Erasers not included

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News / GTA

Teen dies after falling at Uxbridge ski resort

A teenage boy died in hospital Saturday after suffering a serious head injury while skiing in Uxbridge.



YOUTUBE IMAGE

Skiers and snowboarders enjoy the hills at Lakeridge Ski Resort, in Uxbridge, in this image taken from YouTube. A 16-year-old boy died in hospital Saturday after suffering a head injury at the resort on Friday.

By: Dylan C. Robertson and Betsy Powell Staff Reporters, Published on Sat Dec 29 2012

A teenage boy died in hospital early Saturday after suffering a serious head injury while skiing at Lakeridge Ski Resort in Uxbridge.

Durham Regional Police confirmed the 16-year-old died at Sunnybrook hospital shortly after midnight. They believe the boy's family is from York Region, but did not release his identity as they are still informing relatives.

"He was a skier in the terrain park and on the last jump he tried to attempt (he) was unsuccessful," said Jennifer Stovin, Lakeridge's director of operations.

He was wearing a helmet, which is mandatory in the Razor's Edge terrain park, she said, adding it is a "high-risk sport."

"The parents must be going out of their minds. Our hearts go out to them."

The boy was taken to a local hospital with a critical head injury Friday around 6 p.m. and later transferred to Sunnybrook's trauma centre. Ontario's Ministry of Labour has been notified.

The last jump, where the teen crashed, is "kind of big for beginners or people who don't know how to correctly jump," said a 17-year-old high-school student who was snowboarding on the same course Friday. "It hit close to home because I had been hitting the same jumps all day."

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According to a 2009 Canadian Ski Council report, helmets can reduce the severity of injuries in low-impact collisions or falls, though there has been no definitive study.

"However, helmets cannot prevent or even reduce the severity of head injuries in high-speed impacts that are beyond the design capability of the helmet," the report notes.

Richard Kinar, a spokesperson with the Brain Injury Association, said the critical and alarming issue is that helmets sold in Canada require no safety certification and many have undergone no testing.

"Parents are put at a complete disadvantage because they don't know what it is that they're buying," he said in an interview Saturday from Vancouver. "It could be a helmet that does meet an international standard, but we don't think that even that international standard is safe enough."

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) has created "what we think is the best standard in the world for ski and snowboard helmets, but that's being watered down as we speak because helmet manufacturers have refused."

It comes down to cost, and successful lobbying efforts on Parliament Hill by the helmet manufacturers, who are acting "absolutely irresponsible by not coming up with a better helmet," Kinar said. The federal government, he said, "has completely let Canadians down."

Only hockey and lacrosse helmets are required to meet specific standards in Canada.

Standards recommended for ski and snowboarding helmets are voluntary.

Kinar pointed to the federal auditor general's report, released last spring, that warned unregulated consumer products, "such as ski helmets, that do not meet Canadian standards, could cause injury or death."

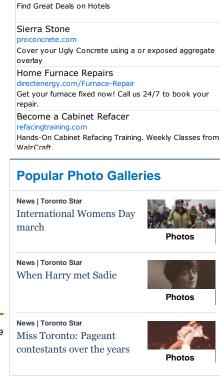
Meanwhile, the 70-acre Lakeridge resort, on Chalk Lake Rd., in Uxbridge, was open for business on Saturday.

The terrain park contains a series of jumps and obstacles that skiers and snowboarders use to perform tricks.

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