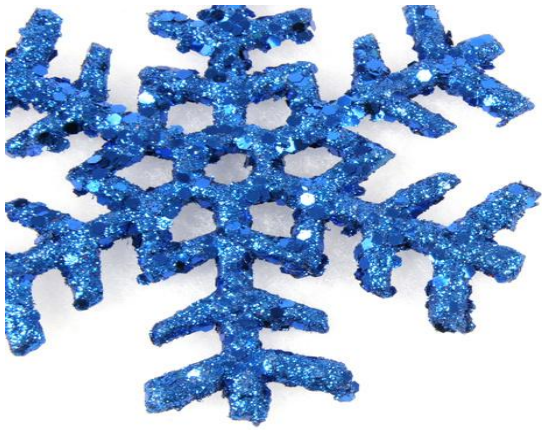


# ECORSE CREEK IS CCCOLD!

By Kathy Warnes

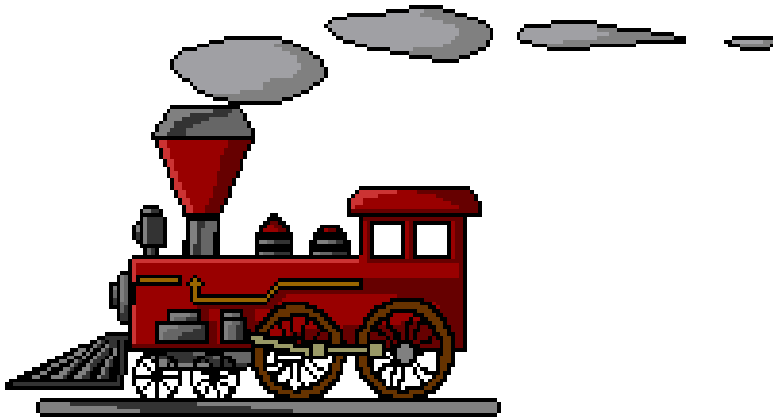




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One day in early November, snow walked on silent snowshoes from Canada to the village of Ecorse. The snow didn't glide away until it covered the entire village with a twelve inch shawl. Sam and his friends went sledding after they finished school at School Number One where they were learning English, geography, history and arithmetic. They liked to slide down the hill behind School One.





Sometimes they saw Stony Bill the steam engine that ran from Great Lakes Steel by the Detroit River to Trenton and back every day.

Some of the older boys hopped rides on Stony Bill. They disappeared after lunch and stayed away all afternoon. They always got in trouble with Mr. Davis, the principal, when they got back.

Today, Stony Bill stood covered with snow.



By the time that Sam and the boys walked home from school that afternoon so much snow had piled up along the roads and on the sidewalks that most of the stores in Ecorse village had closed. By morning several feet of snow had piled drifts along the fences and buried the streets and houses.



Sam's sister Sarah and her friends built a snowman in their front yard. "Bet you we can build a bigger snowman than you can!" Sam challenged the girls. Sarah accept his challenge. "I'd like to see you try to beat us!"

Sam and his friends rolled snowballs all morning.





Sarah and her friends worked faster so they finished their snowman before Sam and his friends finished. “I told you so!” Sarah said sticking out her tongue at Sam.





“I’ll show you!” Sam said. He got his ice skates out of the garage and Sarah got hers out too. When they opened the garage door, their dog Ralph came running out into the snow. He slid in the snow and then he hurried back inside. Soon he came back holding something in his mouth.

“You have to stop telling him to fetch,” Sarah said. “He fetches everything. Yesterday he brought home somebody’s sled.”



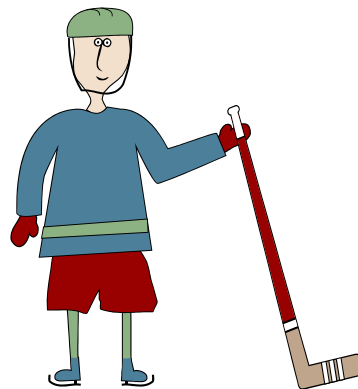


He's got an icicle from Ecorse Creek. They grow along the banks and they get as big as hockey sticks!" Sam said.

They all headed toward Ecorse Creek. Yesterday, Sam and his friends had cleared a spot on the Creek to play ice hockey. Today, as Sam and Sarah and Ralph the dog approached Ecorse Creek, Sam couldn't even see a clear spot. Ralph couldn't see a clear spot either.

"Ralph, fetch the creek from under the ice," Sam said. Ralph barked and fetched a snowball.

