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## Latest search for missing five-year-old ends

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**NEW HAMBURG** — Another search for Robbie Reiner in the Nith River has ended.

The five-year-old New Hamburg boy is believed to have gone through shoreline ice on Boxing Day, behind his parents' home on Asmus Street .

Extensive searches by firefighters, police and citizens lasted five days. Three more days of searching by a Kitchener search-and-rescue training company were also unsuccessful.

"It's disappointing. I wasn't able to give them closure," said Bill Bolton, of Advanced Tactical Training and Communications .

Bolton searched about 500 metres of the river south of the Highway 7/8 bridge on Tuesday. The voluntary effort used a remote controlled, camera-equipped robot in the murky, fast-moving water, as well as two Argo all terrain vehicles, borrowed from Ontario Drive and Gear. The New Hamburg company also loaned two experienced Argo drivers for the effort.

"Unfortunately, I've been doing this long enough to know you don't always get closure. It's a reality check to know that we'll probably never find him, or it could be quite a while."

Warm weather and rain weakened the ice, with water moving at least twice as fast as last week, Bolton said. The boat-like Argos were used to access the middle of the ice and punch holes to place the camera into the water.

The river ice has "definitely melted to the point the banks are pretty dangerous. A person would not be anywhere near it," Bolton said.

There have been suggestions that searchers should have gone farther downstream toward Paris to find Robbie's body. That might true if the Nith was straight and smooth-flowing, not twisting and filled with trash, Bolton said.