WATERFRONT SAFETY

BEACH SAFETY

During the summer months in Wasaga Beach many residents and tourists flock to the world's longest freshwater beach to swim, wade and enjoy the water.

WASAGA BEACH WATERFRONT SAFETY

- Safety signs are marked with 911 call referencing points.
- Provision of life saving equipment available.
- Waterfront Safety Brochures are available at Town Hall, the RecPlex, Public Library, Chamber of Commerce Arena and the Firehall.
- Beachfront Maintenance is targeted to provide a safe beach and swimming environment.
- Beach Area One designated swimming area is marked by a series of buoys. **Swimmers should not go beyond these buoys.** These buoys designate a "keep-out" area for boats and watercrafts.
- Ontario Parks provides a PFD loner program at all Ontario Parks gates and the Parks Office. Program requires a deposit

UNSUPERVISED WATERFRONTS

An unsupervised waterfront is an area that is suitable and used for swimming where no safety supervisionis provided. **Children require direct supervision by an adult.**

Any site deficiencies at Beach Areas 1-6 should be reported to the Provincial Parks office by calling **(705) 429-2516**

BE WATER SMART

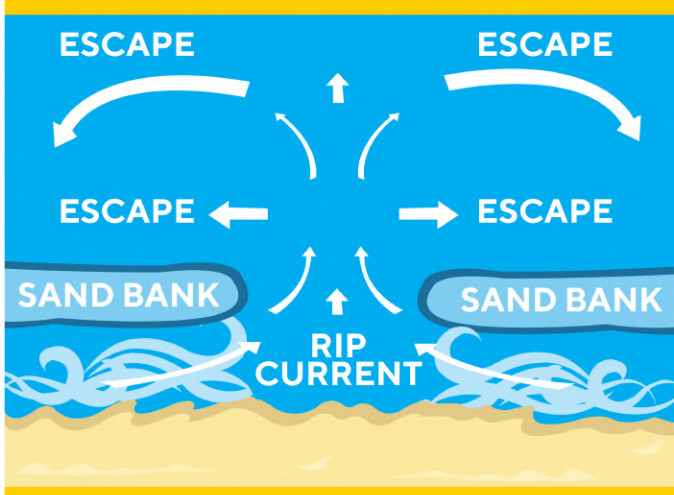
- **Watch your children at all times** never leave them alone in or near water. Keep them within arm's reach.
- **Avoid distractions**, such as; meal preparation, equipment set-up or packing. Watch your children not your phone!
- **Know your swimming limitations and stay within them.** Don't try to keep up with more experienced or stronger swimmers.
- **Never swim alone**. Use the buddy system. Always swim with a friend and watch out for each other.
- **Stay dry when waves are high**. White water/waves as little as 2-3 feet high can generate dangerous currents.
- **Beware of changing bottom conditions**. Sandbars often have deep water in-between them.
- **Never dive in shallow water**, it can result in serious injury or death.
- **In emergency situations call 911**. Always have access to a cellular phone while at the waterfront, know your location or reference point to easily direct first responders.
- **Beware of offshore winds**. Wind can blow toys and balls out into the deeper water where children tend to follow.
- **Don't consume drugs or alcohol** before or while swimming. Alcohol impairs your abilities and judgment.
- **Learn lifesaving and first aid skills** so you can help yourself and others.
- **Weak swimmers and young children should wear a a properly sized life jacket** or personal flotation device (PFD).
- **When thunder roars, go indoors**. Stop all activities, seek shelter and wait 30 minutes after storm to resume activity. Check weather conditions before going to the beach.

THE NOTTAWASAGA RIVER AND POINT ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR SWIMMING OR WADING

Dangerous conditions such as rip currents and undertows are common in this area while off shore breezes frequently put individuals who use inflatables and personal flotation devices (PFD) in emergency situations. Drop-offs in the river have proven fatal to able bodied adults. Serious injury or death may result from swimming or wading in the river and around the point.

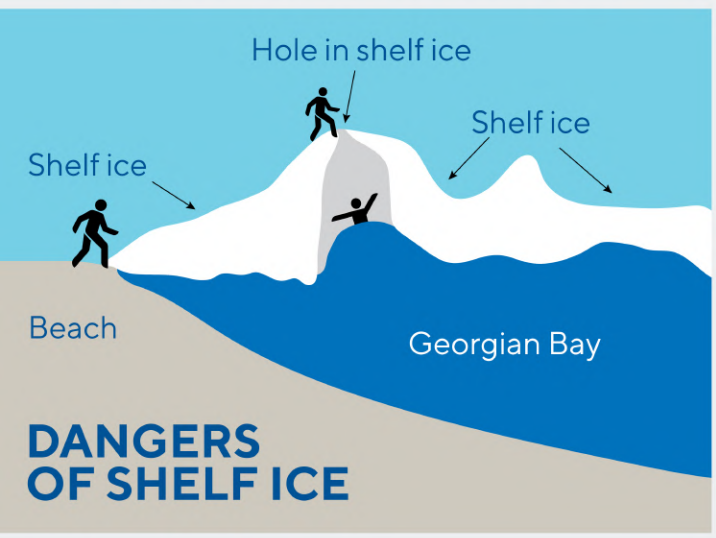
WATER CONDITIONS IN GEORGIAN BAY ARE KNOWN TO CHANGE RAPIDLY

- **Off Shore Breeze:** When winds are moving towards a body of water making conditions for inflatables dangerous. These conditions are most dangerous for nonswimmers the further they get from shore.
- **On Shore Breeze:** When winds are blowing from a body of water towards land.
- **Rip Currents:** Strong, usually narrow, surface currents flowing outward from a shore that results from the return flow of waves and wind-driven water.



- **Under Tow:** When waves break on the beach, a large uprush and backwash of water and sand are generated; this outward-flowing water/sand mixture is pulled strongly into the next breaking wave. Beachgoers feel like they are being sucked underwater when the wave breaks over their head – this is undertow.

DANGEROUS WINTER CONDITIONS



DANGERS OF SHELF ICE

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS COMPLETELY SAFE ICE. ALWAYS EXERCISE EXTREMECAUTION WHEN AROUND FROZEN LAKES.

TIPS

- **Be suspicious.** You cannot tell the strength of the ice by its appearance.
- **Check reported conditions.** Before you head onto any ice, check with a local marina operator or snowmobile club for known ice conditions.
- **Avoid traveling on ice at night.** Clear hard ice is the only kind of ice recommended for travel; keep away from unfamiliar paths or unknown ice.
- **Suit up.** If you must venture onto the ice, wear a thermal protection buoyant suit to increase your chances of survival if you fall through.

AVOID

- **Thawed ice** that has recently refrozen.
- **Slushy, layered or rotten ice** caused by sudden temperature changes.
- **Ice near moving water** (i.e., rivers or currents).
- **Never go on the ice alone.** A buddy may be able to rescue you or go for help if you get into trouble.
- **Inform someone** before you leave shore of your destination and expected time of return.
- **Assemble a safety kit** to carry with you. Your kit should include a whistle, rope, ice pick and a cellular phone.