

Helen Tulk Elementary School

Bishop's Falls, NL

Back It Up

Safety Challenge

A Collection of True Stories of  
Accidents That Have Happened Right Here in  
Newfoundland

Written by:

Grade Four Students

In Mrs. Cooke's Class

December 2010

One week ago, we had employees of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro visit our school to talk about safety. What they had to say really made sense ... whenever we start to do something (and it really could be anything from going fishing, going hunting, going to bed - or whatever!) we should always take a few minutes to think about the possible dangers that may be there! Then think that you will be extra careful and will avoid those dangers ... doing this, would definitely lessen the chances of having an accident!

If an accident does happen, hopefully people will know what to do! The stories contained here are all true. Hearing about them might also help others avoid having the same kinds of accidents!

The words here are our own ... the pictures were borrowed from the Internet to help illustrate what the stories are about ... we hope you enjoy reading them!



## A Fall on A Winter's Day

by Kristopher Morgan

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004, my pop decided to go upon his roof to shovel off the snow. The night before, there had been a light snowfall which made everything slippery. Pop soon realized just how slippery it was. First he climbed the ladder and then he took one step over the peak. He did not know that there was ice underneath the snow. He slid down the middle of the roof and could not stop. He fell off the roof and landed on the sidewalk which he had just shovelled. It was a bad fall. He was rushed to the hospital and he had two crushed heels, two broken ankles and he had to have a rod put into his right leg. He is really lucky that he is still alive and can walk. I am very glad that he can still take me rabbit hunting.



## A Regular Old Day!

by Mackenzie Roberts

Two summers ago my cousin Justin was home from B.C. for a visit. My dad thought it would be nice to take him for a ride in boat as he had never been in one before. The two of them put their life jackets on and got into the boat. They rode up the river for about two kilometres. My dad then decided that they would turn around and head back home. When he turned the boat it tilted to one side. My cousin Justin (not being in a boat before) thought they were going to tip over. So he got afraid and moved to the opposite side of the boat. When he did, the boat tilted causing my dad to flip out of the boat and into the river. Justin was still in the boat with it going around and around in circles and he did not know how to turn off the motor or how to steer it. Dad's rubber boots had filled with water and it was making it hard for him to keep afloat even though he had a life jacket on. My cousin finally got the boat turned off and got the boat over to my dad. He pulled him by the back of the jacket into the boat. My dad was exhausted, and said if it weren't for Justin pulling him into the boat he would not have had the strength to do so himself. He started the boat up and headed back home. For Justin it was a bad experience and one he will never forget.



## My Story

by Jenna Saunders

My mom once told me that she knew a man that went on ski-doo. It was night and he didn't know where he was going! After crashing through the ice, he was sinking, and could not get on top of the ice. He must have got hyperthermia because he ended up dying. People should test the thickness of the ice before going on it and they should know where they are going so they can avoid dangerous places. Certainly they should avoid the ice if it is not safe.



## The Skidoo Accident

### by Patrick Carroll

One day my cousin Nathan was on his skidoo. He was driving too fast. He went around the turn and lost control. He slammed into a tree. He went over the handle bars and was injured. Nathan hurt his leg and had a lot of bruises. The skis were really damaged and he now has to get a new skidoo.

Lesson: Drive carefully when you are on a skidoo. If you drive too fast, you can have an accident and hurt yourself and others!



## Be Careful When You Climb !

By Jake Jones

I was with my two friends, Marcel and Nick. We were in our club and we were going to get something over a gate. When I tried to lean over Marcel, his hand got stuck in the gate. When we looked, he was badly hurt. His muscle was torn! Nick went to get help. I stayed back with Marcel and tried to comfort him until help arrived. From that day on, no one ever hopped over the gate again.

Lesson: When you are playing outside, take a few minutes to look around and see what dangers are there. What things could cause harm to someone? If we had done that, on that day, we may have stayed away from the gate!



