


10 Parting Thoughts Brought to You by Manitoba's Lifesaving and Lifeguarding Experts

1. Alcohol and drugs kill. There is never a place for these substances in any water-related activity. Incidents involving drugs and alcohol are completely preventable. Manitoba would have fewer adult water-related fatalities if all of us made smart choices.
2. Parents need to remember that they are their child's best lifeguard. Keep your child Within Arms' Reach. No one cares more for your child's safety than you do, and no one can make as big of a difference as you.
3. Boating regulations have helped; but only through education and enforcement can we ensure that all Manitoba boaters remain safe. Manitoba needs more of each of these approaches to public safety.
4. Personal Floatation Devices save lives. Parents, a child learning to swim in a PFD often learns quicker and with more confidence. These devices can save lives only when used. Put it on!
5. Knowledgeable swimmers with strong skills are far less likely to drown. Take swimming lessons to heart. They are an excellent pastime for children in terms of both physical fitness and lifesaving skills.
6. Take lifesaving courses to improve understanding of the risks involved in water-related activities and how to keep you and yours safe. Remember, the life you save may be your own.
7. The least amount of fatalities occurs in areas supervised by professional staff. Choose these areas for your aquatic activities.
8. Drowning is not a summer only issue. Ice safety needs to be top of everyone's mind when on or near the ice in the winter months.
9. Everyone's backyard should be a little piece of paradise. Don't let a backyard pool tragedy change this. Have the safety equipment and rules you'll need to be safe. Remember, at home you're the lifeguard.
10. Feet first, the first time. Head and neck injuries due to diving into unsafe waters are still a major concern in Canada. This includes many backyard pools, as well as unknown waters.

 **LIFESAVING SOCIETY®**
The Lifeguarding Experts

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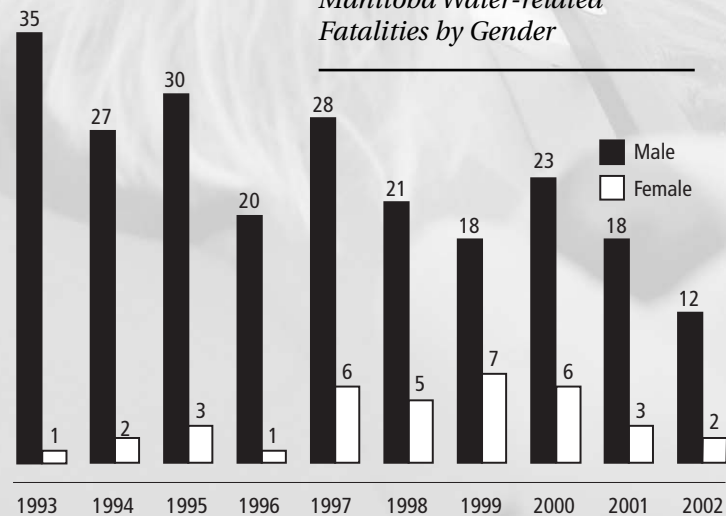
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The Lifesaving Society is a national volunteer based charitable organization which works to prevent drownings and water-related incidents through its training programs, public education, research and consultation. Business number for charitable donations: 11912 9047 RR0001

The Lifesaving Society acknowledges assistance in preparing the Manitoba Drowning Report from the Offices of the Chief Medical Examiner and the Canadian Red Cross Society.

Manitoba Water-related Fatalities by Gender



Manitoba Drowning Report

A review of Manitoba's water-related fatalities in 2002

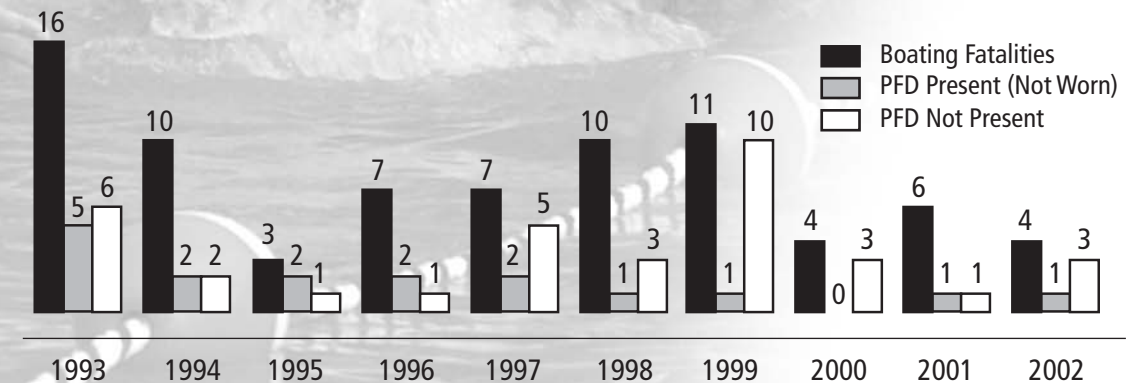
Quick Stats on Water-related Fatalities in 2002

