

throughout the twentieth century. More specifically, Mallory must be located in juxtaposition to Hillary and Tenzing's glorious success in 1953 and Fisher's and Hall's disastrous failure in 1996.

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Dangerous Waters: Victorian Decorum and London Bathers

On June 22, 1867, nineteen-year-old George Johnston of London drowned in the North Branch of the Thames River. The circumstances leading to his demise, according to the London Free Press, resulted from efforts to evade the local police who, Johnston had been informed, would take his clothes if they were found on the city side of the river. While attempting to walk across the river, as he was not able to swim, Johnston was swept away in the current and drowned. The details of this tragic accident provide insight into two critical issues that surrounded the recreational activity of swimming, and the more practical act of bathing in Victorian London Ontario – public morality, and the physical safety of the individual.

Concern over what constituted appropriate swimming and bathing practices in late Victorian London, Ontario arose primarily over questions of public morality. The majority of that attention paid to swimmers and bathers focussed upon the potential for immoral behavior, yet the often overshadowed issue of safety did play an important role in determining where, when, and how the men, women, and children of London could participate in this leisure activity. In Victorian London, the code of conduct instituted by middle-class political leaders sought to ensure social order and decency for the greater good of the society. This governance took the form of municipal legislation that regulated bathing and swimming. As a result of this ideologically based decision to control and constrain swimmers and bathers, physical safety and the threat of drowning did not receive serious consideration when measured against middle-class reformers' need to maintain social propriety. It was not until the early twentieth century, with the appearance of the playground movement and the formation of a local playground department, that the importance of protecting both the physical and moral safety of Londoners, particularly the children, became a legitimate concern.

Issues related to public morality in terms of swimming and bathing arose in a variety of spheres of public life in London, Ontario during the late nineteenth century. This concern existed as a part of the broader system of social reform and regulation represented through the bylaws that were passed to control deviant and immoral behaviours. Local bylaws legislated against a wide range of inappropriate activities. These included, for example, the posting of indecent placards, possessing or selling indecent and lewd books, indecent exposure anywhere within the city, and bathing or washing in the Thames River or any other public water in the city between six a.m. and eight p.m. These regulations, which effectively defined appropriate social behavior, focussed specifically upon swimming and bathing as one of the important issues of social and moral concern. The extent to which various groups and individuals either supported or challenged these regulations provides critical insight into the ongoing conflict that surrounded the need to balance the desire for swimming and bathing opportunities, while considering the moral implications of doing so.

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Outdoor Pack-Style Speed Skating: Exploring the Rise of a Winter Sport

Chicago has had an unusually prominent position in the history of speedskating in the United States, having produced champions throughout the last century on the same level as two other speedskating centers – upstate New York and Minneapolis-St. Paul. Chicago first achieved national recognition with the success of four-time national champion Bobby McLean (1911-1914), and in every Olympic Games from 1924 through 2002 the city generated representatives, notably J. O’Neil Farrell, Eddie Schroeder, Ken Henry, Diane Holum, Leah Paulos, and Andy Gabel. In 2002, Shani Davis and Becky Sundstrum were on the U.S. team. For much of the sport’s history in Chicago, competitors raced in packs and outdoors. That is not largely the case today, where much of speedskating is done inside and against the clock, in a form called metric skating.

The pack-style speedskating in Chicago began to emerge in the 1890s, primarily among the Norwegians in the Humboldt Park