## What Not To Do With a Chip Fryer Fire!

by Aaron Snow

Fire! Fire! In the chip fryer! One day the cord on the chip fryer caught on fire. My cousin Patrick said, "Melinda - your chip fryer is on fire!" My brother was frantically pointing to the fire extinguisher! My mom panicked and got a dish towel and tried to smother the fire but it only made it bigger! My cousin Emily thought quickly and got all of the kids outdoors. Then my mom took the burning fryer outdoors and started putting water on it. Luckily, the fire was already out because if it wasn't, we were told that throwing water only would have made the fire bigger.

So, if your chip fryer catches on fire don't do what my mom did - Throwing water on a fat fire will only make the fire bigger!



## How I Broke My Wrist

by Jacob Dunphy

One day when I was at my sitters, I went to my friend's house to play outside. We played hide and seek with lots of kids. As I was running on the grass beside a house, I tripped on a rock. I fell on my wrist and it hurt. I went to my sitters and called my mom at work. She came and took me to the hospital. A doctor took x-rays on my wrist and he said it was broken. It felt weird that I actually had a bone broke. The doctor put a cast on. I could not play hockey for six weeks. I hope I do not break any more bones!



## The Wood Stove Fire

by Jade Harnum

It was a dark and stormy night. It was wintertime and my Nan, my Pop and my Mom were all gone to bed. My cat woke up in the middle of the night and started to meow. There was a wood stove in the porch and one of the sparks had flown out, landed on a log and caught on fire! My cat came into my Nan's room and woke her up. My Nan thought that the cat wanted to go outside and got out of bed. When she did, she found the fire! She went to get my Pop to go and do something. My Nan was pointing at the fire extinguisher but my pop took the oven mitts and took the log and threw it outside. Luckily he was not hurt and our house did not burn down. There are several lessons to be learned ... listen to your pet! ... always have a fire extinguisher and be sure to use it if there is a fire.



## A Skidoo Accident

by Noah Hynes

One day a man and his wife were going on skidoo. They stopped at a friend's cabin and stayed there visiting. Around midnight, they decided to leave and go back to their own cabin. Days later it was discovered that the couple was missing. Searchers found a terrible sight. The couple had gone through the ice and were both dead. Apparently, the wind came up and the couple lost their bearings going home. They did not know that they were headed for open water but they were. They both drowned and there was no one there to help them. No one had even known that they did not make it back to their cabin!

Lesson: Always let someone know where you are going on skidoo. If the weather turns bad and there is poor visibility, stay where it is safe.



## The Almost Accident

By Selena Pelley

One day I was outside playing with a couple of my friends and one was being mean. My friend pushed me and I was really mad. We were close to the road and so I was pushed in front of an oncoming car! Before I knew it, the car struck me! I broke my arm and I had some bruises but it could have been much worse.

Lesson: Be very careful when you are playing outside. Do not play around roads. If you are close to a road, watch out for the cars! Don't have fights - no one ever wins and someone can be seriously hurt!



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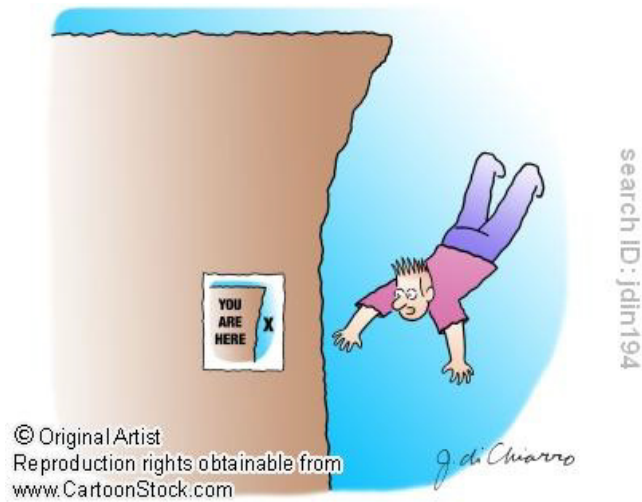
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## A Day That Will Never Be Forgotten!

