

Forge Pond ice break-up traditional start of spring

By Gordon B. Seavey

It's now official!

The winter cover of ice on Forge Pond, pushed by the early return of springlike weather, has left the surface of this well-known recreation area.

A final large sheet floating in the center broke up "precisely on March 27 at 3 29 p.m.," George Rogers, acknowledged head of the estimating committee, reported with tongue-in-cheek

It was a rather early freeze-over last fall when a skin of ice appeared on most of the pond's surface by Dec. 3, reported Rogers

For the previous year, 1983-84, the break-up date was April 4.

Rogers, the town's fire chief, has a good observation post from his home on the eastern shore of the pond

He does confer with ice fisherman in the area, however, to determine the maximum thickness of the ice, of great interest to the ice anglers. This year it was "about" 12 inches thick, which would not be proper for the ice harvesting of the cavernous ice house long gone

No figures were given as to the number of fish caught through the ice