

Natural. Valued. Protected.

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District Kahshe Lake

Location	
Official Name:.....	Kahshe Lake Local Names:
County/District:	Muskoka Geographic Twp:..... Morrison
Municipality:.....	Town of Gravenhurst MNR Admin. Area:..... Bracebridge
Lat./Long:.....	44.8636 N 79.2664 W UTM (NAD83):
Topographic Map (1:50,000):	31D14 Drainage Basin:..... Kahshe River

Physical Features		
Surface Area (ha):	828 Maximum Depth (m):.....	21 Mean Depth (m):.....
Elevation (m asl):.....	243 Perimeter (km):.....	60 Island Shoreline (km):.....
Volume (10 ⁴ m ³):.....	4100 Watershed (km ²):	209 Water Clarity (m):.....
	(excludes area of lake)	2.9

Land Use and Development	
Crown Land (%):.....	5 Provincial Parks:..... Kahshe Lake Barrens Conservation Reserve, Jevins and Silver Lake Conservation Reserve
Shoreline Development:	high; commercial, shoreline residential
Access:.....	public; boat launch at west end of lake off South Kahshe Lake Road
Water Level Management:.....	regulated; water level is controlled by MNR owned and operated dam at west end of lake; flows and levels are governed by Kahshe Lake operating plan

Fish Species	
Major Fish Species:	walleye (I 1939), northern pike (I 1993), muskellunge (I? 1945), black crappie (I 1991), smallmouth bass (I? 1915), burbot, largemouth bass (I 1952)
Other Fish Species:	grass pickerel, cisco (lake herring), brown bullhead, rock bass (I 1975), pumpkinseed, yellow perch, white sucker, trout-perch, golden shiner
Other Species:	freshwater jellyfish (I 2010)

Notes: E: extirpated, I: introduced – intentional or accidental, O: occasional, R: remnant, S: currently stocked, ?: status uncertain, 2009: year of first record or introduction if known, blank: presumed native

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Fisheries Management

<i>Fisheries Management Zone:</i>	15
<i>Designation for Lake Trout Management:</i>	not designated
<i>Fishing Regulation Exceptions</i>	no lake-specific exceptions
<i>Current Stocking:</i>	none
<i>Historic Stocking (last year stocked):</i>	smallmouth bass (1959), largemouth bass (1965), muskellunge (1967), walleye (1989)
<i>Contaminants (species tested):</i>	northern pike, walleye, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, yellow perch, rock bass, black crappie, pumpkinseed, cisco, brown bullhead
<i>Assessment:</i>	<i>Completed Projects:</i>
	1929 lake report card
	1975 lake survey
	1981 contaminant sampling
	2001 Fall Walleye Index Netting
	2009 walleye spawning trap net assessment

Synopsis

Kahshe Lake is a large, diverse lake based on rugged barren bedrock topography and possessing many islands, bays and dangerous rocks.

The 1929 report card lists only burbot, cisco, suckers and smallmouth bass as being present. Bass were stocked as early as 1915, so even they may not be native. Muskellunge may also be native; they occur naturally in the Severn River watershed and can be difficult to detect in netting surveys. A long series of introductions, intentionally and unauthorized has transformed the fish community. Today it is dominated by black crappie, pike, bass and walleye.

Several attempts have been made to enhance the walleye population. Even though habitat appears to be good, the population has always seemed to be below its' potential. Netting in 2009 and anecdotal reports indicate that the walleye fishery has improved significantly in recent years. It is speculated that the introduction of pike may be helping to suppress populations of the numerous competitor species, allowing walleye to reproduce with greater success.

Grass pickerel have been documented in Kahshe Lake. The small relative of pike and musky is rare in the province. Its current COSEWIC ranking is 'Special Concern'. The origin, spatial extent and abundance of the population is not known.

Updated: March 2010

Refer to Lake Fact Background Information document for explanation of content.

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