- > A total of 14 water-related fatalities
- > 2 were female and 12 were male
- > All drowning fatalities under the age of 30 were males
- > Children under 13 and adults over 50 were more likely to drown in the morning, with adolescents and young adults being more likely to drown in the afternoon and evening
- > Of all drowning fatalities in 2002, 60% occurred in less than two metres of water
- > Only one drowning occurred after dark
- > 71% of drowning fatalities occurred between May 1st, and August 31st
- > Four persons in 2002 drowned due to boating incidents, all male, with none of them wearing PFDs
- > 75% of all boating fatalities involved individuals who had some swimming ability
- > 50% of boating fatalities occurred due to persons falling overboard
- > 50% of boating fatalities involved a non-powered craft
- > Only one person drowned in 2002 under the supervision of a lifeguard
- > There were no water-related fatalities associated to snowmobiles

Quick Stats on Water-related Fatalities over the Last 10 Years

- > 75% of all water-related fatalities occurred in natural settings such as lakes, ponds, or rivers. Only three water-related fatalities in the last 10 years have occurred in public swimming pools
- > In 2002 and on average in the past ten years, 29% of drowning fatalities were boating related
- > Over the past ten years, Sundays had the highest incident of drowning represented by 22% of recorded fatalities
- > Over the past seven years there was an absence of adult supervision in 52% of drowning fatalities
- > Only 2.6% of drowning fatalities have occurred under lifeguard supervision

A History of Manitoba Boating Fatalities and PFD Usage



WANTED: Manitoba Needs More Lifesavers

The Lifesaving Society has always advocated training in lifesaving as well as the importance of learning to swim and the need has never been more evident.

- > In 2001, 38% of water-related fatalities had a rescue attempted. In 2002 this number increased to 50%.
- > In 2002, non-professional rescuers performed 91% of these rescues with almost half considered to be high-risk rescues. A companion or someone the victim knew performed 86% of attempted rescues.

It should be the goal of every Canadian to ensure they can swim and every swimmer should have some lifesaving training. The Lifesaving Society's Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross courses have been teaching these skills for more than 100 years to Canadians.

Boating and Alcohol DO NOT MIX!

2002 saw alcohol-related fatalities remain at a high level for adults. This trend actually extended to children 13 years of age and older as well. Of the 14 water-related fatalities in 2002, 43% involving individuals 13 years or older were alcohol-related and 37% were drug-related. This is an incredibly alarming statistic. With the efforts of many enforcement, public health, and educational agencies expending significant energy targeting this area, very little change is the last thing we had hoped to see.

The Manitoba Lifesaving Society in conjunction with our National Branches and Affiliates has worked to promote water safety education in these areas. For more information or to find out how you can help, please contact the Lifesaving Society at 956-2124.

BOATING: A Leading Cause of Water-Related Fatalities; Yet Very Preventable

Boating remains one of the leading causes of water-related fatalities in Manitoba. This trend remains even after tougher regulations surrounding the operation of pleasure craft were implemented in April of 1999. Most boating fatalities involved swimmers, with no Personal Flotation Device (PFD). These are situations that many boaters can see themselves in. Remember that drowning is not dictated by bad weather or poor swimming ability. Every man, woman, and child needs a PFD, every time.

- > The same impaired driving laws that apply to you in your car apply in your boat.
- > There needs to be an appropriate sized PFD for each member in your party; wearing a PFD can help save your life.
- > Manitoba waterways are diverse and challenging to navigate. Exercise caution in unfamiliar waters, and remember that even familiar waters can change each year.

Profile of Some Typical Drowning Victims

Are you at risk? Do you know what to look for to prevent water-related incidents? Lifeguards; do you know your swimming public?

Here are some profiles of drowning victims in Manitoba.

Alcohol and Drugs

Alcohol affects judgment and physical abilities; two areas that are critical in survival during a water-related incident. With 43% of individuals over 13 years of age being affected by alcohol and 37% by drugs, more people need to understand the impact these substances can have on our safety.

Unattended Children

In 2002, there was a reduction in the number of children 12 and under who died due to water-related incidents. Although this is positive, the Lifesaving Society maintains that only through continued efforts in education, supervision, and learning lifesaving skills can this trend be continued.

