

The Lee Twombly Pond at Family Ice Center is Dedicated in Fond and Loving Memory to Lee Francis Twombly (1959-1974)

Lee Francis Twombly was born on March 9th, 1959. The Lee Twombly Pond was constructed as a gift from his family to the Family Ice Center and the Southern Maine community as a permanent testament to Lee's love of skating and giving to others. Lee spent his early days in Falmouth skating and playing hockey on the ponds in the local woods and at the outdoor ice rink at the Portland Country Club. Although hard to imagine today, at that time no indoor refrigerated facilities existed in the area for skating.

At the young age of 14, Lee became very sick and was later diagnosed with a brain tumor. His world from that point forward quickly changed. Subsequent surgery affected his ability to walk, but throughout his ordeal, he was determined to get out of his wheelchair and not only walk, but to skate and play hockey again. At school, his friends pushed him around in his wheelchair and helped carry him up and down the stairs. Most unfortunately, Lee's dream to skate and play hockey again never came to be.

Throughout his illness, Lee was always patient and displayed a positive outlook towards life, thankful to his family, friends, and teachers for their help and support. He never wanted to burden others and he never complained. When he was very ill and no longer able to speak he used a board game to point to letters to communicate. To demonstrate the type of giving and caring person Lee really was, just before he died, he used the board game and spelled out to his sister, "Is Mom OK?" Always thinking of others even in the most trying of times in his young life.

Although Lee passed away at the young age of 14 in 1974, his spirit lives on today with The Lee Twombly Pond at Family Ice Center.

To honor Lee's love of life, his passion for winter sports and especially ice hockey, the Twombly family arranged to have The Lee Twombly Pond at Family Ice Center constructed and named in his memory. More than anyone, Lee would have enjoyed an outdoor skating facility that allowed access to all in the Southern Maine community.

In addition to the generous gift of The Pond to the community, The Twombly Memorial Scholarship Award was created in Lee's memory at the Falmouth Junior High School, now Falmouth Middle School, where Lee attended. This award is presented annually to the student(s) who worked most diligently to improve the quality of life of others and the spirit of the school.