Sarah patted Ralph and said "Good, dog!." Sam started to play ice hockey.





“The creek is covered with snow,” Sarah said.

“Ralph only fetched one snow ball.”

“We can clear it off in no time,” Sam said. He reached down, scooped up a handful of snow and started rolling it across the creek. He threw a snowball at Sarah. “Come on! Help me!”

Jack and Sally Brown heard Ralph barking and they came down to Ecorse Creek to help. They cleared the snow off a little square of the Creek and then they played a game of hockey using a large snowball for a puck. Ralph raced beside them barking.

Sam and Sarah and their friends were having so much fun playing hockey and ice skating that they didn’t feel the wind and snow at first.

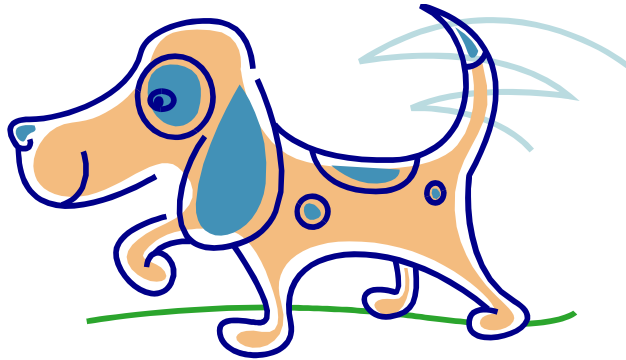


The wind bit Sam's cheeks. The wind grabbed Sarah's coat and tried to yank it off of her. The wind grabbed Sam and Sarah and their friends and tried to push them across the white, wintry world.

The wind chased Sam like a stern soldier with black boots. Ecorse Creek grabbed his ankles with icy fingers to pull him in the water.

“Brrrr,” Sam shivered. “I think I feel some of the Ecorse Creek water. It’s cccolddddd!”

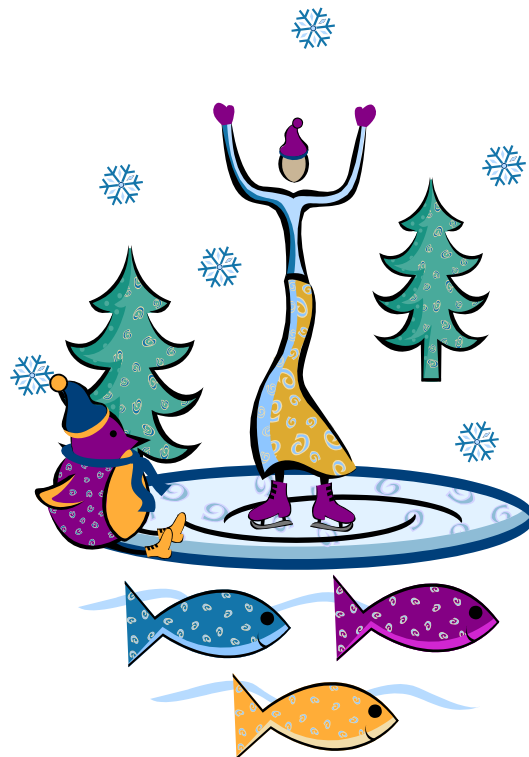
“WHOSH HHHH!” the wind roared, making Sam shiver harder. He turned around to tell his friends that he was going home, but everyone but Sarah and Ralph had gone. The wind slapped Sam and Sarah in the face with its fingers. The wind pushed Sam and Sarah and Ralph down the Creek bank.



Sam tried to climb up the creek bank, but he kept sliding back. “Help! Somebody help us!” Sam shouted. The wind grabbed Sam’s voice and blew it into Sarah’s ears. The wind blew Ralph head over heels down the Creek. Sarah stopped skating figure eights on the creek. She skated over to Sam.

Together Sam and Sarah tried to climb up the bank of Ecorse Creek, but it was too icy. They kept sliding back down the bank.

“What are we going to do?” Sarah said. “The sun’s setting and it’s getting dark and cold out here.”



Sam kicked at Ralph's tracks in the snow. "Some rescue dog he is! He let the blizzard chase him away!"

"I have an idea," Sarah said. "Here Ralph!" Sarah shouted.

Ralph barked and soon he ran up to Sam and Sarah wagging his tail.

"Fetch us, Ralph!" Sarah commanded.

Ralph fetched them up the creek bank, one by one.

"I'll never complain about Ralph fetching again," Sam said.

"I won't either," Sarah agreed.

Sarah didn't complain about Ralph's fetching anymore and neither did Sam. Ralph is still fetching!