By Victoria Pretty

It was a dark day in my family's memory. One they will never forget. It was December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1989 and my dad had just moved home from Ontario. The first thing he did when he got off the plane was to go visit his brother's house to see his two nephews and niece (My dad used to babysit them when they were first born). After visiting them, he decided to take a long walk home to his parent's house so that he could get some sleep after his long flight. My aunt and uncle had both gone to work that morning so my dad stayed with the kids until the babysitter arrived. Tammy (the sitter) was great with the kids - she loved them and they loved her. My dad said good bye to 3 year-old Adam, almost 2 year-old Robyn, and 10 month-old Kyle and headed off to his house. When my dad reached home my Nan told him that she had just gotten a call saying that Robyn had to be taken to the hospital! She had choked on a wiener, her favourite food! The ambulance driver tried to help but it was too late. The lack of air was too long and after being air lifted to the Janeway, they said she would not get better. Though the life support machines could save her body, her brain was already dead. Her parents had to decide if they would keep her on life support or not. With no hope that she would live, they decided to donate her heart, liver, and kidneys so that others could live. Robyn died but three other children survived because of her organs. With her birthday and Christmas only days away, her presents were wrapped but were never opened.

**\*\*\* When feeding young children, always cut weiners lengthwise - not into round slices !**



## My Accident

by Ashton Elliott

One day my friends and I went to the store to get some candy. We took our treats behind the store to look at the river. Nathan did not like his toy so he tossed it over the bank and me and Jacob decided to go get it. I tripped on a rock and fell over the cliff! When I got up I was covered in blood and my friend and I were scared! I ended up having to get stitches on my head!

Remember: Do not play near dangerous cliffs!



## Power Tool Safety

by Ryan Carey

One day my pop Carey was building a bridge for my Nan Guy. He was cutting boards with his tablesaw and he did not have the guard on. He cut his finger very badly and he had to go to the hospital and get stitches. The moral of this story is to use proper safety equipment when using power tools!



## The Microwave Accident

by Jennifer Saunders

My mom was making a baked potato and the microwave caught on fire. If I never went into the kitchen at the time, and told my mom, my house would have caught on fire! So be very careful with your microwave oven - it could be damaged somehow and you may not know it. Never leave it unattended.

## A Day to Remember

Back in the 1920s, there was a terrible gun accident. A father had just given his 15 year old son, his rifle so that he could go off hunting. The boy went into his house before leaving, and took the gun with him. All of a sudden, the gun went off. The bullet travelled up through the ceiling above his head. It then went through the floor of the bedroom upstairs and through a baseboard. The bullet went through a feather mattress and incredibly, there was a girl sleeping on the bed and the bullet hit her too! When the father came running into the house to see what had caused the explosion, he was horrified to find that the bullet had entered his little girl's throat and then passed through the side of her face! It was a terrible accident and a doctor from Fogo came to help! He knew that she needed help from a surgeon, if she were going to survive. The only way she could get to the surgeon was if she could leave Fogo Island and get to Twillingate. Luckily, a sealing vessel was there and the captain ordered an immediate departure. It was wintertime and to everyone's dismay, the ship could not go all the way because of the ice. People on the mainland had to put out a dory to get to the ship to get the little girl. It was hard work, but they were finally able to bring her back to shore where a doctor waited in his motorized snow machine. He brought her to the hospital, took an x-ray and saw that the shell had dislodged 20 pellets into the child's face and throat! For hours, he operated and tried to remove what he could ... a newspaper article wrote that he was able to remove 17 pellets and many feathers. 3 pellets were too close to her vocal cords to remove. For a while, it looked like she would not live but a guardian angel must have been watching and the girl miraculously survived. Her face was disfigured but it didn't really matter because she got married, had children and lived a long and happy life. Who would have ever thought that back then, almost 100 years ago, this girl would have survived such an incredible experience?

Lesson: Never play with guns - they are very dangerous and even if you are working on the guns - cleaning them, loading them, etc., you have to be extremely careful ... make sure that an adult is there to supervise and teach gun safety.

(This story happened to Ms. Cull's aunt ... we have a newspaper clipping of this from 1921!)