

# Lee Twombly Pond Skating Center at FIC

**Dedicated in Fond & Loving Memory of Lee Francis Twombly (1959-1974)**

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

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 faster than most of us can comprehend. 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 often times he had to wait for someone to help him up and down in the stairs. Most unfortunately, Lee's dream to skate and play hockey again never came to fruition.

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 with others. 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 Skating Center 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 Skating Center at Family Ice Center constructed and named in his memory. More than anyone, Lee would have wanted and enjoyed an outdoor skating facility that allowed access to all in the Southern Maine community.

In addition to the generous community access gift of "The Pond". The Twombly Memorial Scholarship Award was created in his memory at the Falmouth Junior High School where Lee attended school. This award is presented annually to the student(s) who has given most freely or himself or herself by working with great personal sacrifice to improve the quality of life of others and the spirit of the school.