Ontario waterways and surely this is not the first time a dangerous ice



condition has been recognized by “government” installing warning signs.

I am also researching information with objective to develop a long-term solution which is very challenging and may involve HBM going forward.



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