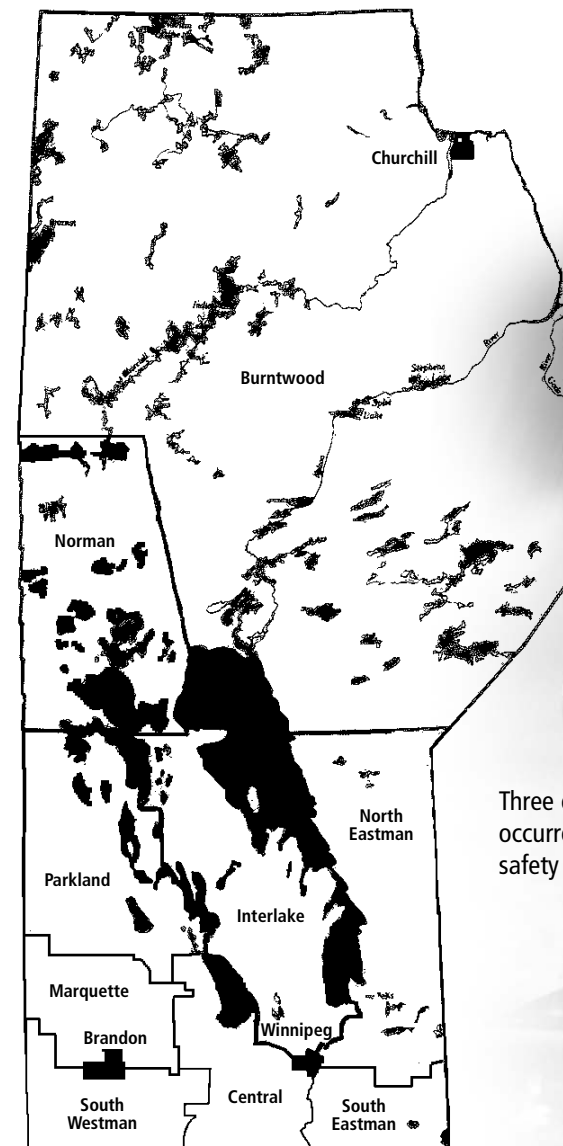
Even a momentary lapse in adult supervision can result in a tragic end. Please keep your children safe; keep them Within Arms' Reach®.

Boaters of all Ages

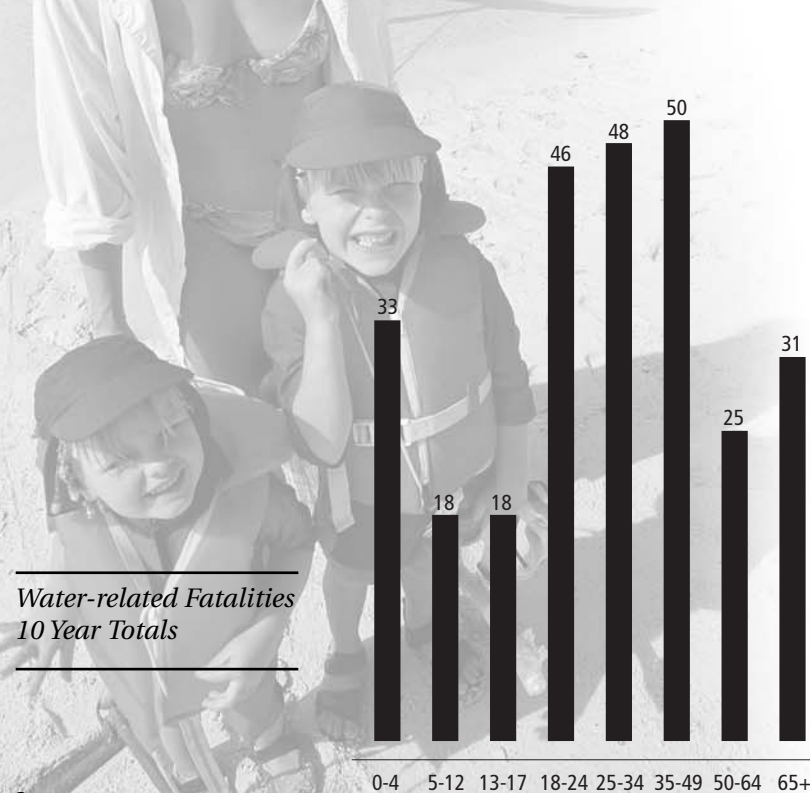
Even experienced boaters are at risk. Calm water and good weather are still be a deadly situation. Take Boat Operator Accredited Training™ (BOAT). Remember; ALL boaters must hold certification by 2009.

Find Supervised Areas to Enjoy Manitoba Waters

In 2002, only one of the 14 fatalities occurred in an area supervised by lifeguards. These supervised areas still represent the safest places for you and your family.



Three out of 14 fatalities or 21% of incidents occurred in the bathtub. Remember that water safety must occur in every setting, every time.



Water-related Fatalities 10 Year Totals